

Rudyard Kipling was born on December 30, 1865, in Bombay, in the Bombay Presidency of British India, to Alice Kipling and John Lockwood Kipling. They married and moved to India in 1865. At the time of his birth, they moved by the beauty of the Rudyard Lake area that when their first child was born they named him after it. The family lived well, and Kipling was especially close to his mother. His father, an artist, was the head of the Department of Architectural Sculpture at the Jeejeebhoy School of Art in Bombay.

For Kipling, India was a wondrous place. Along with his younger sister, Alice, he reveled in exploring the local markets with his nanny. He learned the language and, in this bustling city of Anglos, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Jews, connected with the country and its culture. When he was five years old he traveled to England to start his education, but returned to India in 1882. A decade later, Kipling married Caroline Balestier and settled in Brattleboro, Vermont, where he wrote one of its most famous works: *The Jungle Book* (1894), among a host of other works that made him hugely successful.

The years from 1871 until 1877 became, for Kipling, years of misery. At last, Kipling suffered a sort of nervous breakdown. An examination showed that he badly needed glasses and his mother returned from India to care for him.

Since his parents could not afford to send him to one of the major English universities, in 1882 Kipling left the Services College, bound for India to rejoin his family and to begin a career as a journalist.

He married Balestier's sister, Caroline, in January, 1892, and the couple settled near their family home in Brattleboro, Vermont.

The Kiplings lived in America for several years, in a house they built for themselves and called "Naulahka." Kipling developed a close friendship with Theodore Roosevelt, then Under Secretary of the Navy, and often discussed politics and culture with him.

But they left Vermont in 1896 after a fierce quarrel with Beatty Balestier, Kipling's surviving brother-in-law.

Kipling was the recipient of the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature, and the prize motivation was: "in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, virility of ideas and remarkable talent for narration which characterize the creations of this world-famous author"

. He died in 1936.