

Respected relative



Robert Louis Stevenson was a poet (see 'Keepsake Mill' on page 24) and author of the famous novels *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped* (which feature in **Key Stage 2 Comprehension Books 2 and 4**). He wrote the letter below in April 1866, when he was aged 15½.

2 SULYARDE TERRACE,
TORQUAY,

THURSDAY

RESPECTED PATERNAL RELATIVE,

5 I write to make a request of the most moderate nature. Every year I have cost you an enormous – nay, elephantine – sum of money for medication and physician's fees, and the most expensive time of the twelve months was March.

But this year the biting oriental blasts, the howling tempests, and the general ailments of the human race have been successfully braved by yours truly.

10 Does not this deserve remuneration?

I appeal to your charity, I appeal to your generosity, I appeal to your justice, I appeal to your accounts, I appeal, in fine, to your purse.

My sense of generosity forbids the receipt of more – my sense of justice forbids the receipt of less than half-a-crown. Greetings from, Sir, your most affectionate
15 and needy son,

R. STEVENSON

Glossary

ailments illnesses, diseases

in fine to put it briefly, to sum up

oriental blasts very strong winds from the east

tempests violent storms