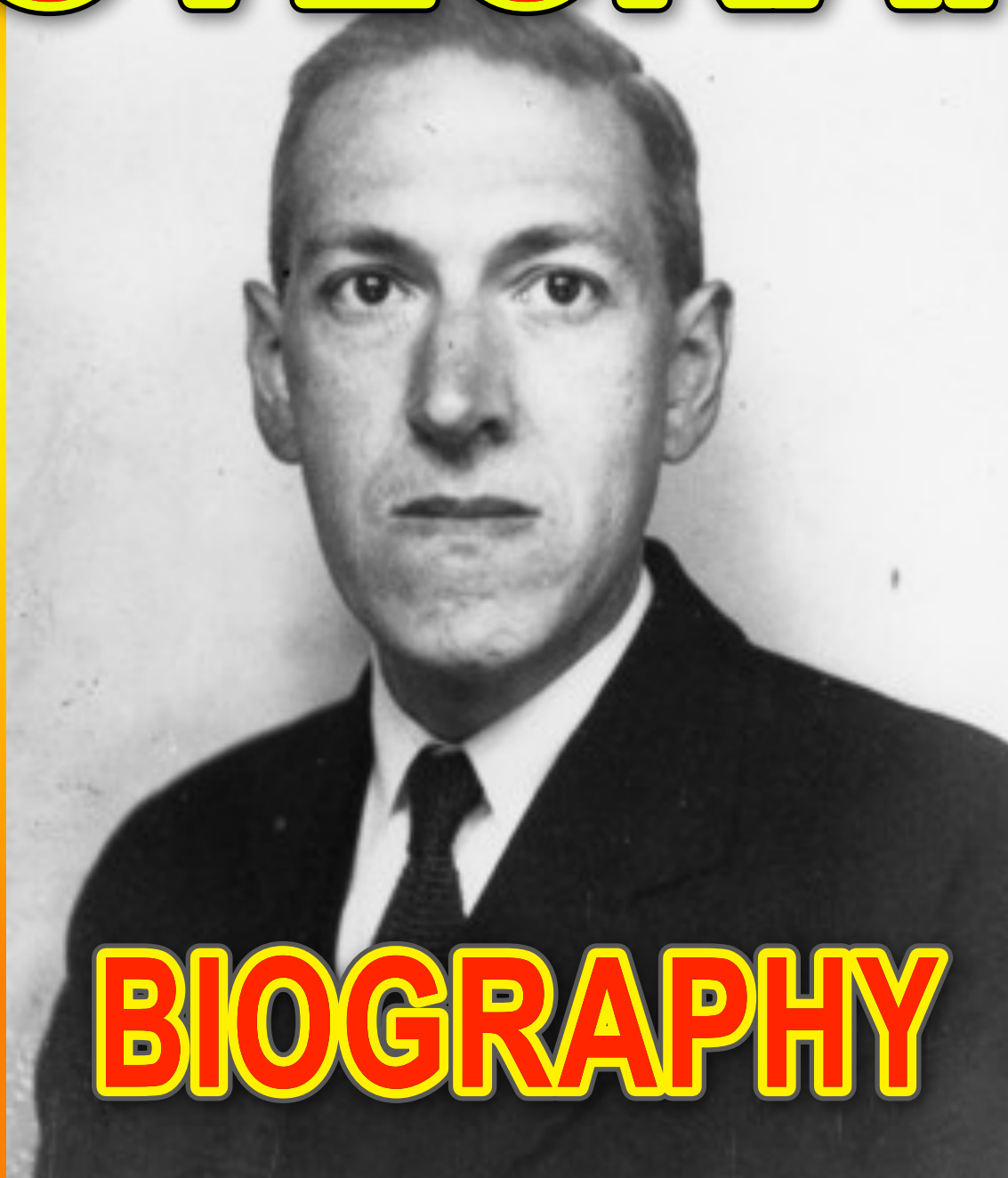


# H. P. LOVECRAFT



## BIOGRAPHY

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Howard Phillips Lovecraft was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on August 20, 1890. He was only three years old when his father became mentally ill, and had to go into hospital, where he died 5 years later. It was Lovecraft's grandfather who inspired his interest in poems and stories, including horror stories.

H. P. Lovecraft was ill himself as a child, and spent much of his time at home. He loved reading, and the writer Edgar Allan Poe influenced his later works. Lovecraft was also interested in astronomy, although he never received enough education to have a career in it. As a teenager, Lovecraft had a nervous breakdown, meaning he spent even more time at home.

For a time, Lovecraft slept during the day, and was active at night, reading and occasionally writing. For much of his life, Lovecraft did not enjoy leaving his home, although he wrote tens of thousands of letters to people during his lifetime. He first worked as a journalist, and then published his own magazine called 'The Conservative' in 1915.

But before long, Lovecraft was concentrating more on fiction, particularly horror stories. In 1923, some of his tales were published in the magazine *Weird Tales* for the first time. The magazine specialized in horror stories, and it published some of Lovecraft's best-known stories, like 'The Call of Cthulhu'.

Many of Lovecraft's tales were about people affected by mysterious supernatural forces that they cannot control, and his works have influenced horror writing since. When money was short, Lovecraft also took to writing pieces on behalf of other people, including the famous showman Harry Houdini. Lovecraft died from cancer in 1937.

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'supernatural'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'supernatural' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'supernatural'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'supernatural'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'supernatural' means.

# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: ill	unwell

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Many of Lovecraft's stories were published in the Weird Tales magazine in the 1920s.

As a child, Lovecraft was interested in reading and astronomy.

H. P. Lovecraft was born in Rhode Island in 1890.

Lovecraft's stories have inspired other writers, especially after his death in 1937.

Lovecraft's father died when Lovecraft was young, and it was his grandfather who inspired his love of stories.

Lovecraft first worked as a journalist.

Later on, Lovecraft concentrated on writing horror stories.

# Get to the facts

1 Who inspired H. P. Lovecraft's interest in stories?

2 What was Lovecraft also interested in?

3 How many letters did Lovecraft write during his lifetime?

4 Which magazine published Lovecraft's stories?

5 What was one of Lovecraft's best-known tales called?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## Published!

Imagine you have written a short story, and have just received a letter from a magazine saying they want to publish it...(now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'supernatural'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'supernatural' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'supernatural'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'supernatural'.
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## Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – ill                  Synonym – unwell

## Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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As a child, Lovecraft was interested in reading and astronomy.

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