

1879

REQUIEM

Robert Louis Stevenson

Stevenson, Robert Louis (1850-1894) - Scottish novelist, poet, and essayist, best known for his adventure stories. Stevenson was a sickly man (he died of tuberculosis) who nevertheless led an adventurous life. He spent his last five years on the island of Samoa as a planter and chief of the natives. Requiem (1879) - 15 years before he died — ill, distraught and close to death — Stevenson penned this, his own epitaph. This poem is engraved on his tombstone in Samoa.

Opening line: Under the wide and starry sky, ...

REQUIEM

Under the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie:
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you grave for me:
Here he lies where he longed to be:
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.

THE END