

# GREAT NORTHERN? (Swallows And Amazons)

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## Great Northern

ARTHUR RANSOME was born in Leeds in 1884. He had an adventurous life -- as a baby he was carried by his father to the top of the Old Man of Coniston, a peak that is 2,276 ft high! He went to Russia in 1913 to study folklore and in 1914, at the start of World War I he became a foreign correspondent for the Daily News. In 1917 when the Russian Revolution began he became a journalist and was a special correspondent of the Guardian. He played chess with Lenin and married Trotsky's personal secretary, Evgenia Petrovna Shelepina. On their return to England, he bought a cottage near Windermere in the Lake District and began writing children's stories. He published the first of his children's classics, the twelve Swallows and Amazons books, in 1930. In 1936 he won the first ever Carnegie Medal for his book, Pigeon Post. He died in 1967. "He makes a tale of adventure a handbook to adventure." -Observer

"There is plenty of excitement, a little danger, a quality of thinking, planning and fun which is delightful and stimulating." -TLS

## Other Books

Why Was Billy Bunter Never Really Expelled?, After the success of How Did Long John Silver Lose His Leg?, Dennis Butts and Peter Hunt take their forensic lenses to more mysteries that have troubled readers of children's books over the centuries. Their questions range from the historical to the philosophical, some of which are puzzling, some of which are controversial: Why does it seem there are no Nursery Rhymes before 1744? Why did God start to die in children's books long before Nietzsche noticed it? Why are the schoolgirls at Enid Blyton's St Clare's so horrible? Why are there so many dead parents littering children's books? Why does C.S. Lewis annoy so many people? Why Was Billy Bunter Never Really Expelled? also reveals how an elephant captures Adolph Hitler, who was Biggles's great love, and whose side G.A. Henty was on in the American Civil War, and delivers a plethora of erudite, entertaining answers to questions that you may not have thought of asking. And notably, of course, it explains why William George Bunter, the Fat Owl of the Remove, was never permanently removed from Greyfriars School.

❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ . Thus we find Emma Thompson's continuation of the Beatrix Potter 'franchise', The Christmas Tale of Peter Rabbit (2014), ... Martin Waddell's Room for a Little One (in the stable); or Catherine Storr's The Donkey's Christmas Story (an ..."