

Today, I will tell you about three great writers. There are countless thousands of great writers in history, but today I am going to focus on three who have written books that you might be interested in reading, either now or sometime soon in the future. Here we go:

RENÉ GOSCINNY (pronounced 'Ren - ay Goz - in - ee')

I think you will have heard of this guy, even if the name isn't familiar. He wrote the brilliant Asterix books until his death in 1977. And you can tell how brilliant he was as a writer because after his death, the guy who drew the pictures for the Asterix books - **ALBERT UDERZO** - tried to take over and write the stories and draw the pictures; and the Asterix books that Albert Uderzo produced on his own just aren't very good. My favourite Asterix book of all time is **ASTERIX IN BRITAIN**, but **ASTERIX AND CLEOPATRA**, **ASTERIX THE LEGIONARY**, **ASTERIX AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES**, **ASTERIX AND THE LAUREL WREATH**, **ASTERIX AND THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD**, **ASTERIX AND THE CAULDRON**, and **ASTERIX AND THE SOOTHSAYER** are also brilliant to read. But Goscinnny didn't just write Asterix books: he also wrote a series of really funny books about a French schoolboy called after my name and your middle name: **NICHOLAS!**



C S LEWIS

C S Lewis was an academic, just like me - and just like me he wrote lots of books, but most of his books were written for everyone to read. And in 1949, when he was 51 years old, just a little bit older than I am now, he started writing a series of children's books, beginning with **THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE** about four children who discovered that by walking through the back of a wardrobe in a house in the country that they had been sent to live in to escape the bombing of London during **WORLD WAR II**, they would enter a completely different place called Narnia. When the children entered Narnia, it was always winter because Narnia had been put under a spell by a wicked witch. With the help of a good lion called **ASLAN**, the children helped Narnia escape the spell of the wicked witch and they then ruled over Narnia. After many years and after they were fully grown up, they found their way back to the entrance to Narnia, and walked back into England through the back of the wardrobe to discover they had become children again. Subsequent books would tell further stories about Narnia and Aslan through the adventures of those children and their relations, culminating in the seventh and final book in the **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA - THE FINAL BATTLE**, where **ASLAN** and a number of characters from the previous books combine together to fight a final battle against evil in Narnia. 'The Final Battle' was awarded the **CARNEGIE MEDAL** in 1956 for the best children's book published that year by a British author. When you are a bit older, you might also like to read **THE SPACE TRILOGY**, which C S Lewis wrote between 1938 and 1945. As the name 'trilogy' suggests, it is made up of three books - **OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET**, **PERELANDRA**, and **THAT HIDEOUS STRENGTH**. Like the Narnia books, it is about the fight between good and evil, but this time it's a fight which is fought on different



planets - on Mars in the first book, on Venus in the second, and on Earth in the third. I think the final chapter of *Perelandra* is one of the best things I have ever read.

AGATHA CHRISTIE

Agatha Christie wrote murder mystery novels, setting up really puzzling situations for a detective to investigate. In some of the Agatha Christie novels, the investigating detective is MISS MARPLE. But in my favourite Agatha Christie novels, the detective investigating the murder is the Belgian detective HERCULE POIROT (pronounced 'Her - kool Pwa - roe'). I loved reading Agatha Christie novels so much that one birthday I got given 20 novels, all at the same time. I remember lying on the top bed of the bunk bed I shared with my younger brother Ben, and he handed the novels up to me one at a time, saying 'We got you this one...and this one...and this one...and this one' - it was never ending! The best Agatha Christie novels are



THE AFFAIR AT STYLES (the first Hercule Poirot mystery), THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD (only the third novel Agatha Christie wrote, but quite brilliant), THE ABC MURDERS, THE BIG FOUR, MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS, DEATH ON THE NILE, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE (really, really clever). *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile* were made into pretty good films - but reading is the best way to enjoy these stories: trying to figure them out before the end.