


Who Is Stan Lee?

- ☐ A New York City kid named Stanley Lieber
- ☐ A hotshot writer at a comic-book company
- ☐ The creator of some of the most famous superheroes of all time
- ☒ All of the above!

Find out more about the real Stan Lee in this fun and exciting illustrated biography!

The books in this series are listed inside. Read them all!

<p>\$4.99 US (\$5.99 CAN)</p>	<p>GROSSET&DUNLAP www.penguin.com/youngreaders www.whowasbookseries.com</p>
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Nancy Harrison

Chapter 1

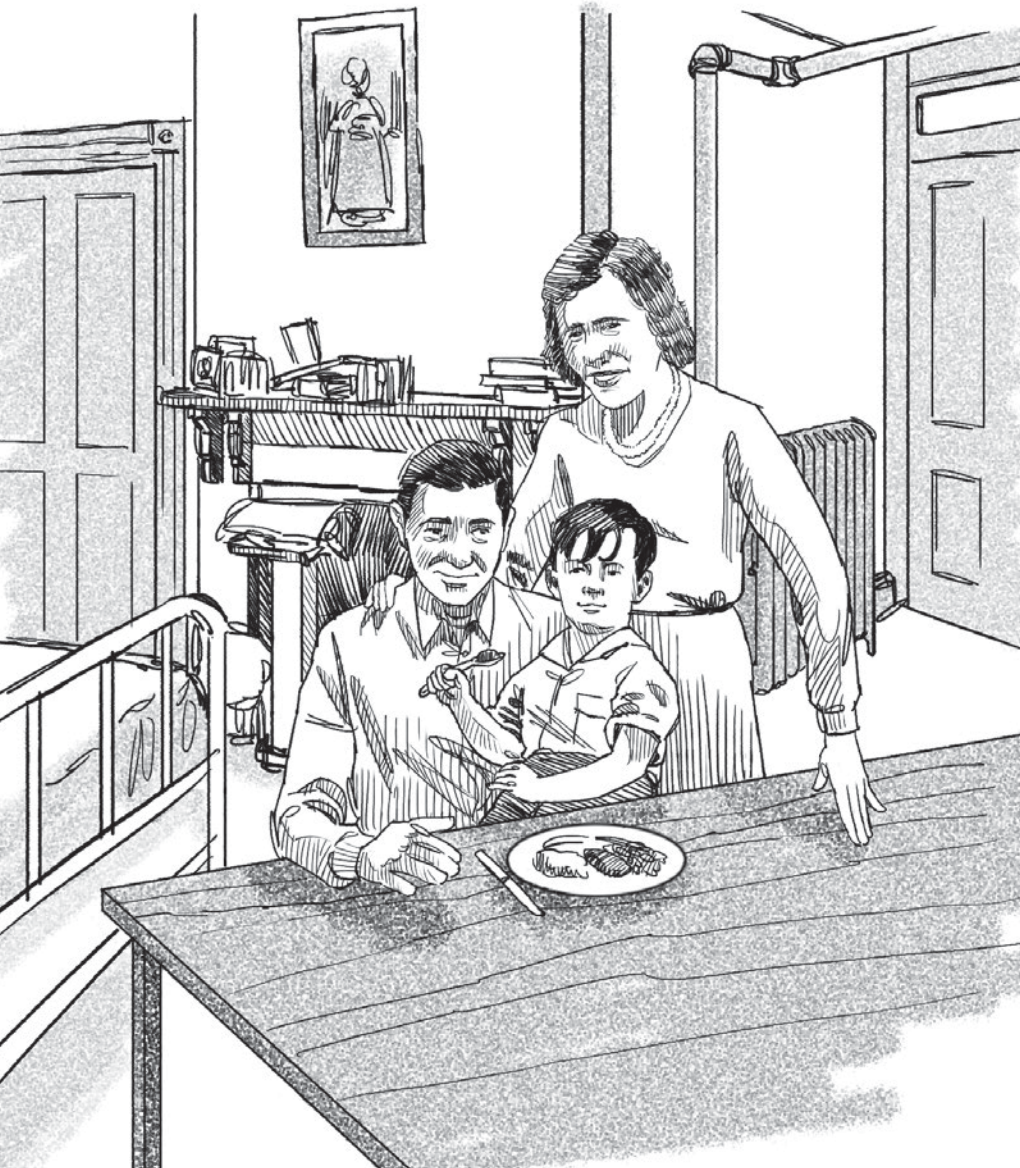
Growing Up



Stanley Lieber was born on December 28, 1922, in New York City.

His father, Jack, and mother, Celia, were immigrants from Romania who lived in a tiny

apartment. Like millions of people, they had come to the United States with dreams of a better life. They wanted to start a family and buy a house.



Jack got a job cutting fabric at a dress factory. He was paid very little and worked long hours. Celia stayed home and took care of Stan. By the time Stanley was six, the Great Depression had begun. Millions of people lost their jobs, including Stan's father.

Now the family struggled to pay bills. Jack and Celia began to argue. Stan worried whenever his parents argued. He loved his parents and didn't want them to fight.

The Lieber family moved to an even smaller apartment. Jack and Celia had to sleep on a cot in the living room. There was only one tiny window, and it faced a brick wall.

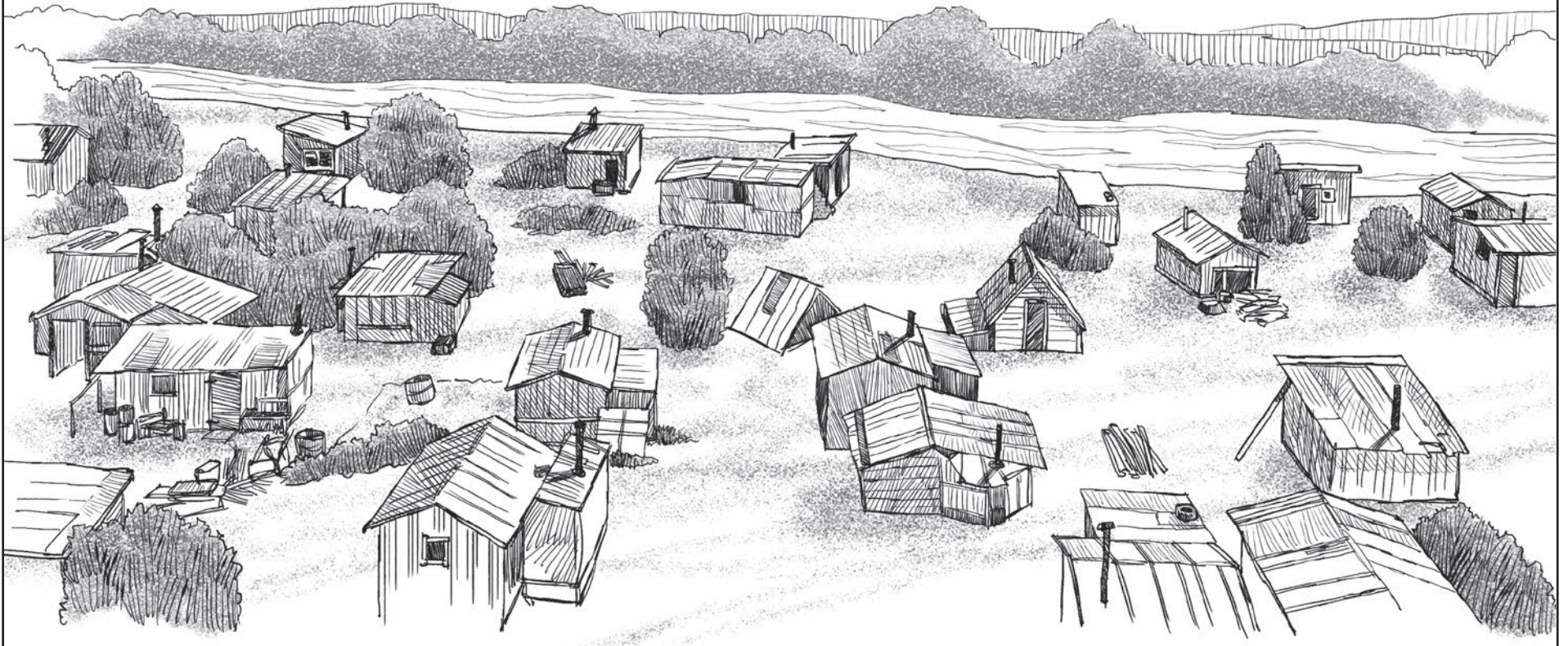
Stan's mother wanted him to finish school quickly so he could go to work to help the family. She pushed Stan to study hard, and he did. He ended up skipping a few grades, which meant that he was always the youngest in his class. He sometimes struggled to make friends.

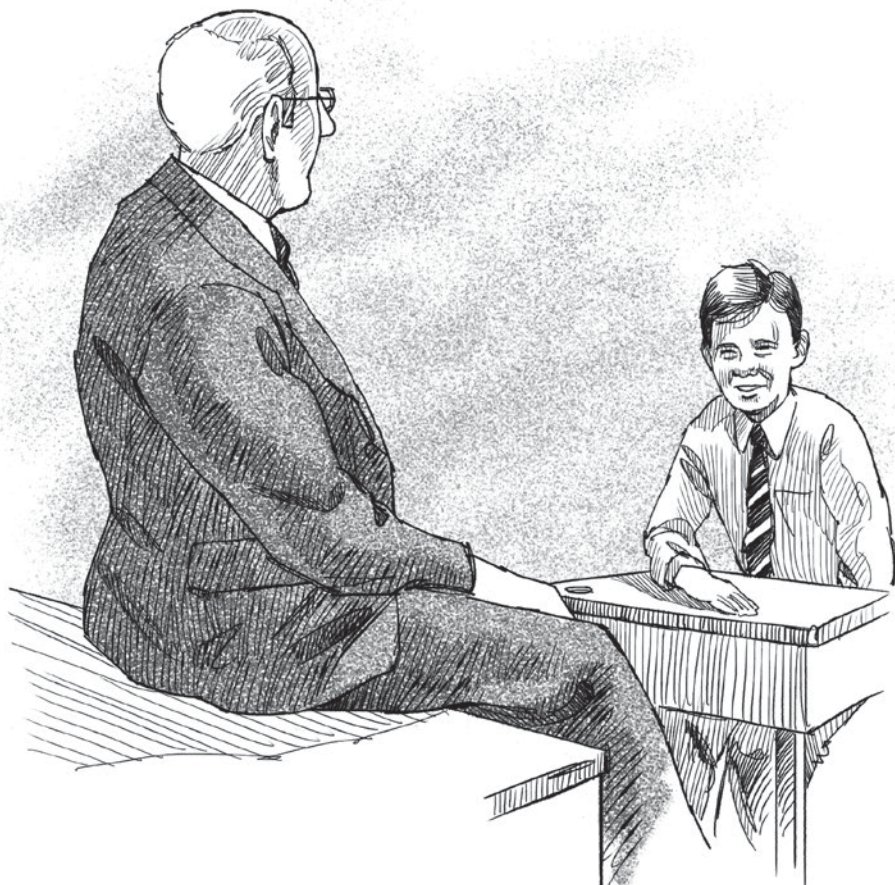
THE GREAT DEPRESSION

THE GREAT DEPRESSION STARTED ON OCTOBER 29, 1929, WHEN THE STOCK MARKET CRASHED, CAUSING MANY BANKS AND INDUSTRIES TO SHUT DOWN. IT WAS THE WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS OF MODERN TIMES. UNEMPLOYMENT PEAKED IN 1933, WHEN ONE-QUARTER OF ALL AMERICANS WERE OUT OF WORK AND COULD NOT FIND JOBS.

PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER'S NAME BECAME LINKED TO THE HARDSHIPS THAT MANY PEOPLE FACED. "HOOVERVILLES"—TOWNS MADE UP OF TENTS AND SHACKS BUILT BY PEOPLE WHO HAD NO OTHER PLACE TO LIVE—POPPED UP EVERYWHERE. SOUP WAS CALLED "HOOVER STEW."

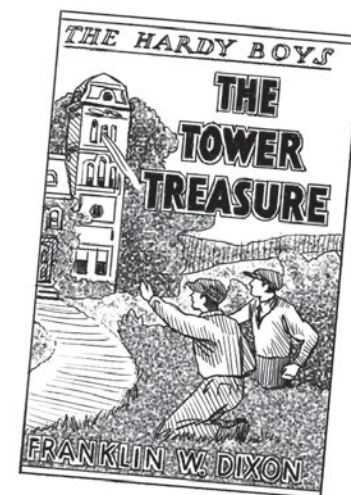
THE GREAT DEPRESSION LASTED NEARLY TEN YEARS. IT AFFECTED NOT ONLY THE UNITED STATES BUT COUNTRIES ALL AROUND THE WORLD.



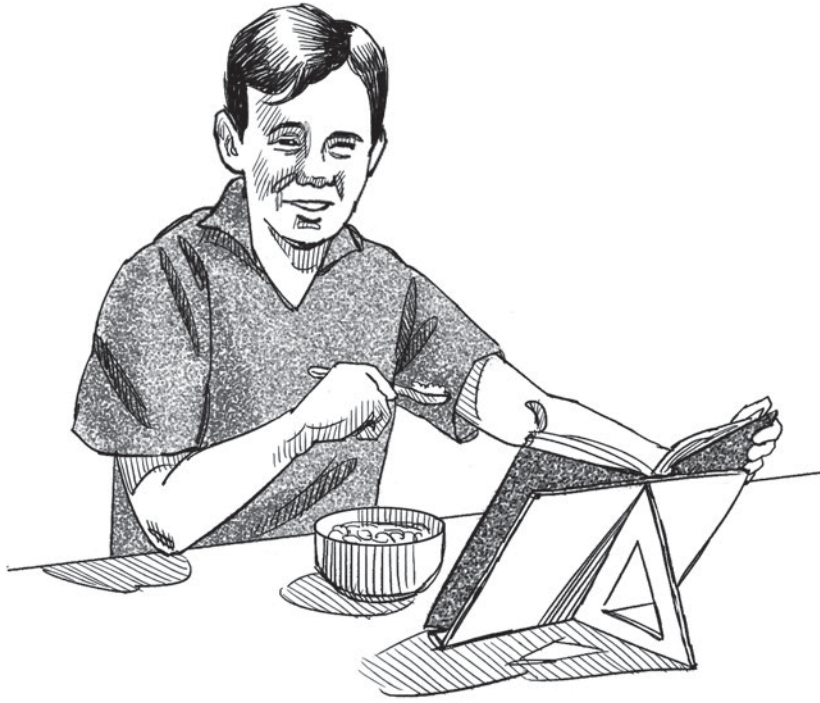


Stan's favorite teacher was Leon B. Ginsberg, Jr. Mr. Ginsberg had a great sense of humor and always told a funny story to make his point. Stan learned that people remember stories if they are told with a sense of humor.

As a boy, Stan loved to write. He also loved to read—even if it was just the label of a ketchup bottle on the kitchen table! In fact, Stan always had a book or magazine with him at meals. The Hardy Boys was one of his favorite book series. Two adventurous brothers, Frank and Joe Hardy, were the heroes of the books. Stan also loved to draw. He wasn't the best artist, but that didn't matter. Drawing helped Stan tell his stories.

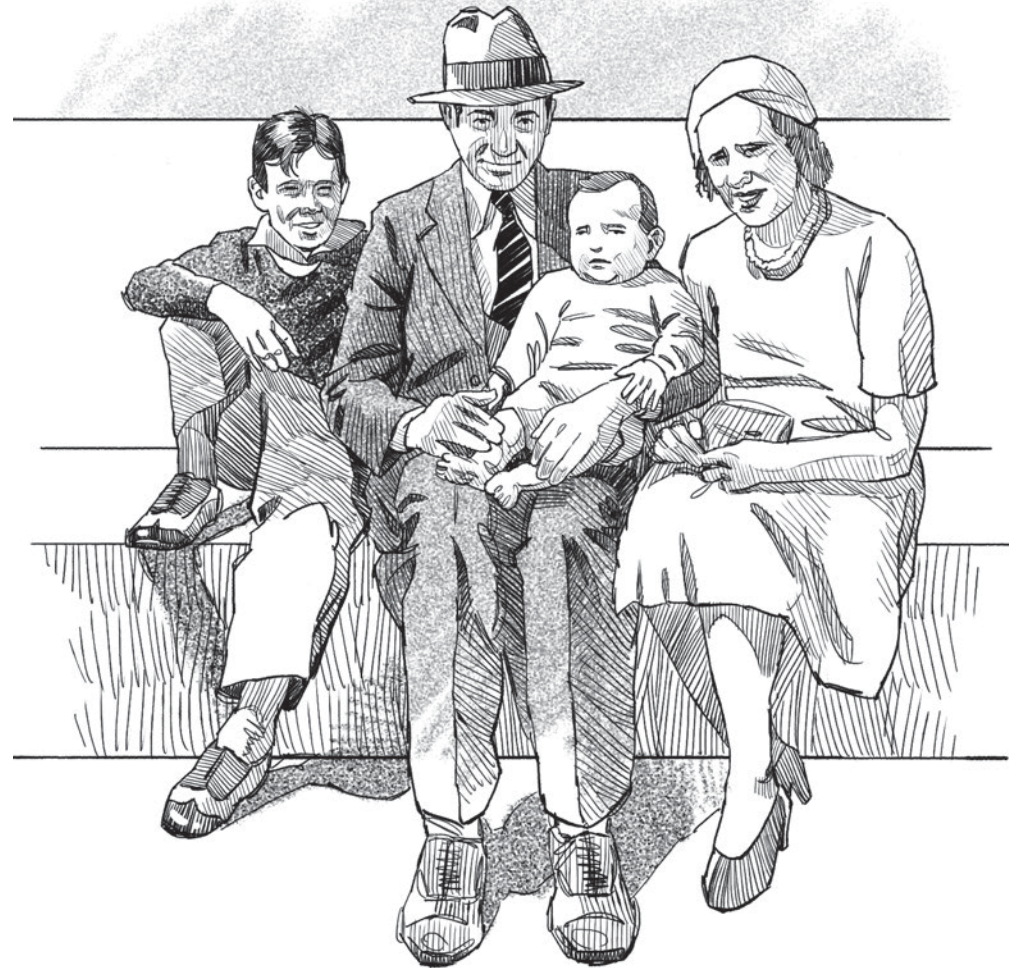


During the summers, many New York boys went to camps outside the city. But the Liebers couldn't afford to send Stan away to camp. Instead, Stan stayed home and read. Stan's mother even bought him a stand to keep his books upright on the table while he ate.



Whenever he could afford a ticket, Stan loved to go to the movies. There were five theaters to choose from near his apartment. They showed movies like *Frankenstein*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *King Kong*. Stan daydreamed of being like Errol Flynn, the handsome actor who starred as Robin Hood.

When Stan was nine, his brother, Larry, was born. As Stan got older, the family really needed him to pitch in and get a job.



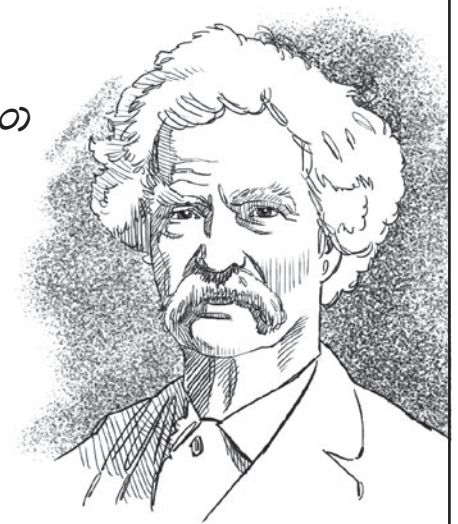
YOUNG STAN'S FAVORITE AUTHORS

H. G. WELLS (1866-1946) GREW UP IN ENGLAND AND WAS KNOWN AS "THE FATHER OF SCIENCE FICTION." HIS MOST FAMOUS BOOK, *THE WAR OF THE WORLDS*, WAS ABOUT THE WORLD BEING TAKEN OVER BY ALIENS. WELLS WROTE IT LONG BEFORE PEOPLE HAD CARS, OR COULD EVEN IMAGINE BUILDING ROCKETS FOR SPACE TRAVEL.



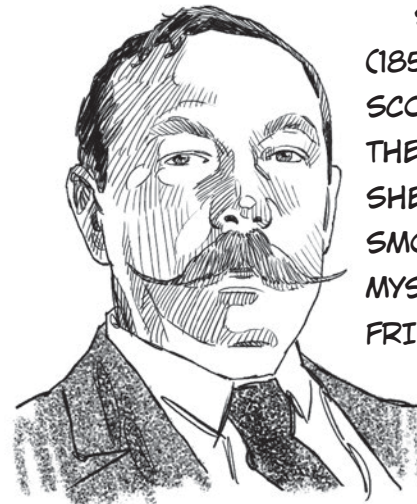
H. G. WELLS

MARK TWAIN (1835-1910) WAS AN AMERICAN FROM MISSOURI. HIS BOOKS ABOUT TOM SAWYER AND HUCKLEBERRY FINN WERE WRITTEN THE WAY PEOPLE ACTUALLY SPOKE. HE ALSO WROTE ABOUT HOW WHITE PEOPLE WERE PREJUDICED AGAINST BLACKS. THIS WAS REVOLUTIONARY AT THE TIME.



MARK TWAIN

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1859-1930) WAS FROM SCOTLAND AND CREATED THE AMAZING DETECTIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES. HOLMES SMOKED A PIPE AND SOLVED MYSTERIES WITH HIS BEST FRIEND, DR. WATSON.



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



Stan was not afraid of hard work. He took any job he could get. He wrote for a news company.

He delivered sandwiches. And he worked in the office of a company that made pants.

Even as he worked to help his family, Stan kept writing. And he was getting good at it. A local newspaper sponsored a writing contest. Stan won so many times, the newspaper asked him to stop entering! They wanted someone else to have a chance to win. But the newspaper editor also praised Stan and urged him to do something with his talent. That kind of encouragement meant a lot. Stan would never forget it.