Marcel Proust was an early 20th-century French writer whose seminal text 'A la recherche du temps perdu' has become a touchstone of modernist literature. Born in 1871, Proust was the son of a doctor and his mother came from a rich and cultured Jewish family. He was active in Parisian high society during the 80s and 90s, and his novel À la recherche du temps perdu (Remembrance of Things Past) is a pseudo-autobiographical work that explores the narrator's memory and imagination. Proust's style is characterized by a stream-of-consciousness approach and a rich use of symbolism and metaphor. The novel is divided into seven volumes, each of which explores different themes and ideas. Proust's writing is known for its depth and complexity, and his influence on modern literature is immeasurable.