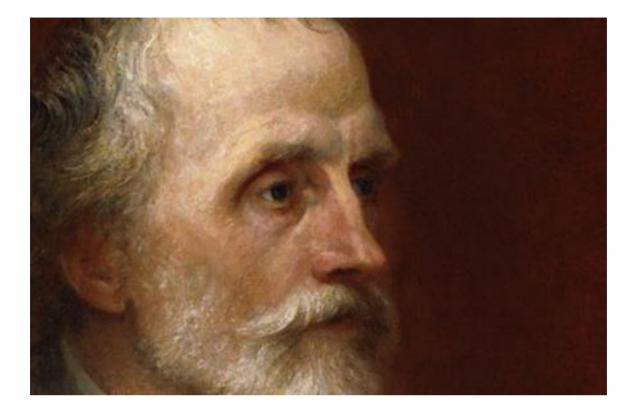
George Meredith



George Meredith's mother died when he was five, and he spent much of his childhood at boarding schools. Meredith's books of poetry and fiction are notable for their close attention to how people really talk and think as well their portrayals of men and women as equal, which was uncommon in Victorian literature. Meredith, who lived most of his life in England, received both the Order of Merit and the gold medal of the Royal Society of Literature in recognition of his literary work.