**READING**

**George Seferis**

Seferis (real name Giorgos Seferiadis), famous Greek writer, was born near Smyrna, in Asia Minor, Turkey. His father, Stelios Seferiadis, was a lawyer, and later he was a professor at the University of Athens. He too was a poet and translator, like his son later.

In 1914 the Seferiadis family moved to Athens, where Seferis finished his basic education. Then, he continued by studying law at the University of the Sorbonne in Paris. While he was in France, in September 1922, Smyrna was seized by the Turkish Army. Many Greeks, including the Seferiadis family, fled from Asia Minor. They became exiles. Seferis did not return to Smyrna until 1950 –as a visitor.

Seferis lived in Athens and was admitted to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1926, where he began his diplomatic career. He worked as a Greek diplomat in England, Albania and Turkey.

From 1941 to 1944, the Germans invaded and occupied Greece. During these terrible years, Seferis accompanied the Free Greek Government in exile to Crete, Egypt, South Africa, and Italy. He returned when Athens was free from the Germans, in 1944.

Seferis, named as “the poet of the future”, received many honours and prizes for his lyric poetry. He also received honorary doctoral degrees from the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Thessaloniki and Princeton.

