



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

Subject HPL

Year 8: Detectives in Literature

<p>What I need to know</p> <p>We will be reading and analysing extracts from detective literature, discussing what makes a good detective story and why these stories are so appealing.</p> <p>We will be thinking about the key components of an effective detective story to apply when writing our own stories.</p>	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>Components of a detective story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A Victim: Everyone knows that you need a victim for any great detective novel.○ A Detective: The character who will end up solving the mystery.○ The Crime: You need something to solve!○ Red herring: Think of a twist that could slightly mislead your readers. This ensures the readers won't guess the ending straight away.○ Clues: Leave some clues at the crime scene to help the characters crack the case.○ Suspects: You have to have suspects that aren't the murderer. This will keep the readers guessing.○ An Alibi: Every innocent suspect will need an alibi!○ Resolution: ensure that this is exciting and believable!○ Antagonist: enemy
<p>Student reference point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sherlock Holmes is a famous fictional detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle during the Victorian period. The adventures of Sherlock Holmes and his trusty side kick Dr Watson have been adapted for TV and film many times and have also inspired other authors of detective fiction.○ Agatha Christie is one of the most famous and popular authors of detective stories in the world and wrote from 1916-1970. Christie's most famous novels include <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>, <i>Death on the Nile</i> and <i>The ABC murders</i>. She also wrote <i>The Mouse Trap</i> which is the longest running play in London.○ <i>An Inspector Calls</i> is a play written by JB Priestly and is set in 1912. It tells the story of the wealthy Birling family who are somehow involved in the death of a young girl called Eva Smith. A mysterious police inspector arrives at the Birling's home to question them about their involvement with the dead girl.○ <i>The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency</i> is the first book in a series of novels by Alexander McCall Smith, set in Botswana in Africa. The main character is Mma Precious Ramotswa who sets up a detective agency from the sale of herds of cattle left to her in her father's will. The mysteries are not serious or sinister crimes but they usually give the reader a glimpse into human nature and behaviour.	
<p>Challenge question</p> <p>Find out about the 10 rules of detective fiction created in 1929 during the 'Golden Age' of detective novels. Research the life of Agatha Christie. What does this tell us about the life of women in the early twentieth century?</p>	
<p>Suggested reading</p> <p>Choose one of the authors above and read one of their detective novels.</p>	