

LEARNING GENRES

CRIME/MYSTERY

The mystery genre is a type of fiction. People have many different words to describe this genre: “whodunit”, “hard-boiled”, “detective story”, etc. All mystery stories focus on a crime that was committed or mysterious event that happened. Many of these stories have twists and turns to keep us on our toes as we follow the detective on his journey to discover the culprit. The fun part about mystery or crime stories is that they are usually believable; they could happen in real life, and some of them are even based on true stories!



Ian Fleming: Fleming created the famous James Bond character, an adventurous, fast-living spy with the British secret intelligence.

“But I am greedy for life. I do too much of everything all the time. Suddenly one day my heart will fail. The Iron Crab will get me as it got my father. But I am not afraid of The Crab. At least I shall have died from an honourable disease. Perhaps they will put that on my tombstone. 'This Man Died from Living Too Much'.”

-*From Russia With Love* (1957)



Name some of the words and elements of this quote that tell you it is crime or mystery fiction.

CRIME/MYSTERY



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Doyle was an English adventure and mystery writer from the early 1900s. He is most famous as the creator of Sherlock Holmes, the detective genius.

"He said that there were no traces upon the ground round the body. He did not observe any. but I did - some little distance off, but fresh and clear"

"Footprints?"

"Footprints."

"A man's or a woman's?"

Dr. Mortimer looked strangely at us for an instant, and his voice sank almost to a whisper as he answered: "Mr Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

-*Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1901)



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Agatha Christie: Christie is one of the most important mystery writers in English literature. She invented the character Poirot, an eccentric and intelligent detective from Belgium.

"Once I went professionally to an archaeological expedition--and I learnt something there. In the course of an excavation, when something comes up out of the ground, everything is cleared away very carefully all around it. You take away the loose earth, and you scrape here and there with a knife until finally your object is there, all alone, ready to be drawn and photographed with no extraneous matter confusing it. That is what I have been seeking to do--clear away the extraneous matter so that we can see the truth--the naked shining truth."

- *Death on the Nile* (1937)



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Uh oh, the class hamster Mr. Chubbles has gone missing! What could have happened to him? You are the lead de-tective on the case, and it's up to you to find Mr. Chubbles and bring him back to the classroom safely. Write a mystery story from your point of view about your search for the hamster and who the culprit was behind his disappearance.


