

Elements that might be explored in Crime Fiction

- **Type of crime**; whether its detective fiction, a post-modern novel, a revenge tragedy, an account of a life lost to crime...
- **Settings** that are constructed as backdrops for criminal action, and for the pursuit of the perpetrator's crime; both places and time
- **Nature of the crime/criminal** – their motives, actions, their psychological profile, pathologies and inner workings
- **Transgressive acts**: violence, murder, theft, betrayal
- **Detection, investigation** that leads to the criminal's capture or punishment?
- **Moral purpose/restoration**? To what extent does the text offer this?
- Notions of **guilt, remorse, confession, forgiveness**?
- **Creation** of criminal and their nemesis
- Sense of **resolution** or **justice**?
- **Victimology** and depictions of **suffering**
- **Central motifs**: love, money, danger, death, retribution, accusation, punishment, justice, legal system, courtrooms, trials...
- **Structural pattern** as it moves through a series of crises to some sense of order; the specific focus on plotting
- **Language** – use of criminal/legal/police register
- Ultimately, how is the audience affected?
- How does crime writing function as **social commentary**?
- How is crime writing used to create **suspense, repugnance, excitement** and **relief**