



DETECTIVE FICTION

YEAR 9 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



BIG IDEAS

- Detective fiction is built around mystery, investigation and the uncovering of truth.



Writers use tension, clues and suspense to engage and challenge the reader.



Structure and technique are used to control information and create atmosphere.



Characters, especially investigators and suspects, drive the plot and reveal key themes.



KEY TEXTS

- Murder on the Orient Express* – Agatha Christie
- Lamb to the Slaughter* – Roald Dahl
- And Then There Were None* – Agatha Christie
- The Mysterious Affair at Styles* – Agatha Christie



KEY TERMINOLOGY



Omission

Deliberately leaving something out. Often used to create tension.



Tension

A feeling of nervousness before and important or difficult event.



In medias res

Starting the story in the middle of the action.



Foregrounding

Focusing on a key detail in order to draw the reader's attention to it.



Flashback

Looking at something which has happened in the past.



Non-linear

A narrative which follows events, but not in the order that they happened.



Dialogue

Speech.



Characterisation

The way an author creates a character.



Atmosphere

The mood or feeling associated with a piece of writing.



Red Herring

A piece of false information designed to mislead the reader.



CHARACTERS AND KEY FIGURES



HERCULE POIROT

The world-renowned, moustachioed Belgian private detective. Known for his intelligence and understanding of the criminal mind. Respected and admired by police forces and heads of state across the globe!



MARY MALONEY

The protagonist of 'Lamb to the Slaughter.' A happy and devoted housewife who is six months pregnant, Mary spends much of her time caring for and thinking about her husband, Patrick.



AGATHA CHRISTIE

The best-selling novelist of all time. Best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections as well as the world's longest-running play (The Mousetrap).



NARRATIVE STRUCTURE – KEY TERMINOLOGY



Exposition

The beginning of the story. It introduces the main characters, settings and themes as well as the idea of the central conflict that needs to be resolved.



Inciting Incident

The event that ignites the plot.



Rising Action

The longest section of the story. This is essentially the journey from the initial conflict through to the climax. Tension is built.



Climax

The height of the action/the point of highest tension.



Falling action

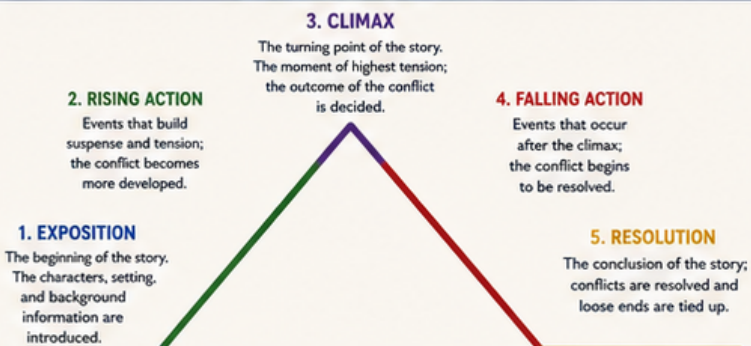
This is usually a short section describing the aftermath of the climax. Leads the reader smoothly to the conclusion of the story.



Resolution/Denouement

The conclusion of the narrative, where conflicts are resolved (either happily or sadly).

FREYTAG'S PYRAMID



CORE GENRE FEATURES OF DETECTIVE FICTION



- A crime or mystery to be solved



- An investigator (professional or amateur)



- Clues and evidence



- Suspense and tension



- Red herrings to mislead the reader



- A logical explanation / resolution