

Before you watch

1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 What types of books and stories do you enjoy reading?
- 2 Do you know any famous writers of crime fiction? Who?
- 3 Do you recognise this famous character? Who is he?



Comprehension check

2 **▶** Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 When was Arthur Conan Doyle born?
a 1859 b 1959 c 1856
- 2 When was Agatha Christie born?
a 1819 b 1890 c 1920
- 3 Which of the following was not one of Agatha Christie's characters?
a Hercule Poirot b Miss Marple c Moriarty

3 **▶** Watch again. Which of the things in the DVD clip are to do with Arthur Conan Doyle and which are to do with Agatha Christie? Tick the correct box.

	Arthur Conan Doyle	Agatha Christie
1 Edinburgh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Torquay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 two men on a train	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 a statue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 300 million books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 a fight on a cliff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 some letters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 romantic fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 **▶** Watch again. Are the sentences true or false? Correct the false sentences.

- 1 Arthur Conan Doyle was a teacher when he started writing. **true / false**
- 2 Sherlock Holmes was in 56 novels by Conan Doyle. **true / false**
- 3 Holmes and Moriarty have a fight in *The Final Problem*. **true / false**
- 4 *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* was a love story. **true / false**
- 5 Agatha Christie didn't like being famous. **true / false**
- 6 Agatha Christie wrote crime and romantic stories. **true / false**

Round up

5 **SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the questions.

Have you ever read any of Agatha Christie or Arthur Conan Doyle's books? Which do you / would you prefer? Why?

Vocabulary

6 RECYCLE Complete the sentences with the words below.

clues crime investigation murderer suspect thief

- 1 The detectives launched the _____ after they found a dead body in the library.
- 2 Police arrested the _____ who stole the diamonds.
- 3 Miss Marple interviewed the _____ to find out where he was at the time of the murder.
- 4 Police searched the house for _____ about what happened to the money.
- 5 The _____ went to prison for 25 years for killing the chef.
- 6 The culprit said he committed the _____ because he needed the money.

7 Complete the speech bubbles with the words below.

mastermind novelist puzzle revenge

I love all her books. In fact, I think that Agatha Christie is my favourite ¹_____.

I don't understand it. It's so complicated. There are so many things to think about. It's a real ²_____.

She's a criminal ³_____. She planned everything carefully and committed the perfect crime.

One day, I'm going to get my ⁴_____. I'm going to find him and take what is mine.

Extension

8 Work in groups. Use the internet to find out about a famous crime that happened in your country. Find out:

- where and when it happened.
- what the crime was, who did it and why.
- how the police solved the crime.
- what happened to the criminals.

9 Present your story to the class. Use the key phrases for talking about past events.

Talking about past events

It happened ...

It took place ...

It involved ...

There was / were ...

DVD clip summary

The DVD clip is about two famous British crime writers, Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie.

Background

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Dame Agatha Christie are two of the most famous writers of crime fiction in the English language. Conan Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes, who first appeared in 1887, is still the most popular fictional detective in the world today. He appeared in four novels and 56 short stories by Conan Doyle, and has also appeared in many films and TV series. According to the Guinness Book of Records, he is the 'most portrayed movie character' with over 70 actors playing the part in more than 200 films.

Agatha Christie, who wrote 66 detective novels, also created some memorable characters including Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. Her first novel was published in 1920 and she wrote her last novel in 1973. Many of her novels became plays, including *The Mousetrap*, which has been running continuously in theatres in London for over 60 years, making it the longest running play in the world.


Before you watch

Exercise 1


- Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Find out how many different crime writers they know, and then see who recognises the photo.
- Answers:**
 - 2 Students' own answers
 - Hercule Poirot, a Belgian detective created by Agatha Christie

Comprehension check


Exercise 2

- Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- Answers:** 1 a 2 b 3 c

Exercise 3

- Pre-watching:** Ask the students to read through the list and try and tick some of the boxes before they watch the DVD clip again.
- Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- Answers:** 1 Arthur Conan Doyle 2 Agatha Christie 3 Arthur Conan Doyle 4 Agatha Christie 5 Agatha Christie 6 Arthur Conan Doyle 7 Arthur Conan Doyle 8 Agatha Christie

Exercise 4

- Pre-watching:** Ask the students to say if the sentences are true or false before they watch the DVD clip again. Then play the DVD clip and ask them to correct the false sentences afterwards.
- Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- Answers:**

1 false – He was a doctor when he started writing.	4 false – It was a detective story.
2 false – He was in four novels and 56 short stories.	5 true
3 true	6 true

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the question.
- Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- Ask the students to read the sentences through first, then choose the correct answers.
- **Answers:** 1 investigation 2 thief 3 suspect 4 clues 5 murderer 6 crime

Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read through the sentences first, then complete them. With a **weaker class** you could elicit the meanings of the words first.
- **Answers:** 1 novelist 2 puzzle 3 mastermind 4 revenge

Extension

Exercises 8 and 9

- **Materials needed:** Computers with internet access
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three. Tell them that they are going to research a famous crime.
- **Language:** Ask the students to imagine they are going to tell a story. Elicit some of the key phrases that will help them.
- **Activity:** Once they have researched their crime, they should write down their story, trying to make it as gripping as possible. Write the following question words on the board: *Who? When? What? How? Why?* Tell the students their story should answer all of these questions.
- Give them 7–8 minutes to research their story and another 7–8 minutes to write it. Then nominate a student from each group to tell the story to the class.
- **Extension:** After all the groups have told their stories, ask the students to discuss which was the worst crime and why.

Crime writers

Arthur Conan Doyle is one of the most influential authors of the last 150 years. He was born in Edinburgh in 1859 and studied medicine at the city's university. He was working as a doctor when he wrote his first novel, *A Study in Scarlet*. It was a huge success, and the story – especially its main character, the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes – inspired a new literary genre: crime fiction.

Sherlock Holmes appeared in four of Conan Doyle's novels and 56 of his short stories. These were all very successful and Holmes became one of the most famous characters of all time.

Conan Doyle even tried to kill off his famous creation in his story *The Final Problem*. The story's gripping plot introduces Moriarty, the leader of a gang of thieves and murderers. Holmes launches his own investigation into this criminal mastermind and Moriarty tries to kill him in revenge. They both fall to their deaths at the Reichenbach Falls. However, Holmes was so popular that he couldn't die. Lots of people wrote letters asking Conan Doyle to bring back the detective, and twenty years after his death, Holmes reappeared.

Throughout the 20th century, people continued to enjoy his adventures, and some of these people decided to write detective novels of their own.

Agatha Christie was born in 1890 in Torquay, a seaside town on the south coast of England. As a child, she read detective stories and often said that Sherlock Holmes had influenced her a lot.

She published her first detective novel – *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* – in 1920. Over the next few years, she published a book a year. Her books often followed a familiar plot. Someone commits a crime, usually a murder, and the detective launches an investigation. They search the house, interview the suspects and find all kinds of clues – and eventually solve the puzzle.

The stories were always gripping and she quickly became one of the most famous authors on the planet. But she often claimed that she hated fame and preferred peace and quiet to write. And she wrote a lot. In her lifetime, Christie wrote 66 detective novels and created some of the most popular characters in crime fiction, like Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote romantic novels, but used a different name. She said that she could write more easily when she wasn't Agatha Christie!

In her lifetime, Christie sold over 300 million books and earned millions of pounds. When she died on 12 January 1976, the BBC said she was the most popular novelist in the world. She's still loved today. In 2013, the UK's Crime Writers' Association called her the best ever crime writer. But she didn't create the best crime fiction character. That prize went to Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes.