

Year 9 – And Then There Were None – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it? This unit introduces pupils to the whodunit genre of fiction through Agatha Christie's famous *And Then There Were None* (students study the adapted screenplay by Sarah Phelps). We will be focusing on conventions of the genre and characterisation. Students will analyse how Christie creates interesting characters and her use of techniques to make the plot intriguing and meaningful.

Key Vocabulary Taught:

<i>Whodunit</i>	<i>dwindling party</i>
<i>the mole</i>	<i>the red herring</i>
<i>modus operandi</i>	<i>dubious</i>
<i>vexed</i>	<i>sanctimonious</i>
<i>sage</i>	<i>lecherous</i>
<i>egotistical</i>	<i>hedonistic</i>
<i>vulgar</i>	<i>a cad</i>
<i>discourteous</i>	<i>scornful</i>
<i>audacious</i>	<i>reckless</i>
<i>belligerent</i>	<i>trope</i>
<i>convention</i>	<i>injudicious</i>
<i>hasty</i>	<i>cantankerous</i>
<i>irrational</i>	

Key terminology taught:

- noun
- adjective
- superlative
- pathetic fallacy
- religious imagery
- allusion
- verb
- adverb
- dramatic Irony
- extended metaphor
- flashback
- symbolism

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Improve your understanding of the Whodunit genre by researching other popular titles and plots - it would be great to read these too.
- Complete some more in-depth research into Agatha Christie and her work.
- We will be watching the BBC adaptation in school, but you could rewatch scenes at home (please don't spoil the ending though).
- Practice using the key vocabulary to write sentences about other characters you have read about in fiction *e.g. Colin from The Secret Garden can be a somewhat cantankerous character because....*
- Practice planning your own Whodunit script using the conventions you have been learning about in class.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What do you like/dislike about the whodunit genre?
- Why do you think this genre is so popular?
- Why do you think British law advocates justice in front of a judge and jury? Do you agree?

Challenging activities to complete:

- Make a 'whodunnit' board game using conventions and tropes of the genre within the game.
- Create a murder mystery event for you and your friends/family where you create roles and scenarios for each participant and clues to decipher who the murderer is.
- Complete this essay question about any of Christie's work: *How does Agatha Christie's use of repetition, rhyming and motifs help lead the audience to her story's main points?*

Suggested further reading:

- **Other Agatha Christie novels such as *Murder on The Orient Express***
- **Read Non-Fiction mystery books such as *'The Moonstone'* by Wilkie Collins**