The History of Mystery

From Edgar Allen Poe
To
Goosebumps
What is a Mystery?

Mystery is a genre of fiction.

It is a suspenseful story where the protagonist must solve a crime or figure out a puzzling situation.

There are many types of mysteries. They include:
- Thrillers
- Whodunits
- Crime stories
- Detective stories
What’s in a Mystery?

- A Crime
- Variety of Characters – detectives, sleuths, spies, witnesses
- Clues and Red Herrings
- Suspense & Tension
- Foreshadowing
- Solution
Defining Elements of Mystery

- Mysterious/Scary Setting
- Eerie Atmosphere
- Suspense
- A determined Sleuth
- Obstacles to solving the crime
- Red Herrings that mislead the reader
- A Sidekick (sometimes) to help solve the mystery
Foreshadowing

A literary device authors use to hint toward future events in the story
Edgar Allen Poe: The Father of Mystery

- Born 1809, Died 1849
- Introduced first fictional detective, Auguste C. Dupin, in Murders in the Rue Morgue
- Introduced the “Locked Room” mystery
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Sherlock Holmes Mysteries

- Born 1859, Died 1930
- Sherlock Holmes’ debut in 1887 novel, *A Study in Scarlet*
- Holmes deduced clues to solve crimes
- Solving of crimes became a science
- Fictional address in Baker Street
Agatha Christie: The “Golden Age of Mystery Fiction”

- Born 1890, Died 1976
- Wrote more than 80 novels
- Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple were Christie’s most famous detectives
- Created ‘manor-house’ settings
- *Became her own mystery
Today’s Mystery Writers

➢ R.L. Stine
   (Goosebumps)
➢ Andy McNabb
➢ John Grisham
➢ James Patterson
➢ Dan Brown
➢ Jack Heath
➢ Gabrielle Lord
Today’s Mystery Writers

➢ Andrew Lane
➢ Tristan Bancks
➢ Dan Smith
➢ Rohan Gavin
➢ Anthony Horowitz
➢ * SEARCH on Oliver
The Detective’s Vocabulary

► **Alibi**: An excuse that a suspect uses to show that he or she was somewhere other than at the scene of the crime

► **Breakthrough**: A development that advances/solves a case

► **Deduce**: To derive at a conclusion from something known or assumed; infer

► **Evidence**: Something that helps prove who committed the crime (may be concrete or circumstantial)

► **Motive**: The reason(s) why a person commits a crime

► **Victim**: Someone who is harmed or suffers some loss due to the crime

► **Witness**: Someone who saw the crime being committed and can provide some information