

TOP SECRET:
MYSTERY GENRE
STUDY

If found, please return to:

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Period: _____

PURPOSE

"Once students know that there are different genres, they need to find out how to navigate through each kind of text to find the information they seek. ... Learning about the features of different genres helps readers recognize what they are reading and quickly adjust their reading styles. ... As students become more skilled, they can use the features of different genres to help them learn information quickly and efficiently" – Emily Kissner, ASCD

Through this unit, you will learn the features of the Mystery genre in order to read in the mystery genre more strategically. You will also learn the purposeful steps an author takes to create his/her work. Finally, you will look at themes in text and determine how the author portrays the message of his or her text. This unit will also help to build stamina in reading.

TASK

As a class, we will read "Philomel Cottage" by Agatha Christie looking for elements of Mystery. At the same time, you will read at least one book of your own choosing in the Mystery Genre. We will analyze all texts in regards to the setting, characters, and plot.

OUTCOME

By the end of the unit, you will compose two pieces of writing:

- 1. A two paragraph constructed response where you determine the most important literary element in the mystery genre.**
- 2. A piece of creative writing in the Mystery genre, using the information we criteria we determine as a class.**

MYSTERY

Mystery: Whodunit?

Authors of detective stories use logic and suspense to engage readers in mental puzzles, allowing them to use their own deductive reasoning skills in a race to try and crack the case even before the detective does. Did you solve the mystery before the end of your book? Use the questions below in your investigation of the mystery genre.

Setting/Plot

The Mystery

What is the central mystery of the story? What type of crime is involved? Why does it matter to the characters? How does it relate to the theme?

Scene of the Crime

Where and when does the story take place? How do you know? How does the setting help develop the characters or the action? Where and when does the crime happen? Are there witnesses? Are they reliable? Why or why not?

Clues & Red Herrings

What clues are found? How do clues help solve the case? Are there false clues that mislead the detective? How does the detective determine them to be false?

Plot

What are the most important events in the story? How is the mystery resolved? Is it a satisfying ending? Why or why not?

Character

The Sleuth

Who is trying to solve the crime? Why does it matter to him/her? Describe the detective's:

- **Physical characteristics**
- **Motivations**
- **Place in society**
- **Strengths**
- **Weaknesses**

Suspects

Who is suspected of the crime? Why are they suspected? What role to stereotypes or assumptions play in this? How are the suspects connected to the victim? The detective? The real perpetrator?

The Perpetrator

Who really committed the crime? Was he/she a suspect throughout the story or was it a surprise? Why did he/she commit the crime? How is he/she different from the detective? How are they alike?

Theme

Theme

What is the theme or central idea that unifies the story as a whole? How is this theme developed throughout the story?

Suspense

How does the author use any of the following to cause suspense or create tension in the reader?

- **Cliffhangers**
- **Dialogue**
- **Flashbacks**
- **Foreshadowing**
- **Unreliable narrator**
- **Word choice**

Logic and Intuition

How does the detective use logical deduction to solve the case? How does he/she use intuition or "hunches" to solve the case? Which does he/she rely on more often?

Author's Purpose

Why do you think the author wrote the book? What do you think he/she wants you to feel or think after reading it?

MYSTERY VOCABULARY

Crime Terms

- Accomplice
- Arson
- Blackmail
- Bribe
- Burglary
- Counterfeit
- Criminal record
- Crook
- Embezzle
- Felony
- Forgery
- Fraud
- Fugitive
- Hoax
- Homicide
- Identity theft
- Illegal
- Infamous
- Kidnapping
- Mafia
- Misdemeanor
- Money laundering
- Mug shot
- Murder
- Notorious
- Robbery
- Scam
- Shoplifting
- Smuggling
- Vandalism

Detective Terms

- Alias
- Alibi
- Analyze
- Clue
- Cold case
- Commit
- Crime scene investigation (CSI)
- Deduction
- DNA
- Circumstantial evidence
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Fingerprint
- Forensics
- Genetics
- Hunch
- *Modus Operandi* (MO)
- Motive
- Observation
- Perpetrator (perp)
- Private eye
- Sleuth
- Stakeout
- Statement
- Surveillance
- Suspect
- Undercover
- Victim
- Witness

Legal Terms

- accuse
- acquit
- apprehend
- arrest
- attorney
- capital offense
- community service
- condemn
- confess
- convict
- court
- defendant
- federal
- jail
- judge
- jurisdiction
- jury
- juvenile
- lawyer
- parole
- penitentiary
- plea bargain
- premeditated
- presumed innocent
- proven guilty
- prison
- probation
- prosecute
- sentence
- trial
- verdict
- warrant

PREDICT:
What is Mystery

VOCABULARY AWARENESS CHART – UNIT 1 – QUIZ DATE:

Word	Part of Speech	Know it Well	Have Heard or Seen It	No Clue	Definitions as Needed
PERPETRATOR					
RED HERRING					
SLEUTH					
SUSPENSE					
INTUITION					
LOGIC					
ACCOMPLICE					
ALIBI					
ACQUIT					
PREMEDITATED					



LITERARY ELEMENTS IN **MYSTERY**

Essential Question:

	Core: "Philomel Cottage" by Agatha Christie	Independent: Title: Author:	Others: Examples of other texts in this genre (from group conversation)
SETTING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical• Temporal• Culture/Society			
Generalization/Summary: What is true about SETTING in Mystery?			

HOMEWORK: SETTING WRITING PROMPT

Directions: Respond to the following prompt. Please use the example and rubric to guide your writing.

Prompt: What element of the setting will be most important to your independent reading book? Why? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

Rubric:

3 points – Claim/Topic sentence – Introduce a precise, knowledgeable claim that is debatable, defensible, narrow, and specific. Establish the significance of the claim.

3 points – Evidence (Data) – Supply sufficient relevant evidence from credible sources to fairly and thoroughly develop the claim
YOU MUST USE PROPER CITATIONS – “Direct Quote from your novel” (Author’s Last Name Page #).

3 points – Reasoning (Warrants/Backing) – Use valid reasoning to explain how the evidence leads to the claim.

Example:

The social setting of the book *A President’s War* by Eric Goszyk is the most important literary element because it creates a society in which the poor are at a disadvantage and do not have basic necessities. When the main character, Joanne, goes to the outdoor market, she is told, “Get away from here you migrant!” (Goszyk 14). Joanne is unable to get food for her family which puts her at a disadvantage and leads her to a life of crime.

REMEMBER: You may not use the pronouns “you” or “I” in this response unless it is part of your quote. Avoid using contractions (can’t, won’t, etc.) You must introduce your quotes with an introductory phrase or clause and punctuate properly.



LITERARY ELEMENTS IN **MYSTERY**

Essential Question:

	Core: "Philomel Cottage" by Agatha Christie	Independent: Title: Author:	Others: Examples of other texts in this genre (from group conversation)
CHARACTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protagonist• Antagonist• Supporting Characters (side-kick, mentor, minor characters, minions)			
Generalization/Summary: What is true about CHARACTERS in Mystery?			

HOMEWORK: CHARACTER WRITING PROMPT

Directions: Respond to the following prompt. Please use the example and rubric to guide your writing.

Prompt: Who will be the most important character in your independent reading book? Why? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

Rubric:

3 points – Claim/Topic sentence – Introduce a precise, knowledgeable claim that is debatable, defensible, narrow, and specific. Establish the significance of the claim.

3 points – Evidence (Data) – Supply sufficient relevant evidence from credible sources to fairly and thoroughly develop the claim
YOU MUST USE PROPER CITATIONS – “Direct Quote from your novel” (Author’s Last Name Page #).

3 points – Reasoning (Warrants/Backing) – Use valid reasoning to explain how the evidence leads to the claim.

Sample:

The character Joanne in the book *A President’s War* by Eric Goszyk is the most important character because she is the protagonist and the other characters rely on her for guidance. When she is put into jail, the other characters feel “lost and dismayed by Joanne’s imprisonment. They didn’t have enough food to last them much longer” (Goszyk 28). Joanne’s family is dependent on her for food and also that they seem lost without her. Because she is in prison, they have difficulty moving forward and this leads to the conflict.

REMEMBER: You may not use the pronouns “you” or “I” in this response unless it is part of your quote. Avoid using contractions (can’t, won’t, etc.) You must introduce your quotes with an introductory phrase or clause and punctuate properly.



LITERARY ELEMENTS IN **MYSTERY**

Essential Question:

	Core: "Philomel Cottage" by Agatha Christie	Independent: Title: Author:	Others: Examples of other texts in this genre (from group conversation)
PLOT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Conflict• Resolution• Rising Action• Falling Action• Subplot			
Generalization/Summary: What is true about PLOT in Mystery?			

HOMEWORK: PLOT WRITING PROMPT

Directions: Respond to the following prompt. Please use the example and rubric to guide your writing.

Prompt: What is the most important episode/incident in your independent reading book? Why? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

Rubric:

3 points – Claim/Topic sentence – Introduce a precise, knowledgeable claim that is debatable, defensible, narrow, and specific. Establish the significance of the claim.

3 points – Evidence (Data) – Supply sufficient relevant evidence from credible sources to fairly and thoroughly develop the claim
YOU MUST USE PROPER CITATIONS – “Direct Quote from your novel” (Author’s Last Name Page #).

3 points – Reasoning (Warrants/Backing) – Use valid reasoning to explain how the evidence leads to the claim.

Example:

The most important event in the book *A President’s War* by Eric Goszyk is when the main character, Joanne, meets Rachel in jail. When Joanne meets Rachel she is stunned by Rachel’s plan to escape: “The plan was crazy, but Joanne was desperate” (Goszyk 36). Joanne is desperate to escape because she needs to feed her family but also that she is thinking differently about the justice system since she’s willing to break the law to escape. This change in Joanne, combined with Rachel’s influence, is what causes her later to start a revolution against the government, which is the central conflict in the story.

REMEMBER: You may not use the pronouns “you” or “I” in this response unless it is part of your quote. Avoid using contractions (can’t, won’t, etc.) You must introduce your quotes with an introductory phrase or clause and punctuate properly.

VOCABULARY AWARENESS CHART – UNIT 2 – QUIZ DATE:

Word	Part of Speech	Know it Well	Have Heard or Seen It	No Clue	Definitions as Needed
ALIAS					
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE					
FORENSICS					
MOTIVE					
MODUS OPERANDI (MO)					
APPREHEND					
CONDEMN					
JURISDICTION					
PROSECUTE					
VERDICT					

STATEMENT OF THEME

Essential Question:

Text: "Philomel Cottage"

Author: Agatha Christie

Character(s)			Plot
Protagonist(s)	Antagonist(s)	Other Characters(s)	Central Conflicts/Problems?
Setting			
Physical	Social/Cultural		

STATEMENT OF THEME

Theme(s)
Using page 13,
What lessons/messages/
points/themes/morals can you
infer from these literary
elements?

Generalization/Summary: What is true about THEMES in Mystery?

HOMEWORK: THEME WRITING PROMPT

Directions: Respond to the following prompt. Please use the example and rubric to guide your writing.

Prompt: What is the most important theme in your independent reading book, so far? Provide evidence from the text and reasoning to support your answer.

Rubric:

3 points - Claim/Topic sentence - Introduce a precise, knowledgeable claim that is debatable, defensible, narrow, and specific. Establish the significance of the claim.

3 points - Evidence (Data) - Supply sufficient relevant evidence from credible sources to fairly and thoroughly develop the claim. **YOU MUST USE PROPER CITATIONS** - "Direct Quote from your novel" (Author's Last Name Page #).

3 points - Reasoning (Warrants/Backing) - Use valid reasoning to explain how the evidence leads to the claim.

Example:

The theme of the book *A President's War* by Eric Goszyk is when people feel controlled, they will rebel. When Joanne realizes that the government controls aspects of her life and she has no voice, she decides to rally those closest to her to begin a revolt. She tells her sister Rachel, "We have to do something bigger than they'd imagine. We have to get control back and stop them from taking over our lives. We have lost everything, including the will to live. We must take our lives back" (Goszyk 58). Joanne is desperate to gain control back; she is a character with talents, opinions, individual thought, and creativity who feels the basic need to express herself and not be controlled by others.

REMEMBER: You may not use the pronouns "you" or "I" in this response unless it is part of your quote. Avoid using contractions (can't, won't, etc.) You must introduce your quotes with an introductory phrase or clause and punctuate properly.

SCARED TO DEATH:

CAN YOU REALLY DIE OF FRIGHT?

By Laura Geggel, Senior Writer | October 26, 2015

Livescience.com



'Tis the season of ghosts, goblins and other things that go bump in the night. And while most Halloween terrors are totally harmless (think jack-o'-lanterns and pointed hats), the frightful holiday might make you wonder: Is it really possible to be scared to death?

There's no question about it, the answer is yes, said Dr. Robert Glatzer, an emergency physician at Lenox H Hospital in New York.

When people feel an overwhelming fear, their fight-or-flight response jumps into action. This response like benefited early humans when they faced a menacing beast or aggressor, giving them the necessary adrenaline to either fight the attacker or flee the scene, Glatzer said.

This ad will end in 1 seconds.

The rush of adrenaline is an involuntary response controlled by the autonomic nervous system. When faced with a fight-or-flight scenario, a person will experience rapid heart rate, dilated pupils and increased blood flow to the muscles, Glatzer said.

Unfortunately, increased levels of adrenaline can damage the heart, Glatzer told Live Science.

When adrenaline is released, it triggers calcium channels in the heart to open. "Calcium rushes into the heart cells, which causes the heart muscle to contract strongly," Glatzer said. "Basically, in a massive response, the calcium keeps on pouring in, and the heart muscles can't relax."

If a person is scared and has a large amount of adrenaline reaching his or her heart, the individual can develop an arrhythmia called ventricular fibrillation — an uncoordinated contraction of the heart that makes it quiver, not beat regularly as it should, Glatzer said.

"It ultimately leads to a drop in blood pressure, because without blood for the brain, you lose consciousness," Glatzer said.

A terrifying event, be it a gun held to someone's head or a chilling Halloween trick, can trigger this disorganized heart movement, turning a scary situation into a deadly one, he said.

"It can happen even in normal [healthy] people," Glatte said. "It doesn't have to be a person with pre-existing heart disease, although those people would certainly be at higher risk."

Fear isn't the only trigger: Any type of extreme emotion can trigger the reaction. High levels of adrenaline can lead to death during sexual intercourse, religious fervor or sporting events, Glatte said. The fight-or-flight response can also be triggered by loud sounds, such as sonic booms, or horrible smells, including entering the house of a compulsive hoarder.

"We had a guy who came into the ER with chest pain after he opened his neighbor's door," Glatte said. "No one thought it was serious, but he was actually having a heart attack. And he was a young guy with no previous medical history."

What's more, "scaremongers" can be held legally accountable if they scare people to death. In May, an insurance company agreed to pay \$300,000 to settle a lawsuit concerning an 85-year-old man who died after his vehicle hit a tractor-trailer in Detroit, according to the Associated Press. The man's family alleged that the tractor-trailer didn't have visible backlights, and that the man was literally "scared to death" when he suddenly saw the large vehicle during a rainstorm in 2008, the AP reported.

The man hit the tractor-trailer moments later, possibly because of his heart condition, the AP said.

"The next time you want to scare someone, be careful because you might be held responsible for it," Glatte said.

But there is good news. While the fight-or-flight response is involuntary, people can try to temper their reactions to scary events by practicing yoga, meditation or mindfulness, Glatte said.

FACTUAL BASIS FOR LITERARY ELEMENTS

Essential Question:

Literary Element Based On Fact	What is based on fact? (Find evidence from the text, cite properly)	What facts did I find to support my thinking? (Find evidence from the non-fiction piece on page 16-17 to support your thinking)
Plot	Dying from Fear	

FACTUAL BASIS FOR LITERARY ELEMENTS

Title: _____

Author: _____

Directions: Choose one literary element - determine what is based on fact (from the text) and then provide information from your research to support your thinking.

Literary Element Based On Fact	What is based on fact? (Find evidence from the text, cite properly)	What facts did I find to support my thinking? (Find evidence from the non-fiction pieces to support your thinking)

Summary: What has to be **BASED ON FACT** in Mystery?

ALLUSIONS

Each set of sentences below contains an allusion. Identify the allusion, then explain what the author wants you to understand from the allusion

Ex: "I don't know if this store carries shoes in your size, Sasquatch," my dad joked when we went shopping for another new pair of shoes, my second pair in two months.

Allusion: *Sasquatch*

Meaning: *Legend says that Sasquatch is huge; dad means the child's feet are big.*

1. Doug showed off his new gold watch to his friend Rachel. "Nice watch, Jay Z!" Rachel gushed.

Allusion:

Meaning:

2. I hoped to sign the birthday card our team bought for Coach, but I couldn't find a spot to sign my name because someone went all John Hancock on it and signed his names across the whole card.

Allusion:

Meaning:

3. We were all starry-eyed as we stepped into the doctor's mansion. "I don't think Buckingham Palace is as fancy as this house!" Mom gasped under her breath.

Allusion:

Meaning:

4. He poured his heart out in the love letter to his girlfriend. The letter was as poetic as if Shakespeare himself had written it.

Allusion:

Meaning:

5. I poured myself a cup of coffee in the teacher's lounge and took a sip. It wasn't Starbucks, but the jolt of hot, steamy caffeine helped wake me up.

Allusion:

Meaning:

6. The three-year-old jumped out of the tub, leaving murky dingy water in his wake. Staring into the tub, his dad exclaimed, "Wowza. It's like the Boston Tea Party in there."

Allusion:

Meaning:

The Story of Blue Beard – A Gripping Tale from the Past Fairytale in English – by Brigid McCauley

Blue Beard is a wealthy man who lives in a magnificent castle. Everyone fears him because he is a very ugly man with a big, blue beard, and all his earlier wives have mysteriously disappeared. Now he has laid his eyes on the beautiful daughters of one of his neighbors. Read on to discover what happens!

Once upon a time there lived a man who owned splendid town and country houses, gold and silver plate, tapestries and coaches gilt all over. But the poor fellow had a blue beard, and this made him so frightfully ugly that none of the ladies in the neighborhood would venture to go into his company. Amongst his neighbors was a lady of high degree who had two extremely beautiful daughters. He asked for the hand of one of these in marriage, leaving it to their mother to choose which daughter should be bestowed upon him. Both girls, however, raised objections, and his offer was bandied from one to the other, neither being able to bring herself to accept a man with a blue beard. Another reason for their distaste was the fact that he had already married several wives, and no one knew what had become of them.

In order that they might become better acquainted, Blue Beard invited the two girls, with their mother and three or four of their best friends, to meet a party of young men from the neighborhood at one of his country houses. Here they spent eight whole days, and throughout their stay there was a constant round of picnics, hunting and fishing expeditions, dances, dinners, and luncheons. They never slept, but spent the night playing mer pranks upon each other. In short, the time passed so agreeably that the younger daughter began to think the master of the house had not so very blue a beard after all, and that he was in fact an exceedingly agreeable man. As soon as the party returned to town, she accepted Blue Beard's proposal of marriage.

About a month after the marriage had taken place, Blue Beard informed his wife that he had to leave her for a few weeks, as he had some business to do in a distant country. He begged her to amuse herself well during his absence, and suggested that she should invite some of her friends and tell them, if she liked, to the country. "Here," he said, "are the keys to the two large storerooms, and here is the key to the strongboxes where my gold and silver is kept. This key is to the caskets containing my jewels, and this one is the master key, which gives admittance to all the apartments—but this small key belongs to the door of the closet at the end of the long gallery on the ground floor. You may open everything, you may go everywhere, but I forbid you to enter this little room. Should you disobey me, expect the most dreadful of punishments." She promised to follow the instructions in the most faithful manner and, after embracing her, Blue Beard stepped into his coach and proceeded on his journey.

The friends of the bride could not wait to be invited, so impatient were they to see all the riches and magnificence she had gained by her marriage. They had not dared to venture while her husband was there, for his blue beard frightened them so. No sooner had they arrived than they ran impatiently from room to room, and from wardrobe to wardrobe, declaring that the last was still richer and more beautiful than that which they had seen the moment before. There were mirrors in which they could view themselves from top to toe, some with frames of plate glass, others with frames of silver and gilt lacquer. They were the most superb and beautiful objects that they had ever seen.

In short, nothing could exceed the magnificence of what they saw, and the visitors did not cease to extol and envy the good fortune of their friend who in the meantime was far from being amused by their fine compliments. In fact, so great indeed was her curiosity about the mysterious closet that, forgetting how impolite it would be to leave her guests, she descended a private staircase that led to the room. She was in such a hurry that she was two or three times in danger of breaking her neck.

When she reached the door of the closet, she paused for a while, thinking of the orders her husband had given her, and reflecting what harm might come to her as a result of her disobedience. But she was so very curious to know what was inside, that she decided to venture in. With a trembling hand, she put the key into the lock, and the door opened immediately.

The window shutters being closed, she at first saw nothing; but in a short time she saw that the floor was covered with dried blood, on which the bodies of several dead women lay. These were all the wives whom Blue Beard had married and murdered, one after another. She thought that she should have died of fear, and the key of the closet door, which she held in her hand, fell to the floor.

When she had somewhat regained her senses, she picked up the key, closed the door, and went upstairs to her chamber to compose herself a little. But this she could not do, for her nerves were too shaken. Having observed that the key of the closet was stained with blood, she tried two or three times to wipe it off, but the blood would not disappear. In vain did she wash it and scrub it, but the blood still remained, for the key was bewitched and she could never make it clean; when the blood was wiped from one side, it appeared again on the other.

That very same evening, Blue Beard returned from his journey. He had received some letters on the way, he said, informing him that the affair he went about was finished to his advantage. His wife did everything she could to make it appear that she was delighted by his speedy return. The next day he asked for the keys, which his wife returned, but with such a trembling hand that he easily guessed what had happened. "How is it," he said "that the key of the little closet is not here amongst the rest?" "I must have left it upstairs upon my dressing table," she said. "Be sure to give it to me later," said Blue Beard.

After going several times backwards and forward, pretending to look for the key, she was at last obliged to give it to Blue Beard. He looked at it attentively, and then asked, "How came the blood upon this key?" "I'm sure I do not know," replied the poor wife, paler than death. "You do not know?" exclaimed Blue Beard, "I know well enough. You entered the closet on the ground floor! Very well, madame, enter it you shall—you shall go and take your place among the ladies you saw there!"

Upon this she threw herself at her husband's feet, begging his pardon with tears for her disobedience. She would have melted any heart, so beautiful and sorrowful was she, but Blue Beard had a heart harder than any stone. "You must die, madame," he said, "and at once." "Since I must die," she replied, gazing at him with eyes that were bathed in tears, "allow me at least a little time to say my prayers." "I give you one quarter of an hour," replied Blue Beard, "but not a moment longer."

When the poor girl was left alone, she called her sister to her and said: "Sister Anne," (for that was her name), "go up, I implore you, to the top of the tower, and see if my brothers are yet in sight, for they promised to come and visit me today. If you see them, make signs to them to hasten." Her sister did as she was asked, and the poor unhappy girl cried out to her from time to time, "Anne, sister Anne, do you see anyone coming?" and her sister replied, "I see nought but the dust in the sun and the grass that grows green."

Presently, Blue Beard, grasping a great cutlass, cried out at the top of his voice, "Come down instantly, or I shall come and fetch you." "Oh please, one moment more," called out his wife, and again called softly to her sister, "Anne, sister Anne, do you see anyone coming?" "I see nought but the dust the sun and the grass that grows green," replied her sister.

"Come down at once, I say," shouted Blue Beard, "or I will come upstairs myself." "I am coming," replied his wife. Then she called again to her sister, "Anne, sister Anne, do you see anyone coming?" "I see," replied her sister, "a great cloud of dust which comes this way." "Is it my brothers?" "Alas, sister, no; it is but a flock of sheep."

"Do you refuse to come down?" roared Blue Beard. "One little moment more," exclaimed his wife. Once more she cried, "Anne, sister Anne, do you see anyone coming?" "I see," replied her sister, "two men on horseback coming this way, but they are still at a great distance." "Heaven be praised!" she exclaimed a moment later, "They are my brothers! I am signaling to them all I can to hasten."

Blue Beard let forth so mighty a roar that the whole house shook. The poor wife went down and threw herself at his feet, in tears. "That avails you nothing," said Blue Beard, "you must die." Seizing her by the hair with one hand, and holding the cutlass with the other, Blue Beard prepared to cut off her head. The poor girl, turning towards him, begged for a brief moment in which to collect her thoughts. "No! No!" cried Blue Beard, "I will give you no more time. Commend your soul to Heaven."

Again he raised his arm. At this very moment there came so loud a knocking at the gate that Blue Beard stopped short. The gate was opened, two horsemen entered, drew their swords, and rode straight at Blue Beard. He recognized them as the brothers of his wife, and fled instantly in an effort to save himself. But the two brothers were so close upon him that they caught him before he had gone twenty steps. They plunged their swords into his body, and Blue Beard fell down dead at their feet. The poor wife, who was nearly as dead as her husband, had not the strength to rise and embrace her brothers.

It was found that Blue Beard had no heirs, so his wife became mistress of all of his estate. She gave some of her vast fortune in a marriage dowry to her sister Anne, who soon after became the wife of a young gentleman who had been in love with her for a long time. Another part she used to buy commissions for each of her brothers. The rest formed a dowry for her own marriage with a very worthy man, whose kind treatment soon made her forget Blue Beard's cruelty.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Despite Blue Beard's frightening looks and bad reputation, the young girl agrees to marry him. Perhaps she thought that a man that had so much wealth could not be that bad after all? What do you think?

How do we tell if people are good or bad? Can we tell it by what they do, by what they say, by how they speak, by what they have done before, by the way they look, by what they wear, by what they like, or by what they fear? Would you have married someone just because s/he was very rich?

2. After her guests have left, she enters the forbidden room even though Blue Beard had told her not to. Why do you think she did this? Apart from the fact that Blue Beard had forbidden her to enter the mysterious closet, can you think of any other reason why she should not have entered the room? Because she respected his wish? Because she loved him? Can love sometimes be stronger than curiosity? What is the strongest emotion a person can have?

Is curiosity always aroused when something is forbidden? What else arouses curiosity: thirst for knowledge, envy, jealousy, insecurity, anger? What makes you curious? Is curiosity always a good thing?

3. When Blue Beard finds out that she has been up to while he was away, he wants to execute her. But her brothers manage to enter the house, kill Blue Beard and save their dear sister.

Blue Beard was finally punished for all his horrible crimes, yet his wife was not punished for her small "crime" of entering the forbidden closet. Should she have been punished too? Why, or why not? Is it acceptable to do something evil against persons who are themselves evil?

"PHILOMEL COTTAGE"

Gerald says, "Do you think it wise, Alix - this - Bluebeard's chamber business? There have been women in my life, yes. I don't deny it. You wouldn't believe me if I did deny it. But I can swear to you truthfully that not one of them meant anything to me" (Christie 199).

After finding the information about Gerald, Alix thought, "And with them came the memory of her husband's face, photographed clearly on her brain as she said: 'Do you think it wise, Alix, this - Bluebeard's chamber business?' Why had he said that?" (Christie 201).

The narrator says, "By Friday morning, Alix had convinced herself that there had been a woman in Gerald's life - a Bluebeard's chamber that he had sedulously sought to conceal from her. Her jealousy, slow to awaken, was now rampant" (Christie 201).

After reading the information about Blue Beard, why did Agatha Christie use this allusion in her writing?

SO...WHAT IS MYSTERY?




Write a definition of this genre from your summaries on pages 6, 8, 10, 14 & 17.

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE: GENRE DEFINITION





Prompt: What is the MOST ESSENTIAL literary element of the Mystery GENRE? Use an example from a core text and an independent text you have read through this unit.

REMEMBER: This must be SPECIFIC to the MYSTERY GENRE. Protagonist because he solves the conflict is not going to work because that is true of most genres. What makes MYSTERY unique? What MUST BE TRUE of a text for it to fall under the Mystery genre?






Characters

-  Protagonist because he _____.
-  Antagonist because he _____.
-  Supporting Characters because they _____.

Setting

-  Physical setting because it _____.
-  Temporal setting because it _____.
-  Social setting culture because it _____.
-  Social setting power because _____.

Plot

-  Exposition because _____.
-  Rising action because _____.
-  Climax because it _____.
-  Resolution because it _____.
-  Plot because _____.

Are there any others you can think of?

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE: GENRE DEFINITION

Prompt: What is the MOST ESSENTIAL literary element of the MYSTERY GENRE? Use an example from "Philomel Cottage" by Agatha Christie and an independent text you have read through this unit.

Literary Element that is most essential and Why:

Topic Sentence 1: (INTRODUCE Text and how the literary element is most defining in Mystery – One Sentence)

EXAMPLE #1: (INTRODUCE QUOTE AND PROVIDE A CITATION AT THE END.)

Reasoning: EXPLANATION WHY THIS EXAMPLE SUPPORTS THE FACT THAT _____ is most important to the Mystery Genre

Topic Sentence 2: (Transition, introduce second text and how the literary element is the most defining to Mystery – One Sentence)

EXAMPLE #2: (INTRODUCE QUOTE AND PROVIDE A CITATION AT THE END)

Reasoning: EXPLANATION WHY THIS EXAMPLE SUPPORTS THE FACT THAT _____ is most important to the Mystery Genre

CONCLUDING SENTENCE:

Characters in Mystery

The most defining literary element in mystery is the characters because the protagonist tries to solve the mystery. In the story “The Adventure of the Speckled Band” by Arthur Conan Doyle the protagonist, Sherlock Holmes, tries to solve the mystery. Sherlock says, “With the result of driving it through the ventilator” (Doyle 18). Sherlock Holmes solves the mystery, he discovers that Julia Stoner was bitten by a snake, which makes him the protagonist.

In addition, in the book *The Greek Who Stole Christmas* by Anthony Horowitz, the main character, Jake Hammill, tries to solve the mystery. Jake says, “He was lucky he had me. I solved the crimes, Tim got the credit” about his brother Tim (Horowitz 4). Jake Hammill is actually the one who solves the crimes, but his brother is just covering up for him because he is not old enough. Tim was working on a case and the woman he was helping received a note that says, “Dear Minerva, You are a monster. I cannot forgive you for what you did in Tropoje last summer. How could you do that? I will never forget it and very soon I am going to kill you”(Horowitz 22). Tim had no idea who wrote the letter or how to help Minerva. Jake asked her questions and figured out that one of her fans wrote this letter in revenge of canceling one of her shows in Europe.

The protagonists, Sherlock Holmes and Jake Hammill, both try to solve the mystery proving that characters are the most important literary element.

**don't forget works
cited entries on a
separate page*

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. Introduce **EVERY** quotation with a speaker (even if it is the narrator). Also, provide the context for the quotation.

EXAMPLE: When Avery woke in the morning and noticed everything seemed different, she thought, "What is happening? Where is everyone? I need to find out what happened" (McEntee 23).

2. **PUNCTUATION COUNTS!**

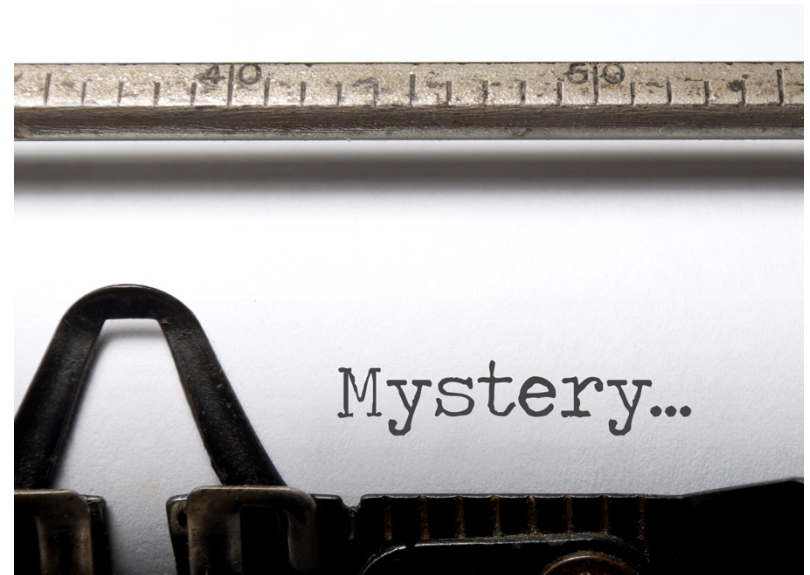
- Commas after speakers/introductory phrases
- Periods only go after the citation (not within the quotation)
- Italicize novel titles; put short story titles in quotation marks.

3. **PERSONAL PRONOUNS**

- No 1st person ("my book", "I believe," "I think," etc.)
- No 2nd person ("As you can see," "you know," etc.).

4. **REASONING:**

- Avoid "This quote/quotation shows..."
- Instead: Through her thoughts, Avery appears as if she is curious and determined to solve the mystery of her missing family, proving that the sleuth is most essential in the mystery genre.



CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE ONE: GENRE DEFINITION -- 30 POINTS

What is the most defining literary element in the Mystery? Why? Use evidence from multiple texts to support your answer.

3 points - Claim- Introduce a precise, knowledgeable claim that is debatable, defensible, narrow, and specific. Establish the significance of the claim.
3 points - Topic Sentence - Includes the title of the core text, author, and the most defining literary element you chose.
3 points - Evidence (Data) - FROM "Philomel Cottage": Supply sufficient relevant evidence from credible sources to fairly and thoroughly develop the claim. YOU MUST USE PROPER CITATIONS - "Direct Quote from your novel" (Last Name Page #).
3 points - Reasoning- Use valid reasoning to explain how the evidence leads to the claim. How does your evidence show that your choice is the most defining literary element in mystery?
3 points - Topic Sentence - Includes the title of the independent text, author, and the most defining literary element you chose.
3 points - Evidence (Data) - FROM Self-Selected Novel - Supply sufficient relevant evidence from credible sources to fairly and thoroughly develop the claim. YOU MUST USE PROPER CITATIONS - "Direct Quote from your novel" (Last Name Page #).
3 points - Reasoning- Use valid reasoning to explain how the evidence leads to the claim. How does your evidence show that your choice is the most defining literary element in mystery?
3 points - Conclusion - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented (This is why ___ is the most defining element DOES NOT COUNT).
3 points - Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
3 points - Works Cited - Please include the works cited entry for each of your texts. This should be cited correctly. Works Cited should be centered and not underlined or bold.

____/30

MYSTERY UNIT: CREATIVE WRITING

Essential Question:

Throughout the unit, you have made generalizations about what makes a text **Mystery**. Go back through your packet and use your **Constructed Response 3 – Genre Definition** – to determine three elements of **Mystery** you will use in your creative writing.

Then, use your brainstorming on pages **35-37**, **49-51**, and **66-68**, to write a two-page excerpt that would fit into the **Mystery** genre.

Choose from one of the following options (or create one of your own):

- Write an exposition for your story that uses descriptive language to describe setting and establish at least one character.
- Write a narrative from the point of view of your protagonist describing their internal conflict
- Write a narrative from the point of view of your antagonist describing the conflict with the protagonist
- Write a two pages of your story that highlighting the climax of your plot and uses dialogue between two characters

Include no fewer than three of the following elements in your writing: (highlight these)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| • Simile | • Allusion | • Hyperbole |
| • Metaphor | • Onomatopoeia | • Imagery |
| • Personification | • Alliteration | |

The theme must be clear in your story (written at the end of the story) and reflected in your title.

RUBRIC:

Three elements of **Mystery** – 15 points

Two pages – 5 points

Figurative Language – 6 points

Grammar and Mechanics – 5 points

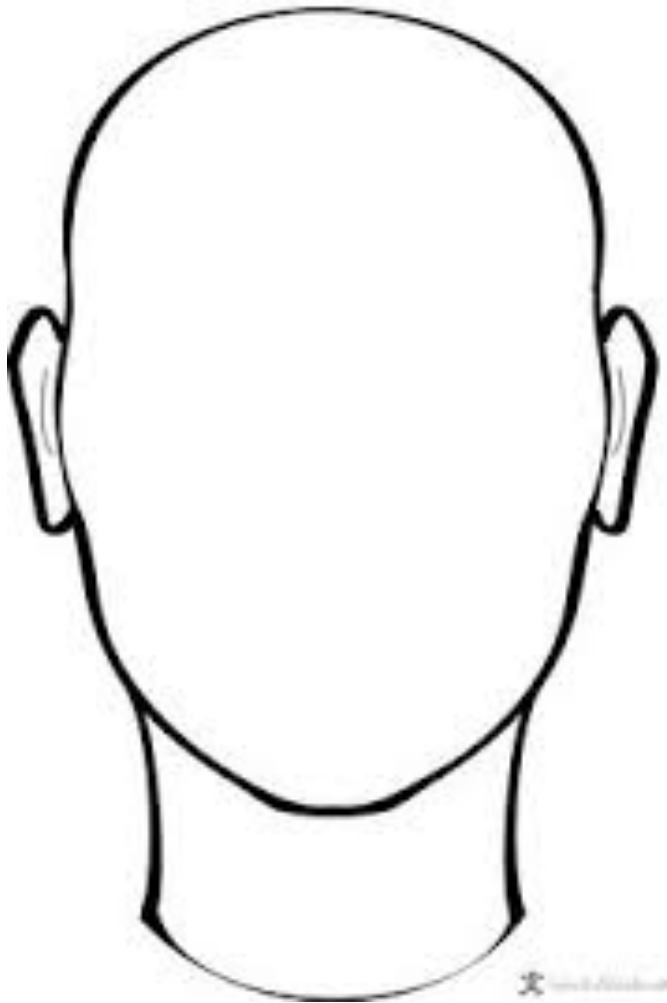
Story reflects theme, it is written at the bottom of story, and title conveys theme – 4 points

Total: ____/31

CHARACTER STUDY: CREATIVE WRITING

Essential Question:

In the figure below, write your character's thoughts/feelings/fears/motivations.



Character: _____

Nickname(s): _____

Role: ☐ Protagonist ☐ Antagonist ☐ Other

Next, decide his/her personality:

What is his/her family background?

Describe his/her vital statistics: (age, gender, race, class, ethnicity, etc.)

CREATIVE WRITING - HOW DO WE BEGIN?

Using one of the photos on the board, write a possible story starter for your Mystery creative writing.

[illegible]

CITATION TRACKER: INDEPENDENT TEXT

Title and Author:	ISBN Number:	
Theme		
Evidence to support the theme	Page #	What literary element is this?

CITATION TRACKER: INDEPENDENT TEXT

Title and Author:	ISBN Number:	
Theme		
Evidence to support the theme	Page #	What literary element is this?

