



# Rainford High School English Department – Year 8 Detective Fiction Knowledge Organiser

Social and Historical Context	Narrative Writing Techniques	Conventions
<p>The Victorian Era was notably known for the growth of detective fiction.</p> <p>The Industrial Revolution increased the growth and population of the city and so crime rates rose. In 1828, the establishment of the Metropolitan Police created the figure of the official police detective. The changing nature of society during the 19th century meant more value was placed on portable property rather than land. The focus in literature shifted from the criminal to the detective.</p>	<p>Characterisation – Describing a character’s features and personality</p> <p>Foreshadowing – When the writer leaves clues/hints at a future event in the story</p> <p>Simile – A comparison which uses ‘like’ or ‘as’</p> <p>Metaphor – A direct comparison, which can’t literally be true</p> <p>Omniscient narrator – A third person narrator (storyteller) who knows all of the events in a story</p> <p>Pathetic Fallacy – Weather reflects a character’s mood or emotion</p> <p>Personification – Giving a non-living object human qualities</p> <p>Symbolism – Actions or objects that stand for or represent another idea</p>	<p>Damsel in distress – a young woman in danger</p> <p>Detective – usually the protagonist who is tasked with solving the crime</p> <p>Innocent victim – often a character who is seen as being vulnerable and helpless</p> <p>Justice – the villain being found and punished, with a return to resolution for the victim</p> <p>Motive – a ‘reason’ for the crime</p> <p>Peril – a sense of danger or threat in the story</p> <p>Red herring – a false clue given to mislead the reader</p> <p>Sidekick – a secondary detective character who assists the protagonist with the investigation</p> <p>Villain – the bad or immoral character in a story, who usually commits or instigates the crime</p>
Key Texts	Key Authors	Key Vocabulary
<p><b>The Speckled Band:</b> Holmes and Dr Watson help a damsel in distress, Helen Stoner, who has asked for Holmes’ expertise to solve the mystery of her sister’s death two years earlier. Helen is worried about a strange whistling noise that she can hear late at night- a sound that her sister complained of before her death.</p> <p><b>Silver Blaze:</b> Holmes and Watson travel to Dartmoor to investigate the case of a famous missing horse (favourite to win The Wessex Cup) and the mysterious death of its trainer (John Straker).</p>	<p>Arthur Conan Doyle (22 May 1859 – 7 July 1930) was a British writer best known for his detective fiction featuring the character Sherlock Holmes.</p> <p>Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American writer and best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre.</p> <p>Agatha Christie (5 September 1890 – 12 January 1976) was an English writer known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, particularly those revolving around her fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple.</p>	<p>Antagonistic – being hostile to someone else</p> <p>Deceptive – intentionally misleading</p> <p>Deduction – to work something out through reasoning</p> <p>Epistemic – gaining knowledge through experience</p> <p>Insightful – having a deep and accurate understanding</p> <p>Logical – clear, sound reasoning</p> <p>Malicious – intending to do harm</p> <p>Manipulative – having control or influence over someone</p> <p>Obfuscate – to be unclear or confusing</p> <p>Pragmatic – dealing with things sensibly</p> <p>Protagonist – the leading character</p> <p>Remorseful – full of regret</p> <p>Villainous – showing wicked or criminal behaviour</p>