

Creation and art

How can some timeless characters be reinvented?

A scavenger hunt on four masters of thrillers and suspense

1) Elementary, my dear...

- a) Look at the pictures and find who is Agatha Christie, Edgar Allan Poe, Raymond Chandler and Arthur Conan Doyle.



- b) Give each writer his/her hero(ine): Miss Marple, Sherlock Holmes, Auguste Dupin, Professor Challenger, Doctor Watson, Philip Marlowe, Hercule Poirot.

2) Test your knowledge of these four masters: sort the information you find in order to write a short biography of one of the four writers.

Use the following links if necessary:

[Agatha Christie's official website](#) [Agatha Christie wikipedia](#)

[Agatha Christie britannica](#)

[Arthur Conan Doyle britannica](#) [Conan Doyle official website](#)

[Raymond Chandler wikipedia](#) [Chandler website](#)

[Edgar Allan Poe wikipedia](#) [Poe britannica](#)

(Each ♦ replaces one of these four writers.)

- a) ♦ is regarded as the most popular writer of all time.
- b) ♦'s first love was poetry. ("the raven" (le corbeau) is one of his/her most famous poems)
- c) ♦ studied medicine and received a Bachelor of Medicine. He/she used his/her knowledge in his/her novels
- d) ♦'s books have sold more than 100 million copies
- e) ♦ and ♦ were British, whereas ♦ and ♦ were American.
- f) ♦ was born in 1888 and died in 1959, ♦ was born in 1859 and died in 1930, ♦ was born in 1890 and died in 1976, ♦ was born in 1809 and died in 1849.
- g) ♦'s first novel, "The Big Sleep", was made into a famous film starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.
- h) ♦'s parents were actors
- i) One of ♦'s best known psychological thrillers is *The Fall Of The House Of Usher*.
- j) ♦ worked in a hospital during World War I.
- k) ♦'s best-known hero is always shown with a magnifying glass and a pipe.
- l) In 1926, ♦ mysteriously disappeared for three weeks and was found in a small hotel, explaining to the police that he/she had lost his/her memory.
- m) ♦ is best known for his/her tough (dur) but honest Los Angeles private detective.

- n) ◆ started to write crime stories after losing his job in an oil company during the Great Depression.
- o) ◆'s best known detective is an eccentric retired Belgian police officer.
- p) The arch-enemy of ◆'s hero is Professor Moriarty.
- q) In "The Final Problem", ◆ killed his/her hero but was forced to bring him back to life because of public outcry.
- r) ◆ wrote a lot of "pulp fiction" (detective stories published in cheap magazines)
- s) "Elementary my dear X..." is one of ◆'s best-known sentences.
- t) ◆'s work has been translated in more than a hundred languages.
- u) ◆ died at 40, probably of alcoholism. ◆ was a heavy drinker too, and died at 71, for the same reason.
- v) ◆'s detective is always asking his friend to use "his little grey cells".
- w) ◆ is also famous for such horror stories as *The Tell-Tale Heart* and the *Pit And The Pendulum*.
- x) ◆ once said: "I know nothing about pistols and revolvers, which is why I usually kill off my characters with a blunt instrument or better with poisons..."
- y) ◆'s first short story was *A Study in Scarlet*.
- z) ◆ married an archeologist he/she met in Mesopotamia.

A. Christie	E.A. Poe	A.C. Doyle	R. Chandler

3) Watch this [video extract](#) from "Death on the Nile"

- a) Find the author of the novel from which this movie was adapted.
- b) There are two different locations: identify them. Use this to present the context and explain the title.
- c) Identify the characters and how they are related. Deduce or guess what you don't know.
- d) Try to explain the 2 young women's problem.
- e) Focus on what is said about the statue and explain how it may be a warning or a kind of clue about the story.
- f) Who do you think is the man with a moustache? What is he doing?



- g) In the second part, say what we learn about the woman's wealth. (money)
- h) What does her husband say about himself, concerning official documents?
- i) Guess: who is going to be killed? Why? By whom? If you cannot guess, use [this site](#) to find the answer.