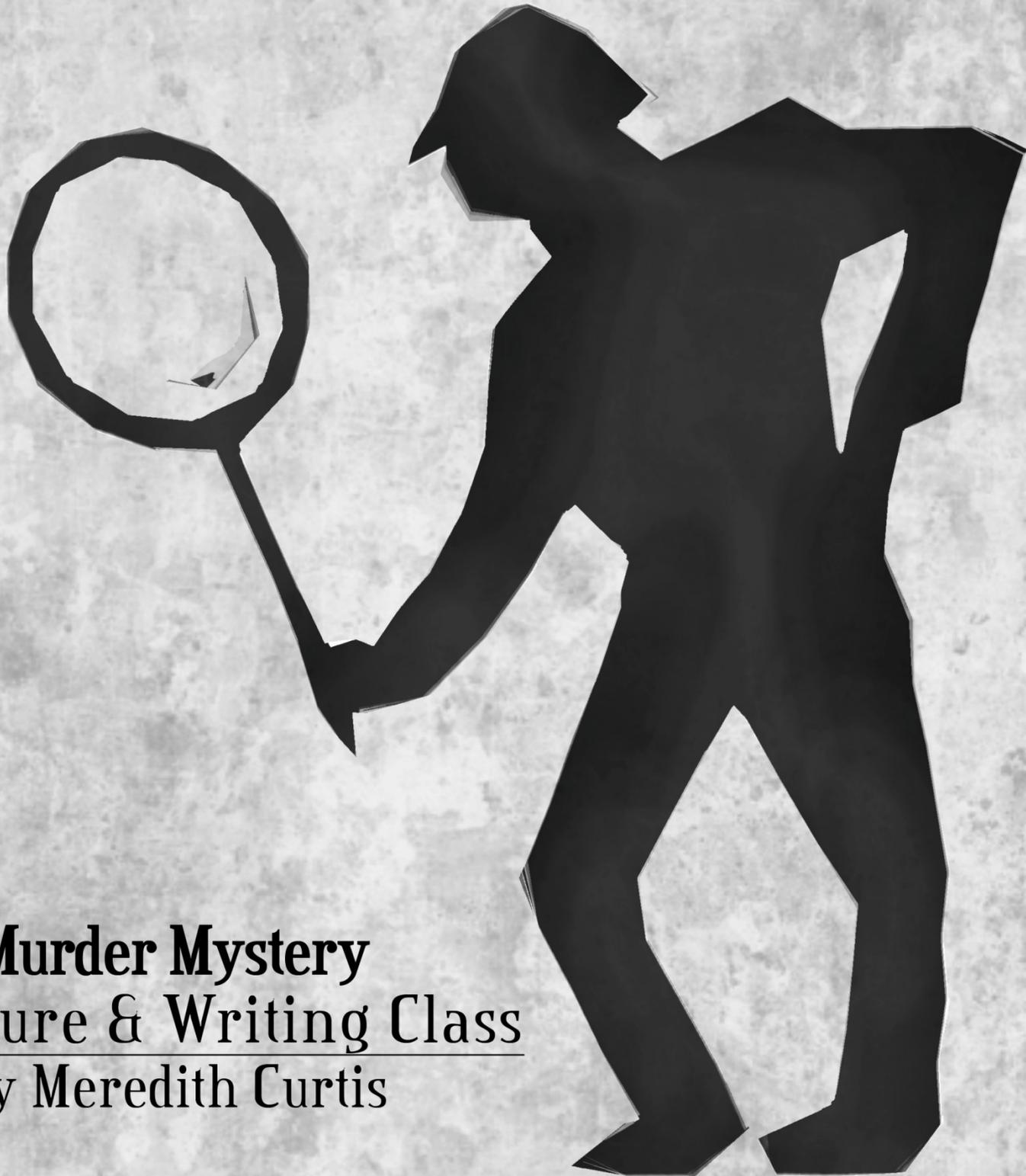


Who Dun It?



Murder Mystery
Literature & Writing Class
By Meredith Curtis

MEREDITH CURTIS

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my murder mystery buddies:

Aunt Shirley Brinker, who doesn't like graphic violence, but loves a "nice" murder

Katie Beth Curtis, who steals my murder mystery books before I can read them

Shine Curtis, who tells me that she's not sure if I should read certain murder mysteries because they might scare me

Julie Ludwig Emerson, who introduces me to new authors and series

Jenny Rose Curtis, who enjoys the bakery murders with me

Laura Nolette, who just entered this lovely world of trying to outwit the detective and solve the case first

Sarah Holland, Aisha Palm, & Marla Stevens, who faithfully watch murder mysteries with me

And in memory of my mother, Barbara King Ludwig, who introduced me to the lovely world of a cozy little murder mystery

Thank you to Maria Husarenko, Laura Nolette, and Zack Nolette for my AMAZING cover! Thank you to Jenny Rose Curtis and Katie Beth Curtis for all their typing and editing. I love you girls so much!

“During the night, the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of Heaven” (Daniel 2:19 NIV ©1979).

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed” (I Corinthians 15:51 NIV ©1979).

“Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made know to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 3:2-6 NIV©1979).

WHO DUN IT MURDER MYSTERY COURSE

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MEREDITH CURTIS

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WHO DUN IT MURDER MYSTERY COURSE

Hook Your Reader/Opening Paragraph..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Worldview **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Start Writing Your Novel **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Book Club Discussion on *Where Are You Now?*..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Ellery Queen **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Book Club Discussion on *The Roman Hat* **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
E. C. Bentley..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Edit Your Story as You Go..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Book Club Discussion on “The Ordinary Hairpins” **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
H.C. Bailey **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Keep Writing Your Novel **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Book Club Discussion of “The Archduke’s Tea” **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Rodrigues Ottolengui..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Book Club Discussion on “A Singular Abduction” **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Finish Your Story **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Reading Stories Aloud..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Publishing Your Story **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
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Who Dun It? Course Requirements

Class/Book Club Books to Read

Murders in the Rue Morgue by Edgar Allan Poe
The Red House Mystery by A. A. Milne
Six Great Sherlock Holmes Stories by Sir Conan Doyle
Favorite Father Brown Stories by G. K. Chesterton
Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie
And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
Whose Body? by Dorothy Sayers
Where are You Now? by Mary Higgins Clark
The Roman Hat Mystery by Ellery Queen
“The Ordinary Hairpins” by H. C. Bailey
“The Archduke’s Tea by” H. C. Bailey
“A Singular Abduction” by Rodrigues Ottolengui

Children’s Detective Stories (choose 2 books)

Nancy Drew series by Carolyn Keene
Hardy Boys series by Franklin Dixon
Trixie Beldon series by Julie Campbell or Kathryn Kenny
Mandie Mysteries series by Lois Gladys Leppard
Encyclopedia Brown series by Donald J. Sobol
Sugar Creek Gang series by Paul Hutchens
Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Writing Assignments

Murder Mystery Novel Planning Worksheets
Descriptive Paragraph
Comic Strip
Group Created Stories/Detective Christmas Carols
Write a Mystery Short Story
Write a Murder Mystery
Watch Perry Mason, Agatha Christie, and other Murder Mystery shows

Grading

To get a C grade, you must read all books, complete all writing assignments, and participate in class discussions. Written work, including content, grammar, and style, must be adequate.

WHO DUN IT MURDER MYSTERY COURSE

To get a B grade, you must read all books, complete all writing assignments, and participate in class discussions. Written work, including content, grammar, and style, must be good.

To get an A grade, you must read all books, complete all writing assignments, and show leadership and insight in class discussions. Written work, including content, grammar, and style, must be excellent.

Download Books for Free

You can visit our website for a list of links to download almost all of the books in this course for free. Here is a link to the page: jshomeschooling.com/portfolio/shop/whodunitclass/

The Month of May

This class is set to end in April, but some students will need more time to finish their novel. You can add another month so that everyone can have more time to write.

Who Dun It Assignment Check-Off

Assignments

Comp. Time took

September

Read What is a Mystery Story?/History of Murder Mysteries

Favorite Sleuths/My Detective

Watch Perry Mason episode

Read Baffled Friend & Narrator/Detective Reveals & Explains

Read "Murders in the Rue Morgue"

Personality & Employment

Book Club Discussion *Murders in the Rue Morgue*

Write Descriptive Paragraph

Read a Children's Detective Book

Problems & Puzzles/Family

Book Club Discussion Children's Detective Book

Read A.A. Milne & Plot

Read *The Red House Mystery*

Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet

October

Book Club Discussion *The Red House Mystery*

Read Sherlock Holmes/Characterization

Read *Six Great Sherlock Holmes Stories*

Assistants/Animals

Tools & Disguises/Strengths

Watch Perry Mason episode

Book Club Discussion *Six Great Sherlock Holmes Stories*

Weakness/Values

Read *G.K. Chesterton & Father Brown*

Read *Favorite Father Brown Stories*

Villains/Origin of Detecting/Comic Strip

Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet

November

Book Club Discussion *Favorite Father Brown Stories*

Read Point of View/Voice/ Locked Room/Agatha Christie/

Read *Murder on the Orient Express*

Watch Miss Marple at Bertram's Hotel

Clues/Red Herrings

WHO DUN IT MURDER MYSTERY COURSE

Book Club Discussion *Murder on the Orient Express*

Group Created Stories

Keeping Records

Read *And Then There Were None*

Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet

December

Book Club Discussion *And Then There Were None*

Read Children's Detective Story

Read Setting

Read How to Write a "Who Dun It?" Short Story

Book Club Discussion: *Setting in Children's Detective Story*

Watch *Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Dream*

How to Write a "Who Dun It?" Short Story

Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet

January

Read & Evaluate Short Stories

Read Dorothy Sayers & Lord Peter Wimsey

Read *Whose Body?*

Read & Evaluate Short Stories

Read & Do Creating Characters/Cast of Characters/

Read Theme/Show Us Your Characters

Book Club Discussion *Whose Body?*

Read & Do Outline Murder Mystery Novel/Creating Scenes

Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet

February

Read Mary Higgins Clark/Mood & Tone

Read *Where Are You Now?*

Read & Do Hook Your Reader/Opening Paragraph

Read Worldview

Start Writing Your Novel

Book Club Discussion *Where Are You Now?*

Read Ellery Queen

Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet

March

Book Club Discussion *The Roman Hat*

Finish Writing Beginning of Your Novel

Read E. C. Bentley

Read "The Ordinary Hairpins"

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Read Edit Your Story as You Go
Edit Novel in Small Groups Workshop
Book Club Discussion “The Ordinary Hairpins”
Read H. C. Bailey
Read “The Archduke’s Tea”
Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet
Finish Middle of Your Novel

April

Book Club Discussion “The Archduke’s Tea”
Read Rodriguis Ottolengui
Read “A Singular Abduction”
Finish Your Novel
Book Club Discussion “A Singular Abduction”
Edit Your Novel
Read Reading Stories Aloud
Read Publish Your Novel
Watch Murder Mystery Show or Movie & Worksheet
Publish Your Novel

Resources

Free Downloads for Class Books & Short Stories
Plot of *The Red House Mystery*
“Murders in the Rue Morgue”
“The Ordinary Hairpins”
“The Archduke’s Tea”
“A Singular Abduction”
Powerline Productions Resources

Who Dun It?

August Week Four

What is a Murder Mystery?/History of Murder Mysteries

Famous Sleuths/My Sleuth

September Week One

Baffled Friend/Narrator/Detective Reveals & Explains

Personality/Employment/Descriptive Paragraph

September Week Two

Book Club: “Murder at the Rue Morgue”

Children’s Detective Stories

Problems/Family

September Week Three

Book Club: Children’s Mystery

Classic Murder Mystery/A. A. Milne/Plot/Red House Mystery

Friendly Assistants/Animals

September Week Four

Murder Mystery Show or Movie

August Week Four Home

What is a Murder Mystery?

When I want to relax, I make a cup of cinnamon tea and curl up with a cozy murder mystery. What makes murder mysteries so enjoyable? Readers enjoy good storytelling, the thrill of mystery, an eccentric detective, and a surprise ending.

In most murder mysteries, the setting and characters are introduced to the reader quickly and a murder is committed. Someone, usually an amateur detective, takes the challenge to solve the puzzle, oops I mean murder, and sift through the clues and red herrings to discover the murderer. At the end, the solution (who the murderer is and how he committed the crime) must be explained to the satisfaction of the reader and the characters in the book.

Detectives were a fairly new phenomenon in the 1800s and were quickly followed by the advent of the murder mystery. Crime fiction's detectives are usually quirky, lovable creatures. The reader follows along with the detectives as he uncovers clues and eventually solves the crime. All the characters in a murder mystery are suspects, each one often having a motive to have committed the crime.

The reader interacts with a murder mystery. His mind is engaged in a battle of wits with the criminal. The locked room (where the crime appears impossible to have been committed), the unbreakable alibi (where it appears impossible for the suspect to have committed the crime), and the least likely suspect (where the revelation of the murder is a complete shock) are some of the most common plots.

History of Murder Mysteries

Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1849) is considered to be the father of the mystery novel. Poe introduced a character, **Chevalier C. Auguste Dupin**, who solved crimes in five of his books.

Charles Dickens also introduced *Inspector Bucket* of the London Police Force who appeared in *Bleak House*.

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) wrote *The Study in Scarlet*, introducing us to Sherlock Holmes. **Sherlock Holmes**, a genius, with an amazing flair for deduction. He reminds me of Monk (TV show). Holmes's sidekick, **Dr. Watson** is the doctor/friend of Holmes who assisted him on 58 cases and narrates 54 of them. Dr. Watson is intelligent, but ordinary, the perfect foil for Sherlock Holmes. A **foil** is a character that serves as a contrast to another character, often the main character. This makes the main character's important traits stand out more. Sherlock Holmes relied on reason and logic to solve the mystery of the murder, able to eliminate all non-necessary information from his mind, recognize what clues are important to the case, and focus on the details of the crime.

WHO DUN IT MURDER MYSTERY COURSE

In the 1920's, British mysteries were very popular. There was a cozy village, aristocracy, lots of red herrings, and exciting murder weapons (like silver letter openers or satin pillows). This time was the **Golden Age** of Mystery Fiction. The dame of the Golden Age was **Agatha Christie** (1890-1976), who wrote her first mystery in 1920, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* where we meet **Hercule Poirot**. My favorite crime solver is **Jane Marple**, another Agatha Christie creation.

Gilbert Keith (G. K.) Chesterton (1874-1936) was a character before and after turning to Christ. He wrote prolifically on all kinds of subjects from newspaper articles and novels to histories and literary analyses. He gave the world, Father Brown, a loveable, mystery-solving Catholic priest.

Edward Clerihew (E. C.) Bentley (1875-1956), a newspaperman, poet, and humorist, wrote only four murder mysteries. However, he was president of the Detection Club for fourteen years. His detective, Philip Trent, was very popular with readers.

Dorothy Sayers (1893-1967), Englishwoman and devout Christian, published her first book in 1932 introducing another favorite detective, **Lord Peter Wimsey**. Dorothy also wrote an essay that homeschoolers love, "The Lost Tools of Learning."

Ronald Knox (1888-1957), a theologian and brilliant classicist, started out as an Anglican priest, but converted to Catholicism. A strong Christian and detective writer, this classic murder mystery writer created the Ten Commandments of Detective Fiction.

Penguin Paperbacks helped to fuel the popularity of the mystery novel by marketing popular mysteries as cheaper paperbacks.

Ellery Queen, another amateur detective who solved mysteries with his father, was created by **Manfred B. Lee** (1905-1971) and **Frederic Dannay** (1905-1982). These brothers wrote *The Roman Hat Mystery* in 1929 and followed up with 32 more Ellery Queen mysteries. Now the Golden Age was adapted to American culture.

Charlie Chan used the "wisdom" of the Orient to solve mysteries. He was a quirky detective introduced to us in the 1930's by **Earl Derr Bigger** (1884-1933). He became an instant success producing a "Charlie Chan" presence in books, movies, radio, and television.

Erle Stanley Gardner (1889-1970) wrote *The Case of the Velvet Claws* in 1933 and we met **Perry Mason**, a lawyer, who solved mysteries with his sidekick, **Detective Paul Drake** and his faithful secretary, **Della Street**. Perry went toe to toe in the courtroom with **Hamilton Burger**, the District Attorney, and forced confessions from the true murderer on the witness stand. Perry Mason has been the hero of many books, movies, and a ten-season television show.

Mickey Spillane (1918-2006) wrote *I, The Jury* in 1947, bringing **Mike Hammer**, an ultra-macho tough guy, to the mystery scene in novels that were, sadly, filled with sex and violence.

As a young girl, my favorite fictional detective was teenage detective, Nancy Drew, created by Edward Stratemeyer in 1930, who solved over 300 mysteries. Nancy's father is a prominent widowed attorney.

Hannah, the Drew housekeeper, filled the role of mother in Nancy's life. Beautiful, intelligent, and athletic, Nancy could do anything. She hiked, rowed, rode horses, figure skated, flew a plane, painted, danced, baked, gardened, photographed, and, of course, solved mysteries. Nancy is often accompanied on her exploits by her friends: Bess, George, Burt, Ned, and Dave. Edward Stratemeyer experienced success with other mystery solving characters including the Bobbsey Twins and the Hardy Boys.

Famous Fictional Sleuths

If you are like me, you enjoy books and movies with detectives who solve mysteries. Think about some of your favorite fictional sleuths from books, comic books, television, and movies. List your favorite famous fictional sleuths in the left column. In the right column, list one or more distinctive characteristics of these sleuths.

Fictional Sleuth	Distinguishing Characteristics
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

You are coming up with your own sleuth for the murder mystery you are writing. Think about your sleuth. What distinguishing characteristics might your sleuth possess?

My Detective/Sleuth

Your detective or sleuth will be very important to your story. Think about fictional detectives that you enjoy watching or reading about. How old are they? Are they men or women? What do they look like? Where are they from? How do they dress? What are their names? Are they Christians? What are their religious beliefs?

Now it's time to think about your sleuth. You want him to be someone that your readers will like, but not perfect (who likes perfect people anyway?). Your readers must care about your sleuth and root for him/her to solve the case. It's time to let your imagination go. Design the detective for your murder mystery story.

Name _____

Sex _____

Age _____

Race _____

Geographical origin _____

Home/Neighborhood _____

Religion _____

Relationships/Friends/Family _____

Relationships w Jesus _____

Looks _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Build _____

Hair Color _____

Eye Color _____

Other _____

How Does He/She Dress _____

Hobbies _____

Favorite Foods _____

Favorite Sports/Pastimes _____

Sense of Humor _____

Temper _____

Ambitions/Goals _____

September Week One Class

Talk about the work everyone completed during the week. You will want to discuss the history of murder mysteries and talk about famous sleuths. Everyone should share a little bit about their detectives and give input to one another.

Watch Perry Mason

Season 1: *The Case of the Moth-Eaten Mink* (Volume 1, Disc 4, first episode)

Perry and Della visit a restaurant only to have their meal interrupted by someone shooting their waitress. The owner gives Perry and Della her mink coat to hide so that Lt. Tragg will not find it. To Perry and Della's surprise, the mink coat contains a pawn ticket that holds the key to the past murder of a police officer. It takes Perry, Della, and Paul Drake to track down the real killer and unravel this mystery.

Watch this television show in group time and answer the following questions. When everyone arrives at the correct answer, write it down below.

What is the inciting incident?

In what ways are Della and Perry initially drawn into the case?

What conflicts does Perry have with the police?

What are some of the twists and turns of the case?

Who is the real murderer? Is it a surprise?

What clues did you miss that were important to the discovery of the real murderer?

How does Perry explain everything at the end?

September Week One Home

Baffled Friend/Narrator

An enjoyable murder mystery has a baffling crime that must be solved by a brilliant detective with superior intellect and detecting skills. This brainy sleuth is often eccentric in some way too. Poirot has a large mustache and likes everything to be neat and orderly. Jane Marple is a fluffy white-haired elderly spinster, who likes to bird watch, but sometimes her binoculars slip down and she sees things she shouldn't see.

Sherlock Holmes has his Watson and Hercule Poirot has Hastings. Both Watson and Hastings are foils for their detectives. A foil is a character who is the direct opposite of the protagonist, or main character. Hastings is good natured, laid back, and a little slow on the uptake. This is a great contrast to Poirot who is orderly, precise, and doesn't miss a thing. Their friendship, a case of opposites getting along most of the time, is amusing for the reader.

Both Watson and Hastings narrate the story for the reader. These narrators are surprised and shocked when the murderer is finally revealed. The reader, often fancying himself/herself a little smarter than Watson and Hastings, will often see things that the narrator seems to be missing as he tells the story. The baffled friend/narrator adds to the fun for the reader as he/she matches wits with the detective.

The narrator must be fair to the reader and present all the clues necessary to solve the murder.

Detective Reveals and Explains

In a classic murder mystery, the detective reveals the murderer and explains everything to the satisfaction of the reader. Sometimes the detective has a conversation with the murderer in which the murderer confesses to everything. Sometimes, the murderer attempts to silence the detective, but in the middle of the drama, there is a conversation where the murderer reveals how and why he/she killed the victim.

One of the favorite methods of a classic murder mystery writer is for the detective to reveal the murderer from a large group of suspects, gathered together in a room at the climax of the murder mystery story. The detective takes each suspect one by one and explains each suspect's motive, opportunity, and why the suspect did not kill the victim. Of course, in the case of the murderer, the detective reveals that he/she did the dastardly deed. The detective must save the murderer for the end.

Edgar Allan Poe, *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston in 1809 to travelling actors. Three years later, Edgar was orphaned and went to live with the Allan family in Virginia. Raised by his adopted father to be a businessman, nonetheless, Poe's hero was Lord Byron and he dreamed of being a poet. After a brief stint at University of Virginia and losing his finances to another man, Poe published a book of poetry and enlisted in the army. Poe spent his life writing, living in poverty, and died at the young age of 26.

Poe is the father of the murder mystery genre. It was as if Poe created a template that later mystery writers would personalize for their own books. Poe created the amateur detective, his narrator friend, the locked-door mystery, interviews with witnesses, hiding something in plain sight, observation, deduction, explanation of the solution by the detective, surveillance, and the least-likely person being the murderer. In Poe's books, the detective had to "play fair" to solve the murder. Highly readable, Poe's stories left readers wanting more of this genre.

"The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe

"The Mystery of Marie Roget" by Edgar Allan Poe

"The Purloined Letter" by Edgar Allan Poe

Questions about *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*

You will be answering these questions about the book in group time. Answer the questions as you read so that you are ready to share in book club.

What did you like best about this story?

What was your favorite part of the story?

Who are the characters in this story? Describe them.

What was the puzzle about who committed the murder?

Who figured out the puzzle and solved the crime?

WHO DUN IT MURDER MYSTERY COURSE

Describe the detective. Did you like him?

Was the ending a surprise to you? Did you see it coming?

This story is considered one of the first detective stories/murder mysteries. What patterns do you think this story helped to set for all stories/novels that would follow in the murder mystery genre of literature?

My Detective's Personality

There are so many different sleuths out there! Some are highly intelligent and serious (Sherlock Holmes, Adrian Monk); some sleuths are likeable widowed or "old maid" aunts (Miss Jane Marple, Jessica Fletcher); some sleuths are low key, pretending to have less intelligence than they actually have (Columbo); some sleuths are eccentric (Abby from N.C.I.S.); some sleuths are very prideful (Hercule Poirot); some sleuths are very "macho" (Thomas Magnum, Mike Hammer); some sleuths are lawyers (Matlock, Perry Mason); and some sleuths are medical examiners (Quincey). What other types of sleuths can you think of? List them below.

Sleuth	Type
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

Descriptive Paragraph about My Detective

The easiest paragraph to write is the descriptive paragraph, so it is often the first kind of paragraph students learn to write. Yet, descriptive writing is also the most difficult kind of writing to do. Good descriptive writing is hard to find. The best place to look for an example of good descriptive writing is on the classics book shelf.

Description starts with thorough observation, either in real life or in the imagination. If you are just learning to write a good descriptive paragraph, you should start with real life first. Choose simple things to write about: the family pet, a banana, a blooming rose outside the kitchen window, a footstool, a vase, an umbrella, or a lawn mower. Pretend that the person you are writing for has never seen the object or animal. Spend ten to fifteen minutes studying the subject of your paragraph. What does it look like? Sound like? Smell like? Taste like? How does it feel when you touch it? Use ALL senses to observe before you write.

When writing begins, keep in mind that the reader needs to be introduced to the object or animal or person through this written paragraph. What is it? Where is it? Where is it located? What are its dimensions, or measurements? What are some analogies? Describe its properties: size, color, shape, texture, smell, and purpose.

Today, you will write a descriptive paragraph about your detective, or sleuth. Choose your audience first. Will it be your mom and siblings? Will it be your co-op class? None of us have ever seen your detective, so introduce him/her carefully and with great detail. Be very thorough and make the details clear. We should be able to “see, hear, smell, and touch” him/her from your paragraph.

Here are some sample descriptive paragraphs.

Valentin

(Head of Paris police described by author)

“Between the silver ribbon of morning and the green glittering ribbon of sea, the boat touched Harwich and let loose a swarm of folk like flies, among whom the man we must follow was by no means conspicuous—nor wished to be. There was nothing notable about him, except a slight, pale grey jacket, a white waistcoat, and a silver straw hat with a grey-blue ribbon. His lean face was dark by contrast, and ended in a curt black beard that looked Spanish and suggested an Elizabethan ruff. He was smoking a cigarette with the seriousness of an idler. There was nothing about him to indicate the fact that the white waistcoat covered a loaded revolver, that the white waistcoat covered a police card, or that the straw hat covered one of the most powerful intellects in Europe. For this was Valentin himself, the head of the Paris police and the most famous investigator of the world; and he was coming from Brussels to London to make the greatest arrest of the century.” —*The Blue Cross* by G. K. Chesterton, opening paragraph.

Lawrence

(Brother in Cavendish family, described by Hastings, narrator and character in story)

“I had seen Lawrence in quite a different light that afternoon. Compared to John, he was an astonishingly difficult person to get to know. He was the opposite of his brother in almost every respect, being unusually shy and reserved. Yet he had a certain charm of manner, and I fancied that, if one really knew him well, one could have a deep affection for him. I had always fancied that his manner to Cynthia was rather constrained, and that she on her side was inclined to be shy of him. But they were both gay enough that afternoon, and chatted together like a couple of children.” —*Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie; Dover Publications; 1997; p. 13.

(Described by his brother, John Cavendish; Dialogue)

“Lawrence? He’s gone through every penny he ever had publishing rotten verses in fancy bindings. No, we’re an impecunious lot. My mother’s been awfully good to us, I must say. That is, up to now. Since her marriage, of course—” he broke off, frowning.’ —*Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie; Dover Publications; 1997; p. 10.

Dr. James Mortimer

(Client asking for help from Sherlock Holmes, described by Watson, narrator and character in story, dialogue)

“The appearance of our visitor was a surprise to me, since I had expected a typical country practitioner. He was a very tall, thin man, with a long nose like a beak, which jutted out between two keen, gray eyes set closely together and sparkling brightly behind a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. He was clad in a professional but rather slovenly fashion, for his frock-coat dingy and his trousers frayed. Though young, his long back was already bowed, and he walked with a forward thrust of his head and a general air of peering benevolence. As he entered his eyes fell upon the stick in Holmes’s hand, and he ran towards it with an exclamation of joy. “I am so very glad,” said he. “I was not sure whether I had left it here or in the Shopping Office. I would not lose that stick for the world.”—*The Hound of Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Dover Publications; 1994; p. 4.

September Week Two Class

Talk about the work everyone completed during the week. You will want to discuss different things about everyone's detective. Share what your detective is like, where he works, and describe his personality. Give each other ideas to make your detective more believable and likeable. You will also be discussing "The Murders in the Rue Morgue."

Read your paragraphs aloud to one another and give each other feedback. Rewrite the paragraph to make your description of your detective better.

Book Club Discussion: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"

This is your first book club discussion of the year. Don't forget to serve food and drinks, making it relaxed and fun. Sit in a circle so that everyone can see one another. Make sure that it is quiet enough to hear the person who is speaking.

This story has a surprising ending that is different than any murder mystery story ending I have ever read. It is a gruesome murder—more gruesome than most murders from the Golden Age detective stories.

- What did you like best about this story?
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Who are the characters in this story? Describe them.
- What was the puzzle about who committed the murder?
- Who figured out the puzzle and solved the crime?
- Describe the detective. Did you like him?
- Was the ending a surprise to you? Did you see it coming?
- This story is considered one of the first detective stories/murder mysteries. What patterns do you think this story helped to set for all stories/novels that would follow in the murder mystery genre of literature?

MEREDITH CURTIS



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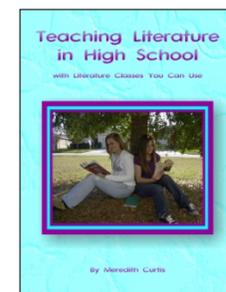
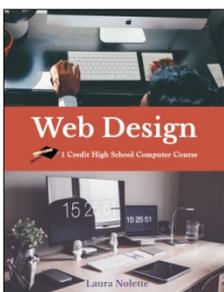
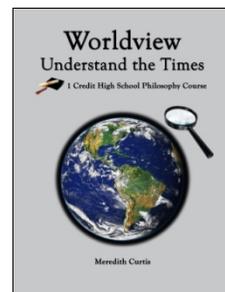
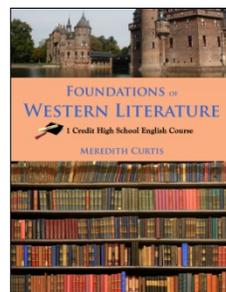
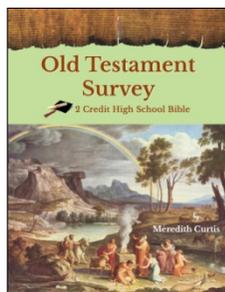
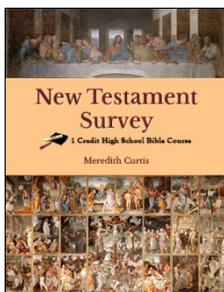
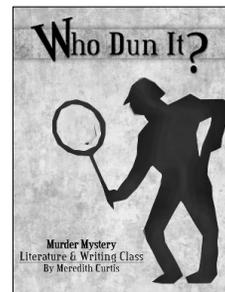
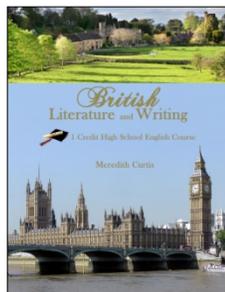
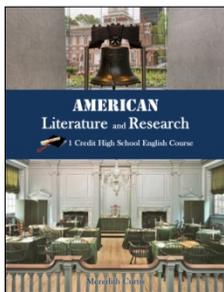
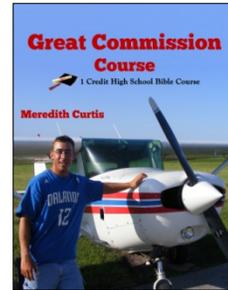
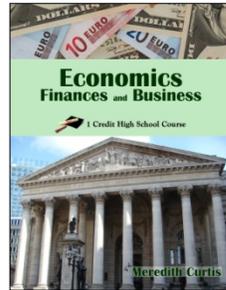
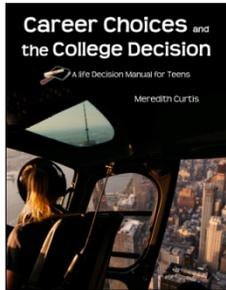
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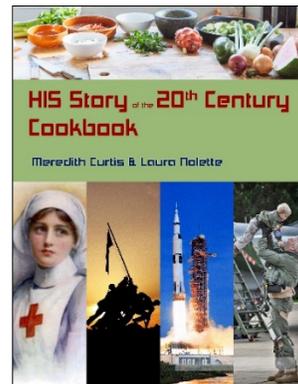
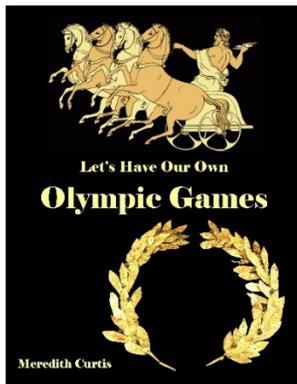
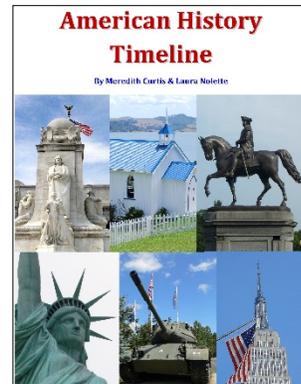
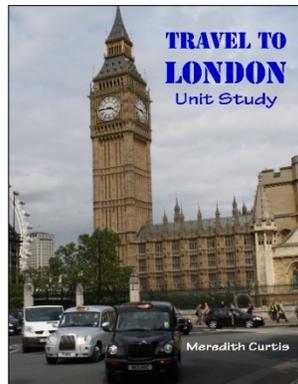
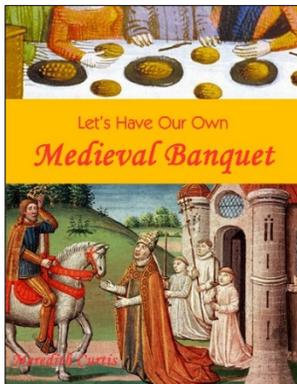
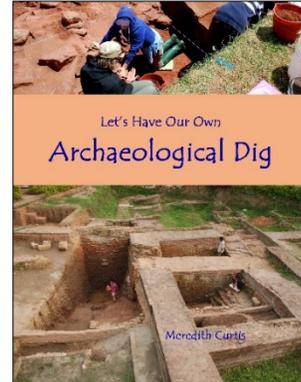
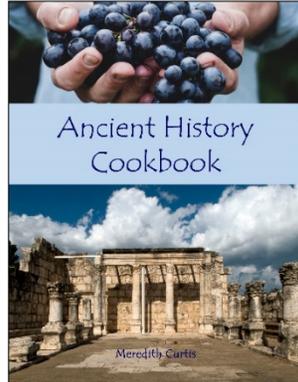
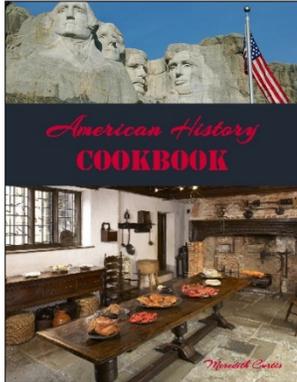
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High School Classes by Powerline Productions



Teaching History the Fun Way

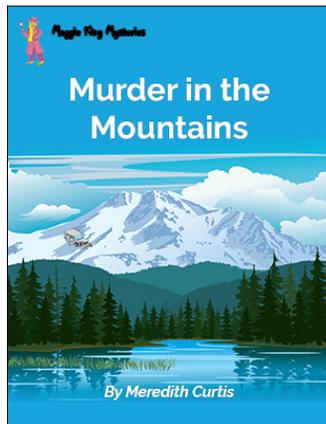
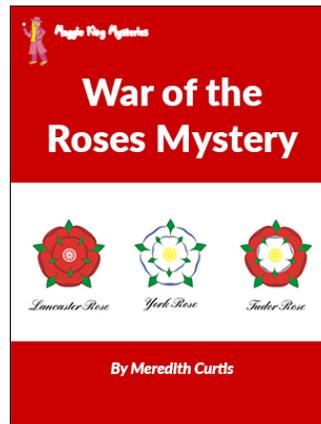
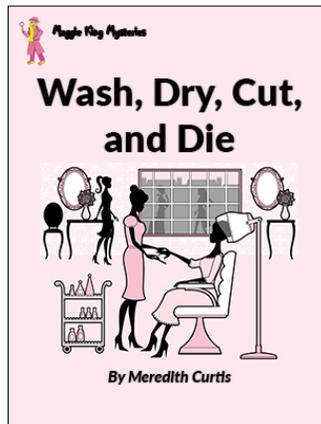
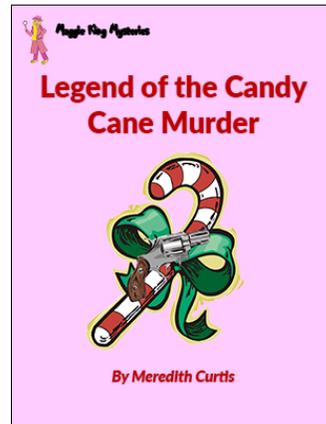
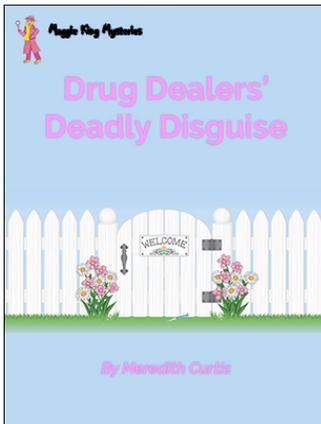
HIS story is exciting! God is moving in the earth throughout time, preparing the way for his Son, and taking the Truth about Jesus to the ends of the earth. Let's have fun with our kids as we introduce them to the Grand Story, the battle between good and evil, the faithfulness of God with timelines, cookbooks, unit studies, and events for your family or homeschool co-op.



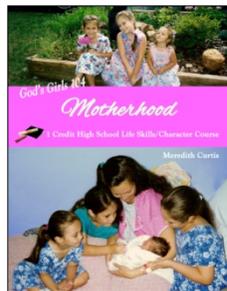
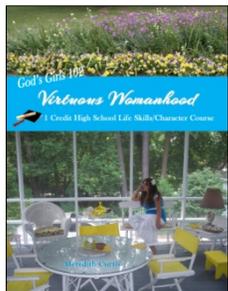
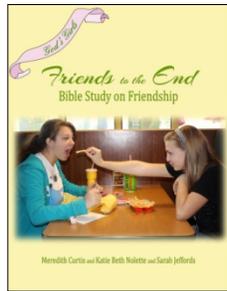
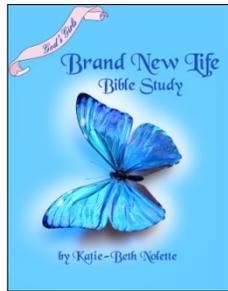
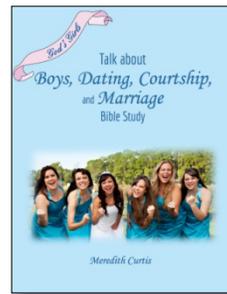
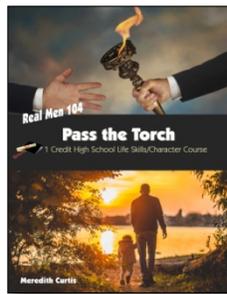
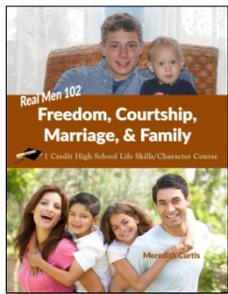
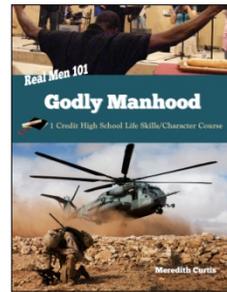
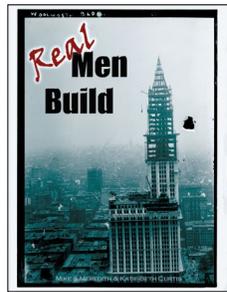
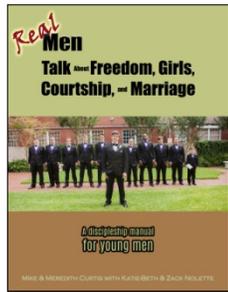
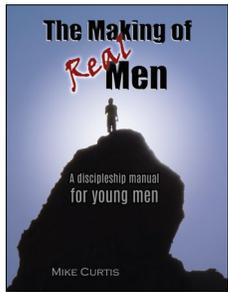


Maggie King Mysteries

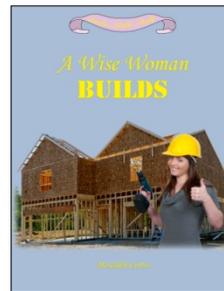
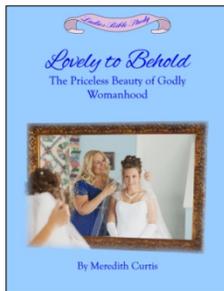
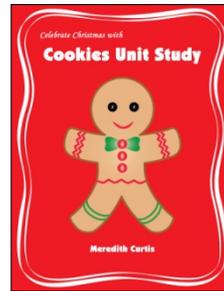
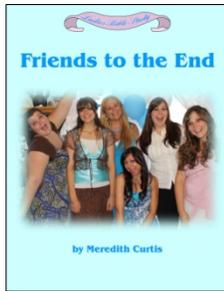
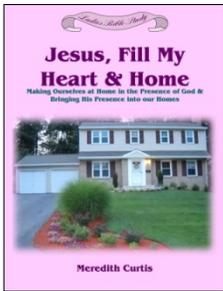
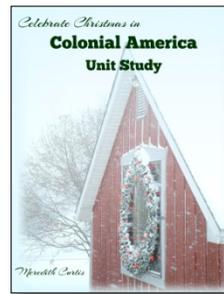
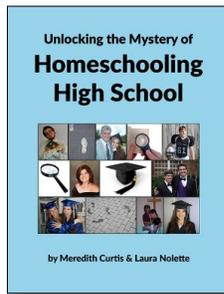
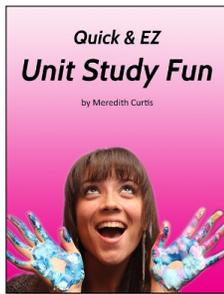
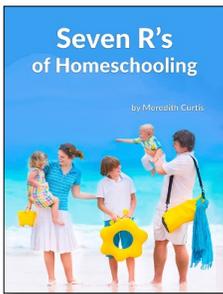
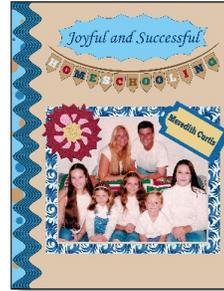
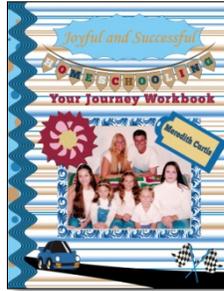
If you like cozy mysteries, you will love this series! Meet Maggie King, a pastor's wife and homeschool mom who keeps stumbling across dead bodies. With her sidekicks, Sophia and Mary-Kate and her curious children, Maggie is on one adventure after another.



Real Men & God's Girls



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About the Author



Meredith Curtis, a pastor's wife and homeschooling mom of five children, leads worship, mentors ladies, and, sometimes, even cooks dinner. Her passion is to equip people to love Jesus, raise godly children, and change the world around them with the power of the Gospel. "Lives are changed in the context of relationships," Meredith often says, as well as, "Be a world changer! Raise world changers!" She enjoys speaking to small and large groups.

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Meredith is the author of several books.

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Meredith is the author of several unit studies, timelines, and cookbooks.

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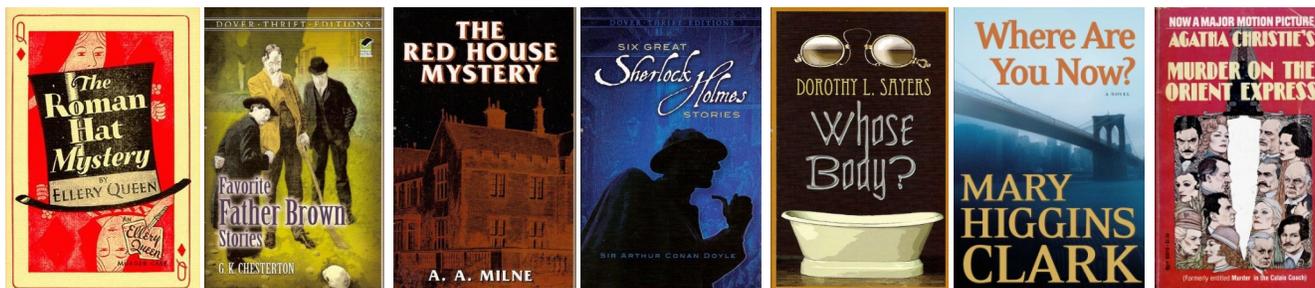
Meredith is the author of several high school classes.

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Every high school student should write a novel sometimes during their high school years. It's a valuable learning experience and most students end up enjoying the process and the finished product (your very own book!) In our house, since we love cozy mysteries, we decided to write our own "Who Dun It" in the pattern of the "Golden Age of Mystery." With examples like Hercule Poirot, Miss Jane Marple, Sherlock Holmes, Father Brown, and Lord Peter Wimsey, we created our own detective. By reading Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, Mary Higgins Clark, G.K. Chesterton, Sir Conan Doyle, and other classic mystery authors, we created our own pattern to write our very own cozy mystery novel. Would you like to focus one year of high school English on reading and writing mysteries? Then, join us for English Class this year!



You will need to purchase or borrow the following books:

- The Red House Mystery* by A.A. Milne (can be downloaded free online)
- Six Great Sherlock Holmes Stories* by Sir Conan Doyle (can be downloaded free online)
- Favorite Father Brown Stories* by G.K. Chesterton (can be downloaded free online)
- Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie
- And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
- Whose Body?* by Dorothy Sayers (can be downloaded free online)
- Where Are You Now?* by Mary Higgins Clark
- The Roman Hat* by Ellery Queen

The Following Short Stories are included in this Book:

- "Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe
- "The Ordinary Hairpins" by E.C. Bentley
- "The Archduke's Tea" by H.C. Bailey
- "A Singular Abduction" by Rodrigues Ottolengui

You will....

- Read Classic Murder Mystery Novels & Short Stories/Discuss in Book Club
- Design Detectives & Other Characters
- Plan Out Short Story & Novel using Outlines & Planning Sheets
- Plan Out Novel Using Scene Outlines
- Watch Detective Shows
- Write a Short Story
- Write a Novel

Meredith Curtis is a pastor's wife, worship leader, and home schooling mother of five amazing children. Her passion is to equip Christian families to honor Christ with joy and success. Meredith is the author *Joyful and Successful Homeschooling*, *Teaching Literature in High School with Classes You Can Use*, *Celebrate Christmas in Colonial America Unit Study* and *God's Girls Beauty Secrets*. Currently serving as the Worship Leader and Overseer of Women's ministries at Powerline Church, her delight is spending time in the Presence of her first love, Jesus!



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