



Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus
Mystery and Detective Literature
1095



I. Course Description

Mystery & Detective Literature

0.5 Credit (Semester 2)

Grades 11, 12

This course is designed to explore the time-honored mystery and detective genres as literary forms from Poe to Doyle to Christie and on to select contemporary authors. Students read the “whodunits” of classic novelists and short story writers and examine the techniques they use to keep their readers in suspense. Traditional literary elements such as plot, theme, symbolism, character, and point of view will be studied as they apply to the twists and turns of the genre. Students should expect to deliver an oral research report on a historical or contemporary mystery or detective theme. Films and TV programs also will be utilized in the course.

II. Materials & Equipment

“The Purloined Letter”

“The Adventure of the Speckled Band”

“The Blue Carbuncle”

“The Red-Headed League”

The Hound of the Baskervilles

The A. B. C. Murders

Ten Little Indians

Various videos : “Dial M for Murder”

“Rear Window”

“Murder on the Orient Express”

“The Great Mouse Detective”

III. Course Goals & Objectives

Students will be able to

- a.. Show the relationship between Literature/art and real life.
- b. Analyze, interpret, and draw inferences regarding the selections
- c. Think and write critically regarding the selections
- d. Discuss the literary terms of the genre and apply to the literature
- e. Identify irony, symbolism, characterization, point of view, stream of consciousness, and plot structure in Mystery and Detective literature

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

Mystery and Detective Literature

I. Introduction

- a. Define
- b. Literary terms
- c. “The Great Mouse Detective”

II. Poe

- a. Background
- b. “The Purloined Letter”

III. Sherlock Holmes

- a. Background
- b. “The Adventure of the Speckled Band”
- c. “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”
- d. “The Red-Headed League”
- e. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

IV. Agatha Christie

- a. The A. B. C. Murders
- b. *And Then There Were None/ Ten Little Indians*
- c. "Murder on the Orient Express"

V. Alfred Hitchcock

- a. "Dial M for Murder"
- b. "Rear Window"

VI. John Grisham

V. Assignments & Grading

Objective Tests

Essay Tests

Essays/Articles

Compositions

Oral Presentations

Culminating Activity

Final