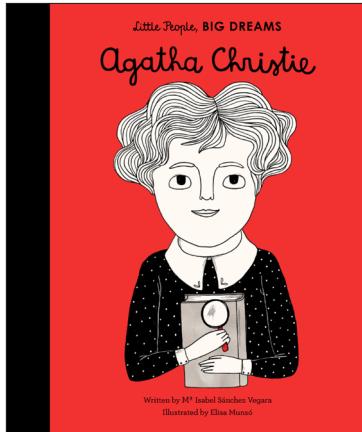


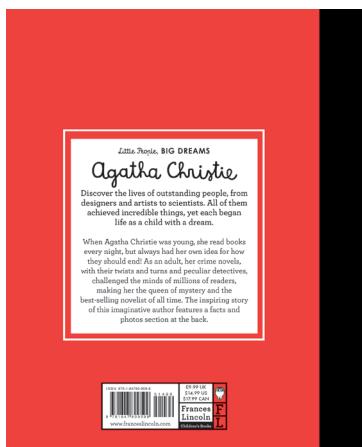
For readers aged 4+ | 9781847809599 | Hardback | £9.99

Lots of the activities and discussion topics in these teacher's notes are deliberately left open to encourage pupils to develop independent thinking around the book. This will help pupils build confidence in their ability to problem solve as individuals and also as part of a group.



The Front Cover

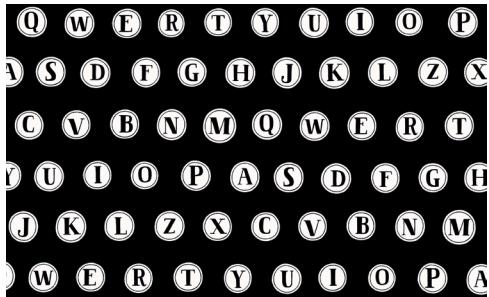
Using the clues on the front cover, can you guess why Agatha Christie was well known?



The Blurb

How do you think Agatha Christie's books would be classified:

- Detective
- Who-dunnit
- Mystery
- Crime
- All of the above?



The Endpapers

What do the letters represent?

Create your own design for end papers, suited to the Agatha Christie's type of writing.



How often do you read?

How important do you think reading is?

What sort of books do you like and why?

Create an electronic questionnaire (e.g. using Forms) and conduct a survey across the school on reading habits. Use the information you collect to help plan improvements in the school to encourage more reading.

Think of a book or story where you have had a better idea for an ending.



Do you read in bed after lights out?

Have you ever read a detective story?

Do detective stories, crime stories and mysteries appeal to you?

What famous detective is Agatha Christie reading about?



Which war do you think had started?

What sort of job did Agatha Christie take and why do you think she did this?



How do you think Agatha Christie's experiences as a nurse will help her?

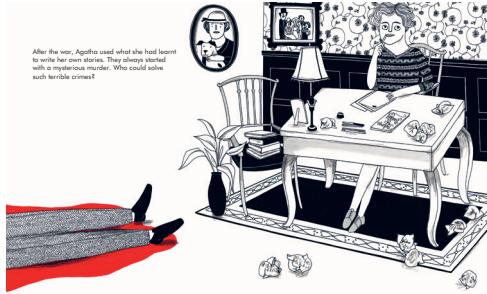
What do you think her main interest in life is?

What does the word 'toxic' mean?

What symbols are used to show that the contents of containers are dangerous?

What does the author mean by the phrase 'meet a sticky end'?

Do you ever find your imagination takes over? If so, what sort of things do you imagine?



Why do you think Agatha Christie always started her stories with a mysterious murder?

Do you ever take that approach when you are writing?

What indications are there in the illustration that shows that writing can be a difficult process?

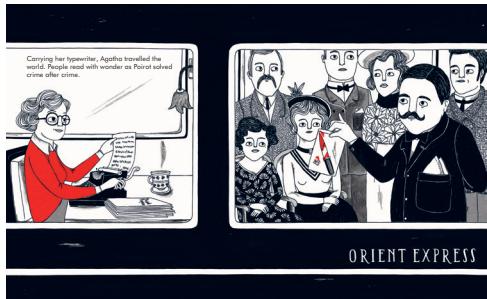
How did Agatha Christie write her stories?

Why do you think there is a body in the illustration?



What does the word 'dastardly' mean?

Write a short description of Hercule Poirot. You might want to use a word like 'dapper.' Try using a thesaurus to extend your choice of words that you can use.



Why do you think Agatha Christie travelled the world, taking her typewriter with her?

Do you recognise the famous story that the illustration on the right hand page shows?

How do you think the victim was murdered?



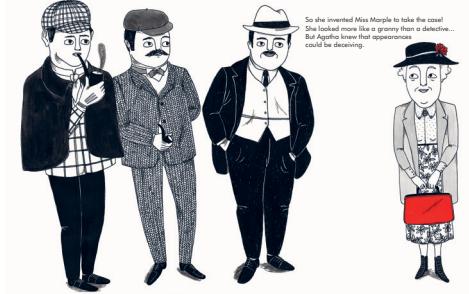
Where is the Middle East? See if you can find this area in an atlas.

What type of boat can you see in the illustration?

Look carefully at the illustration to find out which mystery Hercule Poirot couldn't crack.

Why do you think Agatha Christie decided to write a mystery that her detective couldn't solve?

What do you think the items in the bottom right hand corner are and why do you think they are there?



What is your opinion of Miss Marple?

Why do you think Agatha Christie decided to invent this character?

Do you agree that appearances can be deceptive? Can you think of examples to support your opinion?

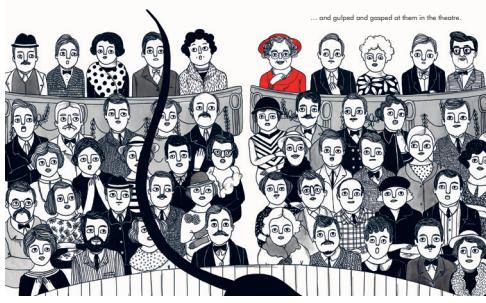


Why do you think people read before going to bed?

How has the illustrator shown this in this spread?

What type of books do you like to read before you go to sleep?

How has the illustrator used the effect of the headlights?



What do you think the black shape on the stage might be?

Who is the person in red in the illustration?

See if you can find out the name of the play, which is the longest running show of any kind in the world; over 27,000 performances have been given.



What does the text on this page tell you about Agatha Christie?

Who do you think the different graves in the illustration belong to?

Normally there is a birth and death date on headstones, but these only have one date. Why do you think that is?



What do you think about Agatha Christie's opinion that 'any mystery can be solved if you use your imagination'?

Do you think you need any other skills or attributes? Look carefully at the illustration to discover the titles of some of her novels.

AGATHA CHRISTIE
(Born 1890 • Died 1976)

~ 1900

Agatha Christie was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller in 1890 in Devon, England, during WWI. Agatha worked as a nurse and also wrote under the pen name Mary Westmacott. Her interest in puzzles was put to good use when she began writing her own detective stories. Her first published novel, *Murder on the Orient Express*, was published in 1926. It became an instant best-seller and has sold over 100 million copies worldwide. After *Orient Express* publication, which was the first novel to feature the famous Miss Marple, Agatha continued to write more mysteries. She traveled extensively throughout the world, including Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. In 1929 she traveled to India and the journeyed across the British Empire and in 1938 she was inspired by her journey on the Orient Express to write one of her most famous novels, *Murder on the Orient Express*. In 1929,

1926

1946

Agatha inspired her own mystery when she disappeared, leading to a massive hunt and a media frenzy. Agatha continued to write, including her other beloved investigator, the elderly Miss Marple. Agatha's books have sold over 2 billion copies worldwide. Her books have been translated into more than a hundred languages and have won numerous awards. These three are one of the ten most-read books in history. With her wit, humor, and ability to create compelling plots and her stories full of twists and turns she changed the moulds of culture of readers, revolutionizing the genre of mystery.

1967

Find out three interesting facts about the British Empire and share them with the class.

Find out the names of some of the countries that made up the British Empire?

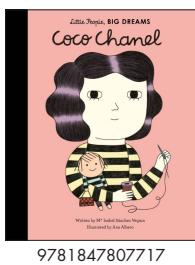
What does the author tell us that shows that Agatha Christie was very successful?

What makes Agatha Christie's stories particularly interesting?

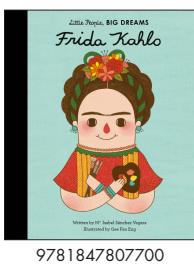
Create your own time line of Agatha Christie's life, showing her birth and death dates and other important events, such as the World Wars.

Be bold, be brave, dream BIG!

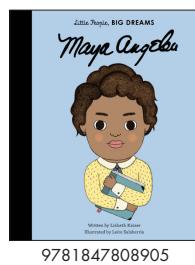
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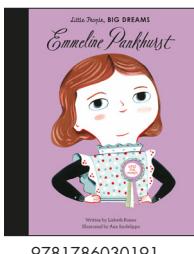
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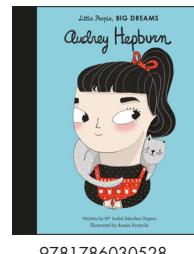
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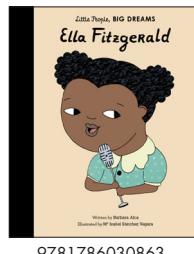
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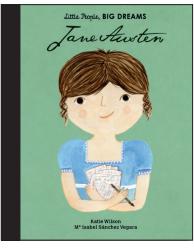
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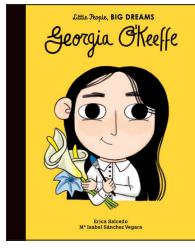
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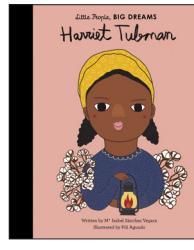
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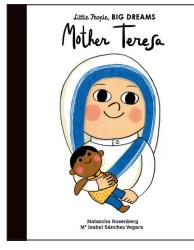
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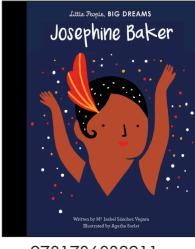
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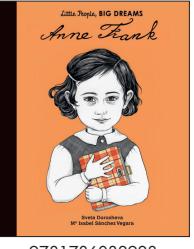
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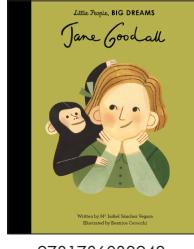
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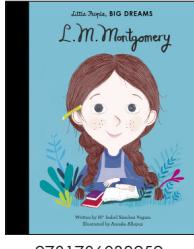
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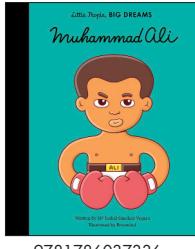
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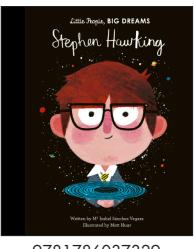
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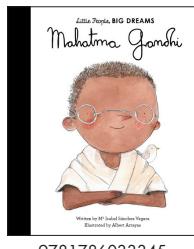
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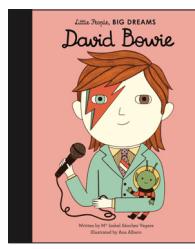
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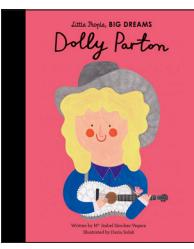
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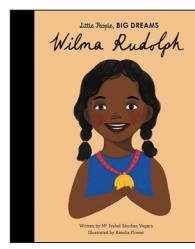
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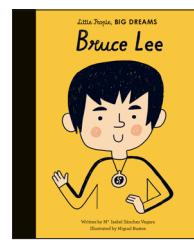
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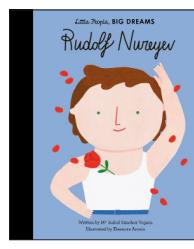
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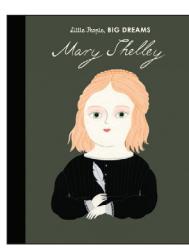
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