MLS 610 Clue: Detective and Mystery Fiction
Joseph Rosenblum

Objectives

• Explain how plot, character, narrator, setting, action, dialogue, and theme work together to make a story a mystery.
• Explain how the author directs or misdirects our attention to advance the plot and keep the story mysterious.
• Identify the characteristics of mystery as a genre.
• Describe the role of the detective in the mystery.
• Describe the techniques the author uses to keep the reader engaged in the story.
• Use what you have learned to create your own partial or complete mystery story.

Papers

You will write three short papers in response to the mysteries we are reading. Your final project will be to create a short mystery story using clues you receive from the “Red Herring” Web link. You will have a chance to post and share your “homemade” mystery with your fellow students.

Discussion Board

You will be expected to post at least one discussion response each week in the designated discussion room.

Required Texts

Forster, E.M.  Aspects of the Novel
Griffith, Kelley.  Writing Essays about Literature
Poe, Edgar Allan.  “Murders in the Rue Morgue” (available online)
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan.  “Silver Blaze” (available online)
Auden, W. H.  “The Guilty Vicarage” (available online)
Christie, Agatha.  The Murder of Roger Ackroyd
Sayers, Dorothy.  Gaudy Night