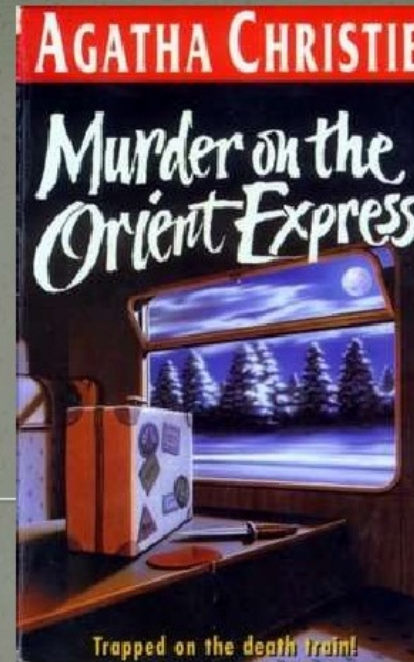


Murder on the Orient Express



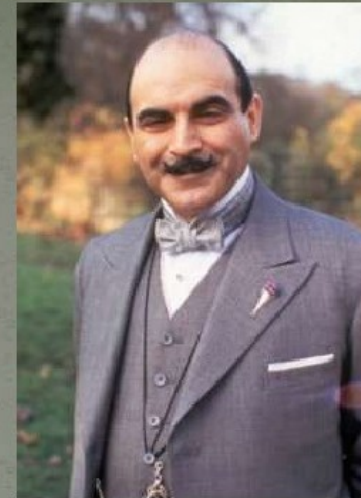
By Agatha Christie



Clip slide

Why I liked it

- Agatha Christie is a master of suspense, plotting and characterization
- Detective Hercule Poirot, who is solving complex mysteries with his “little grey cells”, is the main character
- The story is tightly constructed puzzle
- The reader gets to know every character - opportunity to form an opinion
- Quick introduction
- Taut atmosphere



Clip slide

About the author

- Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller (1890 – 1976) – English crime writer
- Living with aunt, uncle and their two children
- Working as a nurse in a hospital
- Later working in a hospital pharmacy - acquired a knowledge of poisons, used in her crime novels
- Abney Hall – her greatest inspiration
- At the age of 36 - suffered nervous breakdown and depression
- Between 81 to 84 years of age - diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease





Agatha Christie's gravestone in Cholsey



picture of the room at the Hotel Pera Palace, where she wrote *Murder on the Orient Express*

Two more pictures of Agatha Christie

Clip slide



About the author (continue)

- Remembered for her 80 detective novels
- Title: The “Queen of Crime”
- Best selling writer, along with William Shakespeare
- The most translated author – 56 languages
- Two well-known characters



← Hercule Poirot

Miss Jane Marple →



Miss Jane Marple



Hercule Poirot



Pictures from the movie "Murder on the Orient Express" (1974)

[Clip slide](#)



Plot

- Hercule Poirot – traveling on the “Orient Express” train
- After two days the train stops due to snowstorm
- The next morning– a body is found
- Poirot finds several clues
- He questions every suspect (everyone on the train)
- He is reconstructing parts of a burned letter (a clue he found)
- That letter has a connection with a case five years earlier
- Gathering everyone and presenting explanation

Picture from the movie – Poirot is gathering everyone and presenting explanation



Agatha Christie **Facts**



Agatha Christie was an English writer. She is known for her novels and short story collections of fictional detective characters. Christie also wrote notable romantic novels. She is considered one of the best-selling authors of all time.

Early Life and Interest

- ★ Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born on September 15, 1890, in Torquay, Devon, South West England, to a middle-class family. She was the youngest of the three siblings.
- ★ She was home-schooled by her parents, who encouraged her to write. She grew up to her mother's bedtime stories and dramatic, suspenseful tales. She also started to create her own stories, too. She later moved to Paris to study.

Agatha Christie **FACTS**

- ★ As a child, Agatha enjoyed creating characters and fantasy plays. She was 16 when she moved to Paris to study vocal and piano.
- ★ Agatha Christie was married in 1914 to Colonel Archibald Christie, an aviator. She took up nursing during World War I. She then joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment where she tended to injured soldiers in Torquay, England.
- ★ Christie worked in the pharmacy at the University of London during the Second World War. Working there provided her with ideas for some of her murder methods.
- ★ 1926 was a memorable year for Agatha - it was the year Agatha's mother, Clara, died. It was also the year she discovered that her husband is in love with another woman. Agatha suffered a mental breakdown and left her home. She was found days later at a hotel, registered as the name of her husband's mistress. They divorced two years later.
- ★ In 1930, she married her second husband, Max Mallowan, an archaeologist, with whom she shared several expeditions with.



Agatha Christie **FACTS**

Writing Career and Major Works

- ★ *"The Mysterious Affair at Styles"* was Agatha's first book that was published in 1920. It is a story about a murdered heiress and featured the character Hercule Poirot, a Belgian detective, who became her most popular character. He appeared in over 30 novels.
- ★ In 1927, Miss Jane Marple, one of the two detective characters, was introduced in a short-story collection called *The Thirteen Problems*. The character, Miss Marple, appeared in 20 stories and 12 novels.



- ★ Christie's second novel to be published was *"The Secret Adversary"*. This marked the first appearance of detectives Tommy Beresford and Tuppence Cowley, who also appeared in other novels and short stories.
- ★ *"The Murder on the Links"* was the third fictional detective novel of Agatha Christie, starring Hercule Poirot and Captain Arthur Hastings.

Agatha Christie **FACTS**

- ★ *"The Mousetrap"*, another of Agatha's works was a murder mystery play first shown in London's West End in 1952. It was moved to the Ambassador Theater the same year and then transferred to a larger theater next door called St. Martin's Theater. The show ran for 21 years - it holds the record for the longest unbroken run in London theater, with more than 26,000 performances.
- ★ The best-selling novel of Agatha Christie is *"And Then There Were None"*, with 100 million sales to date, making it the best-selling mystery ever, and considered as one of the best-selling books of all time.
- ★ She is known as the *"Queen of Crime"*. She also wrote romance novels entitled *"Unfinished Portrait"* and *"A Daughter's a Daughter"*.



- ★ Agatha Christie had a private company named Agatha Christie Limited, to hold the rights to her works. She then sold a percentage of the company to Booker Books when she was about 80 years old. In 1959, Agatha Christie transferred her home to her daughter, Rosalind Hicks, her only child.

Agatha Christie **FACTS**

Death and Legacy

- ★ Agatha Christie is recognized by The Guinness Book of World Records as the best-selling novelist of all time, reaching roughly 2 billion copies. It's believed her works come third in the ranking of the world's most widely published books. According to the Index Translationum, she is the most translated individual author with her works having been translated into at least 103 languages.



- ★ She was appointed as Commander of the Order of the British Empire to recognize her literary contributions. She also received several awards, such as the Grand Master Award and an Edgar Award.
- ★ Agatha Christie died on 12 January, 1976, at the age of 85.