

***The Mousetrap and Other Plays* by Agatha Christie**

(Published by Harper Paperbacks)

Approved for use in Communication Arts IV

Summary

The Mousetrap and Other Plays consists of eight plays written by Agatha Christie. Three of her most famous and well-loved plays (*The Mousetrap*, *Ten Little Indians*, and *Witness for the Prosecution*) are included as well as several other mysteries. Each play included focuses on the relationships between characters and the development of mystery stories.

Connection to the Curriculum

Mystery stories require the reader to engage in close reading to discover character motivations and follow the development of the mystery plot. With so many mysteries included in the book, there are multiple opportunities for the reader to engage in a complex conflict while reading closely to make predictions, follow plots and subplots, and analyze character development. *The Mousetrap and Other Plays* also includes an extensive vocabulary within the text; it is necessary for the reader to use context clues to decode meaning for understanding of the text. Lastly, reading mystery stories enhances the logic and critical thinking aspect of reading that will enhance the maturation process of a developing reader.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The student comprehends a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.2.1- The student adjusts reading rate to support comprehension when reading narrative.

1.4.8- The student understands the purpose of text features and uses such features to locate information in and to gain meaning from appropriate-level texts.

1.4.13- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects (characters' traits and motives, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, procedures, viewpoints, use of literary devices) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student identifies and describes different types of character (protagonist, antagonist, round, flat, static, dynamic) and analyzes the development of characters.

2.1.3- The student analyzes and evaluates how the author uses various plot elements (conflict, crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution, rising action, falling action, subplots, parallel episodes) to advance the plot and make connections between events.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices (foreshadowing, flashback, irony, figurative language, imagery, symbolism, satire, allusion, paradox, dialogue, point of view, overstatement) in a text.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Agatha Christie's mysteries do involve murder and mayhem; however, the treatment of these topics is conservative in nature.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon