

Y8 – Mystery genre

1. Key words	
Revelation	Something significant is revealed to the reader
Clue	An article or piece of information that leads to the truth
Culprit	The person who has committed the crime
Crime	An act that is against the law
Foreboding	A sense that something bad is going to happen
Apprehension	A feeling of worry or concern
Tension	The build-up of fear or worry
Sinister	Dark, worrying
Red herring	A clue that is false to put the detective off the right track
Accomplice	A sidekick, a close companion to the main detective
Mysterious	Dark or eerie

2. Features of a detective	
Distinctive	The detective memorable
Not alone	They can have an accomplice
Intellectual	They have intelligence and skill
Calm	Calm and focused in the face of danger
Different	Eccentric or quirky in some way
Persistent	They are resilient

3. Famous detectives	
Sherlock Holmes	Created by Arthur Conan Doyle, Holmes is distinctive in his dress and his regular smoking of his pipe. His trusty sidekick is Dr Watson, who supports the vast intellect of Sherlock Holmes.
Hercule Poirot	The small well-presented Belgian man has a distinctive accent and moustache. He takes a pride in his intelligence and he is accompanied by the ever-faithful Hastings. He is the creation of the great crime writer Agatha Christie.
Inspector Goole	This Inspector was created by J. B. Priestley. He represents the working class of Britain and he tries to make a wealthy family take responsibility for their actions. He is understated and calculated.

4. What most mystery stories have in common	
Tension – who has committed the crime?	A series of clues – that lead to the final climax
A twist – an unexpected event that changes the course of the plot	A final showdown – where the detective shows his skill
A victim – someone who is killed or injured	A detective – who aims to bring down the villain

5. Terminology	
Mood	Overall emotional effect of the text
Tension	An element that evokes feelings like fear or anxiety
Atmosphere	The feeling the author wishes to create using setting or background
Imagery	Elements of a text that evoke mental images
Pathetic fallacy	The author attributes human attributes to nature, particularly weather