READING

Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie was a famous English crime writer. She was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller on September 15, 1890, in Torquay, Devon, in the southwest part of England. She was the youngest of three children. When she was young, she didn't go to school. Her mother taught her at home. When she was sixteen, she moved to Paris to study music.

In 1914, Agatha Christie married Archibald Christie, a pilot. During World War I, she worked as a nurse. In 1920, she published her first book, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. It is a story about a murder of a rich woman and it introduced readers to one of Christie's most famous characters—Belgian detective Hercule Poirot.

In 1926, Agatha Christie published one of her most famous novels, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd.* In the same year, her mother died and her husband left her for another woman. When she found out that her husband had a lover, Agatha Christie disappeared and was discovered after a few days registered in a hotel under the name of the woman her husband wished to marry.

Agatha Christie and Archibald Christie divorced in 1928. In 1930, she married archaeology professor Max Mallowan. She went with him on some of his expeditions. In the same year in which she married him she published *Murder at the Vicarage*, which became another classic. This book introduced readers to Miss Jane Marple, an old village lady who acts as an amateur detective.

Agatha Christie wrote more than seventy detective novels. She is one of the top-selling authors in history. Her books have sold more than 2 billion copies. She has been called "The Queen of Crime" and "The Queen of Mystery." She also wrote other kinds of books, for example romance novels and plays. Her play *The Mousetrap* opened at the Ambassador Theatre in 1952 and had more than 8,800 performances.

Agatha Christie died on January 12, 1976, in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

1 Why did Agatha Christie move to Paris when she was sixteen? _____
2 What did Agatha Christie do during World War One? _____
3 Who is Hercule Poirot? _____
4 When did Agatha Christie's mother die? _____
5 Who is Miss Jane Marple? _____
6 How many copies have Agatha Christie's books sold? _____
7 What are Agatha Christie's nicknames? _____

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Agatha Christie was born in the southeast of England. _____
2 When she was young, Agatha Christie studied at home. _____
3 Agatha Christie's first husband was an archaeologist. _____
4 Agatha Christie married Max Mallowan in the same year in which her mother died. _____
5 Agatha Christie went on some archaeological expeditions. _____
6 Agatha Christie wrote only detective novels. _____
7 Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap* was very successful. _____

SOURCES: https://www.biography.com/people/agatha-christie-9247405,
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie

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KEY

1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

1 Why did Agatha Christie move to Paris when she was sixteen? **to study music**
2 What did Agatha Christie do during World War One? **she was a nurse**
3 Who is Hercule Poirot? **a Belgian detective, one of Agatha Christie's most famous characters**
4 When did Agatha Christie's mother die? **in 1926**
5 Who is Miss Jane Marple? **an old village lady who acts as an amateur detective**
6 How many copies have Agatha Christie's books sold? **more than 2 billion**
7 What are Agatha Christie's nicknames? **"The Queen of Crime" and "The Queen of Mystery"**

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Agatha Christie was born in the southeast of England. **F (she was born in the southwest)**
2 When she was young, Agatha Christie studied at home. **T**
3 Agatha Christie's first husband was an archaeologist. **F (he was a pilot, her second husband was an archaeologist)**
4 Agatha Christie married Max Mallowan in the same year in which her mother died. **F (her mother died in 1926, she married Max Mallowan in 1930)**
5 Agatha Christie went on some archaeological expeditions. **T**
6 Agatha Christie wrote only detective novels. **F (she wrote also other kinds of books, for example romance novels)**
7 Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap* was very successful. **T (it had more than 8,800 performances)**

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