

Dr. Cothran  
English 200  
Reading Response 2

Look at the different types of detectives featured in *The Moonstone*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and *Murder at the Vicarage*. How does Christie's creation of a crime-solver like Miss Marple act as a real "break" with the detective novel tradition? What typical detective characters/characteristics does she keep, despite this break? Using quotes and examples from each of the three works, write a **2-3 page essay** (typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font) that compares and contrasts Miss Marple with the other detectives we have been shown.

The more nuanced and detailed your discussion, the more likely you are to make a good grade. If you can, discuss a variety of issues (hopefully drawn from each of the three books), that give us a complex view of the topic. Your main focus should be on *Murder at the Vicarage*, but quoting from the two other texts could provide valuable insight into your reading of Christie. Also, if you can, try to say something new – something you've thought up on your own outside of class!

Some advice: The evidence you provide when supporting your thesis should present not only quotations from the text (or descriptions of plot/character elements) that support your ideas but **analyses** of those quotations. Analysis means exploring the significance of a quotation. Define, discuss, and describe the quote. Explain why you have used this particular passage. How does it relate to your thesis? Don't assume that your reader will automatically see the significance of the examples you use.

Note: You are not expected or required to use outside sources when writing this essay, but if you do use them, please be sure to cite all source material using correct MLA format.