

Dr. Cothran
English 200
Reading Response 3

Unlike *The Moonstone* and *Murder at the Vicarage*, modern novels by Cornwell and George focus on the lives and emotions of individuals who are in the police force (either instead of or as well as the lives of “normal” individuals who happen to be affected by a crime). How does this focus change the feel of the detective novel? Do the themes of the texts stay the same, despite this new focus? Also, more generally, what are the effects of getting inside the mind of the detective? Additionally – are there any other significant changes you see between works written 60-100 years ago and works written in the past two decades? Using quotes and examples from some of these works, write a **2-3 page essay** (typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font) that compares and contrasts modern murder mysteries with early detective novels.

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 more than one book), that give us a complex view of the topic. 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.