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Christie was probably the most successful writer in history. She wrote 78 crime novels, six other novels, 150 short stories, four non – fiction books and 19 plays. That represents two billion books sold : more than William Shakespeare ! One of her plays, the Mousetrap, started showing in London in November 1952, and it has never stopped!

Christie became a writer by accident. She was bored when her husband was away in the First World War. Agatha was working in a hospital dispensary (which is where she learned all the information about poisons that she used in her books). She decided to write a novel to pass the time. She chose a detective novel because she loved reading them. Her first novel, The Mysterious Affair at Styles, was an instant success. In each book Christie always gave the readers all the information they needed to find the solution ; but they had to read very carefully to find it. Many of her later books have exotic titles like Death on the Nile and Murder on the Orient Express. Christie loved travelling. She used the travels in her writing. Agatha Christie died in 1976, but her stories are still immensely popular. Many have been adapted for film or television.

From Speakeasy

**I - Reading comprehension : (6pts)**

- 1- Are these statements true or false?
  - a- Agatha Christie had always wanted to be a writer.....
  - b- She has written her first novel during the war.....
  - c- She liked reading detective novels.....
  - d- Her first novel was not successful.....
  - e- She used the travels in her writing.....
  - f- Since her death, she has lost her popularity .....
- 2- Answer the following questions in full sentences.
  - a- How long has The Mousetrap been showing?
  - b- How did Agatha Christie find out about poisons?
  - c- Why is it important to read her books carefully?

**II- Mastery of language : (8pts)**

- 1- Find in the text words that are closest in meaning to the following :
  - a- likely = .....
  - b- began = .....
  - c- by chance = .....
  - d- to discover = .....

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- 2- Find in the text words that are opposite in meaning to be following:
- a- always ≠ .....
  - b- hated ≠ .....
  - c- late (books) ≠ .....
  - d- unpopularity ≠.....
- 3- Put the adjectives of the following sentences into superlative:
- a- Hercule Poirot was (intelligent) detective in Britain.
  - b- The Nile is (long) river in the world.
  - c- She is ( rich) person I know.
  - d- The Mousetrap was (popular) play in London.
- 4- Complete the following sentence with :  
who / which / when / where.
- a- Agatha Christie has sold two billion books.....is more than Shakespeare.
  - b- She worked in a hospital dispensary ..... her husband was away.
  - c- The dispensary was ..... she learned about poisons.
  - d- Hercule Poirot is a detective .....solves many of her mysteries

**III- Writing : (6 pts)**

Fill in each gap so that the text makes sense and underline the word used in each gap.

Murder, She Wrote!

Like.....1.....of Christie's stories, her novel The Mysterious Affair at Styles, has one murder victim and many possible .....2..... . Emily Inglethorp.....3..... is rich old lady. When she is murdered , .....4..... the people with motives to kill.....5..... have alibis. So,.....6.....did it ? The police have no idea,.....7..... . Belgian detective Hercule Poirot finds.....8..... murderer . Each book . .....9..... a new ingenious plot. Readers love the books and the films . When someone sits down to.....10.....or to read an Agatha Christie, they always have the same challenge: to try to .....11..... who the murderer is before the detective.....12.....