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CRIME FICTION

Crime fiction is a newly developed genre of novels which deals with a crime, followed by its investigation by some professional detectives or amateur sleuth to solve the mystery of the crime.

HISTORY OF CRIME FICTION:

- The stories dealing with crimes and criminals have been around for centuries. Some of the oldest tales of crime fiction include the Arabian anthology 'One Thousand and One Nights' (7th cen.) and folktales from Asia like 'Ali Baba Chalis Chor'.
- 'Things As They Are' (1794) by William Godwin, is a crime fiction novel
- But it was only after the French Revolution and urbanization in Europe that crimes increased in the society during the Victorian age and this new form Crime Fiction became widely popular in English literature.

FEATURES OF CRIME FICTION:

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- 1. The plot revolves around a serious crime like murder, bank robbery or kidnapping.**
- 2. Crime fiction involves much amount of mystery and suspense.**
- 3. Characters are mostly criminals, detectives, police officers and forensic science experts.**
- 4. The story is narrated in a serious, gloomy tone and mostly pathos dominates.**
- 5. Poetic justice is presented at the end by way of punishing the criminals.**

MAJOR WRITERS AND WORKS OF CRIME FICTION:

- 1. Edgar Allen Poe an America author, known as the father of detective stories wrote a host of detective crime stories during the Victorian age.**
- 2. The stories of 'Sherlock Homes' written by Arthur Cannon Doyle are also popular as detective crime stories.**
- 3. Patricia Highsmith is the other crime fiction author who wrote 'Strangers on a Train' (1950) and 'The Talented Mr Ripley' (1955).**
- 4. James Cain's two most famous novels 'The Postman Always Rings Twice' (1934) and 'Double Indemnity' (1936) are also the best examples of Crime Fiction.**