

## **This month's book: 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles' by Agatha Christie.**

Arthur Hastings (the narrator of the story) is invited up to Styles Court by Mrs Inglethorpe's (the owner of Styles Court) son. Whilst there, Hastings discovers that Mrs Inglethorpe has had arguments with her son and her husband (who everyone hates). Hastings also finds out that his detective friend Hercule Poirot is staying nearby, giving them a chance to meet up. It is fortunate that Poirot is staying because later that day Mrs Inglethorpe is poisoned with strychnine! All the evidence points to her husband, including her last word "Alfred" and the fact that he had bought poison a few days before she died. But Poirot is determined to prove that the murderer might be someone entirely different...

This is the fifth Agatha Christie novel that I have read and it is gripping. It was the very first detective novel that Agatha Christie wrote and it was all because of a bet. She had written a few other novels but they had failed to become popular, so this novel marked a change in style and the beginning of a magnificent career. This book also marks the introduction of one of the best ever fictional detectives, Hercule Poirot.

This is a brilliant book if you are looking for something exciting to read, because it is so clever and well written. The plot keeps you guessing right up until the end which is, of course, the reason that Agatha Christie remains so popular today despite this novel first being published in 1921. Some of the other Agatha Christie novels I can recommend are 'Mrs McGinty's Dead', 'Nemesis' (featuring Miss Marple) and, in my opinion the best detective book ever, 'Curtain: Poirot's Last Case', because you'll never guess who did it!

Happy Reading

Libby ☺