

Student A

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S LIFE

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay, Devon, to an American father and an English mother. Her father was a rich American who worked as, and her mother was the daughter of a British army captain. Christie had a sister and a brother. Her father died when she was years old. Her mother taught her at home, encouraging her to write at a very young age. At the age of she went to Paris to study singing and piano.

Her first marriage, an unhappy one, was in 1914 to Colonel Archibald Christie, who worked as an aviator. The couple had one daughter, Rosalind Hicks, and divorced in 1928. It was during this marriage that she published in 1920, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. During World War I she worked at a hospital and then a pharmacy, a job that influenced her work; many of the murders in her books are carried out with

On 8 December 1926, while living in Sunningdale in Berkshire, she disappeared for ten days, causing great interest in the press. Her car was found in a chalk pit in She was eventually found staying at the Old Swan hotel in Harrogate under the name of the woman with whom her husband had recently admitted to having an affair. She claimed to have suffered a Opinions are still divided as to whether this was a publicity stunt. Public sentiment at the time was negative, with many feeling that an alleged publicity stunt had cost the taxpayers a substantial amount of money.

In 1930, Christie married the archaeologist Sir Max Mallowan. He was 14 years younger than Christie. Their marriage was happy in the early years, and endured despite Mallowan's many affairs in later life, notably with Barbara Parker, whom he married in, the year after Christie's death. Christie's travels with Mallowan contributed background to several of her novels set in the Middle East. Other novels were set in and around Torquay, Devon, where she was born. Christie's 1934 novel, *Murder on the Orient Express* was written in, the southern terminus of the railroad. Her husband attributed to her this remark, which she denied having made: *An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have: the older she gets, the more interested he is in her.*

Agatha Christie died on 12, at the age of 85, from, in Oxfordshire. Christie's only child died on 28 October 2004, also aged 85. Christie's grandson was heir to the copyright to some of his grandmother's literary work (including *The Mousetrap*).

Student B

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