

# Contents

<i>Introduction and Acknowledgements</i>	ix
Why is Moll's younger brother older than she is? Daniel Defoe, <i>Moll Flanders</i> (1722)	1
Who has Susan been talking to? Henry Fielding, <i>Tom Jones</i> (1749)	9
Who betrays Elizabeth Bennet? Jane Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (1813)	17
What do we know about Frances Price (the first)? Jane Austen, <i>Mansfield Park</i> (1814)	23
Apple blossom in June—again Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i> (1816)	28
How old is Frank? Walter Scott, <i>Rob Roy</i> (1817)	34
Why is the monster yellow? Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (1818)	39
Does Dickens lynch Fagin? Charles Dickens, <i>Oliver Twist</i> (1837–8)	44
How do the Cratchits cook Scrooge's turkey? Charles Dickens, <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (1843)	49
How many siblings has Dobbin? W. M. Thackeray, <i>Vanity Fair</i> (1847–8)	55
Heathcliff's toothbrush Emily Brontë, <i>Wuthering Heights</i> (1847)	67

Does Carker have false teeth? Charles Dickens, <i>Dombey and Son</i> (1846–8)	78
Lucy Snowe, cement-mixer Charlotte Brontë, <i>Villette</i> (1853)	87
Is Betsey Trotwood a spinster? Charles Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i> (1849–50)	90
How does Ruth end up in Wales? Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Ruth</i> (1853)	102
What is Henry Esmond's 'great scheme'? W. M. Thackeray, <i>Henry Esmond</i> (1852)	108
What kills Lady Dedlock? Charles Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i> (1852–3)	115
What are Mr Hale's 'doubts'? Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>North and South</i> (1854–5)	128
Name Games	139
Where does Sydney Carton get his chloroform? Charles Dickens, <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> (1859)	149
Why doesn't Laura tell her own story? Wilkie Collins, <i>The Woman in White</i> (1859–60)	161
Why was Pip not invited to Joe's wedding? Charles Dickens, <i>Great Expectations</i> (1860–1)	168
Should we change the end of the <i>The Mill on the Floss</i> ? George Eliot, <i>The Mill on the Floss</i> (1860)	175
How long is Alice in Wonderland for? Lewis Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> (1865)	182

<i>Contents</i>	vii
Does Dickens know his train signals? Charles Dickens, <i>Our Mutual Friend</i> (1864–5)	185
Is Franklin Blake a thief and a rapist? Wilkie Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i> (1868)	191
Elms, limes, or does it matter? George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> (1871–2)	197
How criminal is Melmotte and when is he criminalized? Anthony Trollope, <i>The Way We Live Now</i> (1875)	202
Jules Verne and the English Sunday Jules Verne, <i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i> (1872)	211
What happens to Jim's family? Mark Twain, <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> (1884)	215
What English novel is Anna reading? Leo Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> (1877)	219
Why are there no public conveniences in Casterbridge? Thomas Hardy, <i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i> (1886)	224
Cabinets and detectives A. Conan Doyle, 'A Scandal in Bohemia' (1892)	232
Why isn't everyone a vampire? Bram Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> (1897)	238
<i>Notes</i>	245