

FOR CLASS >> Gay Mohrbacher, WGBH, Boston's PBS station

# MASTERPIECE

40 YEARS

Many of us have spent countless Sunday evenings engrossed in a great plot, gorgeous costumes, evocative settings, and witty dialogue — in short, watching MASTERPIECE on PBS. It's the longest-running, most-honored drama series on primetime television — known for its high-quality adaptations of classic works by authors such as Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen, Eliot, and James as well as more contemporary literature and mysteries.

What you may not know is that the MASTERPIECE Web site offers rich, feature-filled pages for each program it airs as well as a wealth of online resources for teachers. The team behind the series has always considered educators to be an important audience, knowing many use films to enhance students' understanding of literature. There are more than 30 title-specific **teacher's guides** online, as well as **resources** for discussing the adaptation of book to film. All the educator resources are free.

MASTERPIECE Book & Film Club materials provide everything you need to run a book group in or outside of school. More than twenty-five guides, sorted by title or author, provide discussion questions, author bios, background essays, activities, and occasionally recipes. The next author to be added to the collection is Agatha Christie, with book-to-film discussion resources available this June at [pbs.org/masterpiecebookclub/index.html](http://pbs.org/masterpiecebookclub/index.html)



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David Suchet plays Hercule Poirot, Agatha Christie's master detective, always using his "little grey cells" to solve murders. More Poirot and Miss Marple episodes will air in June and July.

### Genre/Author Guides

**Film in the Classroom** — This guide uses over 20 Masterpiece films to help you use films to teach not only great literature, but media studies as well.

**Teaching Dickens** — Focusing on four Dickens titles, this guide also features general questions, activities, and background information about Dickens.

**The Complete Guide to Teaching Jane Austen** — Covering all six Austen titles, this guide provides an in-depth look at Austen and her times.

### Individual Film Guides

Almost a Woman	The Merchant of Venice
The American	Middlemarch
Anna Karenina	Oliver Twist
Cora Unashamed	Othello
Daniel Deronda	Our Town
A Death in the Family	The Ponder Heart
Diary of Anne Frank	The Road from Coorain
Endgame	The Song of the Lark
Goodbye, Mr. Chips	
Henry V	
The Hound of the Baskervilles	

### Newest Teaching Materials from WBGH

In honor of the 40th anniversary, WBGH has created a new secondary teacher's guide entitled Film in the Classroom, which will be free at [pbs.org/masterpiece/learn](http://pbs.org/masterpiece/learn) this April.

Using over 20 MASTERPIECE film adaptations as examples, the guide offers ideas and tips on how to teach film, not just as an adjunct to classic literature, but also as a medium that can improve students' understanding of literary elements such as character, theme, setting, point of view and symbolism. The guide features an introduction by John Golden, NCTE's film consultant.

Also for the 40th, WBGH has revamped its entire library of Book-to-Film Club discussion questions and related resources. It can be found at [pbs.org/masterpiece/bookclub/index.html](http://pbs.org/masterpiece/bookclub/index.html). The next addition to this library will be a Book/Film Club resource around Agatha Christie, since WBGH is airing Poirots and Miss Marples in June and July.

### MASTERPIECE sweepstakes gives fans a chance to go on location

What better way to celebrate the 40th anniversary of MASTERPIECE than by touring some of the stunning locations from the series? The MASTERPIECE 40th Anniversary Sweepstakes runs until Tuesday, April 26, and will send the grand prize winner and a guest on a four-day, three-night trip to the United Kingdom. The trip includes VIP tours of Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey), Greenway (home of Agatha Christie), and Blenheim Palace (The Lost Prince), while enjoying accommodations with MacDonald Hotels & Resorts in the historic cities of Bath (Persuasion) and Oxford (Inspector Lewis). More info: <http://www.pbs.org/masterpiecesweepstakes>