

## Nancy Drew, Super Sleuth

One of the most famous detectives in kids' books is Nancy Drew. She isn't a professional detective. She's just a regular teenage girl. She is often called a sleuth, which means someone who solves mysteries.

Nancy Drew is a made up character. She is the star of hundreds of books. Several different authors wrote the books, but they are all published under the name Carolyn Keene.

Nancy Drew solved her first mystery in 1930. Her character has changed a lot over the years to keep up with the times. In the 1950s, Nancy became more obedient. In the 1980s, Nancy was older and more professional. In 2004, Nancy drove a hybrid electric car and used a cell phone.

In addition to starring in books, Nancy Drew has been in six movies and three television series. Her character is the basis of 33 video games and two comic book series. Some people like the modern Nancy, but others prefer just to read the original books.

Nancy's books have sold over 80 million copies. They have been translated into over 45 languages. Former First Ladies Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton say that Nancy had a big influence on their teenage years.



Some people feel that Nancy is a good role model for girls. Others think that she is too stereotypical and talks too much about shopping and clothes. Some people say that she is too wealthy to relate to. In spite of these criticisms, Nancy Drew's character has been solving mysteries for nearly 100 years. She will hopefully be around for 100 more.



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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did Nancy change in 2004?
  - a. She drove a hybrid electric car
  - b. She was more obedient
  - c. She was older
  - d. She starred in a video game
2. Nancy is a character in which of the following?
  - a. Books
  - b. Movies
  - c. Comic Books
  - d. All of the above
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a criticism of Nancy Drew?
  - a. She is stereotypical
  - b. She is too wealthy
  - c. She is mean
  - d. She talks too much about clothes
4. What does the author mean by “keep up with the times”?
  - a. Be a role model
  - b. Be more modern
  - c. Be more old fashioned
  - d. Be shorter

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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