Where did you go to school? Did you have a favorite teacher?

What subjects were you good at? What’s the most important lesson you learned at school

Did you ever behave badly? What did you want to do when you left school?

**My schooldays**

DAVID SUCHET, actor, played Hercule Poirot in the TV series of Agatha Christie murder mysteries.

*Interview by Tim Oglethorpe*

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Grenham House, a boarding school in Kent, and Wellington School, a private school in Somerset.

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One thing my schooldays did teach me was the importance of teamwork. At boarding school, I was an outsider and I was really, truly unhappy there. When I started playing sport at Grenham House, I became a member of a team, and I felt a lot better about myself. Like sport, acting is also nearly always a team event and you rely just as much on other people as they do on you.

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Yes, I did. My brother and I both went to the same school and sometimes, we used to break the rules. In private schools at that time, a common punishment used to be ‘the cane’: a long stick which the head teacher used for hitting naughty boys. Both of us were caned on several occasions.

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Well, I wasn’t very academic at all, really, and I was very bad at maths. Luckily for me, I was really good at sport and that’s the only reason they accepted me at Wellington. I was in the school rugby team, and I also played tennis. I played at Wimbledon once, in the junior tournament, and I got through to the second round.

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Although I was good at sport, I never really considered taking it up professionally. Once I left Wellington, I wanted to become an actor and I didn’t play nearly as much sport when I left school.

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Yes, my favorite teacher was Mr. Storr, head of the school tennis team, and also my English teacher. One day, when I was 14 or 15, I had to read in class. After the class, he said to me, ‘The way you read suggests you might enjoy acting. Would you consider playing Macbeth in the school play?’ That was the beginning of my acting career, and I’ve never looked back since.

Question True / False

1. David Suchet thinks it's important to work together with others.

* True
* False

2. He loved his first school.

* True
* False

3. David and his brother always used to behave well.

* True
* False

4. In the past the head teacher could hit people with a stick.

* True
* False

5. David didn't use to be very good at studying.

* True
* False

6. He only got into Wellington because he was good at sport.

* True
* False

7. David wanted to be a tennis player when he left school.

* True
* False

8. Mr. Storr taught maths and coached the tennis team.

* True
* False

