

# Summer Reading Assignment:

## Composition and Literature 9 and Honors Composition and Literature 9

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

### DIRECTIONS

Please purchase a copy of the novel with the following ISBN: 9780062073488. As you read, make notes in the margins of anything that is interesting or confusing. Highlight or circle words with which you are unfamiliar.

Complete the following assignment and bring it with your copy of the novel to class on the first day of school. Please answer in complete sentences, writing legibly with correct spelling and observing the conventions of Standard English.

### Ch. 1-3

1. Who is U.N. Owen? List three things that the reader learns about this person in the novel's opening pages.
2. Where and when does the story take place? Describe the primary setting of the island in as much detail as possible.
3. List the names and professions of the ten guests who have been invited to the island.
4. Vera Claythorne finds a poem on the mantel. Give two details to *describe the poem*.

5. In chapter 3, the ten guests are gathered for their after-dinner coffee when suddenly, an “inhuman, penetrating” voice begins to speak to them, one which has been prerecorded on a phonograph record. What exactly does the voice accuse each guest of doing? List each guest’s name and the accusation he faces.

Ch. 4-5

6. How do Wargrave’s comments and Armstrong’s recollection of the Seton trial somehow conflict?
7. What does Lombard have to say about the actions of which he is accused? What does this reveal about his **character**?
8. What is Marston’s revelation regarding his accusation?
9. Who dies at the end of chapter 4? How?
10. Irony is defined as a discrepancy between what is expected and reality. Review the victim’s last words, and explain the **irony** of this particular murder, given these final comments.

11. In part 5 of chapter 5, Christie writes of General MacArthur: "He knew, suddenly, that he didn't want to leave this island." Why do you think he knows this? Provide as many reasons as you can. What inner conflicts do you perceive? What is his state of mind?

Ch. 6-7

12. How does Emily Brent respond to the news of Mrs. Rogers' death? What does this reveal about her **character**?

13. How does Mrs. Rogers die in chapter 6?

14. Why does Mr. Blore immediately suspect that Mrs. Rogers was killed by her husband, the butler? Explain Mr. Blore's accusation, pointing out its strengths and shortcomings.

15. What information does Emily Brent share with Vera Claythorne about Beatrice Taylor's death?

16. In part 3 of chapter 7, Mr. Lombard and Dr. Armstrong discuss the two deaths that have occurred thus far. Why do they conclude that both deaths must have been acts of murder?

17. Why do Mr. Lombard and Dr. Armstrong then agree to enlist Mr. Blore in their search mission? What and where do they plan to search?

Ch. 8-9

18. Reread the last sentence of chapter 8. Identify the possible as well as the inevitable implications of this last sentence---for the plot of this novel and the fate of its characters.

19. What sort of threshold has been crossed, and how is the story different from this point on?

20. After the murdered body of General Macarthur is discovered, the seven remaining characters to participate in an informal yet serious court session to “establish the facts” of what has transpired since their arrival at Indian Island. Who is the leader of this parlor-room inquest and does the appointment seem fitting? Why or why not?

21. How do the other six characters react to this leader’s questions and conclusions?  
How do they react to each other’s accusations?

22. In your view, who seems most likely to be guilty at this point in the narrative? Who seems most likely to be innocent?

Ch. 10-11

23. In part 1 of Chapter 10, Vera Claythorne and Lombard discuss their ideas concerning the identity of the murderer. Who do they conclude is the most likely candidate? Why?

24. While the group makes every attempt to live with a normal routine, what does Emily Brent’s diary entry reveal about how the stress may be affecting them?

25. Who has gone missing at the start of Chapter 11, and how has this character met his demise?

26. What connection does Vera Claythorne make regarding the murders and the poem?

27. What does Blore confess to Lombard about the crime he is accused of committing?

#### Ch. 12-13

28. What items are discovered missing?

29. What is the purpose of the search undertaken?

30. What does Vera Claythorne discover while in the bathtub?

31. Describe the final death in Chapter 13.

#### Ch. 14-15

32. A **red herring** is a false clue. What has been the **red herring** in the novel? How has it led the characters and the reader astray?

33. How is the poem involved in the death of Blore?

34. Who is found on the rocks on the shore?

Ch. 16-Epilogue-Scotland Yard manuscript

35. How accurate was your hypothesis on the identity of the murderer? Who had you considered was responsible for the murders and what was the motive you had in mind for their actions?

36. How do the facts of the case come to light?

37. Which character is the mastermind behind the murders, and how did s/he carry out the plot?

38. What are the motives of this character?

39. List all ten characters and their individual motives for the crimes they are accused of committing.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** *Write your responses to the following questions in preparation for class discussion on these topics.*

40. Discuss the role of justice in the novel. Do the characters get what they deserve? Why or why not?

41. What is Christie's commentary on the effects of guilt? How do each of the characters respond to the effects of guilt in their own lives?

42. Consider how group psychology is portrayed in the novel. Which scenes show how events or ideas are altered or influenced by how the characters interact with one another?

43. Compare how the initial tone of the poem contrasts with the way the poem is perceived by the characters as the novel progresses.

## VOCABULARY

Please be familiar with the following words in preparation for the unit test.

You may access these words and definitions in a set on the class Quizlet page by entering this url and requesting to join the class: [https://quizlet.com/\\_2ftcep](https://quizlet.com/_2ftcep)

### Chapter 1

1. arrogant
2. deportment

### Chapter 2

3. disparagingly
4. surreptitious
5. luscious

### Chapter 3

6. caustic
7. naïve
8. adroit
9. indictment
10. forage
11. impromptu
12. verisimilitude

### Chapter 4

13. credentials
14. entice
15. exonerate
16. epistolary
17. iniquitous
18. reconnaissance
19. acquittal

### Chapter 5

20. capricious
21. hypocrite
22. shun
23. decorous

### Chapter 6

24. taboo
25. consent
26. oblique

### Chapter 7

27. acquiesce
28. condone
29. waver
30. feasible

### Chapter 8

31. proxy
32. absurd
33. aversion
34. impudent

### Chapter 9

35. perjury
36. eloquent
37. noncommittal
38. discourse
39. recrimination

### Chapter 10

40. tenacious

### Chapter 11

41. affably

### Chapter 12

42. conclave
43. recoil

### Chapter 13

44. wary
45. tacit

### Chapter 14

46. inquest
47. sagacity

### Chapter 15

48. obstinate

### Epilogue

49. scrupulous
50. consequent