



This guide was prepared using the St. Martin's Press edition, ©1966. Other editions may differ.

## Synopsis

### Chapter 1

Eight of the ten main characters are traveling to Indian Island, where they have all been invited. They know only that the island is located off the Devon Coast of England. The island has recently received much publicity because no one is sure who owns it. Finally, none of the guests knows why they have been invited. Readers first meet Justice Wargrave, a retired judge. Next comes Vera Claythorne, hired by a Una Nancy Owen to be her personal secretary. Philip Lombard, a former captain, has been paid to spend a week on the island. His duties have not been specified. Then comes Emily Brent, a rigid and judgmental sixty-five year-old. General MacArthur, retired from the army, has been invited by Mr. Owen, a stranger to him. Dr. Armstrong, a successful physician, has been summoned by Mr. Owen to check on his wife's health. Tony Marston, a handsome young man, drives to Devon in his sports car. Mr. Blore, traveling by train, plans to lie and introduce himself as a rich South African.

### Chapter 2

When the guests arrive in Devon, Fred Narracott takes them by a small skiff to Indian Island. The ninth character, the butler Mr. Rogers, greets them and mentions the tenth character, his wife the housekeeper. The guests go to their rooms before dinner. Vera Claythorne finds a framed nursery rhyme of "Ten Little Indians" in her room. It describes how ten Indians are killed one by one and thus foreshadows the plot.

Dr. Armstrong considers Wargrave's reputation as a shrewd judge. Marston takes a bath and looks for-

ward to the comforts of food and drink. Blore muses about the secret job he has been hired to do on the island. MacArthur feels odd and wants to leave Indian Island but cannot since the skiff has left. Lombard makes plans to enjoy his free vacation. Emily Brent reads her Bible.

### Chapter 3

The guests enjoy a superb gourmet dinner and laugh about how each room has the "Ten Little Indians" poem. They are further amused by the centerpiece of ten china Indian figurines.

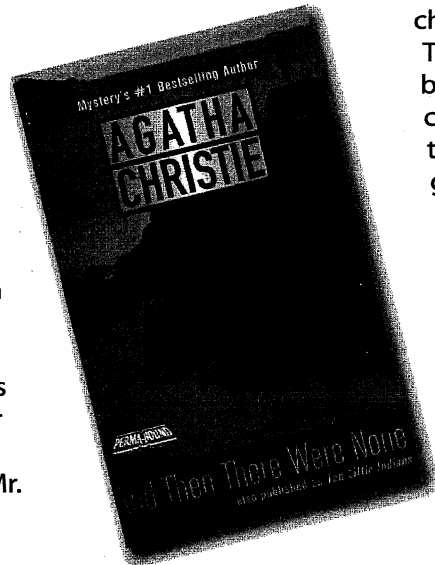
The mood shatters when a disembodied voice accuses each guest of committing murder. Badly shaken, they discover that the voice was a gramophone recording, played by Rogers on order from his unknown employer, Mr. Owen. Blore reveals his true identity and explains his mission. The guests discover that no one has met Mr. Owen and conclude that he does not exist. His name stands for "Unknown." Everyone is very upset.

### Chapter 4

The guests proclaim their innocence in the murders, except Lombard, who admits that he left a group of natives to starve to death. Everyone but Marston wants to leave the island in the morning. Seconds later, Marston drops dead, apparently from choking on his drink.

### Chapter 5

Armstrong discovers poison, potassium cyanide, in Marston's glass. The guests assume that Marston killed himself and retire to their rooms. Rogers finds one china figurine is missing. Each guest thinks about what has happened and his or her past crime. Each guest could be the current murderer.



**Chapter 6**

Mrs. Rogers is the second person killed. When Fred Narracott's boat does not arrive in the morning, the guests realize that they are marooned. They begin to view each other with suspicion. There are now only eight china Indians.

**Chapter 7**

Emily Brent tells Vera Claythorne the details of her case: When Beatrice Taylor, an unmarried woman working for her became pregnant, Brent banished her for immorality. The destitute girl committed suicide, but Brent refuses to accept any responsibility. Armstrong and Lombard agree that foul play is involved in the two murders.

**Chapter 8**

Suspicious grow. Armstrong, Lombard, and Blore search the island. Lombard has a gun, so they feel relatively safe. They meet General Macarthur and suspect that he is insane and might be the murderer. Meanwhile, Vera Claythorne speaks to the General, who admits that he had his wife's lover murdered. Lonely, he is eager to die. The search party discovers that the island is deserted except for the eight of them.

**Chapter 9**

Lombard, Armstrong, and Blore accuse each other of being the murderer. Armstrong discovers that the General is dead from a blow to the head. Only seven Indian figures remain on the table. Wargrave leads everyone on a discussion of the facts. They agree that the murderer must be one of them, a turning point in the plot.

**Chapter 10**

Vera Claythorne and Philip Lombard decide they can't be the murderers. Rogers tells Blore he thinks he knows the killer's identity, but Blore won't identify his own suspect. Armstrong and the Justice discuss how to protect themselves. The Justice says he may know who the killer is, but won't give a name. Emily Brent writes in her diary that Beatrice Taylor is the killer, and thinks she is losing her mind. The bathroom curtain is missing.

**Chapter 11**

The next morning, they find Rogers dead, killed with an ax. Only six Indian figures remain on the table. Vera Claythorne becomes hysterical and reminds everyone of the rhyme. The doctor strikes her to calm her hysteria, and she and Emily make

breakfast. Blore and Lombard believe they will survive, but the others will not.

**Chapter 12**

The remaining characters grow increasingly suspicious of each other. Miss Brent dies from an injection of poison. Since Armstrong is the only one who brought syringes, the other four characters immediately suspect him. They locate and lock up all the dangerous objects. Lombard's gun is missing, but it turns up later.

**Chapter 13**

The surviving characters agree to stay together in the drawing room, with only one person leaving at a time. Standing in the kitchen, they eat lunch out of cans, showing they are becoming less civilized. In her room, Vera Claythorne smells the sea and recalls letting Cyril, the little boy she baby-sat, drown. She feels a wet hand on her throat and screams. The men rescue her. They find seaweed hanging from the ceiling, which Vera had mistaken for a human hand. They realize the Justice did not run up with them. He is shot dead, wearing the missing bathroom curtain like a judge's robe and Miss Brent's missing wool on his head like a judge's wig.

**Chapter 14**

The four surviving characters eat dinner from cans and bolt themselves into their rooms. Vera Claythorne lies awake remembering Hugo, the man she loved, and how she let Cyril, his nephew, drown. Blore tries to think methodically, but instead thinks of Landor, the man he helped sentence to prison through his false testimony. Blore hears footsteps and investigates. Seeing a figure slip out of the house, he seeks out the others and finds that only Armstrong is missing. They find a broken window and only three Indian figures on the table, but not Armstrong.

**Chapter 15**

In the morning, Lombard, Blore, and Vera look outside, but still can't find the doctor. Lombard and Vera hear a crash and discover Blore smashed under a large marble clock. Lombard and Vera find Armstrong's drowned body. Vera seizes Lombard's revolver and shoots him dead in the chest. Vera returns to her room, where she finds a noose hanging from the ceiling and a chair for her to stand on. Obsessed with her guilt in the child's death, she

drops the last china Indian figure she had brought from downstairs and hangs herself. Since all ten characters are dead, who was the murderer?

**Epilogue**

Assistant Commissioner Legge and Inspector Maine arrive on Indian Island to investigate the ten deaths, but cannot solve the case.

*A Manuscript Document Sent to Scotland Yard by the Master of the Emma Jane, Fishing Trawler.* A fishing boat finds Justice Wargrave's confession. In the letter, the Justice explains that he decided to kill people and located people who had committed a murder or contributed to someone's death but had eluded the law. Wargrave's tenth victim (excluding himself), was the man he hired to arrange the island's logistics, Isaac Morris. Wargrave gave Morris a poison capsule, telling him it would cure his indigestion.

After describing how he killed each victim, Wargrave reveals that he had hidden Lombard's revolver in a kitchen drawer. He then returned it, knowing the remaining characters would use it against each other. Wargrave also reveals how he lured Dr. Armstrong into a pact to find the real killer. Together, they made it appear that Wargrave was dead, but he was not. Wargrave then double-crossed Armstrong and remained alive and hidden to kill the remaining characters or make sure they killed themselves.

Wargrave is terminally ill. After his plan was completed, Wargrave shot himself but made his suicide look like murder.

**Timeline of the History of Great Britain**

- 1901** Queen Victoria dies.  
Marconi makes the first transatlantic air-wave transmission of a message in Morse code.
- 1902** Agatha Christie born.
- 1914** World War I begins.
- 1916** Easter uprising in Ireland.
- 1918** All men over 21 and women over 30 enfranchised.
- 1919** Treaty of Versailles ends World War I.
- 1922** Irish Free State established.  
James Joyce writes *Ulysses*.

- T.S. Eliot writes *The Waste Land*.
- 1926** Gertrude Ederle swims the English Channel.
- 1928** Alexander Fleming invents penicillin.
- 1932** Imperial Airways offers services to Singapore and the Cape in 32 separate stops.
- 1935** John Maynard Keynes issues his new economic theory.
- 1936** King Edward VIII abdicates.  
  
The BBC starts the first continuous television service.
- 1938** Chamberlain announces "Peace in our time" and cedes Czech territory to Hitler at Munich.
- 1939** World War II begins in Europe.  
  
*And Then There Were None* published.
- 1940** Battle of Britain
- 1944** D-Day invasion
- 1945** World War II ends.
- 1946** Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech.
- 1949** George Orwell publishes *1984*.
- 1951** Winston Churchill reelected Prime Minister of Great Britain.
- 1952** Princess Elizabeth becomes Queen. She is 25 years old.
- 1954** Britain sponsors an expedition to search for the Abominable Snowman.
- 1955** Warsaw Pact signed.
- 1971** London Bridge brought to the U.S.  
United Kingdom changes to decimal system for currency.
- 1976** Agatha Christie dies.
- 1979** Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain.

## Author Sketch

Agatha Christie is the most famous modern mystery writer in the world and one of the best-selling authors ever. Her eighty mysteries and collections have sold an astonishing two billion copies and have been translated into over 100 languages. Her novels still sell twenty-five million copies a year. Many of her novels have been recast as television shows and plays as well.



Christie was born in 1890 in Devon, England, and died in 1976 in Wallingford, England. Educated privately at home, she studied singing and piano in Paris. She married Colonel Archibald Christie in 1914; they divorced in 1928. In 1930, Christie married Max Mallowan, an archaeologist. Christie served as a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse in a Red Cross hospital in Torquay during World War I, and worked in the dispensary of University College Hospital, London, during World War II. Christie also assisted her second husband on archeological excavations in Iraq and Syria and in the Assyrian cities.

Speaking of her start as a writer, Christie said: "It was my mother who told me to write. She was a woman of great charm and great character, and was always convinced that her children could do anything! I was in bed with a bad cold and she said, 'You'd better write a short story. Nonsense, don't say you can't! Of course you can!'"

*The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, published in 1920, launched Christie's publishing career. Although the novel only sold around two thousand copies and earned Christie a mere seventy dollars, the publication encouraged her to continue writing mysteries. It took only six years and the publication of *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* for Christie to rocket to fame. The clever plot twist (the murderer is a character traditionally above suspicion in mystery novels) astonished and captivated readers. *The New York Times* wrote: "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd cannot be too highly praised for its clean-cut construction, its unusually plausible explanation at the end,

and its ability to stimulate the analytical faculties of the reader."

While Christie's mystery novels featuring Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple are world-famous, her relatively small output of plays has set equally impressive records. To date, she is the only playwright to have had three plays running simultaneously on London's West End while another of her plays was running on Broadway. Christie's *The Mousetrap* is the longest-running play in theatrical history. It has been translated into 22 languages, performed in 44 countries, and been seen by an estimated eight million people.

## Critic's Corner

Agatha Christie is one of the most decorated writers in modern history. She received the Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America in 1954, a New York Drama Critics' Circle Award in 1955 for *Witness for the Prosecution*, and was named a Commander of the British Empire in 1956. She was also awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Exeter in 1961.

Upon Christie's death in 1976, Max Lowenthal of the *New York Times* published this appraisal of her career: "Dame Agatha's forté was supremely adroit plotting and sharp, believable characterization (even the names she used usually rang true). Her style and rhetoric were not remarkable; her writing was almost invariably sound and workmanlike, without pretense or flourish. Her characters were likely to be of the middle-middle class or upper-middle class, and there were certain archetypes, such as the crass American or the stuffy retired army officer now in his anecdotage. However familiar all this might be, the reader would turn the pages mesmerized as unexpected twist piled on unexpected twist until, in the end, he was taken by surprise. There was simply no outguessing Poirot or Miss Marple—or Agatha Christie."

Further, the passage of time has not diminished Christie's reputation. She remains, according to H. R. F. Keating in his article for the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, "a towering figure in the history of crime literature."

*And Then There Were None* is ranked as one of

Christie's masterpieces. Speaking of the novel, Ralph Partridge of *New Statesman* said: "Apart from one little dubious proceeding there is no cheating; the reader is just bamboozled in a straightforward way from first to last. To show her utter superiority over our deductive faculty, from time to time Mrs. Christie even allows us to know what every character present is thinking and still we can't guess!"

## Other Books by Agatha Christie

### Mystery Novels

*The Secret Adversary* (1922)  
*The Man in the Brown Suit* (1924)  
*The Secret of Chimneys* (1925)  
*The Seven Dials Mystery* (1929)  
*The Murder at Hazelmoor* (1931)  
*Why Didn't They Ask Evans?* (1934)  
*Easy to Kill* (1939)  
*Ten Little Niggers* (1939) published as *And Then There Were None* (1940), published as *Ten Little Indians* (1965)  
*N or M?: A New Mystery* (1941)  
*Death Comes as the End* (1944)  
*Towards Zero* (1944)  
*Remembered Death* (1945)  
*The Crooked House* (1949)  
*They Came to Baghdad* (1951)  
*Destination Unknown* (1954)  
*Ordeal by Innocence* (1958)  
*The Pale Horse* (1961)  
*Endless Night* (1967)  
*By the Pricking of My Thumbs* (1968)  
*Passenger to Frankfurt* (1970)  
*Postern of Fate* (1973)  
*Murder on Board* (1974)  
 (With others) *The Scoop*, and *Behind the Scenes* (1983)

### Novels Featuring Hercule Poirot

*The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920)  
*The Murder on the Links* (1923)  
*The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926)  
*The Big Four* (1927)  
*The Mystery of the Blue Train* (1928)  
*Peril at End House* (1932)  
*Thirteen at Dinner* (1933)  
*Murder in Three Acts* (1934)  
*Murder on the Calais Coach* (1934)  
*Death in the Air* (1935)  
*The A. B. C. Murders* (1936)  
*Cards on the Table*, Collins (1936)  
*Murder in Mesopotamia* (1936)

*Poirot Loses a Client* (1937)  
*Death on the Nile* (1937).  
*Appointment with Death, Peril at End House* (1938).  
*Hercule Poirot's Christmas* (1938)  
*One, Two, Buckle My Shoe* (1940)  
*Sad Cypress* (1940)  
*Evil under the Sun* (1941)  
*Murder in Retrospect* (1942)  
*The Hollow* (1946)  
*There Is a Tide ...* (1948)  
*Mrs. McGinty's Dead* (1952)  
*Hickory, Dickory, Death* (1955)  
*Dead Man's Folly* (1956)  
*Cat Among the Pigeons* (1959)  
*The Clocks* (1963)  
*Third Girl* (1966)  
*Hallowe'en Party* (1969)  
*Elephants Can Remember* (1972)  
*Curtain: Hercule Poirot's Last Case* (1975).

Agatha Christie also wrote novels featuring Miss Jane Marple, short story collections, collections of her works, plays, radio plays, poems, and an autobiography. The most famous plays include:

- *Ten Little Indians* produced on Broadway in 1944
- *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* produced as *Alibi* in London in 1928
- The short story "Philomel Cottage" produced as *Love from a Stranger* in London in 1936
- *Peril at End House* produced in London in 1940
- *Murder at the Vicarage* produced in London in 1949

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### General Objectives

1. To understand life in England in the 1930s
2. To explore the conventions of the mystery story
3. To appreciate the author's craft
4. To solve a baffling mystery
5. To understand the novel's title
6. To analyze the concept of "justice"
7. To analyze each character
8. To see how each character's appearance is misleading
9. To analyze the story's mood
10. To isolate examples of irony

## Specific Objectives

1. To understand the British class system
2. To examine how Christie builds tension and suspense
3. To decide who might be the murderer and why
4. To see how the nursery rhyme foreshadows each murder
5. To analyze how the characters lose their veneer of civilization
6. To understand the corrosive effects of guilt
7. To catch the "red herrings," the misleading clues
8. To analyze Wargrave's motives
9. To evaluate the theme of taking justice in your own hands
10. To identify the novel's structure, especially its climax

## Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Agatha Christie's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

**foreshadowing** hints about events to come. Authors use foreshadowing to create tension and suspense. Christie uses a great deal of foreshadowing to set the mysterious tone. This is evident from the very first chapter, for instance, when the odd elderly man warns Mr. Blore that the judgment day is close at hand.

**theme** the author's message about life. *And Then There Were None* has several major themes. First is the theme of taking justice into your own hands. Justice Wargrave uses this as the rationale for his murders. Another theme is the corrosive effects of guilt. Each character has committed a crime and most of the characters are tortured by guilt as a result. This is especially true for General Macarthur and Vera Claythorne. A third theme is the contrast between appearance and reality. All the people on Indian Island, including the servants Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, appear to be upright and balanced, but each holds a terrible secret. Further, Justice Wargrave is a madman intent on murdering the others.

**mood (or atmosphere)** the strong feeling we get from a literary work. The mood is created by characterization, description, images, and dialogue. Some possible moods include terror, horror, and tension. The mood of *And Then There Were None* is suspenseful and thrilling. The tension and suspense gradually increase with each turning point in the plot, especially when readers realize that the murderer must be one of the guests.

## The Importance of Setting

Except for a brief introduction and conclusion, the majority of the action takes place on Indian Island, a small island off the English coast of Devon. It is purely fictional; no such island exists. The island can barely be seen from the coast, and is unreachable by boat when the weather is rough. Except for a small skiff that brings supplies each morning, the island is totally isolated from the mainland. There is no telephone.

The house on Indian Island is modern and luxurious, stocked with food and liquor. The island has little else to offer, however. There are no amenities, not even a sandy beach, golf course, or ancient ruins. Its isolation and lack of distractions make Indian Island the perfect setting for a mystery.

## Cross-Curricular Sources

### Fiction

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 Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*  
 Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*  
 Michael Connelly, *Blood Work*  
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 Robert Goddard, *Beyond Recall*  
 Sue Grafton, *F Is for Fugitive*  
 P.D. James, *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman*  
 P.D. James, *A Taste for Death*  
 J. Wallis Martin, *A Likeness in Stone*  
 Ruth Rendell, *A Judgment in Stone*  
 Domenic Stansberry, *The Last Days of Il Duce*  
 Bram Stoker, *Dracula*  
 Rex Stout, *Too Many Cooks*

**Videos and DVDs**

*The 39 Steps* (1935)  
*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1939)  
*Anatomy of a Murder* (1959)  
*The Big Sleep* (1946)  
*Charade* (1963)  
*Chinatown* (1974)  
*The Maltese Falcon* (1941)  
*Memento* (2000)  
*North by Northwest* (1959)  
*Rear Window* (1954)  
*Rebecca* (1940)  
*The Sixth Sense* (1999)  
*The Thin Man* (1934)  
*The Usual Suspects* (1995)  
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**Themes and Motifs**

**Themes**

- dreams
- guilt
- Indians
- isolation
- justice
- madness
- murder
- mystery
- secrets
- strangers

**Motifs**

- ascertaining who is mad and who is sane
- coping with fear and panic
- dealing with the corrosive effects of guilt
- determining “red herrings,” false clues
- distinguishing between appearance and reality
- paying for your crimes
- understanding the significance of the mark on Justice Wargrave’s forehead
- considering the effect of the storm
- taking justice in your own hands
- understanding the British class system

**Meaning Study**

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. Ten little Indian boys went out to dine; One choked his little self and then there were nine. (p. 31)  
*(Vera Claythorne is bemused to find this childhood rhyme on the wall. Her amusement soon turns to terror, however, as people are killed in ways that mirror the rhyme. Thus, the rhyme serves as a foreshadowing device to increase the novel's suspense and tension.)*
2. There was a silence—a comfortable replete silence. Into that silence came The Voice. Without warning, inhuman, penetrating... “Ladies and gentlemen! Silence, please!... You are charged with the following indictments.” (p. 42)  
*(With the mysterious voice, the pleasant mood of the elegant dinner shatters and the mystery unfolds. The voice describes each person's crime and introduces their guilt. Readers now know that each person has done something horrible.)*
3. Each time, that is to say, U.N. Owen. Or by a slight stretch of fancy, UNKNOWN!” (p. 56)  
*(Justice Wargrave reveals that their host is “unknown.” The Justice claims that the host is therefore a madman. This is the first clue that the Justice is either a very clever man or will somehow be involved in the murders himself.)*



4. "There's a rum go! I could have sworn there were ten of them." (p. 74)  
*(After the first murder, Mr. Rogers notices that one of the china figurines has vanished. As the plot builds, a figurine will disappear each time someone is murdered. This seemingly silly detail comes to have highly ominous overtones.)*
5. That's the meaning of the whole business. We're not going to leave the island...None of us will ever leave...It's the end, you see—the end of everything..." (p. 93)  
*(General Macarthur is hysterical and unhinged in this passage, but what he says does indeed come to pass: all ten people will die. His panic heightens the tense mood even more.)*
6. "Mr. Owen could only come to the island in one way. It is perfectly clear. Mr. Owen is one of us." (p. 135)  
*(Justice Wargrave concludes that one of the group must be the murderer. He is correct. By making the murderer a judge and having him draw all the conclusions, Christie simultaneously provides the clues that the reader needs to solve the mystery and throws the reader off the track, because we would expect the judge to be clever but never to be a murderer.)*
7. Dr. Armstrong ... raised the wig. It fell to the floor, revealing the high bald forehead with, in the very middle, a round stained mark from which something had trickled ." (p. 202)  
*(It appears that the Justice has been shot and killed. However, as readers learn at the end of the novel, the Justice had enlisted Dr. Armstrong's aid to fake his murder. It is a brilliant "red herring.")*
8. "I know who did it...Well, I was wrong. Here's one more of us who's been proved innocent—too late!" (p. 203)  
*(In this highly ironic scene, Lombard asserts that he had been sure that Wargrave was the murderer, but since he is dead, he must be innocent. As readers learn at the end, however, the Justice was indeed the murderer. Ironically, it is too late for Lombard, but not for the Justice.)*
9. "I have wanted ... to commit a murder myself. I recognized this as the desire of the artist to express himself!" (p. 263)

*(In a letter discovered after his death, the Justice explains his motivation for killing his victims. Readers see that he is extremely clever—but also extremely mad. We also see how carefully Christie has constructed her plot. As a result, the events and the Justice's explanation make perfect sense.)*

10. In all this, I have assumed that the mystery of Indian Island will remain unsolved. (p. 274)  
*(Indeed, had the Justice not written his letter, the mystery would have remained unsolved. The novel's intricate but logical plot makes the novel one of Christie's most clever stories and a classic of the genre.)*

### Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. When and where does the story take place?  
*(The story takes place on a small island off the Devon Coast, Great Britain, in the 1930s.)*
2. What do the names U.N. Owen, Una Nancy Owen, and Ulick Norman Owen really mean?  
*(They all stand for "Unknown." No one knows the identity of their host on the island.)*
3. What crime did Dr. Armstrong commit?  
*(He operated on a patient while he was drunk. As a result, the patient died.)*
4. How does Vera Claythorne die?  
*(She hangs herself.)*
5. Who commits all the murders? Why?  
*(Justice Wargrave commits the murders because he saw himself as being an artist in crime. He is insane.)*

#### Questions 6-9 (Interpretative Level)

6. How are all the characters in the novel the same?  
*(They have all committed a crime. The crimes are all difficult to prove and every character has*

*either been exonerated or the crimes never discovered.)*

7. How does guilt affect each character?  
*(Christie shows how all the characters feel guilty about their crimes to greater or lesser degrees. General Macarthur and Dr. Armstrong feel the most guilty; Tony Marston and Emily Brent feel the least guilty. The characters who live the longest feel the most guilty and their guilt blunts their instinct for survival.)*
8. What is Dr. Armstrong's character flaw?  
*(He is a poor judge of character and too trusting. This leads him to be ensnared in the Justice's plot.)*
9. What do the meals and the food served symbolize?  
*(At the beginning of the novel, the characters enjoy a sumptuous, highly elegant meal. By the end of the novel, however, they are wolfing meals from cans. This symbolizes the characters' decline from civilized people to little more than animals concerned with survival.)*

**Questions 10 and 11 (Critical Level)**

10. Did you find the ending believable? Why or why not?  
*(Yes, because the clues showing the Justice's guilt were carefully planted throughout the novel; No, because someone would have noticed that the Justice was breathing when he was supposedly dead.)*
11. What effect does Christie achieve by using the nursery rhyme and the ten china figurines of Indians?  
*(These seemingly childish motifs give the novel a chilling tone that greatly adds to the tense, suspenseful mood.)*

**Questions 12-13 (Creative Level)**

12. Working with ten classmates, create a new, early scene in the novel when everyone realizes that they are trapped on the island.
13. Create an alternate ending for the novel, in which a different character committed the murders.

## Across the Curriculum

### Language Arts

1. Read another novel by Agatha Christie. Compare and contrast it to *And Then There Were None*. Show how they are the same and different.
2. You learned that the novel's title has been changed several times. Create a new title for the novel and explain how your title best fits the plot, mood, and characters.
3. Choose any two characters. In an essay, describe how they deal with the horror of the other guests being murdered and the danger that they face.
4. Using one of the characters and the setting, write a brief mystery story of your own. See if you can stump your classmates!
5. Create a character sketch of the Judge. What character flaws made him kill nine people?
6. Critics praised the novel's intricate plotting and innovative technique, noting that Christie added new twists to the mystery genre. In an essay, describe the two plot twists that you enjoyed the most and believe are the most innovative.

### Drama/Speech

1. Suppose that Justice Wargrave did not have a fatal disease and did not die in the end of the novel. Working as a class, put him on trial for his crimes.
2. Deliver a speech about the effects of guilt. What positive effects can guilt have?
3. Enact an especially suspenseful scene, such as the one where the small group of survivors finds the Judge's body.
4. Watch a film version of the novel. Versions were produced in 1945, 1959, 1965, 1974, 1987, and 1989. In a speech, describe whether you preferred the film or the novel.

5. Choose the character you think committed the worst crime. Explain your reasons to a small group of classmates.
6. Create a glossary of British English words, such as cheque for the American word "check."

**Art/Music**

1. Locate musical adaptations of the novel, such as the song by the "Yardbirds" or the song by the German band "Die Toten Hosen." Then write a song based on the novel's plot.
2. Design a poster for a movie version of *And Then There Were None*.
3. In 2005, the novel was adapted as a video game. Create your own video game version of *And Then There Were None*.
4. Choose a dramatic scene and select background music. Play the music for the class as you read the scene.
5. Make a map of the island. Show each landmark described in the novel.

**Geography/History**

1. The novel was first published in England as *Ten Little Niggers*. The book was renamed *And Then There Were None*, from the closing line of the nursery rhyme, for publication in the U.S. Research the social climate in England in the 1930s and people's attitudes back then towards minorities.
2. Christie includes several anti-Semitic slurs, including this one from page 128: "As a matter of fact I was approached by a little Jewboy—Morris his name was." Find out about anti-Semitism in Great Britain in the 1930s and today. How do these attitudes relate to the current British attitudes toward immigration?
3. Find out more about Agatha Christie's life. Share your results in a web page or poster.
4. Make a booklet about the Devon coast, the novel's setting.

5. Some of the characters, such as Constance Culmington, have royal titles. Research the British royal ranks.

**Science/Math**

1. Armstrong is a physician. Find out what education and training are required for someone to become a doctor in America.
2. Suppose you were having ten house guests for week. Make a shopping list of the food and supplies that you would need. Calculate the total cost.
3. Dr. Armstrong kills a patient because he is inebriated. Make a chart showing the amount of alcohol it takes for people ages 15-21 to be considered legally drunk. Include males and females of different weights and body types.
4. Tony Marston kills two people because he is speeding. His license was revoked for a year. Make a poster to help prevent reckless driving.
5. Great Britain uses the euro. On a chart, show the current exchange rate for the euro against the dollar.

**Alternate Assessment**

1. Make a diorama of a key chapter in the novel.
2. Make a character list and explain what function each character serves in the novel.
3. Imagine that you were producing a movie version of *And Then There Were None*. Cast the main characters.
4. Write a critical review of the novel for publication in the school newspaper.

### Vocabulary

Write a synonym (word that means the same) and an antonym (word that means the opposite) for each of the following words from *And Then There Were None*. Try to write more than one synonym and antonym for each vocabulary word.

<b>Vocabulary Word</b>	<b>Synonym</b>	<b>Antonym</b>
1. arrogant	_____	_____
2. lax	_____	_____
3. cronies	_____	_____
4. assent	_____	_____
5. shrewd	_____	_____
6. malevolence	_____	_____
7. hussy	_____	_____
8. pious	_____	_____
9. cordial	_____	_____
10. illegible	_____	_____
11. clarity	_____	_____
12. swarm	_____	_____
13. competent	_____	_____
14. monotonous	_____	_____
15. caustic	_____	_____

## Comprehension Test A

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match the person to his or her crime. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Justice Wargrave  | A. framed a man named Landor   |
| ___ 2. Vera Claythorne   | B. sent his wife's lover to his death during WW I                                    |
| ___ 3. Philip Lombard    | C. allegedly peddled drugs to a young woman and drove her to suicide                 |
| ___ 4. Emily Brent       | D. killed all the other characters   |
| ___ 5. General Macarthur | E. killed his former employer to inherit money from her                              |
| ___ 6. Dr. Armstrong     | F. fired an unmarried pregnant servant who then committed suicide                    |
| ___ 7. Mr. Rogers        | G. killed a small boy in her care so the man she loved would inherit the boy's money |
| ___ 8. Mr. Blore         | H. drove recklessly, killing people  |
| ___ 9. Tony Marston      | I. killed a patient by operating while drunk   |
| ___ 10. Isaac Morris     | J. left natives to die while working as a mercenary soldier in Africa                |

### Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements T if they are true or F if they are false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Indian Island is located off the coast of Florida in America.
- \_\_\_ 2. All of the guests know exactly why they have been invited to Indian Island.
- \_\_\_ 3. A disembodied voice accuses each guest of having committed murder.
- \_\_\_ 4. Isaac Morris is the first to die, apparently from choking on his drink.
- \_\_\_ 5. The guests discover that no one has met Mr. Owen and conclude that he does not exist.
- \_\_\_ 6. Mrs. Rogers is the second person killed.
- \_\_\_ 7. After several murders, the characters agree that the murderer must be one of them.
- \_\_\_ 8. Vera Claythorne dies from drowning, after having swallowed some seaweed.
- \_\_\_ 9. The police arrive on Indian Island and investigate the ten deaths, but cannot solve the case.
- \_\_\_ 10. Wargrave is terminally ill. After his plan was completed, Wargrave shot himself but made his suicide look like murder.

**Comprehension Test A (Page 2)**

**Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)**

Explain the significance of each quotation in the novel.

1. Ten little Indian boys went out to dine; One choked his little self and then there were nine.

---

2. There was a silence—a comfortable replete silence. Into that silence came The Voice. Without warning, inhuman, penetrating...“Ladies and gentlemen! Silence, please!...You are charged with the following indictments.”

---

3. That’s the meaning of the whole business. We’re not going to leave the island...None of us will ever leave...It’s the end, you see—the end of everything...”

---

4. “Mr. Owen could only come to the island in one way. It is perfectly clear. Mr. Owen is one of us.”

---

5. I was, or could be, an artist in crime!

---

**Part IV: Essay (40 points)**

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain how any two murders fit the nursery rhyme.
2. Argue that Justice Wargrave is or is not insane.
3. Discuss how the novel explores the different ways that people define “justice.”
4. Trace how Christie used foreshadowing to create suspense and keep readers on the edge of their seat.

## Comprehension Test B

### Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the word or phrase that best completes each of the following statements.

1. When the novel opens, eight of the ten main characters are traveling to **(Nantucket Island, Indian Island)**, where they have all been invited.
2. All over the house the guests find framed copies of the children's rhyme ("**Hickory, Dickory, Dock,**" "**Ten Little Indians**").
3. The pleasant mood at the first dinner is destroyed when a disembodied voice accuses each guest of **(murder, fraud)**.
4. Mr. Owen's name stands for ("**Owes Money,**" "**Unknown**").
5. The guests feel a bit safer because Lombard has a **(gun, cell phone)**.
6. General Macarthur is dead from a **(bee sting, blow to the head)**.
7. The guests are surprised when the **(bathroom curtain, kitchen pail)** is missing.
8. Miss Brent dies from **(an injection of poison, falling down the stairs)**.
9. Justice Wargrave tricked **(Tony Marston, Dr. Armstrong)** into helping him.
10. After his plan was completed, Wargrave **(stabbed, shot)** himself but made his suicide look like murder.

### Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of characters from the list below. You will have choices left over. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- |                     |                      |                         |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Tony Marston     | F. Ulick Norman Owen | K. Constance Culmington |
| B. Mr. Rogers       | G. Hugo              | L. Mrs. Rogers          |
| C. Justice Wargrave | H. Vera Claythorne   | M. Cyril                |
| D. Philip Lombard   | I. Emily Brent       | N. Agatha Christie      |
| E. Isaac Morris     | J. Dr. Armstrong     | O. Fred Narracott       |

- \_\_\_ 1. A former governess who comes to Indian Island supposedly to be a secretary to Mrs. Owen.
- \_\_\_ 2. The shady criminal who sets up all the arrangements on Indian Island.
- \_\_\_ 3. The recovering alcoholic who killed a patient by operating on her while he was drunk.
- \_\_\_ 4. A self-righteous and narrow woman who feels no guilt for her crime of turning out a pregnant, unmarried young woman.
- \_\_\_ 5. The man Vera loved and killed for
- \_\_\_ 6. The author
- \_\_\_ 7. A fake name that the Justice created to lure people to the island.
- \_\_\_ 8. The man who takes people on and off the island on his boat.
- \_\_\_ 9. The natural leader who has a strong sense of justice combined with a sadistic delight in murdering.
- \_\_\_ 10. The former soldier-for-hire who worked in Africa.

**Comprehension Test B (Page 2)**

**Part III: Identification (20 points)**

Explain why each is important in the novel.

1. Miss Brent's wool
2. seaweed
3. statues of ten little Indians
4. bees
5. the shower curtain

**Part IV: Essay (40 points)**

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Argue that the ending is or is not satisfactory. Does it solve the mystery?
2. Choose two characters. Explain how their appearances are deceiving.
3. Describe the novel's setting and explain its importance to the story.
4. Write a review to convince someone your age to read this novel.



## Answer Key

### Vocabulary

Vocabulary Word	Synonym	Antonym
1. arrogant	conceited, insolent	humble
2. lax	negligent, indifferent	careful
3. cronies	friends, associates	enemies
4. assent	agreement	disagreement
5. shrewd	clever	foolish
6. malevolence	evil	goodness
7. hussy	slattern, wench	good woman
8. pious	religious irreligious,	atheistic
9. cordial	friendly, affable, genial	unfriendly, hostile
10. illegible	unreadable	legible, clear
11. clarity	clearness, lucidity, precision	murkiness, obscurity
12. swarm	horde, mass, flock	one
13. competent	proficient, qualified	incompetent, unable
14. monotonous	boring	interesting
15. caustic	sharp, bitter, sarcastic	gentle, soothing

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

1. D    2. G    3. J    4. F    5. B  
6. I    7. E    8. A    9. H    10. C

#### Part II: True/False (20 points)

1. F                      6. T  
2. F                      7. T  
3. T                      8. F  
4. F                      9. T  
5. T                      10. T

#### Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- Initially, Vera Claythorne is bemused to find this childhood rhyme on the wall. Her amusement soon turns to terror, however, as people are killed in ways that mirror the rhyme. Thus, the rhyme serves as a foreshadowing device to increase the novel's suspense and tension.
- The mysterious voice shatters the pleasant mood of the elegant dinner party and introduces the mystery. The voice describes each person's crime. Readers now know that each person has done something horrible.

- General Macarthur sounds hysterical and unhinged in this passage, but what he says does indeed come to pass: all ten people will die. His utterance heightens the tense mood even more.
- Justice Wargrave concludes that one of the group must be the murderer. He is correct. By making the murderer a judge and having him draw all the conclusions, Christie simultaneously provides the clues that the reader needs to solve the mystery and throws the reader off the track, because we would expect the judge to be clever but never to be a murderer.
- In a letter, the Justice explains his motivation for killing his victims. Readers see that he is extremely clever—but also extremely mad. We also see how carefully Christie has constructed her plot. As a result, the events and the Justice's explanation make perfect sense.

#### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

## And Then There Were None Agatha Christie

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Indian Island        | 6. blow to his head       |
| 2. "The Little Indians" | 7. bathroom curtain       |
| 3. murder               | 8. An injection of poison |
| 4. "Unknown"            | 9. Dr. Armstrong          |
| 5. gun                  | 10. shot                  |

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. H | 2. E | 3. J | 4. I | 5. G  |
| 6. N | 7. F | 8. O | 9. C | 10. D |

#### Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. Miss Brent's wool disappears and later, the Justice and Dr. Armstrong use it to fashion a wig for the Justice. It is one of the "red herrings" or false clues in the novel.
2. Vera Claythorne is tortured by her guilt over the death of Cyril, the young boy for whom she served as a governess. She deliberately let him drown so his Uncle Hugo would inherit his estate. When he discovers the crime, Hugo is appalled and severs any relationship with Vera. The Justice has placed seaweed in her room, which drives her to hysteria. Later, it can be considered an element that drives her to suicide.
3. The statues of ten little Indians begin as a centerpiece. One disappears each time a guest is murdered. They add to the tension and suspense.
4. The bees are part of the rhyme. Although Wargrave kills Emily Brent with an injection of poison, he places a bee in the room to mirror the rhyme. This further unnerves the others.
5. Wargrave and Armstrong steal the shower curtain to use as a prop in Wargrave's sham death. This is another "red herring," or false clue in the novel, and further adds to the suspenseful mood.

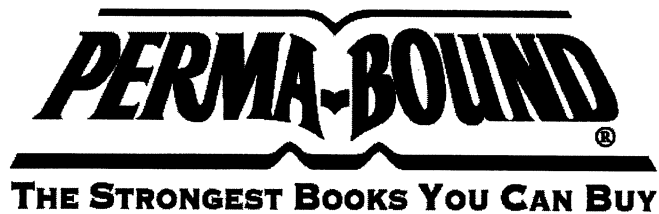
#### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



**And Then There Were None** Agatha Christie

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