***And Then There Were None*** by Agatha Christie ***Ferg’s***

2019 Study Guide

**Please Do NOT Write On This!**

***Directions***: You will be assigned to answer either the even or the odd questions.

**Note**: We may possibly examine an episode or two of a popular TV show wherein the characters solve a murder crime over the course of the show. What are these characters like, and what kinds of motives exist for those who commit the crimes? How are the techniques for mystery and suspense in these shows/movies similar to / different than ***And Then There Were None***?

We may also do the “Modern Mystery” presentation with this unit.

**Pre-Reading Discussion**: What is your favorite mystery show, series, or movie? Explain why.

**Chapter 1**:

The first chapter basically introduces you to the characters that you will get to know better in later chapters.

Mr. Ferg will summarize this chapter.

**CHAPTER 2**:

1.How much do the guests of Soldier Island seem to know about the person or people who invited them to stay?

2. Who is Fred Narracott, and what observations does he make about the guests?

3. Describe the house on Soldier Island. What does it look like? How are the eight guests greeted once they arrive at the house? What important information do they find out about their host or hosts once they arrive? How do these things play a role in creating a mystery?

4. Who are Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and how are they characterized? Point to specific moments in the text to support your answer.

**CHAPTER 3**:

5. What do Vera Claythorne and Emily Brent discuss in the drawing room after dinner? What does each woman find out about the other?

6. What does the gramophone announcement suggest? Who is responsible for playing the gramophone announcement? What are the immediate effects of the gramophone announcement on the guests?

7. In comparing invitations to the island, what do the guests discover? Who takes the lead as the group begins to share their stories about being invited to the island? What important discovery is made about the name of the person who invited each guest to the island?

**CHAPTER 4**:

8. With the exception of Emily Brent, each character provides more information about the accusations made by the voice on the gramophone. What do you find out about each character’s connection to a past death in this chapter?

9. What does Armstrong recall about the Seton case that Judge Wargrave adjudicated?

10. How does Vera Claythorne’s story provide you with more information about her character and connect to previous moments in the book?

11. Who dies at the end of the chapter, and how does he die?

**CHAPTER 5**:

12. Why does Dr. Armstrong examine Marston’s drink? What does he discover? What do the guests conclude about Marston’s death?

13. How do the passages that focus on Judge Margrave, General Macarthur, and Vera Claythorne alter your perceptions of these characters? Cite specific details from the text to support your answer.

14. In what ways might the last lines of each section in this chapter foreshadow future events in the story?

**CHAPTER 6**:

15. When Mrs. Rogers dies mysteriously in the night, what is the possible cause of her death according to Dr. Armstrong? Emily Brent? Blore?

16. What are the guests waiting for? What complicates the arrival of what they are waiting for?

17. What does General Macarthur say about the guests’ stay on the island?

18. At the end of the chapter, what does Rogers observe about the arrangement of the dining room?

**CHAPTER 7**:

19. While sitting with Vera Claythorne, what does Emily Brent reveal about the accusations that were made about her by the voice on the gramophone? What is Miss Brent’s reaction to the accusations made about the other guests? What is Vera’s response to Miss Brent?

20. What do Armstrong and Lombard decide about the two deaths that have taken place? How are these deaths connected, according to the theory that Armstrong offers?

21. What do Armstrong and Lombard decide to do in light of the events that have taken place?

**CHAPTER 8**:

22. What do Blore and Armstrong discover Lombard has brought with him to the island? What is Lombard’s explanation for bringing this item?

23. In searching the island, what exactly are Blore, Armstrong, and Lombard looking for? What are the results of their search? During this search, what do they conclude about their chances of getting off the island?

**CHAPTER 9**:

24. Who dies in this chapter? How does this person die? In considering the most recent death, what do the characters conclude about the identity of the murderer?

25. Who takes the lead in the process of trying to rule out guests who might be responsible for the three murders that have recently been committed? What are the criteria that this person uses to evaluate the likelihood that a given guest has committed the murders? Which guests are ruled out as suspects?

26. At this point, who do you think is the murderer?

**CHAPTER 10**:

27. Who does Lombard suspect is behind the murders? Who does Vera Claythorne suspect? What reasons do they each give for having these suspicions?

28. What concerning episode happens to Miss Brent as she’s in her bedroom? How does this episode serve as a flashback to a previous moment in the book?

29. In this chapter, you find out that a few items have gone missing. What items are missing? Why do you think the text makes note of these items?

30. At the end of the chapter, Rogers notes, “No more china-soldier tricks tonight. I’ve seen to that...” (180). What type of tricks is Rogers referring to, and what has he done to ensure that there won’t be any of these tricks in the middle of the night?

**CHAPTER 11**:

31. Who dies in this chapter? How does this person die? Who most logically falls under suspicion for committing this murder, and why?

32. Much of this chapter focuses on Lombard and Blore and the interactions between them. How are these two men different from each other? What does Blore reveal to Lombard during their conversations?

33. Who is Beatrice Taylor and how are she and Miss Brent connected? Why is Miss Brent preoccupied with Beatrice Taylor?

**Chapter 12**:

34. What does Dr. Armstrong offer Emily Brent? What happens to Miss Brent as she’s sitting alone in the dining room? Describe her behavior immediately before this event and make a guess about why she behaved this way.

35. What role does the hypodermic syringe play in the events that take place in this chapter, and how is this relevant to the pattern of the murders that have been committed? Who owns the syringe? Where do the guests find it, and what does this tell them?

36. Judge Wargrave gives a key to Lombard and a key to Blore. What do these keys unlock? Why does he choose to give the keys to these two men?

**CHAPTER 13**:

37. What does Vera feel when she goes into her room to bath her head in cool water? How does this incident relate to her past? When men bring candles to her room, what is revealed?

38. What happens to Justice Wargrave? How does the way he looks explain previous events in the novel?

**CHAPTER 14**:

39. What does Lombard discover in his room following the most recent death? How does this relate to the events that have just taken place?

40. Who is Landor, and what is his connection to Blore?

41. What does Blore hear as he’s sitting in his room? What does he do as a result?

**CHAPTER 15**:

42. When Vera tells Lombard the story of the two judges who came to a small American town, what does she mean when she says they administered “Absolute Justice”? What is Lombard’s response to her idea?

43. How does Blore die? Following this death, who do the remaining characters conclude the murderer must be?

44. At this point, who do you think the murderer is? Why?

**CHAPTER 16**:

45.What does Vera suddenly notice about Lombard’s face? How has this observation been foreshadowed by earlier moments in the book?

46. What does Vera do that gives her the upper hand in the final episode between her and Lombard? How does this episode end?

**EPILOGUE**:

47. Who are Inspector Maine and the Assistant Commissioner and what are they discussing? What is “Scotland Yard”?

48. Who is Isaac Morris and what role did he play in the events that took place on Soldier Island? What did Morris tell the residents in Sticklehaven?

49. Who eventually went to Soldier Island to investigate the rumor he’d heard about S.O.S. signals?

50. What do the Inspector and the AC decide about the island? Do you agree with their conclusion?

**A MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENT SENT TO SCOTLAND YARD BY THE MASTER OF THE EMMA JANE FISHING TRAWLER**:

51. Who wrote the manuscript? What characteristics does the writer identify in himself and what proof does he give that he has these characteristics?

52. How did the writer gather information about each of the guests who stayed on Soldier Island? What did he find out about each guest?

53. What part did Morris play in the writer’s plan, and why?

54. What news did the writer find out about himself that helped him decided to put his plan into action when he did?

55. Why did the writer call Vera Claythorne’s death a “psychological experiment”? What hypothesis do you think he made about the outcome of the experiment? Was his hypothesis right?

56. What three clues does the writer say might allow the police to solve the case of the Soldier Island murders?

**(Post Reading**)

***Directions***: Discussion only. You do NOT have to write these answers. We will discuss these in groups.

57. What are the characteristics of a well-written murder mystery? Is ***And Then There Were None*** a well-written murder mystery? Why or why not? Write a definition essay that outlines the characteristics of a well-written murder mystery using specific textual evidence from the book to explain your ideas.

58. Could this book be rewritten so that it’s set in the present? How might today’s technology complicate or change the events that take place in ***And Then There Were None***? How could the advances in technology be overcome to still effectively present this story in modern times? Use examples from the book and from real life to explain your answer.

59. Creating suspense in a story is a technique that’s employed by murder mystery authors as well as good story tellers. How do writers and story tellers effectively create suspense for their audience?

60. What are some current / recent TV/Movie murder mysteries? Which ones do you like the best? Why are they interesting and what techniques do the writers/authors/directors use to make those mysteries interesting? How does the show you’re examining recall or differ from ***And Then There Were None***? Mr. Ferg likes *Midsomer Murders*, *Elementary*, *Sherlock*, and the *Sherlock Holmes* movies too. John Grisham also has some good murder mystery books and movies.

61. A number of the guests on Soldier Island appear to be recognized, upstanding members of society who contribute positively to their communities. Can a person’s acts of service to others erase a poor decision he or she has made in the past? If so, why, when, and how? If not, why not?

62. Can a person who has done a lifetime of good work, make a poor decision in the end that completely tarnishes or erases that lifetime of work? Have there been famous people who do a lot of good things and then have a public/personal downfall? Give examples and explain.

63. Suppose you, like the characters in ***And Then There Were None***, were invited on a vacation to somewhere you’ve never been and with a group of people you’ve never met. Where would you go, and why? What type of people would you hope to meet on your trip, and why?

64. Did you “see it coming”? If not, before you read the “Manuscript Document,” what did you think explained the murders? If you were asked to rewrite the story’s conclusion, which character would you make the murderer and what would see as his/her motive?