



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE



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Written by Amber Reed

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Exploring the Setting

Objective: Planning a trip to Devon

Activity

The setting for *And Then There Were None* is Indian Island, a fictional place off the coast of the county of Devon, England. In the story, reference is made to Torquay, Agatha Christie's birthplace, which is also located in Devon. Apparently, the author is using a familiar geographical location for her setting.

Torquay, also known as the "English Riviera," has been a popular seaside resort since Victorian times. Signs of Victorian influence remain today, as seen in the town's beautiful architecture and elegant gardens. Life at this popular vacation site centers on the waterfront, which includes a harbor, an international marina, and numerous beaches.

In this activity, you will plan a five-day trip to Torquay using a budget of \$5,000.00. Use the Internet and, if possible, a local travel agency to gather information and complete the **Trip Log**. Determine the airline you will use, and provide the dates, times, and cost of the flights. Locate a hotel to complete the lodging section. Likewise, estimate a cost for transportation, meals, and miscellaneous expenses. Finally, research and list three sites you wish to visit during your stay in Torquay. Provide a brief description of each site, such as its historical or cultural value, or why you are interested in seeing the place.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Word Scramble****Objective:** Deciphering jumbled words**Activity**

The list below contains jumbled words that pertain to crime fiction. Unscramble each word or phrase and write the answer in the space provided. Two examples are provided.

JUMBLED WORDS

Scrambled word	Deciphered word
IELUIM	MILIEU
OSCPUSIUI	SUSPICIOUS
LCESU	
MRICE	
EENIWSTESY	
YESMRTY	
UPSTSCE	
PTONYROTUIP	
IMOVTE	
DER RNHREIG	
TECVDEETI	
NALIMRIC	
NSESUPSE	
CTJUSEI	
CMITIV	
SONFIECSNO	
EOMGUHS	
NIASENIVTOIGT	

Name: _____

Date: _____

STUDENT IDIOM CHART

Your idiom	Restatement

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters III – IV**Characterization****Objective:** Determining the characters' defenses**Activity**

The mysterious, accusatory voice begins, "You are charged with the following indictments...." The recording then proceeds to list charges for each character.

Pretend that you are a court clerk who is filling out the paperwork for the characters' indictments. Complete the **Preliminary Indictment Sheet** by providing the charge, plea, and defense for each character. Re-read the chapters, paying close attention to each character's response, and determine whether he or she is pleading guilty or not guilty. In the defense column, list the character's argument, or what the character claims to be the reasons why the act was or was not committed. An example is provided.

Ask your partner the following questions, and jot the answers in the space provided:

1. How old are you?
2. What is your favorite movie?
3. What are your two favorite sports?
4. What is your favorite subject and why?
5. Do you have any pets? If so, what kind?
6. What are the titles of your favorite and least favorite books?
7. If you could go anywhere tomorrow, where would it be?

Answer the following questions about your partner:

1. What color is your partner's shirt?
2. Is your partner wearing a watch?
3. What color are your partner's eyes?
4. What is the type and color of your partner's shoes?
5. Is your partner right-handed or left-handed?
6. Is your partner wearing any jewelry? If so, what kind?
7. Does your partner wear glasses?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VI

Symbolism

Objective: Analyzing the symbolism of a character's dream

Activity

Dream interpretation has been practiced for centuries. However, not until the development of psychoanalysis did dream analysis become an acknowledged science.

Numerous techniques exist for dream interpretation. Some experts believe that dreams are an expression of deep, unhindered desires that reveal emotions of which we are usually unaware. Dreams are also said to function as warnings, wish-fulfillments, or as ways for people to claim control over their fears.

Doctor Armstrong denies that he is aware of killing any patients in the past, particularly Louisa Clees. His thoughts, however, divulge the truth:

“Drunk—that’s what it was—drunk.... And I operated! Nerves all to pieces—hands shaking. I killed her, all right. Poor devil—elderly woman—simple job if I’d been sober. Lucky for me there’s loyalty in our profession. The Sister knew, of course—but she held her tongue. God, it gave me a shock! Pulled me up. But who could have known about it—after all these years?”

Doctor Armstrong has a haunting dream which involves his secret past and characters from the present. In this activity, complete the **Dream Analysis Chart** by scrutinizing the elements listed and providing an analytical explanation for each. For example, determine if people and objects symbolize another person, thing, or emotion. There are no correct answers, just personal interpretations. An example is provided.

When the **Dream Analysis Chart** is complete, write a paragraph explaining how the dream correlates with the story. For instance, what does the dream reveal about Doctor Armstrong’s past actions and present feelings?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VIII**Letter Writing****Objective:** Composing a letter from one character to another**Activity**

General Macarthur divulges his past to Vera Brent by confessing to the murder of his wife's lover, Richmond. He says, "*Murder*—and I've always been such a law-abiding man! But it didn't seem like that at the time. I had no regrets." Now, on Indian Island, General Macarthur has become insane from the guilt he has felt over the years; he feels that retribution—in the form of death—is imminent.

Pretend that you are General Macarthur and you wish to clear your conscience. Write a letter to your wife, Leslie, or Richmond expressing the reasons for your past actions and the subsequent effects of those actions. Express how you felt when you sent Richmond on his fatal mission versus how you feel now. Do you believe that you acted correctly or that your motives were legitimate? Are you seeking forgiveness or understanding? Would you do anything differently if given the chance? The letter should be at least one page in length.

Exchange letters with a classmate and write a response to the letter that you receive from the perspective of the character to whom it is addressed, either Leslie or Richmond. In the response, address the General's comments. Do you feel that his actions were justified or excusable? Do you forgive him? Do you regret the affair? How might you have done things differently?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XII

Designing a Back Cover

Objective: Designing a book cover for *And Then There Were None*

Activity

The cover of a book is a critical aspect in marketing since it the first thing that a reader sees. The cover should be attention-grabbing and make the consumer want to read what's inside the jacket. Similarly, the back of the jacket is just as essential in luring consumers; well-written verbiage is needed to pique interest and entice readers. A well-planned and skillfully created jacket will help determine the book's success.

Design a book jacket for *And Then There Were None*. Decide on the subject matter for the cover, considering elements such as color, illustration, and font style. Try to be creative, and keep the theme of the story in mind. Graphics may be hand-sketched, computer-generated, or a combination of both. Remember to include the title and author's name on the cover.

There are a variety of ways to write the commentary for the back of the jacket. For instance, you may wish to supply a summary of the story, or you could display a catchy excerpt from the text. Write enough to create curiosity without revealing too much of the story.

Be sure to consider the type of readers you wish to target, and compose the book jacket to appeal to that group.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XIV**Collecting Evidence****Objective:** Determining and debating a suspect**Activity**

Only Vera Claythorne, Philip Lombard, and William Blore remain on Indian Island; their former companions are either deceased or missing. The three characters are suspicious of each other, but Doctor Armstrong's disappearance also leaves strong doubts as to whether or not he is the notorious U.N. Owen.

The **Suspect Chart** contains the names of Vera Claythorne, Philip Lombard, William Blore, and Doctor Armstrong. Provide reasons that support each character's guilt and innocence. Quotes are not needed, just short statements. Some characters may have more evidence than others, but try to supply at least one explanation for each column. When the **Suspect Chart** is complete, determine who you believe to be the murderer.

Once in a group, share your reasons for selecting the character you chose. The speaker should have a list of all the arguments from group members in order to effectively debate the key issues for your character.