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 **Prestwick House**
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And Then There Were None

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE



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Table of Contents

Pre-Reading	
Researching Author	4
Exploring Setting	8
Genre	14
Designing a Poster	18
Writing a Detective Story.....	20
Word Scramble	26
Chapter I	
Writing Journals	28
Interpreting Idiom	30
Chapters I – II	
Characterization	38
Foreshadowing	42
Chapter III	
Drama	46
Chapters III – IV	
Characterization	48
Chapter IV	
Interviewing Characters	52
Chapter V	
Witness Memory Game	54
Chapters V – VI	
Identifying Emotion	58
Chapter VI	
Symbolism	62
Chapter VII	
Enacting a Trial.....	66
Chapter VIII	
Letter Writing	70
Arranging a Soundtrack.....	72
Chapter IX	
Creating a Setting	74

Chapter XI	
Writing Dialogue	76
Chapter XII	
Designing a Back Cover.....	78
Chapters XIII – XIV	
Simile and Metaphor	80
Chapter XIV	
Collecting Evidence.....	84
Chapters II – XV	
Identifying Characters	88
Chapters I – XVI	
Writing Titles.....	90
Epilogue	
Writing a Newspaper Article	94
Theme Collage.....	96
Wrap-Up	
Writing an Alternate Ending	98
Chronology.....	100
Crossword Puzzle	104
Plot	106
Writing a Query Letter	110
Appendices	
Terms and Definitions	112
Directions for a Debate.....	113
Newspaper.....	114
Small Group Learning	116
Procedures for Small Group Work	118
Small Group Evaluation Sheet.....	119
Student Roles in Group Discussions	120

All references come from the St. Martin's Paperbacks edition of *And Then There Were None*, copyright 2001.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Researching Author**

Objective: Researching the author

Activity

Agatha Christie is the world's most renowned mystery writer. It is estimated that, throughout her career, Christie has sold a total of nearly two billion copies of her eighty novels; her works have been printed in more than one hundred languages. Much of Christie's success is attributed to her complex yet realistic plots, and her extensive development of the modern mystery novel has earned her the title, "Queen of Crime."

Use the library, the Internet, or both to answer the following questions about Agatha Christie. Your answers should be written in concise and complete sentences.

1. When and where was Christie born?

2. Under what name was Agatha Christie born?

3. Where did Christie receive her education as a young child?

4. What was the occupation of Archibald Christie, Agatha Christie's first husband?

5. Where did Christie work when she wrote her first novel? What is the title of this novel?

6. What is the name of Christie's daughter?

7. What achievement does Christie hold in the *Guinness Book of World Records*?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter I

Writing Journals

Objective: Writing character journals

Activity

Eight characters are briefly introduced as they travel to Indian Island. Imagine that each character maintains a journal throughout the novel. Choose the character that most interests you, and create a journal entry for each chapter of the novel, or until your character meets his or her demise. Attempt to imitate the character's thoughts, feelings, and suspicions in your writings. Keep in mind that your character's perspective is limited; he or she does not have access to other characters' thoughts. Discuss the events that occur, and use your creativity to fill any gaps. Each journal entry should be at least one page in length. Maintain the journal until your character is no longer a participant in the plot. A sample entry has been started.

Example from Mrs. Rogers journal:

Guests began arriving today. The party is larger than I had anticipated; eight persons arrived. Thomas and I should be able to handle it, though; we've been in tougher spots. Surprisingly, there's been no news from Mr. Owens or the missus. We had expected them yesterday, but haven't heard a word. One would think that they would like to greet their guests, but who knows how these rich folk think. I suppose you can do what you want—forget propriety—when you set the standards. Wonder who these Owens are? They paid us well enough—no complaints there—but an odd lot, to be sure. All of our correspondences have been via mail or that Mr. Morris. There's another strange one.

I haven't felt right since we've arrived on the island; something seems amiss, and it's not just the Owens' absences. The house is beautiful, but it's eerie being so isolated from the world. What if something were to go wrong? How would we get help? There's no boat docked on the island; we must wait for Mr. Narracott and his motor boat in the morning, I suppose.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters I – II**Foreshadowing****Objective:** Locating instances of foreshadowing in the text**Activity**

In the first two chapters, several instances of foreshadowing, the literary device in which subtle hints are given that suggest how the plot will develop, arise. Locate five instances of foreshadowing which foretell the dangers that the characters will soon face on Indian Island. Complete the **Foreshadowing Chart** by supplying quotes from the story and briefly explaining what each quote suggests. An example is provided.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VII**Enacting a Trial**

Objective: Enacting a court trial

Activity

Emily Brent's past experience is revealed in the following passage:

“Beatrice Taylor was in service with me. *Not a nice girl*—as I found out too late. I was very much deceived in her. She had nice manners and was very clean and willing. I was very pleased with her. Of course all that was the sheerest hypocrisy! She was a loose girl with no morals. Disgusting! It was some time before I found out that she was what they call ‘in trouble.’” She paused, her delicate nose wrinkling itself in distaste. “It was a great shock to me. Her parents were decent folk, too, who had bought her up very strictly. I’m glad to say they did not condone her behavior.”

Vera said, staring at Miss Brent:

“What happened?”

“Naturally I did not keep her an hour under my roof. No one shall ever say that I condoned immorality.”

Vera said in a lower voice:

“What happened—to her?”

Miss Brent said:

“The abandoned creature, not content with having one sin on her conscience, committed a still graver sin. She took her own life.”

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IX

Creating a Setting

Objective: Researching a sensationalized setting for a mystery thriller

Activity

Lombard, Armstrong, and Blore thoroughly search the island for their assailant, but no one is found. Lombard, realizing that they are alone, says, “So we’ve been wrong—wrong all along! Built up a nightmare of superstition and fantasy all because of the coincidence of two deaths!” Lombard’s statement points out the powerful influence of imagination.

Little is known about Indian Island, making it a popular media topic. According to the stories, an American millionaire built the modern house before losing his third wife in a yachting accident. Indian Island was sold and supposedly changed hands several times for unknown reasons. The location’s past is shrouded in mystery, making it an appropriate setting for a mystery thriller.

Imagine that you are planning to write a mystery thriller set in a popular, enigmatic location in the United States. The location may be a house or building with a mysterious history, such as possibly being haunted or the site of an unsolved crime. Use the library or Internet to research and choose a setting, then write a short essay on the place. In your essay, provide a description and historical account. Mention any media coverage the place received, and summarize with an explanation of why this location is ideal for your mystery thriller.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up**Chronology**

Objective: Identifying the sequence of events in the book

Activity

The Inspectors at Scotland Yard piece together the events that transpired on Indian Island in accordance with the explanatory letter. Review the **Sequence Chart**, which contains major events from *And Then There Were None*. Place the events in the correct order by numbering them in the box provided. The **Sequence Chart** has been started for you.