

## **Summer Reading for Pebsworth's Class (Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders) 2020/2021**

### **Book One (REQUIRED)**

**Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None***

**Purchase the book with one of these ISBNs: 9780062073488 or 9780312330873**

Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was acknowledged as the greatest modern mystery writer because she wrote more than sixty-six novels, and several of her works were made into successful feature films. Her work has been translated into more than one hundred languages. *And Then There Were None* is known to be the "insolvable novel." You will love this book!

### **Book Two (ENCOURAGED)**

**Choose any novel approved by your parents/guardians and READ IT! ENJOY IT!**

Due the first day of class.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*And Then There Were None* Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Eighth Graders

**\*Unless you are filling out a chart, all answers should be in complete sentences.\***

**Chapter One:**

Chapter One provides a first impression of each character. Based only on what you have read so far, how would you characterize each of these people? In the character chart below, write one word you think best describes him or her.

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Justice Wargrave  | _____ |
| Vera Claythorne   | _____ |
| Philip Lombard    | _____ |
| Emily Brent       | _____ |
| General Macarthur | _____ |
| Dr. Armstrong     | _____ |
| Tony Marston      | _____ |
| Mr. Blore         | _____ |

It is clear that for some of the characters, the only thing they have in common is their destination. Agatha Christie makes a deliberate effort to create characters who have opposing perspectives. Write a paragraph in which you identify the characters who seem to be natural adversaries (rivals) and explain your reasoning.

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## Chapter Two:

Describe the house on Soldier Island. What does it look like? What important information do the guests find out about their host or hosts once they arrive?

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The text notes that Anthony Marston looks like “a young God, a Hero God out of some Northern Saga.” In concrete terms, what does this suggest about his features? (For example, what color hair do you think he has? About how old do you think he is?)

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What is the connection between Soldier Island and the poem that’s displayed in Vera Claythorne’s bedroom? Why do you think the author chose to include this poem in the novel?

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## Chapter Three:

What do Vera Claythorne and Emily Brent discuss in the drawing room after dinner?

What does each woman find out about the other?

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What does the gramophone announcement suggest?

Who is responsible for playing the gramophone announcement?

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In comparing invitations to the island, what do the guests discover?

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Who takes the lead as the group begins to share their stories about being invited to the island?

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What important discovery is made about the name of the person who invited each guest to the island?

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**Chapter Four:**

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? Fill out the chart below with the information you know about the deaths.

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Justice Wargrave  | <hr/> |
| Vera Claythorne   | <hr/> |
| Philip Lombard    | <hr/> |
| Emily Brent       | <hr/> |
| General Macarthur | <hr/> |
| Dr. Armstrong     | <hr/> |
| Tony Marston      | <hr/> |
| Mr. Blore         | <hr/> |

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

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### **Chapter Five:**

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

### **Chapter Six:**

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

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

What does General Macarthur say about the guests' stay on the island?

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

### **Chapter Seven:**

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 Vera's response to Miss Brent?

What do Armstrong and Lombard decide to do considering the events that have taken place?

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### **Chapter Eight:**

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 Nine:**

What do you find out about Lombard's invitation to the island in this chapter? What is your impression of Lombard at this point?

In considering the most recent death, what do the characters conclude about the identity of the murderer?

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?

### **Chapter Ten:**

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?

At the end of the chapter, Rogers notes, "No more china-soldier tricks tonight. I've seen to that..." 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?

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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?

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**Chapter Eleven:**

Who dies in this chapter? How?

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Why does Vera ask, "Do they keep bees on this island?"

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Who do you think Hugo is and how are he and Vera connected?

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**Chapter Twelve:**

What happens to Miss Brent as she's sitting alone in the dining room?

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What role does the hypodermic syringe play in the events that take place in this chapter? Who owns the syringe?

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In lieu of what happens to Miss Brent, what do the other characters decide to do to protect themselves?

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**Chapter Thirteen:**

What happens to Vera when she goes to her room to bathe her aching head?

When men bring candles to her room, what is revealed?

What happens to Justice Wargrave?

**Chapter Fourteen:**

What does Lombard discover in his room following the most recent death?

What do you find out about Vera in Chapter 14, Section IV? What does Vera notice about her room?

What does Blore hear as he's sitting in his room? What does he do as a result?

Which character is missing from his room?



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What do Blore and Lombard find in the dining room?

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### **Chapter Fifteen:**

What reasons do Blore and Vera give to explain Armstrong's disappearance?

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Where do the characters spend the morning? Why are they there?

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How does Blore die? How does his death relate to the soldier poem?

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What do Lombard and Vera find in the sea?

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### **Chapter Sixteen:**

What does Vera suddenly notice about Lombard's face?

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When Vera arrives back at the house, what does she do with the remaining soldier boys?

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### **Epilogue:**

Who are Inspector Maine and the Assistant Commissioner and what are they discussing?

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When the AC points out, “U.N. Owen dealt with cases the law couldn’t touch,” what is he suggesting about the guests on the island? What does this tell you about the motive of the person who murdered the guests on Soldier Island?

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**Manuscript Document:**

Who wrote the manuscript? What characteristics does the writer identify in him or herself that made him/her want to murder?

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According to the writer, why are Anthony Marston and Mrs. Rogers the first to die?

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Who did the writer enlist as his unwitting “ally” when he enacted his plan?

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What is the “brand of Cain”? (Read Genesis 4: 1-16.)

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**End-of-book Writing Assignment:**

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