

And Then There Were None

Chapters 1–4

by Agatha Christie

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: apparition, caustic, enticed, exonerated, indictment, luxuriate, malevolence, reproach, surreptitious, verisimilitude

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–4 · Strangers travel to Soldier Island

Section 2 · Chapters 5–8 · Suspicion grows among the guests

Section 3 · Chapters 9–12 · The hunt for the killer

Section 4 · Chapters 13–16 and Epilogue · The last guests on the island

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. A pale **apparition** drifted through the old hallway at midnight.

- A. a cloud of smoke
- B. a beam of light
- C. a ghostly figure

2. Her **caustic** reply left everyone in the room stunned.

- A. quick and clever
- B. sharply sarcastic
- C. loud and angry

3. The smell of fresh cookies **enticed** the children into the kitchen.

- A. tricked or fooled
- B. rushed or hurried
- C. tempted or lured

4. The committee **exonerated** the coach after a long review.

- A. cleared of blame
- B. publicly criticized
- C. formally rewarded

5. The grand jury issued an **indictment** against the bank robber.

- A. a small cash fine
- B. a formal criminal charge
- C. a written warning

6. On lazy Sundays I love to **luxuriate** in a warm, bubbly bath.

- A. to splash around loudly
- B. to rinse off quickly
- C. to take great delight

7. There was pure **malevolence** in the villain's cold stare.

- A. a desire to harm others
- B. a feeling of cold pride
- C. a sense of deep sorrow

8. Don't **reproach** yourself for one small, honest mistake.

- A. to pity or excuse
- B. to blame or scold
- C. to question closely

9. She took a **surreptitious** peek at her phone under the desk.

- A. secret and sneaky
- B. careful and slow
- C. hurried and nervous

10. Tiny details added **verisimilitude** to the painter's quiet street scene.

- A. the appearance of truth
- B. a sense of motion
- C. a feeling of suspense

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

got in Chancery — became trapped in a long, costly legal case; England's former Court of Chancery was notorious in the 1700s and 1800s for drawn-out proceedings

a slight stretch of fancy — a small leap of imagination; a conclusion that requires imagining a little beyond the evidence

not quite the act of a pukka sahib — not the behavior expected of a proper, honorable British gentleman; an expression from colonial India

ANSWER KEY
Vocabulary Preview
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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	A

Vocabulary in Context
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Four voices gave assent—and then immediately afterwards gave quick surreptitious glances at each other.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “surreptitious” most nearly suggests that the glances were...

- A. secretive and unnoticed
- B. warm and welcoming
- C. bold and direct

2 “Mr. Justice Wargrave looked at him with active malevolence. He seemed to be wishing that he could order the court to be cleared.”

Which choice best describes Wargrave’s attitude toward Davis in the passage?

- A. hostile ill will
- B. respectful interest
- C. amused tolerance

3 “A car so fantastically powerful, so superlatively beautiful that it had all the nature of an apparition. ... In the blaze of the evening light he looked, not a man, but a young God, a Hero God out of some Northern Saga.”

The description of the car in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. warn of Marston’s reckless driving
- B. make Marston’s arrival seem unreal
- C. detail the car’s mechanical parts

4 “Anthony Marston was in his bath. He luxuriated in the steaming water.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Marston, in his bath,...

- A. found the water unpleasant
- B. wanted to get out quickly
- C. was savoring the warm water

5 “Mr. Justice Wargrave, mellowed by the excellent port, was being amusing in a caustic fashion ...”

In context, the word “caustic” emphasizes that Wargrave’s humor was...

- A. gentle and warm
- B. dull and clumsy
- C. sharp and biting

6 “You are charged with the following indictments: Edward George Armstrong, that you did upon the 14th day of March, 1925, cause the death of Louisa Mary Clees. ... Prisoners at the bar, have you anything to say in your defence?”

It can reasonably be inferred that the guests are being...

- A. invited to play a game
- B. accused of serious crimes
- C. praised for solving crimes

7 “To give verisimilitude ... Yes, and that colleague, I presume, was momentarily out of touch with you?”

The killer most likely named Dr. Armstrong’s real colleague in order to...

- A. warn him about a coworker
- B. make the false invitation seem true
- C. prove the colleague was a guest

8 “Whoever it was who enticed us here, that person knows or has taken the trouble to find out a good deal about us all.”

According to the passage, the person who brought the guests to the island...

- A. forced them to come
- B. knew little about their lives
- C. lured them with tempting offers

9 “At the inquest the Coroner exonerated me. And his mother—she was so kind.”

Which statement about Vera’s inquest is best supported by the passage?

- A. She was cleared of all blame.
- B. She was never questioned.
- C. She was found guilty.

10 “There is no question of defence. I have always acted in accordance with the dictates of my conscience. I have nothing with which to reproach myself.”

In the passage, Emily Brent is characterized as...

- A. certain of her own innocence
- B. burdened by secret guilt
- C. afraid of the others’ judgment

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	B	
4	C	Note the verb 'luxuriate' (to take deep pleasure in), richer than the everyday noun 'luxury.'
5	C	Caustic wit is clever and funny but also cutting.
6	B	
7	B	Event comprehension. 'Verisimilitude' means the appearance of truth; the killer used a real name to make the fake invitation convincing.
8	C	
9	A	
10	A	Character comprehension. 'To reproach myself' means to blame myself; Brent insists she feels no such self-blame.

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–4

Ten strangers, each lured by a different pretext, journey to an isolated island off the Devon coast owned by an absent host. After dinner on the first evening, a gramophone recording accuses every guest of having caused a death, and that night the first of them dies suddenly. Section breaks at the end of Chapter 4 to group the opening arrival-and-first-death movement before the survivors begin to grasp the pattern.