

And Then There Were None

Chapters 5–8

by Agatha Christie

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: apprehension, capricious, chastisement, condoned, convulsed, furtive, hypocrisy, marooned, predatory, self-righteous

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. She waited for her test results with growing **apprehension**.

- A. restless impatience
- B. anxious dread
- C. eager curiosity

2. The **capricious** king changed his orders three times in one afternoon.

- A. proud and boastful
- B. given to sudden whims
- C. harsh and strict

3. The harsh **chastisement** from the coach left the players silent.

- A. sudden warning
- B. stern punishment
- C. tough training drill

4. The teacher never **condoned** cheating, no matter the excuse.

- A. actively rewarded
- B. openly encouraged
- C. accepted or overlooked

5. The patient **convulsed** on the floor as the fever peaked.

- A. jerked violently
- B. groaned softly
- C. shivered weakly

6. She cast a **furtive** glance at the clock during the long meeting.

- A. secret and stealthy
- B. weary and bored
- C. sharp and irritated

7. The critics accused the senator of **hypocrisy** after the scandal.

- A. open corruption
- B. stubborn pride
- C. false pretending

8. A flat tire left us **marooned** on the empty highway for hours.

- A. bored and restless
- B. lost and confused
- C. stranded and trapped

9. The **predatory** landlord raised the rent to force out poor families.

- A. ruthless and exploitative
- B. careless and forgetful
- C. strict but fair

10. He folded his arms and gave a **self-righteous** smirk.

- A. smugly self-certain
- B. playful and teasing
- C. cruel and mocking

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

in the midst of life we are in death — a line from the Anglican funeral service meaning that even while we are alive, death is always present and may come at any time

be sure thy sin will find thee out — a biblical warning that wrongdoing cannot remain hidden or escape its consequences

ANSWER KEY
Vocabulary Preview
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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	C
8	C
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 *"The shrunk lips fell in. It was a cruel mouth now, cruel and predatory."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "predatory" most nearly suggests that the judge is...

- A. greedy for money
- B. ruthless, like a hunter
- C. bitter and resentful

2 *"Leslie was so capricious. Lots of good fellows that Leslie would turn up her nose at and pronounce dull. 'Dull!' Just like that."*

In the passage, Leslie is characterized as...

- A. changeable on a whim
- B. shy and reserved
- C. steadily hard to please

3 *"She shuddered as she remembered Anthony Marston's convulsed purple face."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Anthony Marston's death was...

- A. violent and agonized
- B. slow and lingering
- C. painless and sudden

4 *"My dear lady, in my experience of ill-doing, Providence leaves the work of conviction and chastisement to us mortals—and the process is often fraught with difficulties. There are no short cuts."*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. excuse those who do wrong
- B. praise God's swift justice
- C. say people must punish wrongdoing

5 *"... all that was the sheerest hypocrisy! She was a loose girl with no morals."*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Brent trusted her completely.
- B. Her good manners were a pretense.
- C. She was rude and ill-mannered.

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

In context, "condoned" emphasizes that Emily Brent refused to...

- A. tolerate any wrongdoing
- B. speak ill of the girl
- C. show the girl any pity

7 *"There was no self-reproach, no uneasiness in those eyes. They were hard and self-righteous. Emily Brent sat on the summit of Soldier Island, encased in her own armour of virtue. ... Suddenly—she was terrible."*

Which choice best describes how the narrator portrays Emily Brent here?

- A. coldly cruel for its own sake
- B. smugly certain she is right
- C. quietly regretful but proud

8 *"Practical joke, perhaps. We're to be marooned here, no attention is to be paid to signals, etc."*

According to the passage, Lombard suspects the guests are to be...

- A. fooled by a harmless prank
- B. rescued once signals are seen
- C. stranded and cut off

9 *"... there was a queer mixture of questioning and apprehension in his look."*

It can reasonably be inferred that General Macarthur's look reveals...

- A. a sense of dread
- B. playful curiosity
- C. calm contentment

10 *"And it was then, as they stood there, that they heard the sound from above. A soft furtive footfall overhead. They all heard it."*

The author describes the "soft furtive footfall" in order to...

- A. show the searchers' clumsiness
- B. prove the house is empty
- C. suggest someone moving in secret

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	
3	A	Event comprehension. Marston's death was sudden, but 'convulsed' marks it as violent and agonized, not painless.
4	C	Theme comprehension.
5	B	
6	A	
7	B	Character comprehension. The key is not mere cruelty but Brent's serene certainty that she is in the right.
8	C	
9	A	Character comprehension. Elsewhere Macarthur calmly welcomes 'the end,' but this particular look is one of dread, which is why it startles Vera.
10	C	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 5–8

More guests die in ways that echo the 'Ten Little Soldiers' nursery rhyme, and the figurines on the dining table vanish one by one. A search of the island confirms no outsider is present, forcing the survivors to conclude the murderer is one of them. Section groups these middle chapters as suspicion hardens into certainty; it breaks before Chapter 9 as the killings accelerate.