

And Then There Were None

Chapters 9–12

by Agatha Christie

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: corroborate, dispassionate, fraught, fruitless, idiosyncrasy, impious, meticulously, noncommittal, perjury, tenacious

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. Two classmates came forward to **corroborate** his account.

- A. repeat back word for word
- B. add new details to
- C. confirm with evidence

2. The referee stayed **dispassionate** despite the angry crowd.

- A. strict and harsh
- B. calm and impartial
- C. nervous and unsure

3. It was a **fraught** moment as the climbers edged across the icy ledge.

- A. odd and confusing
- B. tense and risky
- C. slow and tiring

4. After hours of digging, their search for the ring was **fruitless**.

- A. producing no result
- B. oddly amusing
- C. long and exhausting

5. Tapping his foot while thinking was a familiar **idiosyncrasy** of his.

- A. a well-practiced skill
- B. a strict personal rule
- C. a personal peculiarity

6. The elders found his joke **impious** and were deeply offended.

- A. clever but cruel
- B. boastful and vain
- C. irreverent toward the sacred

7. She **meticulously** checked every line of her essay.

- A. carefully and thoroughly
- B. slowly and nervously
- C. happily and proudly

8. When I asked her opinion, she gave a **noncommittal** answer.

- A. purposely vague
- B. rude and blunt
- C. calm and friendly

9. The witness was charged with **perjury** after the trial.

- A. lying under oath
- B. stealing court evidence
- C. bribing a juror

10. The **tenacious** puppy would not let go of the rope.

- A. gentle and timid
- B. stubbornly holding on
- C. playful and energetic

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

go to one's head — (of power, success, or praise) to make someone conceited or overconfident

sangfroid — (French) calm self-control in a dangerous or stressful situation

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 “We’re all in the same boat. We’ve got to pull together. What about your own pretty little spot of perjury?”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘perjury’ most nearly refers to a past act in which Blore...

- A. accepted a secret bribe
- B. lied while under oath
- C. broke an official promise

2 “How was I to know that last night wasn’t exactly the eventuality I was here to cope with? I lay low and told a noncommittal story.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, in telling ‘a noncommittal story,’ Lombard...

- A. recalled every exact detail
- B. gave away nothing definite
- C. shared an emotional account

3 “I could have told you that your search would be fruitless. ... It is perfectly clear. Mr. Owen is one of us...”

The judge most likely calls the men’s search ‘fruitless’ in order to...

- A. warn of the coming storm
- B. praise their careful effort
- C. stress it could turn up nothing

4 “What’s to prove it? There’s nothing to corroborate your story.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Blore distrusts an unproven story
- B. Blore offers proof of his own
- C. Blore accepts Lombard’s word

5 “His eyes turned slowly till they rested on her. It was the dispassionate stare of a man well used to weighing humanity in the balance.”

In the passage, the judge is characterized as...

- A. coolly detached and unemotional
- B. cruel and openly hostile
- C. nervous and badly shaken

6 “It depends on the personal idiosyncrasy of the patient towards that particular drug.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the doctor believes a sedative’s effect...

- A. depends mainly on the dose
- B. is identical in every patient
- C. varies from person to person

7 “It flashed across Dr. Armstrong’s mind that an old man like the judge was far more tenacious of life than a younger man would be.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, next to younger men, the judge...

- A. clings more fiercely to life
- B. tires far more quickly
- C. fears death far less

8 “Wicked! Almost impious to feel that way. Some people thought so little of death that they actually took their own lives.”

Which choice best describes Emily Brent’s attitude toward welcoming one’s own death?

- A. calm acceptance as sensible
- B. admiration for its courage
- C. disapproval, as an irreverent act

9 “There are five of us here in this room. One of us is a murderer. The position is fraught with grave danger. Everything must be done in order to safeguard the four of us who are innocent.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. stress how perilous things are
- B. assure the innocent of safety
- C. propose a plan to catch Owen

10 “He had stripped to the skin and he and his room had been meticulously searched by the other three men. Vera Claythorne was outside in the corridor.”

The detail that the man and his room were ‘meticulously’ searched serves to...

- A. hint the search was pointless
- B. show how thorough the search was
- C. suggest the men acted in panic

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	C	
4	A	
5	A	Character comprehension.
6	C	Here 'idiosyncrasy' is the medical sense — an individual's distinctive reaction to a drug.
7	A	'Tenacious of life' is an older phrasing meaning clinging hard to life.
8	C	Character comprehension. Emily Brent's rigid piety frames the act as irreverence.
9	A	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 9–12

With their numbers dwindling, the remaining guests turn on one another, searching rooms and weighing each person's alibi as the deaths continue. Trust collapses entirely and accusations fly. Section groups the investigative chapters; it breaks before Chapter 13 to keep the final reckoning together in the closing section.