

And Then There Were None

Chapters 13–16 and Epilogue

by Agatha Christie

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abhorrent, ascertain, disquieting, incongruous, inexorable, innocuous, red herring, sadistic, scrupulous, vindictive

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. The idea of eating live insects was **abhorrent** to her.

- A. causing disgust
- B. completely unfamiliar
- C. mildly amusing

2. The detective phoned the lab to **ascertain** the exact time the alarm went off.

- A. find out for certain
- B. make a rough guess about
- C. keep a record of

3. A **disquieting** silence fell over the house after the strange phone call.

- A. causing uneasiness
- B. showing great sadness
- C. full of deep respect

4. A palm tree in the snowy field looked completely **incongruous**.

- A. strikingly large
- B. strangely beautiful
- C. out of place

5. The **inexorable** rise of the tide slowly covered the rocks.

- A. oddly unpredictable
- B. impossible to stop
- C. sudden and brief

6. The old jar held an **innocuous** white powder used for baking.

- A. completely harmless
- B. strong-smelling
- C. rather expensive

7. The witness's story about a mysterious stranger turned out to be a **red herring**.

- A. a lucky coincidence
- B. a misleading distraction
- C. a key piece of proof

8. The **sadistic** coach made the team run laps until they collapsed.

- A. extremely demanding
- B. playing favorites
- C. cruel for pleasure

9. My grandmother was **scrupulous** about her household accounts.

- A. proud and boastful
- B. secretive and private
- C. careful and honest

10. Our **vindictive** neighbor reported every tiny thing we did wrong.

- A. nosy and prying
- B. eager for revenge
- C. quick to anger

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

larder — a room or large cupboard used for storing food

robed — dressed in long formal garments; here, wearing the scarlet ceremonial robes of an English judge

noose — a loop of rope with a sliding knot that tightens when pulled; used for hanging

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	C
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 “Strangely enough, he found the darkness disquieting. It was as though a thousand age-old fears woke and struggled for supremacy in his brain.”

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

- A. the darkness made him drowsy
- B. the darkness left Blore uneasy
- C. the darkness quieted his fears

2 “For, of the three tenanted rooms upstairs, one must now be empty. All that had to be done was to ascertain which!”

It can reasonably be inferred that Blore wants to ascertain which room is empty in order to...

- A. make a quick guess about who left
- B. search each room for the revolver
- C. learn for certain who left the house

3 “A red herring—that’s the vital clue. Armstrong’s not dead ... He took away the china soldier to make you think he was.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Vera uses the phrase “a red herring” to argue that...

- A. Armstrong faked his disappearance
- B. Armstrong drowned while fleeing
- C. the rhyme no longer matters

4 “The terrace was peaceful and innocuous-looking in the sunshine. They hesitated there a minute, then instead of entering by the front door, they made a cautious circuit of the house.”

The author’s ironic description of the terrace as “innocuous-looking” works mainly to...

- A. show the island is now safe
- B. stress how tired the two are
- C. set its harmless look against horror

5 “... nine people out of ten thought Seton was innocent and that the judge’s summing up had been vindictive.”

According to the passage, most people believed the judge’s summing up had been...

- A. driven by a wish for revenge
- B. fair but coldly delivered
- C. confused and hard to follow

6 “I have a definite sadistic delight in seeing or causing death.”

In the passage, Wargrave characterizes himself as someone who...

- A. takes pleasure in causing death
- B. kills only to serve justice
- C. is merely fascinated by crime

7 “It is abhorrent to me that an innocent person or creature should suffer or die by any act of mine.”

Which statement about Wargrave is best supported by the passage?

- A. He is troubled only by guilty deaths
- B. He thinks all killing is acceptable
- C. He cannot bear harm to the innocent

8 “I have always been strictly just and scrupulous in my summing up of a case.”

Which choice best describes how Wargrave regards his own conduct as a judge?

- A. as careful and principled
- B. as careless but well-meaning
- C. as harsh and vengeful

9 “But—incongruous as it may seem to some—I was restrained and hampered by my innate sense of justice.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. excuse the murders he commits
- B. highlight a clash in his nature
- C. deny that he feels any guilt

10 “A childish rhyme of my infancy came back into my mind—the rhyme of the ten little soldier boys. It had fascinated me as a child of two—the inexorable diminishment—the sense of inevitability.”

Which choice best describes how the rhyme’s “inexorable diminishment” functions in the novel as a whole?

- A. it hints some victims survive
- B. it sets an unstoppable pattern of deaths
- C. it offers relief from the dread

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	The 'dis-' prefix reverses 'quiet': the darkness unsettles Blore rather than calming him.
2	C	Event comprehension.
3	A	'Red herring' is figurative—a distraction that draws attention off the real trail; here, Armstrong's staged vanishing.
4	C	Event comprehension. They round the house and find Blore's crushed body moments later, completing the irony.
5	A	
6	A	
7	C	
8	A	The claim is darkly ironic—the speaker is in fact the island's murderer.
9	B	
10	B	Theme comprehension. The rhyme's relentless count is the design the entire plot follows.

Teacher Context: Chapters 13–16 and Epilogue

The handful of survivors face the endgame as the killer's plan reaches its conclusion and the last of them are accounted for. The Epilogue moves to Scotland Yard, where investigators cannot explain the deaths, until a final document reveals the solution. Section runs to the end of the novel; the Epilogue is folded in here.