

FRA English Department Summer Reading 2018

We require students to do summer reading to help them maintain their reading skills over the summer, engage their imaginations, and provide a common learning experience for students in the opening days of school. Additionally, the required texts for each grade are linked thematically to the courses and help students and teachers establish a conceptual framework for the school year. All assignments are due the first day of school and unless the assignment asked for charts, posters, et cetera, all submissions should be typed in Times New Roman size 12 font and double spaced.

Rising 8th

And Then There were None-Agatha Christie

Answer the following questions with a well-written response. Be sure to answer all parts of the question.

1. Identify the ten guests who have been invited to Indian Island, giving their names and backgrounds. Explain if any of the characters, when you first encountered them in the introductory Cast of Characters or in the beginning pages, strike you as especially sinister? Threatening? Harmless?
2. Describe the poem Vera Claythorne finds on display above the mantel in her bedroom. How does this poem relate to the larger plot of the novel?
3. In Chapter 3 the ten guests are gathered for their after-dinner coffee when suddenly an “Inhuman, penetrating” voice begins to speak to them. What exactly does “The Voice” accuse each guest of doing?
4. In Chapter 7 Mr. Lombard and Dr. Armstrong discuss the deaths that have occurred so far. Why do they conclude that the deaths must have been acts of murder?
5. Reread the last sentence of Chapter 8. How is the story different from this point on?
6. In the second paragraph of Chapter 13 we read: “And all of them suddenly, looked less like human beings. They were reverting to more bestial types.” Explain this behavior and provide several examples of text evidence. Also explain how you would behave if placed in this horrific situation.
7. In Chapter 14, there are extended monologues involving Miss Claythorne and ex-Inspector Blore. What do you learn from the private thoughts of these two characters?
8. When you reached the point where there are only two characters left, which one did you think was the murderer, or did you suspect someone else and were surprised? Use quotes from the novel to support your answer (include the page number in parentheses after the quote).
9. Who is the murderer? How is his/her identity revealed? Explain if the murderer’s “confession” seem appropriate/reasonable to you.
10. A good definition of a red herring is “a clue that takes the reader and/or characters in the wrong direction.” Looking back, what are some red herrings used in the novel?
11. Explain which one of the murders depicted in the novel seem especially accurate or believable to you and which one seemed too incredible to be true. Be sure to cite textual evidence (including page number) to support your answers.

Writing Reflection: Give a review of the novel, explaining what made it interesting or dull, why you liked/disliked it, and why you would/would not recommend it. If you write your reflection, it must be at least ½ of a page (6-7 words per line).