

And Then There Were None Study Guide Questions

CHAPTER 1

1. Based on your reading of the first chapter, can you identify the point of view that the author uses? Why might the author have made the choice to narrate the book this way?
2. Consider how the author introduces each of the eight characters in this chapter. Do you find yourself immediately liking any of the characters? If so, who and why? If not, why not? What important details do you find out about each character and his or her situation? (Hint: Use your “Character Observations Chart” to help you keep track of characters.)
3. Who invites these eight characters to Soldier Island?

CHAPTER 2

1. How much do the guests of Soldier Island seem to know about the person or people who invited them to stay?
2. On page 27, the text notes that Anthony Marston looks like “a young God, a Hero God out of some Northern Saga.” In concrete terms, what does this suggest about his features? (For example, what color hair do you think he has? About how old do you think he is?) How do the other characters in the book react to their first glimpses of Marston?
3. Who is Fred Narracott, and what observations does he make about the guests?
4. Describe the house on Soldier Island. What does it look like? How are the eight guests greeted once they arrive at the house? What important information do they find out about their host or hosts once they arrive?
5. Who are Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and how are they characterized? Point to specific moments in the text to support your answer.
6. What is the connection between Soldier Island and the poem that’s displayed in Vera Claythorne’s bedroom?
7. Chapter 2 offers a few more clues about the novel’s characters and their pasts. What characters do we find out the most about?

CHAPTER 3

1. What is the significance of the ten soldier figures displayed on the dining room table? What predictions can you make about these figures?
2. What do Vera Claythorne and Emily Brent discuss in the drawing room after dinner? What does each woman find out about the other?
3. What does the gramophone announcement suggest? Who is responsible for playing the gramophone announcement?
4. What are the immediate effects of the gramophone announcement on the guests?
5. On page 53, Philip Lombard points out that the gramophone record is titled Swan Song. What is a “swan song”? Why do you think the record is titled Swan Song?
6. In comparing invitations to the island, what do the guests discover? Who takes the lead as the group begins to share their stories about being invited to the island? What important discovery is made about the name of the person who invited each guest to the island?
7. Which guests are portrayed as dishonest in this chapter? Cite specific evidence from the text to support your answer.

CHAPTER 4

1. With the exception of Emily Brent, each character provides more information about the accusations made by the voice on the gramophone. What do you find out about each character’s connection to a past death in this chapter?
2. What does Armstrong recall about the Seton case that Judge Wargrave adjudicated?
3. How does Vera Claythorne’s story provide you with more information about her character and connect to previous moments in the book?
4. Which characters take full responsibility for the deaths they’ve been accused of being responsible for? Which of these characters seem remorseful about the parts they played in the deaths?
5. The judge suggests that all of the guests should leave the island immediately. What is the problem with this course of action?
6. Who dies at the end of the chapter, and how does he die?

1. Why does Dr. Armstrong examine Marston’s drink? What does he discover? What do the guests conclude about Marston’s death?
2. Consider the description of the house that occurs on page 79. What does this description tell us?
3. How do the passages that focus on Judge Margrave, General Macarthur, and Vera Claythorne alter your perceptions of these characters?
4. In what ways might the last lines of each section in this chapter foreshadow future events in the story?
5. What happens to the ten soldier figures on the dining room table? How do these figures connect to the poem and the events that have so far taken place in the novel? Based on this, make a prediction about what is likely to happen in the rest of the novel.
6. Examine the author’s use of italics, ellipses, and dashes. When do you see the author making these formatting choices? Why does she make them?

CHAPTER 6

1. When Mrs. Rogers dies mysteriously in the night, what is the possible cause of her death according to Dr. Armstrong? Emily Brent? Blore?
2. What are the guests waiting for? What complicates the arrival of what they are waiting for?
3. What does General Macarthur say about the guests’ stay on the island?

4. At the end of the chapter, what does Rogers observe about the arrangement of the dining room?

CHAPTER 7

1. While sitting with Vera Claythorne, what does Emily Brent reveal about the accusations that were made about her by the voice on the gramophone? What is Miss Brent's reaction to the accusations made about the other guests? What is Vera's response to Miss Brent?

2. In talking with Armstrong, why does Lombard say, "I mean—it explains Soldier Island..." (114)? What is explained about the island in this conversation?

3. What do Armstrong and Lombard decide about the two deaths that have taken place? How are these deaths connected, according to the theory that Armstrong offers?

4. What do Armstrong and Lombard decide to do in light of the events that have taken place?

CHAPTER 8

1. On page 121, Blore suggests that Mr. Owen has decided to "do the job by proxy." What does "by proxy" mean? What is Blore suggesting?

2. What do Blore and Armstrong discover Lombard has brought with him to the island? What is Lombard's explanation for bringing this item?

3. In searching the island, what exactly are Blore, Armstrong, and Lombard looking for? What are the results of their search? During this search, what do they conclude about their chances of getting off the island?

4. Describe General Macarthur's behavior in this chapter. How do others respond to him? Why might his behavior be important?

5. Which characters fall under suspicion for the murder of Marston and Mrs. Rogers in this chapter? Who accuses them, and why?

CHAPTER 9

1. In considering how Mrs. Rogers dies, Blore suggests that Armstrong accidentally gave her an overdose of a sleeping medication. Armstrong replies, "Doctors can't afford to make that kind of mistake, my friend." Why is this statement misleading?

2. What do you find out about Lombard's invitation to the island in this chapter? What is your impression of Lombard at this point, and what evidence from the texts leads you to feel the way you do?

3. Who dies in this chapter? How does he die? What change in the house signifies his death?

4. In considering the most recent death, what do the characters conclude about the identity of the murderer?

5. Who takes the lead in the process of trying to rule out guests who might be responsible for the three murders that have recently been committed? How would you describe the way in which this person goes about the process? What are the criteria that this person uses to evaluate the likelihood that a given guest has committed the murders? Which guests are ruled out as suspects?

CHAPTER 10

1. Who does Lombard suspect is behind the murders? Who does Vera Claythorne suspect? What reasons do they each give for having these suspicions?

2. Which characters have suspicions about the identity of the murderer but don't tell? 3. What concerning episode happens to Miss Brent as she's in her bedroom? How does this episode serve as a flashback to a previous moment in the book?

4. In this chapter, you find out that a few items have gone missing. What items are missing? Why do you think the text makes note of these items?

5. At the end of the chapter, Rogers notes, "No more china-soldier tricks tonight. I've seen to that..." (180). What type of tricks is Rogers referring to, and what has he done to ensure that there won't be any of these tricks in the middle of the night?

CHAPTER 11

1. How is Lombard introduced in this chapter? What specific description of him stands out to you, and why?

2. Who dies in this chapter? How does he die? Who most logically falls under suspicion for committing this murder, and why?

3. Why does Vera ask, "Do they keep bees on this island?" (186).

4. Much of this chapter focuses on Lombard and Blore and the interactions between them. How are these two men different from each other? What does Blore reveal to Lombard during their conversations?

5. Who do you think Hugo is and how are he and Vera connected? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.2

6. Who is Beatrice Taylor and how are she and Miss Brent connected? Why is Miss Brent preoccupied with Beatrice Taylor?

7. On page 195, several characters have "thoughts that ran round like squirrels in a cage." Which of the italicized thoughts is most incriminating? Who do you think is thinking each of these thoughts? Explain your answer.

CHAPTER 12

1. Why does Emily Brent remain in the dining room after breakfast? What does Dr. Armstrong offer her as a result? What is her response to him, and why does she respond this way?

2. What happens to Miss Brent as she's sitting alone in the dining room? Describe her behavior immediately before this event and make a guess about why she behaved this way.

3. What role does the hypodermic syringe play in the events that take place in this chapter, and how is this relevant to the pattern of the murders that have been committed? Who owns the syringe? Where do the guests find it, and what does this tell them?

4. In lieu of what happens to Miss Brent, what do the other characters decide to do to protect themselves? What problem do they encounter with Lombard's revolver?

5. Judge Wargrave gives a key to Lombard and a key to Blore. What do these keys unlock? Why does he choose to give the keys to these two men?

CHAPTER 13

1. Chapter 13 notes that the characters in the novel are “reverting to more bestial types” (211). What type of beast does each character resemble? What do these comparisons tell you about each person?
2. On pages 213-214, thoughts run through the characters heads that are “abnormal, feverish, diseased...” Who do you think is thinking each of these thoughts? Which of these thoughts is most incriminating?
3. What happens when Lombard switches on the lights?
4. What does Vera feel when she goes into her room to bath her head in cool water? How does this incident relate to her past? When men bring candles to her room, what is revealed?
5. On page 219, Lombard says to Vera, “You’ve got your wits about you.” What does she do to make him say this?
6. What happens to Justice Wargrave? How does the way he looks explain previous events in the novel?

CHAPTER 14

1. What does Lombard discover in his room following the most recent death? How does this relate to the events that have just taken place? 2. What do you find out about Vera in Chapter 14, Section IV? What does Vera notice about her room?
3. Who is Landor, and what is his connection to Blore?
4. What does Blore hear as he’s sitting in his room? What does he do as a result?
5. Which character is missing from his room? How do the other characters respond to the fact that this character is missing?
6. How does Vera pass the time when she’s left in her room “to await results” (239)?
7. What do Blore and Lombard find in the dining room?

CHAPTER 15

1. How have the characters’ moods changed at the beginning of Chapter 15? What causes this mood change?
2. What reasons do Blore and Vera give to explain Armstrong’s disappearance? What is a “red herring,” and how is the term related to the discussion that Lombard, Blore, and Vera have over breakfast?
3. Consider the significance of Vera pointing out that the remaining characters are “the Zoo” (248). To what is she referring? What specific descriptions in the book support this claim?
4. Where do the characters spend the morning? Why are they there?
5. When Vera tells Lombard the story of the two judges who came to a small American town, what does she mean when she says they administered “Absolute Justice” (253)? What is Lombard’s response to her idea?
6. How does Blore die? How does his death relate to the soldier poem? Following this death, who do the remaining characters conclude the murderer must be?
7. What do Lombard and Vera find in the sea?

CHAPTER 16

1. What does Vera suddenly notice about Lombard’s face? How has this observation been foreshadowed by earlier moments in the book?
2. What does Vera do that gives her the upper hand in the final episode between her and Lombard? How does this episode end?
3. Compare Vera’s behavior following the episode between her and Lombard to her behavior at the beginning of the book. How has Vera changed?
4. When Vera arrives back at the house, why are there still three soldier boys standing even though two more of the guests have been killed? What does Vera do with the remaining soldier boys?
5. Who does Vera feel is in the house with her?
6. What does Vera find has changed about her room? Who do you think is responsible for this change? What does she do in response? Why do you think she does what she does?
7. What are Vera’s final two thoughts about murder?

EPILOGUE

1. Who are Inspector Maine and the Assistant Commissioner and what are they discussing? What is “Scotland Yard”?
2. Who is Isaac Morris and what role did he play in the events that took place on Soldier Island? What did Morris tell the residents in Sticklehaven? 2
3. Who eventually went to Soldier Island to investigate the rumor he’d heard about S.O.S. signals?
4. When the AC points out, “U.N. Owen dealt with cases the law couldn’t touch,” what is he suggesting about the guests on the island (279)? What does this tell you about the motive of the person who murdered the guests on Soldier Island?
5. The AC says he momentarily feels like he’s “got, as it were, the clue to the thing” (279). What do you think causes him to feel that way? Do either of the characters say anything specific that you think might be a clue to the solving the case?
6. According to Inspector Maine and the AC, why can’t Armstrong have killed Blore, Lombard, and Vera? Why can’t Lombard have killed Vera? What is the mystery surrounding Vera’s death? Why can’t Blore have killed Vera and Lombard? Based on these conclusions, what do the Inspector and the AC decide about the island? Do you agree with their conclusion?