Name: Date:

*And Then There Were None* During Reading Questions

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of white lined paper or you will risk losing points. You may also type your answers for extra credit.

1. A) Who is U.N. Owen?
2. What do we learn about him in the novel’s opening pages?
3. Where does the story take place? Describe the primary setting of *And Then There Were None* with as much detail as possible.
4. Describe the poem Vera Claythorne finds on display above the mantel in her bedroom in chapter 2.
5. What kind of poem is it?
6. How does it relate to the centerpiece of small china figures that first appears in the subsequent dinner scene in chapter 3?
7. In chapter 3, the ten guests are gathered for their after-dinner coffee when suddenly an “inhuman, penetrating” voice begins to speak to them, one prerecorded on a phonograph record. What exactly does “The Voice” accuse each guest of doing? Please record your findings on your character log.
8. Who dies at the end of chapter 4? Look again at the victim’s last words, and then explain the irony[[1]](#footnote-1) of this particular murder.
9. In chapter 5 we learn the following about General Macarthur: *He knew, suddenly, that he didn’t want to leave the island.* Why **do you** **think** he knows this?
10. A) How does Mrs. Rogers meet her demise in chapter 6?
11. Why does Mr. Blore immediately suspect her husband, Mr. Rogers, killed her?
12. In chapter 7, Mr. Lombard and Dr. Armstrong discuss the two deaths that have occurred thus far.
13. Why do they conclude that both deaths must have been acts of murder?
14. How does this conclusion relate to the absence of Mr. Owen?
15. Reread the last sentence of chapter 8. How **do you think** the story different from this point on?
16. After the murdered body of General Macarthur is discovered, the seven remaining characters participate in an informal yet serious court session to “establish the facts” of what has transpired since their arrival at Indian Island. **In your view**, who seems most likely to be guilty/innocent at this point in the narrative?
17. As chapter 11 begins, what is different about the arrangement of the china figure Indians in the dining room?
18. How has Mr. Rogers been killed?
19. A) How is Miss Brent murdered?

B) Why is Dr. Armstrong immediately suspected of committing this crime?

1. What telltale item in the doctor’s possession turns up missing?
2. What item originally in Mr. Lombard’s possession also disappears?
3. Five people are still alive as chapter 13 begins. In the second paragraph, we read: “And all of them, suddenly, looked less like human beings. They were reverting to more bestial[[2]](#footnote-2) types.” Explain this behavior, and provide a two examples (direct quotes formatted in the MLA style) of it by referring to the text of the novel. Is this similar to how you yourself would behave if placed in this horrific situation? Explain why or why not.
4. Earlier in the narrative, both a ball of gray wool and a red shower curtain suddenly go missing. How and where do these items reappear?
5. The narrative of *And Then There Were None* seems more detailed––more carefully descriptive and deliberately paced––as it draws to a close. In chapter 14, for instance, we encounter extended interior monologues involving Miss Claythorne and ex-inspector Blore.

A) Why **do you suppose** the author begins to focus on her characters in this way? B) What do we learn from the private thoughts of these two characters?

1. A) What happens to Dr. Armstrong? How and when does he disappear?
2. How is Mr. Blore murdered?
3. Why do Miss Claythorne and Mr. Lombard suspect that Dr. Armstrong is Mr. Blore’s killer?
4. When you reached the point where Miss Claythorne and Mr. Lombard are the only two characters remaining, which one did you think was the murderer or did you suspect someone else? Explain your answer.
5. A) Who kills Philip Lombard?

B) Who, ultimately, is responsible for the death of Vera Claythorne?

1. A) Who is the murderer?

B) How is his or her identity revealed?

1. Irony is the exact opposite of what you expect to happen. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Of or relating to beasts or resembling a beast especially in lack of intelligence or reason [↑](#footnote-ref-2)