



SOPHOMORE SUMMER READING 2026

Honors and College Bound

***And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie**

- Students will take a quiz during the first week of the school year. Reading guides (found below) are to be completed and submitted on the first full day of class
- May be purchased online:
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/and-then-there-were-none-agatha-christie/118198924?ean=9780062325549>

Honors Only

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho**

- Students will take a quiz during the first week of the school year. Reading guides (found below) are to be completed and submitted on the first full day of class.
- May be purchased online:
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/alchemy-paulo-coelho/1100248293?ean=9780062315007>



SOPHOMORE SUMMER READING 2026

Reading Guide for *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

At some point during the summer, you are to read the novel *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. On the first full day of school, you will turn in this study guide and take a quiz on the novel. As you read, answer the questions below. Use this guide to help you study for the quiz.

NOTE: While it may be tempting to watch the movie versions instead of reading the book, it is strongly discouraged; the movie versions have altered the plot significantly and will not provide accurate answers to the questions below. These questions will guide you through the text. The quiz will be taken on the first full day of school. The completed handwritten reading guide is due on the first full day of school.

Chapters 1, 2, & 3

1. Where does this story take place?
2. Who owns the island?
3. Below are the ten guests who have been invited to the island. For each, describe their background and why (if applicable) they have been summoned to the island.
 - a. Mr. Justice Wargrave
 - b. Vera Claythorne
 - c. Captain Philip Lombard
 - d. Emily Brent
 - e. General MacArthur
 - f. Dr. Armstrong
 - g. Anthony Marston
 - h. Mr. Blore
 - i. Fred Narraccott



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- j. Mr. And Mrs. Rodgers
4. Of all the guests, one is implied to have killed someone before arriving on the island. Who is it?
 5. Vera sees a poem above her bed. Why is it important?
 6. The guests are having dinner when a disembodied voice begins to speak. What does it accuse the guests of doing?

Chapters 4 - 7

7. Who is the first to die at the end of chapter 4?
8. What is General MacArthur going through in chapter 5? Why do you think he feels this way?
9. How does Mrs. Rodgers meet her demise in chapter 6?
10. Why does Mr. Blore suspect that Mrs. Rodgers was killed by her husband?
11. In chapter 7, Mr. Lombard and Dr. Armstrong discuss the two deaths that have occurred thus far, and decide that it must have been an act of murder. How does this relate to the absence of Mr. Owens?

Chapters 8 - 11

12. After the murdered body of General MacArthur is discovered, the seven remaining guests participate in an informal yet serious court session to “establish the facts” of what has happened. Who is the leader of this inquest?
13. At the beginning of chapter 11, what is different about the china figures in the dining room? What does this tell us?
14. How has Mr. Rodgers killed?

Chapters 12 - Manuscript

15. How is Miss Brent murdered? Who is accused of killing her?
16. What item from Dr. Armstrong ends up missing?
17. What item from Mr. Lombard turns up missing?



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18. Earlier, a ball of wool from Miss Brent and a red shower curtain from Mr. Rodgers suddenly went missing. How do they reappear?
19. What happens to Dr. Armstrong? How and when does he disappear?
20. How was Mr. Blore murdered? Why is Dr. Armstrong suspected?
21. Who kills Philip Lombard?
22. Who, ultimately, is responsible for the death of Vera Claythorne?

Epilogue

23. Who is the murderer revealed to be?
24. Who is the mysterious Mr. Owen?
25. Define the term "red herring." How does it apply to this story?



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Reading Guide for *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

At some point during the summer, you are to read the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. On the first full day of school, you will turn in this handwritten study guide and take a quiz on the book. As you read, answer the questions below. Use this guide to help you study for the quiz.

1. What does Santiago do for a living?
2. Where is he located at the beginning of the novel?
3. What is the lie in Santiago's book, according to the old man?
4. At the beginning, Santiago thinks the old man might be a gypsy, like the woman. How does the old man gain Santiago's trust?
5. According to the King, what is a Personal Legend?
6. What is ultimately the thing that encourages Santiago to leave his homeland and travel?
7. What is the "principle of favorability?"
8. What does the King give Santiago to help in recognizing omens?
9. Where does Santiago arrive? What happens when he comes?
10. What difficult choice does Santiago make when he meets the crystal merchant?
11. What is the Englishman looking for?
12. How does Santiago feel when he meets Fatima? How does this relate to the concept of the "Language of the World?"
13. What happens when Santiago sees the hawks in the desert?
14. Who helps Santiago find the Alchemist?
15. The Alchemist persuades Santiago to sell his camel and buy a horse. The next night, the Alchemist takes Santiago into the desert and gives him a second test. What is the task? What are the skills being tested in this task?



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16. Why does the Alchemist feel the heart is more important, or trustworthy, than the mind?
17. Why did Santiago have to go through the dangers of the tribal wars on the outskirts of the oasis to reach the Pyramids?
18. What did Santiago find at the pyramids?
19. What does Santiago find when he returns to his homeland?
20. What does Santiago decide to do after he returns to the church and finds the treasure?
21. Why is it significant that Santiago's treasure is found at the place where his story began instead of where his physical journey took him? What do you think the "moral" of this story can be?