

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Sara Celek School: OLMS  
Book Title: And Then There Were None Genre: Mystery  
Author: Agatha Christie Pages: 320  
Publisher: HarperCollinsPublishing Copyright: 2011 (Orig. 1939)

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and Summary Citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

### The World's Bestselling Mystery

"Ten . . ."

Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious "U.N. Owen."

"Nine . . ."

At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night one of the guests is dead.

"Eight . . ."

Stranded by a violent storm, and haunted by a nursery rhyme counting down one by one . . . one by one they begin to die.

"Seven . . ."

Who among them is the killer and will any of them survive?

Back of book

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum blueprints and/or State standards.**

**RL.1 RL.4 RL.10 RI.4 WS.1a-e**

**This novel will expose students to the mystery genre which will then allow students to write an argumentative essay.**

**Include two professional review of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form). Reviews should suggest an appropriate grade-level or grade-band.

Review #1

*And Then There Were None* is a grim but riveting mystery. Characters are first introduced just so that readers can distinguish them, but as the book progresses and readers get further inside their minds and their fears, the suspense builds. One of the darkest aspects of the novel is the fact there's no "good guy" here -- all of the characters appear equally guilty in more ways than one. This is an exciting book -- however grisly -- that is to be enjoyed for its page-turning plot and Christie's masterful construction around the spooky nursery rhyme.

*Common Sense Media Age 11+*

Review #2

The whole thing is utterly impossible and utterly fascinating. It is the most baffling mystery Agatha Christie has ever written.

*New York Times*

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: Author: *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

Parents need to know that in prolific British mystery novelist Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, 10 guests visit Soldier Island and a murderer uses a nursery rhyme as a framework to plan and execute the visitors' deaths, one by one, in various ways, including by shooting, drowning, bludgeoning, poisoning, and hanging. The text contains derogatory references to African "natives" and a couple of anti-Semitic remarks. The book was written for adults, but teens can learn a lot about the mystery genre from this master.

*Common Sense Media*

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated       Regular       At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6  7  8  9  10  11  12

**Reading Level of this Title (if applicable):**

**Suggested Professional Literacy Review Sources:**

- School Library Journal
- Horn Book
- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
- VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)
- Library Journal
- Book Links
- Publisher's Weekly
- Booklist
- Kirkus Review

