

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie Sophomore Summer Reading

Directions: Answer each question thoroughly and thoughtfully in the space provided, and support your ideas **with textual evidence** from the novel. Use citations where applicable. You must answer in complete paragraphs, unless otherwise directed. Grammar matters.

Pre-reading response

1. If you could travel anywhere by train, where would you go and why? (You may use personal pronouns here)

Chapters 1-3 Thought Questions

2. Based on evidence so far, what is the author trying to say about appearances?

3. Finish this sentence: Hercule Poirot is like a _____ (insert noun). Defend your simile with three specific examples (bullet points).

Part 1 Chapters 4-6 Thought Questions

4. Why do you think the author chose to set this book during the winter with lots of snow? What does this symbolize?

5. Why do you think the author chose to make the setting of this novel on a train? What do you think the train symbolizes?

6. Analyze what Poirot thinks is real evidence vs. planted evidence (evidence purposely placed in order to distract from the real murderer). Do you agree with his assessment?

Part 2 Chapters 1-3 Thought Questions

7. What is the most important information you learned in these chapters?

8. Is Poirot a good detective? Support with evidence from these chapters.

Part 2 Chapters 4-6 Thought Questions

9. What point is the author making about appearances such as Princess Dragomiroff's and prejudices such as Bouc's towards the Italian?

10. What do you think Princess Dragomiroff meant when she tells Hercule Poirot, "This is Destiny"?

Part 2 Chapters 7-9 Thought Questions

11. What new information presented in these chapters do you think is the most important? Why?

12. So far, who do you suspect to be the murderer? Why?

Part 2 Chapters 10-13 Thought Questions

13. Why does Poirot suspect Mary Debenham? Agree/Disagree with Poirot.

14. Write three things you know about each person so far: Hildegard Schmidt, Greta Ohlsson, the Italian.

Part 2 Chapters 14-15 Thought Questions

15. What new information from these chapters has intrigued you about this case?

16. Why do you think the author made the kimono scarlet and embroidered with dragons? What is symbolic about the color and image?

Part 3 Chapters 1-3 Thought Questions

17. What is the author trying to say about critical thinking? (Use textual evidence)

18. Who do you think is the murderer based on evidence from the text?

Part 3 Chapters 4-6 Thought Questions

19. Analyze the character of Helena. Who is she? What motivates her? What word best describes her? Is she a murderer?

20. What is this book teaching about loyalty? Do you agree?

Part 3 Chapters 7-9 Thought Questions

21. Is murder ever justified? What about from a biblical context?

22. Is *Murder on the Orient Express* a good title for this novel? Why or why not?