

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## *And Then There Were None*

### Pre-reading

**Directions: Read the following unusual nursery rhyme and then answer the questions below.**

#### Ten Little Indians

*Ten little Indian boys went out to dine;  
One choked his little self and then there were nine.  
Nine little Indian boys sat up very late;  
One overslept himself and then there were eight.  
Eight little Indian boys traveling in Devon;  
One said he'd stay there and there were seven.  
Seven little Indian boys chopping up sticks;  
One chopped himself in halves and then there were six.  
Six little Indian boys played with a hive;  
A bumblebee stung one and then there were five.  
Five little Indian boys going in for law;  
One got in Chancery and then there were four.  
Four little Indian boys going out to sea;  
A red herring swallowed one and then there were three.  
Three little Indian boys walking in the Zoo;  
A big bear hugged one and then there were two.  
Two little Indian boys sitting in the sun;  
One got frizzled up and then there was one.  
One little Indian boy left all alone;  
He went and hanged himself and then there were none.*

1. What does the title of the novel (*And Then There Were None*) suggest?
2. How is this nursery rhyme different from the common Mother Goose rhymes you heard as a child?
3. How might you react if you saw this rhyme framed on the wall of a hotel room where you were staying on vacation?
4. How many different ways do the "Little Indians" die?
5. What does "overslept himself" in line 4 mean?

6. What kind of death do you think “frizzled up” means in line 18?
  
7. How many Indians survive?
  
8. By the title of the poem and the number of deaths, how many characters do you think are involved in the murder mystery?
  
9. In what line of the rhyme does the title of the novel appear?
  
10. Is this the kind of nursery rhyme you might read to little children or your sibling? Why?
  
11. Do you think the killer is among the ten?
  
12. How many killers do you think there are?