

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

Discussion Questions

- Who did you think the murder was when you were reading the book? Were you able to solve the mystery before Poirot did, or were you surprised when Poirot revealed the culprits?
- If you had to rewrite Murder on the Orient Express for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where would you set it, and why?
- Poirot relies mainly on psychology and logic to solve crimes. How is detective work different today? (Think of shows like *CSI*.)
- If you were a character on the Orient Express, who would you be, and why?
- Why did Agatha Christie set the murder on a train? What does the train symbolize in the novel?
- How is the diversity of American society shown through the passengers? How does this diversity create an interesting and unusual case for Poirot?
- Name two comedic characters in Murder on the Orient Express. How are they comedic and how do they help propel the plot?
- One issue that is alluded to in Christie's novel is the role that prejudice and profiling play in criminal investigation. M. Bouc, in particular, is quick to assign characters guilt or innocence based on what he perceives as the characteristics of their nationality. What steps have been taken to end racial profiling today? Thinking of the Ahmnd Aubrey and George Floyd murders, what still needs to be done?
- What is the difference between revenge and justice?
- Were the murderers justified in killing Mr. Ratchett?
- Why did Poirot choose not to report the crime and punish the criminals?