

Approved for use in English IV

Summary of the Work:

Agatha Christie's master sleuth Hercule Poirot is called upon to determine "whodunit" on a 1930's journey aboard the world's most opulent train, the Orient Express. Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of year. But by the morning there is one less passenger. An American lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. The list of possibilities is endless, Red herrings are put in the path of Hercule Poirot encounters many red herrings but he succeeds in coming up with not just one, but two possible solutions to the crime.

Rationale:

English IV, M*A*S*H, mystery, adventure, suspense and horror, is a section of the required English IV course. This course emphasizes the analysis of non-fiction and novels. Students should have an appreciation for and love of reading.

Christie is often regarded as the Queen of the Golden Age detective and mystery novels. *Murder on The Orient Express* is a classic mystery novel.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Times Literary Supplement - January 11, 1934

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- See Titlewave for Awards.

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 640
- Readability Level: 7.4

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

The novel is based in part upon the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby in the United States in 1932, when Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh paid a ransom of \$50,000, but the baby was murdered nonetheless. The second incident that influenced the plot occurred in 1929, when the Orient Express train crossed the Turkish border and was snowbound for six days. "Hard to surpass." - Saturday Review of Literature.

"Christie...keeps her readers enthralled and guessing to the end." - Times Literary Supplement

Connection to the Curriculum:

The novel connects to the curriculum as students will recognize and understand conventions and devices used by the author to present ideas and themes.

- Symbols
- Compare to other murder mysteries
- Classic
- Female writer

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

Films - *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974) Sidney Lumet

Murder on the Orient Express (2001) made-for-television directed by Carl Schenkel