

10th Grade Essay Prompt Assignment for *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie

Due: Sept. 15th 2025

Objective:

Write an analytical essay discussing key themes, characters, or narrative techniques in *Murder on the Orient Express*. Your essay should be well-organized, clearly argued, and supported with specific examples from the text.

Essay Prompt Options:

1. Character Analysis:

Hercule Poirot, the famous Belgian detective, is central to the plot of *Murder on the Orient Express*. How does Agatha Christie portray Poirot's character? Discuss his methods of solving crimes, his personality traits, and how his role as a detective impacts the outcome of the novel. What does Poirot's character reveal about the nature of justice?

2. Theme of Justice and Morality:

The novel presents a complex exploration of justice and morality. Discuss the different views of justice presented by the characters. How does the concept of justice evolve throughout the story, particularly regarding the murder of Samuel Ratchett? What message do you think Agatha Christie is conveying about justice and the law?

3. The Role of Social Class in the Novel:

In *Murder on the Orient Express*, the social backgrounds of the characters play a significant role in the development of the story. How do social class and societal expectations influence the characters' behavior and relationships? Discuss the significance of these social dynamics in the resolution of the mystery.

4. Narrative Structure and the Role of the Detective:

Agatha Christie uses a unique narrative structure in *Murder on the Orient Express*, with the majority of the story being told through Poirot's investigation. How does Christie use this narrative structure to build suspense and mystery? How does the reader's experience of the story change as Poirot unravels the truth?

5. The Concept of Revenge:

The murder of Samuel Ratchett is linked to a past crime, one in which his victim's family sought revenge. How does the theme of revenge drive the actions of the characters in the novel? Explore the moral implications of revenge as presented in the book. Do you believe the characters' actions are justified?

Guidelines for the Essay:

- **Length:** Your essay should be between 3-5 pages (750-1250 words).
- **Introduction:** Start with a brief summary of the novel and state your thesis clearly, outlining the main points you will discuss.
- **Body Paragraphs:** Each paragraph should focus on a specific point supporting your thesis. Use direct quotes from the text to back up your argument.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize your main points and reflect on the overall significance of the themes or characters discussed in your essay.
- **Citations:** Cite specific examples from the novel (page numbers) to support your claims. Use MLA or APA format for citations and references.