

Discussion Questions for *Murder on the Orient Express*

1. Do you think Hercule Poirot is more or less effective as a detective than Sherlock Holmes? Why or why not?
2. How do Poirot's methods differ from those of Holmes? How are they the same? Which character is more believable?
3. What was your general impression of the novel? Was it believable? Why or why not? Did you think that the supporting characters were believable? Why or why not?
4. Did you anticipate the ending of the story? If not, which character did you think committed the crime? Why? Was the ending believable? Why or why not?
5. Did the author effectively set-up the story? Did she provide enough clues so that the story could be solved? Is it helpful for mystery authors to provide somewhat difficult clues to a story, or should they make the crime unsolvable except by the protagonist?
6. Poirot claims to rely on a combination of intellect, intuition, logic and gut feeling to determine the murderer. How is this different from the methods used by Sherlock Holmes?
7. Did you like the character of Hercule Poirot? Why or why not? Is it necessary to like the character, or is an admiration of his methods sufficient?
8. Which of the characters in the novel (other than Ratchett) is least likable? Which of the supporting characters is least believable? Which of the supporting characters was most believable?