

CHARACTER COMPARISON



MURDER FOR TWO

While reading *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook, gather information about the two main characters, Ani and Riri, and compare them.

	ANI	RIRI
Approach to problem solving.		
Attitude to rules and authority.		
How they communicate with others.		
How they handle emotions.		
How they change throughout the story.		



CHARACTER STUDY

IMANI 'ANI' TARIQ



MURDER FOR TWO

While reading *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook, gather information about one of the main characters, Ani. You should add to each category as the story develops and you learn more about her.

What do you know about Ani?



What is Ani's personality?
How does this develop throughout the story?

What is Ani's relationship with her twin sister like? How does it change?

How does Ani handle strong emotions?

CHARACTER STUDY

NOORI 'RIRI' TARIQ



MURDER FOR TWO

While reading *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook, gather information about one of the main characters, Riri. You should add to each category as the story develops and you learn more about her.

What do you know about Riri?



What is Riri's personality?
How does this develop throughout the story?

What is Riri's relationship with her twin sister like? How does it change?

How does Riri handle strong emotions?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EXTRACT 1



MURDER FOR TWO

Extract taken from Chapter 2 of *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook.

Dad pinches the bridge of his nose. 'Well, they're landing tomorrow.'

I see red. Not my proudest moment but I let out a loud grunt that turns into a roar. 'Argh! Why didn't you ask me about this?'

Dad gives me a look like *I've* crossed the line. 'Because the parent here is me.' He sighs. 'I didn't tell you because it was your last week of school, I didn't want to disrupt it.'

'Dad, I can disrupt my last week of school all by myself, thanks very much!'

'I realise that now. Mx Henderson rang me, you know. You nearly got detention on your last day for saying something bad?' He sounds so disappointed.

But I'm *more* disappointed. 'Don't change the subject! I don't want Mum and *her* here!'

'She, you know, is coming to Leeds to set up another UK office for her job. And it's good for you and Noori to see each other.'

I don't want to see my evil twin or Mum. My heartbeat is pounding at this new information. 'Is she going to stay in Leeds to run the office?' I don't want Mum and my evil twin living nearby whether it's a brief stay or forever. It'll be worse if it's forever, though.

Dad replies, 'Your mum, she doesn't know for definite yet.'

I wish he could say that Mum and my evil twin are definitely not ever coming here. I grit my teeth in anger and give him a sidelong glare. 'Do you want to make *Mum* your wife again?'

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'No, Imani. We'll be mature about this, OK? Me, Mum, you, Noori.'

I shudder at the second mention of my evil twin. 'I won't visit them at the hotel.'

Dad clears his throat. 'That's another thing –'

Mrs Kostas's deck chair creaks as she stands up. She jumps at the sound, which isn't like her. Takes the bowl of kheer out of Dad's hands. Passes it to me with a small smile. 'Have a spoon or two first,' she encourages, softly.

I would decline it, but Mrs Kostas's soft tone always comes with hard eyes. I take one spoon. Then two. The second spoonful is flaked with almonds. As usual, the kheer is delicious – perfectly milky and sugary – but I don't change my expression. 'What else, Dad?' Here it comes, the sweet bad news. I brace myself.

He swallows. 'Noori won't be staying at the hotel.' I raise my eyebrows and my eyes widen as I wait for him to elaborate. 'She'll be staying with us, you know.'

I inhale a calm breath. Not what I wanted to hear but I don't think it can get any worse. 'So will I be sleeping on the sofa? Or will you, Dad?'

Dad exhales. 'Noori will be staying in your bedroom with you.'

I don't say anything, or scream, or cry.

Instead, I run out of The Secret Garden. Far away from Dad and Mrs Kostas.

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Discussion Questions:

- Why does Ani feel upset that she was not asked about the decision?
- How do we know Ani is feeling overwhelmed, even though she never says, 'I'm overwhelmed'?
- Why does Ani describe Riri as her evil twin?
- What does Mrs Kostas's behaviour suggest about how well she understands Ani?
- What does Ani's physical reaction (roaring, pounding heart, running away) tell us about how big this news feels to her?
- What does this extract suggest might cause conflict later in the story?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EXTRACT 2



MURDER FOR TWO

Extract taken from Chapter 17 of *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook.

Note: The Olio Trio are shown entering the cafe on CCTV footage

- 5.45 p.m.: Ani and Riri enter Cafe Vivlio
- 5.50 p.m. (approx.): Ani chats with Fred, regular #1. Riri goes to the cafe's bookstore

I glance at Riri suspiciously. 'Didn't *you* see or hear anything in the cafe's bookstore? That's technically closer to The Secret Garden than the actual cafe bit is, you know. Sure, there are no windows but I'm sure you'd be able to *hear* something.'

'I was so wrapped up in all the books,' she whispers, 'I barely looked up and around. I didn't hear anything *murder*y. No screams or cries.'

'OK then. Back to the timeline.'

- 6 p.m. (approx.): Ani goes to the kitchens to (attempt to) find Mrs Kostas. Has a chat with Rodolfo, the chef.
- 6.04 p.m. (approx.): Ani leaves kitchens and bumps into regular #2, Mimi. Has a nice chat with her.
- ~~Mimi leaves within this timeframe~~
- 6.10 p.m. (approx.): Ani heads over to Derek's (AKA regular #3) table and has a conversation with him.
- 6.24 p.m. (approx.): Derek's brother, Frankie, comes inside. Ani briefly chats with him

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before Riri comes over and drools and gives him her heart.

Riri's wide eyes are about to roll on the floor and out of the room. 'Ani, no!'

'What, Riri?' I mock her accent and high-pitched tone.

She attempts a glare. 'You can't keep that on the board! What if our parents see? Plus, that totally isn't what happened!'

I give her a lopsided grin. 'Then what *did* happen between you and Frankie?'

She blushes. 'Can we carry on before our parents hear us and we get in trouble?'

I tut but still amend my statement.

- 6.24 p.m. (approx.): Derek's brother, Frankie, enters cafe. Ani briefly chats with him before Riri comes over ~~and drools and gives him her heart.~~

Then I sigh. 'I hope you're happy now. If we ever get asked to present this evidence to the world, you know I can't withhold that this has been doctored.'

'Fine by me, as long as you don't disclose the original statement.'

'No promises. In fact, no comment. Moving on.'

- 6.29 pm: Mimi returns to cafe to get her purse (regulars #1 and #3 are still in cafe).

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Discussion Questions:

- Why does Ani question Riri about what she saw or heard in the bookstore?
- What does Riri's quiet, careful reply tell us about her personality?
- How does Ani treat Riri during this conversation?
- Why does Riri become upset about what Ani writes on the timeline board?
- Is it ever acceptable to change evidence to protect someone's feelings? Why or why not?
- What problems could happen later because the timeline has been altered?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EXTRACT 3



MURDER FOR TWO

Extract taken from Chapter 36 of *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook.

Rodolfo shakes his head. He looks pained. There are creases on his face and his Adam's apple bobs. 'I shouldn't have run –'

'And you shouldn't have stared at us like a-a creepy murderer!' Riri squeaks.

'I only did that because I wanted you to pass on a message to the police from me!'

'You couldn't do that yourself?' I stare at him like I don't believe him. 'You could've gone to the police to confess.' I dial Chloe's number.

'To confess? No, I'm not confessing to anything. Look, the murderer is after *me*.'

'How?' While I don't believe him, my interest is piqued. There's an anguished look on his face.

'Because –' he pinches the bridge of his nose – 'I saw something. I saw Polly and Mimi having a disagreement that day.' I raise my eyebrows. No one mentioned anything negative between Mrs Kostas/Dimas and Mimi. That's suspicious. And I'm angry that not only Rodolfo lied about this, but Mimi did too during the interrogation stage. 'And now Mimi is dead. I don't think her house-fire was accidental. I just *know* it was the murderer who started it. And he must've seen me see them so he's coming after me too.'

'How do you know that? Did you see the murderer?'

'No. But we know the murderer wasn't them two – they're both dead! And I'm next!'

'Rodolfo –' I say – 'you are the murderer and you killed Mimi as well, in case she said something. Maybe she saw you and Mrs Kostas arguing.'

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'No!' he yells. 'I would *never* kill Polly. Her and me, we go way back. Back to when her name was Anastasia Dimas.'

I freeze. 'How do you know about that?' I whisper because I'm afraid my voice will break.

'Me and Mrs Kostas were the same age. When she was younger, she was an art thief. Me? I was the security guard at a Spanish museum. I was the guard in charge of *Infante and Dog* by Diego Velázquez. It was a lost painting that my boss had managed to buy back. But when the curtain lifted, the painting was gone. Her partner, Nikolaos, he sent the newspapers a letter confirming it was him and Anastasia who'd stolen it. I was disgraced – I lost everything. Eventually my name faded from the news but whenever I tried to apply for a job, it all came back up again. I lost everything because of Polly.'

Suddenly I remember all the clues that were right under my nose all along.

- The day before the murder, Rodolfo said to Mrs Kostas/Dimas, 'Remember everything you've thanked me for, Polly.'
- Also on that day, he said, 'If it [covering the counter] gets too much, then I can always go outside and play guard. Right?'
- Regarding the Poppy Flowers situation, Rodolfo said something about the painting days later, in the kitchens. Maybe she'd told him because he already knew everything?

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Discussion Questions:

- How can we tell that Rodolfo is frightened, even before he explains why?
- What new information makes Ani stop accusing Rodolfo and start listening?
- How does this extract change what we think we know about Mrs Kostas?
- Do you think Rodolfo should have told the police about this earlier? Why or why not?
- Is keeping information back the same as lying? Explain your thinking.
- Which earlier clues seem more important now that we have this new information?

NEWSPAPER REPORT



MURDER FOR TWO

After reading Chapter 32 of *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook, imagine you are a newspaper reporter covering the house fire in Castlewick. Write a newspaper article to inform the public about what has happened.

Your report should include:

- a short opening paragraph summarising the fire (who, what, where, when)

- quotes from witnesses or officials (you may invent these, but they should sound realistic)

- information about what the police know and what they are still investigating



Use a formal, journalistic tone and remember that newspapers can sometimes exaggerate events to attract attention.

Try to make your report sound serious and factual but consider how word choice can create drama or bias.

SUSPECT PROFILE SHEET



MURDER FOR TWO

While reading *Murder for Two* by Niyla Farook, compile a profile on one of the suspects.

Suspect
name:

What we know for sure

List facts that are clearly stated in the text.

Possible motive

Explain why this person might want to harm someone, based on what the text shows.

Evidence for

List clues that support the idea that this person could be involved.

Evidence against

List clues that do not fit or suggest innocence.

Questions still unanswered

Write questions you would want to ask next.

WORDSEARCH

MURDER FOR TWO



ANI
CASTLEWICK
EVIDENCE
INVESTIGATION
KOSTAS
MIMI

MOTIVE
RIRI
RODOLFO
SECRET GARDEN
SUPERSLEUTH
TRUST

N	A	D	N	J	V	L	S	Q	N	Z	N	I	A
E	C	F	O	M	I	P	Y	T	P	F	U	R	M
D	K	U	G	F	D	C	E	M	N	S	E	I	H
R	O	D	O	L	F	O	D	M	S	P	R	R	E
A	A	S	K	C	I	W	E	L	T	S	A	C	V
G	N	O	I	T	A	G	I	T	S	E	V	N	I
T	F	F	X	B	A	A	I	Y	A	C	H	O	T
E	T	L	S	A	T	S	O	K	C	O	H	A	O
R	F	T	Z	Z	X	E	U	L	W	Y	N	M	M
C	M	S	O	Q	P	D	T	F	Y	I	V	O	H
E	I	U	C	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	F	Y
S	M	R	H	T	U	E	L	S	R	E	P	U	S
A	I	T	F	M	U	E	C	G	E	E	U	E	C

WORDSEARCH

MURDER FOR TWO



ANI
CASTLEWICK
EVIDENCE
INVESTIGATION
KOSTAS
MIMI

MOTIVE
RIRI
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SUPERSLEUTH
TRUST

N	A	D	N	J	V	L	S	Q	N	Z	N	I	A
E	C	F	O	M	I	P	Y	T	P	F	U	R	M
D	K	U	G	F	D	C	E	M	N	S	E	I	H
R	O	D	O	L	F	O	D	M	S	P	R	R	E
A	A	S	K	C	I	W	E	L	T	S	A	C	V
G	N	O	I	T	A	G	I	T	S	E	V	N	I
T	F	F	X	B	A	A	I	Y	A	C	H	O	T
E	T	L	S	A	T	S	O	K	C	O	H	A	O
R	F	T	Z	Z	X	E	U	L	W	Y	N	M	M
C	M	S	O	Q	P	D	T	F	Y	I	V	O	H
E	I	U	C	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	F	Y
S	M	R	H	T	U	E	L	S	R	E	P	U	S
A	I	T	F	M	U	E	C	G	E	E	U	E	C