

Twelve Angry Men

Act I

VOCABULARY

unanimous – complete agreement with no one dissenting
refugee – a person who flees one country and seeks safety somewhere else
el – a train of the same design as a subway train that runs on tracks elevated a few stories above street level.
retire – to leave the open court to go to a private room
calculus – a complicated mathematical process
belligerently – in a hostile or angry manner
monopoly – the exclusive ownership of a business
switch knife – more commonly referred to as switchblade, one whose spring-loaded blade is concealed inside the body of the knife
proposition – a deal; bargain
bickering – arguing
mugging – a physical attack to take money or goods from another person
breeding ground – a place that feeds and nourishes the growth of what is born there
flimsy – weak and thin

1. In your own words, state what instructions the judge gives to the jurors. How many jurors must vote guilty for the accused to be convicted?

2. Before the jurors are locked in their room, what is the last thing they hear that might influence their thinking when deciding the defendant's guilt or innocence?

3. Describe the staging for this play and indicate what mood the staging generates. (In addition to the set, mention something about the climate and temperature of the set.)

4. Of what is the defendant accused and what evidence is there against him?

5. Who is the protagonist in this play and what is he doing when we first see him?

6. Who does it appear will be his major antagonist? How is this antagonist differentiated from the other jurors?

7. What will be the cause of the conflict between the protagonist and antagonist?

8. To quickly identify and differentiate among his characters, Rose uses a number of stereotypes. Identify at least three of them.

9. What is the cause of Three's anger toward all young men?

10. What does Ten's following comment reveal about himself? "How can you believe him, knowing what he is? I lived among 'em all my life. You can't believe a word they say." (Act I)

11. Juror Eight says he had a peculiar feeling about this trial. What does he think was wrong?

12. The foreman asks the guard to bring in the switchblade knife. Why?

13. Juror Four questions the logic of Eight's premise that the boy did lose the knife. What is his sarcastic question to Eight?

14. What dramatic climax occurs toward the end of Act I?

15. What proposal does Juror Eight make at end of the act? What is his motive for making the proposal?

16. From what you have learned of the jurors thus far, which one(s) would you want on your jury if you were on trial, and explain why. Which one(s) would you not want? Why?

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PH.D. THESIS

BY
