



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

TWELVE ANGRY MEN

BY REGINALD ROSE



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Written by Lori White, Lisa M. Miller, and Sondra Y. Abel

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Theme****The United States Jury System**

Objective: Researching and reporting on the jury system of our country

Activity

Using a minimum of three sources, research how the jury system works in the United States. As you do your research, consider the ways in which jury members are selected, how often they may serve, how they are compensated, and what, if any, ways in which improvements could be made. Compare our jury system with similar systems in other governments.

Once your research has been completed, construct some sort of visual representation of your findings to share with the class. This can be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, a poster, model, collage, or anything else that visually sums up your research. Use this visual aid to help you make a report of your information to the class.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Act 1**Unpopular Decisions****Objective:** Dramatizing thematic concepts

In Act 1, it quickly becomes apparent that believing in the defendant's possible innocence is going to be a very unpopular choice because it is not going to agree with other jury members' opinions. Despite this, Juror EIGHT remains steadfast in his refusal to sign off on a guilty verdict too quickly. The integrity of his conviction will become a thematic concept in *Twelve Angry Men*, an ever-present reminder that while not always popular, the truth is always best.

Activity

In groups, write a skit in which one character is faced with an unpopular or difficult decision to face. Each group member must participate in the presentation, so create enough parts for everyone. At the end of the skit, describe why the person chose to do the morally right thing or not. As a class, discuss the consequences of the character's actions.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Act 1**Advice Column****Objective:** Understanding character motivation

Juror number EIGHT is the first juror to realize the importance of the men's decisions regarding the life of the accused: "...it's not so easy for me to raise my hand and send a boy off to die without talking about it first," he says. Juror number EIGHT is courageous to stand up against their prejudiced notions and soon gets the other men to question their beliefs.

Activity

While jurors are not allowed to discuss the case with anyone except fellow jurors during a trial, pretend that Juror number EIGHT anonymously seeks advice from a columnist about his dilemma. Write a letter from Juror number EIGHT to an advice columnist on how to get the other men to examine their own prejudices. Next, write a letter back to the juror from the columnist with an answer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Act 2**Questions for Review**

Objective: Interpreting and analyzing events of a dramatic selection

Activity

Answer each question briefly but thoroughly.

1. Juror THREE is convinced that someone changed his vote. Who?
2. Who actually did change his vote? Why?
3. What point does Juror EIGHT seem to be making about the el train testimony?
4. How does Juror EIGHT prove his point?
5. What are the results of Juror EIGHT's experiment?
6. How does Juror THREE react?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Act 2**Writing a Poem**

Objective: Writing a poem that examines personal beliefs based on the plot

Activity

As the play deals with various issues in a murder trial, choose a word that pertains to the plot. You can choose a word from the list below or create your own. In the poem, you might describe your own personal feelings about the topic as it relates to the plot and to society as a whole.

- Justice
- Truth
- Weapon
- Murder
- Equality
- Prejudice
- Vote
- Debate

Your poem should be at least ten lines long and can follow any rhyme scheme that you choose; remember that not all poems have to rhyme. You may also wish to explore more than one of these words in the poem, as many are related.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Act 3**Questions for Review****Objective:** Interpreting and analyzing events of a dramatic selection**Activity**

Answer each question briefly but thoroughly.

1. Where does the vote stand at the beginning of Act 3?
2. Explain whether they are a hung jury?
3. How does Juror FOUR reconstruct the killing to make it more plausible with the old man's testimony?
4. When Juror TEN begins his racist rant about "those people" and how "they" need no real reason for killing and are incapable of telling the truth, what does each juror, in turn, do? Which juror appears to have no difficulty listening to TEN?
5. Who is the last holdout on a "not guilty" verdict?
6. How is he finally convinced?
7. What does Juror THREE do to Juror EIGHT as they are leaving the deliberation room, and how does Juror EIGHT respond?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Act 3**Creating a Collage**

Objective: Identify a motif in the novel and create a collage depicting your ideas

Activity

Choose one of the following subjects that pertains to *Twelve Angry Men* and create a collage to illustrate that concept. Use a wide variety of materials to make your collage interesting. Some suggested items are: magazine clippings, drawings, clip art, photographs, symbolic items, art supplies, and any other appropriate materials. When you are finished, present your collage to your class, and explain how each item on your collage is related to your subject.

- The Justice System
- Courage
- Truth
- Murder
- Capital Punishment
- Prejudice
- Deliberation

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Courtroom Sketches

Objective: Visualizing dramatic action

It was not until recently that courtrooms and trials started being open to the public and/or the media. Until that time, only sketch artists were allowed to sit in on a trial and depict the proceedings with a series of sketches. This practice continues today if the trial is closed to the media.

Activity

Pretend you are a sketch artist hired to compose a series of sketches for the courtroom proceedings and even the jury room deliberations. Use details from the drama to design and sketch a few sketches that depict major points of action during both the trial and deliberations. Since the action of the play occurs in the jury room, you will have to use your imagination to depict the trial scenes.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Letter Writing

Objective: Using point of view to write a letter from the perspective of a character

In a drama such as *Twelve Angry Men*, the point of view becomes a secondary point. Because the play is delivered solely through dialogue, with no description of emotion or thought processes, the audience must become involved with an understand all characters as they deliver their lines and, accordingly, their feelings.

Activity

“Become” one of the twelve jury members for the purpose of this assignment. Choose one with whose point of view you are able to empathize and relate. Pretend that the trial has just ended, and after a long deliberation, the jury has finally made its decision. Write a letter to your best friend describing the events of the trial, the jury deliberation, and the outcome, all from your one character’s perspective.