

Approved for use in all levels of English II

Summary of the Work:

In a sultry, drab courtroom, twelve anonymous jurors are called upon to seal the fate of a young boy accused of killing his father. From the opening instructions given by the judge, to the final vote, readers of this play will encounter an eclectic jury room of characters as they wrestle with a slew of evidence, share passionate views on the justice system, and finally determine what is fair and just in an imperfect system.

Rationale:

The play is an ideal selection for the sophomore curriculum as it explores the heroic qualities necessary to reconcile people with opposing viewpoints. While determining a young man's guilt or innocence, the characters in *Twelve Angry Men* expose their prejudices and fears while attempting to come to a just conclusion. The readers of this play will experience the power language has to influence seemingly unshakeable points of view. The characters in this play are deftly created, and students will become involved in the lives of the characters, the suspense of the story, and the difficulty of determining guilt and innocence.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- "Reginald Rose," in Contemporary Authors. (A profile of the author's life and works)
 - "Reginald Rose," in Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 26: American Screenwriters, First Series. A Brucoli Clark Layman Book. Edited by Robert E. Morsberger, Stephen O. Lesser, and Randall Clark. Gale Research, 1984, pp. 258-263.
- * Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.
- * Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- Edgar Allan Poe Award for best motion picture screenplay, 1957
- Mystery Writers of America, 1957
- Golden Berlin Bear, Berlin Film Festival, 1957
- Emmy Award for best-written dramatic material, National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, 1954

Readability:

- Lexile Score: not available at this time
- Readability Level:

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This intense courtroom drama reveals stereotypical beliefs that can get in the way of justice. Readers should be aware that due to the setting, the jury is comprised of all males, as the title suggests.

The question they are deciding is whether the defendant, an 18-year-old man, murdered his father. The jury is instructed that a guilty verdict will be accompanied by a mandatory death sentence (something that could not happen in the current American legal system).

The story was inspired by Rose's service on just such a trial.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

The novel is included in Pre-AP course descriptions.