

## Twelve Angry Men – part 1

Murder in the first degree - premeditated murder

Premeditated – planned in advance

Reasonable doubt – not being sure the defendant was guilty

The Bench – the Judge

Unanimous – everyone votes the same way

Death sentence = the electric chair = “the chair”

Mandatory - required

“Open and shut” case – very easy to decide

Acquit – jury agrees that the defendant is not guilty

Convict – jury agrees that the defendant is guilty

Foreman – leader of the jury

Preliminary vote – early vote, not the final vote

Suppose – think, guess

Slum – poor, rundown neighborhood

EI – elevated train line (above-ground subway)

“Burden of proof” is on prosecution – the prosecution has to prove the defendant is guilty. The defendant doesn’t have to prove he’s not guilty

Motive – reason for doing something

Switch Knife – a knife whose blade pops out of the handle

Pawnshop – a kind of second-hand store

Under oath – Someone makes a promise (swears) to tell the truth

Hang the jury – cause a mistrial, because the verdict must be unanimous.

Secret ballot – on paper, nobody knows how each juror voted

**Part 1 Questions:**

1. How old is the defendant? What do we know about him?
2. How long was the trial?
3. What will happen if the jury decides the boy is guilty?
4. What was the result of the preliminary vote?
5. When and where did the crime take place?
6. What happened between the father and son earlier in the evening?
7. What did the boy say to his father?
8. How was the father killed?
9. What was the boy's alibi?
10. Were there any witnesses?
11. What did the jurors think was the motive?
12. Why were there two knives on the table?
13. What are some facts you learned about the jurors? (especially about juror #3)

## Twelve Angry Men – part 2

Do-gooder, bleeding-heart – someone who has compassion for everyone

Infallible = perfect, can't be wrong

Circumstantial evidence – indirect evidence

Court-appointed lawyer – appointed by the court for someone who can't afford a lawyer

Doubt – not sure

Underprivileged – poor, had a difficult childhood.

Sadist – someone who enjoys hurting people

Bigot – someone who is prejudiced

Ridicule – make fun of

Insignificant – not important

Panic – sudden extreme fear

I'm positive = I'm sure

**Part 2 Questions:**

1. What was the result of the secret ballot at the beginning of this part of the movie?
2. Who was the first to change his vote?
3. What did the old juror say about the old man?
4. Whose fingerprints were on the knife that was at the crime scene?
5. Did the old man see the murder?
6. What was the problem with the old man's testimony?
7. What did the lawyers think about the defense lawyer?
8. What are some other facts you learned about the jurors?

## Twelve Angry Men – part 3

Intimidate – make someone scared so they'll do what you want

Hung jury – not unanimous – the jurors can't agree. This requires a new trial.

Reasonable doubt – not being sure the defendant was guilty

Prejudice – negative opinions about a whole group of people

Obscures - hides

Bigot – someone who is prejudiced

Tossing and turning – moving around in bed, unable to sleep

Guess – to think something but not be sure

### **Part 3 Questions:**

1. What was the problem with the boy's alibi?
2. Why were the jurors pretending to use the knife on each other?
3. What did the woman say she saw from her window?
4. Why was the woman tossing and turning?
5. What was the problem with the woman's testimony?
6. Which juror figured out this important problem?
7. What was the final vote?
8. Why did juror #3 change his vote?
9. Do you think the defendant was guilty?

**About the jurors:**

1. Foreman – high school football coach
2. bank clerk
3. messenger service owner
4. stockbroker
5. guy from a slum
6. house painter
7. salesman (with hat, had baseball tickets for that evening)
8. architect (first to vote “not guilty”)
9. old man
10. garage owner (bigot, had a cold)
11. watchmaker (immigrant from Europe)
12. advertising executive

**Some interesting facts:**

1. The Constitution includes a right to trial by jury in criminal cases.
2. The jury must assume that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty.
3. The jury has to agree that the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
4. Before 1973, some states excluded women from juries.
5. Most of this movie is realistic. It could happen in real life.
6. Exception: In a real court, a juror would probably be dismissed for bringing a knife into the courtroom.