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Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Inherit the Wind

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Inherit the Wind

Notes

No less thought-provoking today than in 1955, *Inherit the Wind* will lead to energetic classroom discussion about freedom, separation of church and state, court bias, and literature.

Inspired by the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial, in which Clarence Darrow argued for the defense and William Jennings Bryan for the prosecution, *Inherit the Wind* makes an ideal complement to lessons on persuasive writing, as both Brady's and Drummond's arguments contain elements of cool logic and fiery emotion. Cynical reporter H.L. Mencken provided the basis for E.K. Hornbeck's character, at times lending the play a poetic structure.

Some educators enjoy supplementing a reading of the text with a screening of the film version of the play (also available from Prestwick House), which stars Spencer Tracy and Gene Kelly.

All references come from the Ballantine Books edition of *Inherit the Wind*, copyright 1955.

Inherit the Wind

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify the protagonist in the play.
2. state the significance and origin of the play's title, relating it to specific events in the play and discussing its function in one of the play's key themes.
3. discuss the importance of an impartial judge, name at least four instances of prejudice in the trial, and discuss how they could be remedied.
4. explain the difference between a logical argument and an emotional argument, giving examples of both in the play.
5. discuss the political significance of the Scopes trial as a landmark in the separation of church and state debate, and identify at least three relevant current political issues.
6. identify the differences between flat and round characters and cite examples of each type.
7. offer an opinion, backed up with examples from *Inherit the Wind*, on whether one's conscience or one's duty should win out if the two conflict.
8. define the types of irony and identify two examples in the play.
9. identify both positive and negative traits in Brady and Drummond.
10. identify allusions in the play.
11. identify examples of simile and metaphor in the play.
12. identify foreshadowing in the play.
13. discuss the purpose of stage directions.

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Questions for Discussion or Essay

1. In Act One, Rachel says that a schoolteacher, as a public servant, should do what the law and the school board want him to do. Explain why you agree or disagree. Are there any circumstances, in your opinion, in which one's conscience should overrule one's duty?
2. At some points in Act Two—for example, when he calls Brady “Almighty” and bows to the crowd—Drummond seems to become more interested in humiliating Brady than in calmly making his point. Does this weaken your opinion of Drummond? Why do you think he does it?
3. In what way does Hornbeck's speech style differ from that of the other characters?
4. Why do you think the authors divide Hornbeck's speeches into short lines, rather than printing them in paragraphs as they do for the other characters?
5. Although he condemns it, Brady proudly admits that he has not and does not ever intend to read Darwin's book. Explain Brady's reasoning. What is your opinion of the way he believes?
6. At the end of the play, Drummond says that Brady has much “greatness” in him. What, in your opinion are Brady's strengths and positive characteristics?
7. What negative traits does Drummond have? Which characters in the play exhibit both positive and negative qualities? How do such characters add depth to the drama?
8. What does it mean to “inherit the wind”? Hornbeck suggests that the quotation would be a good obituary for Brady. How does Brady “disturb his own house”?
9. Consider the use of humor in the play. Find at least two instances in which a character uses humor cruelly, at the expense of another character.
10. Why does Hornbeck call Drummond a hypocrite at the end of the play? Do you agree with Hornbeck's assessment? Support your opinion with details from the play.

11. Bert's case is about the separation of church and state, an issue still hotly debated in politics today. The central question in *Inherit the Wind* is whether the church has the right to determine what is taught in public schools. Name at least three current issues that show that full separation of church and state has not yet taken place.
12. When we read a play, stage directions tell us more than simply which way the characters move, when they enter and exit, and what tones of voice they use. List three other types of information learned solely from the stage directions in *Inherit the Wind*.
13. Identify at least three round characters and at least three flat characters. Explain how the roles of flat characters differ from those of round characters in the play.
14. There are several important characters in *Inherit the Wind*, but only one protagonist. Identify the protagonist, and give specific reasons as to why you chose this person.
15. Do you feel Bertram Cates receives the benefit of an impartial judge? Cite at least four examples of judicial misconduct in the trial. How could these injustices have been avoided or remedied?
16. Make a list of five to ten allusions in *Inherit The Wind*. Use the dictionary, encyclopedia, or Internet to research what each means. Then explain the relevance of each to the play.
17. During the trial, Brady seems to use emotional arguments, while Drummond employs logic. Find at least three examples of an emotional appeal and at least three examples of a logical appeal in the play.

Inherit the Wind

Terms and Definitions

Alliteration - the repetition of sounds at the beginning of words. **Example:** More Mischief and Merriment.

Allusion - a reference to a person, place, poem, book, event, etc., which is not part of the story, that the author expects the reader will recognize. **Example:** In *The Glass Menagerie*, Tom speaks of “Chamberlain’s umbrella,” a reference to British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

Flat or Static character - a one-dimensional character who lacks diversity and complexity; a character who is either all good or all bad and does not change. Because the character behaves in just one way, he or she is easy to comprehend. **Example:** Sherlock Holmes seems to be calm, deliberative, and in complete charge, regardless of the situation.

Foreshadowing - the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense. **Example:** Two small and seemingly inconsequential car accidents predict and hint at the upcoming, important wreck in *The Great Gatsby*.

Irony - a perception of inconsistency, sometimes humorous, in which the significance and understanding of a statement or event is changed by its context. **Example:** The firehouse burned down.

- *Dramatic Irony* - the audience or reader knows more about a character’s situation than the character does and knows that the character’s understanding is incorrect. **Example:** In *Medea*, Creon asks, “What atrocities could she commit in one day?” The reader, however, knows Medea will destroy her family and Creon’s by day’s end.
- *Structural Irony* – the use of a naïve hero, whose incorrect perceptions differ from the reader’s correct ones. **Example:** Huck Finn.
- *Verbal Irony* - a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm. **Example:** A large man whose nickname is “Tiny.”

Metaphor - a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar in which one is described in terms of the other. **Example:** The moon, a haunting lantern, shone through the clouds.

Protagonist - the central or main character in a story around whom the plot centers. **Examples:** Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter*; David Copperfield in *David Copperfield*.

Round Characters - characters that have many sides; they have both faults and virtues and, therefore, are able to surprise the reader. They are like real people. **Example:** Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* is arrogant, humble, proud, meek, angry, and submissive, and has many other qualities.

Setting - when and where the short story, play, or novel takes place. **Examples:** *Macbeth* takes place in the eleventh century in Scotland. *The Old Man and the Sea* has its main setting on the ocean outside Havana, Cuba, in an unspecified time in the middle-to-late 20th-century.

Simile - a comparison between two different things using either *like* or *as*. **Examples:** I am as hungry as a horse. The huge trees broke like twigs during the hurricane.

Theme - the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different methods: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them. **Example:** In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: "Real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance." In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: "Youth fades, and death comes to all."

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Test

1. The play is set in
 - A. Gatlinburg, Tennessee
 - B. Hillsboro, North Carolina
 - C. Charlotte, North Carolina
 - D. Macon, Georgia
2. Which of the following is not presented as a conflict in this play?
 - A. individual conscience vs. authority
 - B. the individual vs. his society
 - C. scientific truth vs. God's truth
 - D. greed vs. self-sacrifice
3. Henry Drummond says that in this case, the larger issue on trial is
 - A. freedom of speech.
 - B. the right to think.
 - C. the right to believe in God.
 - D. whether we should have prayer in schools.
4. According to Rachel, Bert's duty as a schoolteacher and a public servant is to
 - A. be true to his conscience.
 - B. do what the law and the school board want him to.
 - C. teach the Bible, but let students study Darwin for extra credit.
 - D. resign his position as a teacher.
5. The protagonist in the play is
 - A. Henry Drummond.
 - B. Matthew Brady.
 - C. Reverend Brown.
 - D. Bert Cates.
6. Rachel Brown tells us that her father
 - A. is a liar and a phony.
 - B. inspired a great fear in her.
 - C. depresses her.
 - D. directly communicates with God.
7. The line, "He basks in the cheers and excitement, like a patriarch surrounded by his children" is an example of
 - A. dramatic irony
 - B. simile
 - C. metaphor
 - D. allusion

8. By the end of the play, we see that Henry Drummond
 - A. regrets ever having defended Bert Cates.
 - B. is offended by E. K. Hornbeck's cynicism.
 - C. has developed a new respect for the judge and the town of Hillsboro.
 - D. has lost patience with Bert Cates' inability to make a decision.
9. Drummond tells Bert the story of "Golden Dancer" as a means of illustrating that
 - A. we cannot always get what we want.
 - B. something that looks perfect on the surface may be full of problems upon closer examination.
 - C. disappointment is man's lot in life.
 - D. things should be built to last.
10. Reverend Brown's description of Drummond as a man "whose head juts out like an animal's" is an example of
 - A. metaphor
 - B. structural irony
 - C. simile
 - D. allusion
11. To Brady, God and the Bible are holy. Drummond says that what is holy to him is
 - A. the Constitution.
 - B. Darwin's Origin of Species.
 - C. the American Dream.
 - D. the individual human mind.
12. When Drummond tells Hornbeck at the end of the play that Brady "had the same right as Cates," he is referring to the right to be
 - A. alive.
 - B. wrong.
 - C. elected President.
 - D. able to testify.
13. The line, "Ahhhh, Hillsboro—Heavenly Hillsboro. The buckle on the Bible Belt" is an example of
 - A. simile
 - B. metaphor
 - C. foreshadowing
 - D. theme

14. Most readers will infer that the judge is
 - A. completely fair and impartial.
 - B. sick and tired of the trial.
 - C. not impartial but inclined towards the prosecution.
 - D. not impartial but inclined towards the defense.
15. What treatment does Reverend Brown believe Cates deserves from God?
 - A. He asks God to strike down Cates and let his soul suffer forever.
 - B. He asks God for forgiveness for Cates' sins.
 - C. He asks God to allow Cates to be found innocent.
 - D. He asks God to cause Cates to be fired from his job.
16. Hornbeck's purpose in the play is to
 - A. to provide comic relief.
 - B. to make fun of other characters.
 - C. to predict future events.
 - D. to reveal the truth using verbal irony.
17. The point at which the case takes a turn in favor of the defense is when
 - A. Rachel takes the stand and tells the story about the Stebbins boy.
 - B. Drummond corners Brady about the length of a day.
 - C. the verdict is read.
 - D. Brady dies.
18. How can Brady and Drummond's relationship be characterized?
 - A. They hate each other.
 - B. Each is frustrated by the other, but has respect for him, too.
 - C. They are long-time political rivals.
 - D. They did not know each other before the trial.
19. After the verdict, when Hornbeck refers to the Middle Ages and the coronation of Charlemagne, he is implying that
 - A. the judge deserves to be coronated.
 - B. watching Brady and Drummond argue is like watching knights joust.
 - C. the verdict is so unenlightened that it is as if we have learned nothing since the Middle Ages.
 - D. the coronation of Charlemagne, like the stories in Genesis, has to be taken on faith.
20. In what way does the people's opinion of Brady change by the end of the play?
 - A. At first they praise him; at the end they practically ignore him.
 - B. At first they compliment him; at the end they hate him.
 - C. At first they are doubtful; at the end they trust him completely.
 - D. At first they pity him; at the end they admire him.

Essays (Choose any two)

1. After Brady's death, Drummond surprises Hornbeck by saying, "There was much greatness in this man." In a well-constructed paragraph, make a case for Brady's greatness. In a second paragraph, point out his weaknesses. Finally, state whether or not you think his strong qualities outweigh his weak ones. Use specific examples from the book to support your opinion.
2. Is it possible, as Drummond suggests, to respect and admire someone whose opinions you hate? Do people have a right to hold unpopular opinions? Support your beliefs.
3. Hornbeck is a mysterious yet important character in *Inherit the Wind*. In a well-constructed paragraph, explain his purpose in the play.
4. Discuss how Brady's death could be symbolic.
5. What is the theme of the play? In a well-developed paragraph, explain the author's underlying message, using quotations from the play to support your thesis.

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Test Answer Key

1. B	6. B	11. D	16. D
2. D	7. B	12. B	17. B
3. B	8. B	13. B	18. B
4. B	9. B	14. C	19. C
5. A	10. C	15. A	20. A

Inherit the Wind

Study Guide Teacher's Copy

Act One, Scene I

Vocabulary

agnostic—one who neither denies nor admits the existence of God

benign—gracious; harmless

blithely—casually

caricatured—depicted in an exaggerated way, usually as a means of mocking the subject

cooler—slang for “jail”

contempt—disrespect

dogma—a point of view or belief put forth without sufficient proof

extradite—to surrender a criminal to the authorities where the crime occurred

flivver—a small, cheap automobile

galluses—suspenders

heretic—one who disagrees with established church beliefs

hinterland—a remote region

hurdy-gurdy—a stringed instrument operated with a crank

impassively—emotionlessly

indict—to charge someone with a crime

infidel—a non-believer

levity—lightheartedness

monkeyshines—pranks

pariah—an outcast

privy—an outhouse

repast—a meal

rube—an unsophisticated person

unctuously—smugly insincere

vagrant—a bum

venireman—a member of a group from which jurors are drawn

1. What is the setting of the play?

The play is set in Hillsboro, North Carolina, in July of an unspecified year.

2. What types of information do the stage directions provide for the reader?

The stage directions indicate how the stage is set, where and how characters are positioned, and the emotions and thoughts of characters.

3. Why are the Hillsboro residents so impressed that Matthew Harrison Brady is coming to their town?

Brady is considered one of the most important men next to the President, having run for this office himself.

4. Why does E.K. Hornbeck call the organ grinder's monkey "Grandpa"? What does it have to do with the trial?

Hornbeck does it as a joke, sarcastically; the theory of evolution includes the assertion that humans are descended from apes. Hornbeck is declaring his bias against Hillsboro from the beginning.

5. Reverend Brown describes Drummond as a man "whose head juts out like an animal's." Why is his choice of words ironic?

Reverend Brown does not believe in evolution, and one of evolution's main beliefs is that humans are descended from other less complex animals. The Reverend's description of Drummond, therefore, makes fun of the lawyer's appearance, as well as his beliefs.

6. While the townspeople are reluctant to welcome Drummond to Hillsboro, Brady says they should welcome him. Why?

Drummond is a famous lawyer, and winning against someone famous will attract the world's attention to the case.

7. Rachel says she cannot think of Bert as a public hero. What does she think a schoolteacher and public servant like Bert should do?

She thinks Bert, as a public servant, should do what the law and the school board want him to.

8. Where does Rachel say we can find all the answers to questions about where we came from, where we are now, and where we are going?

She says, "All the answers to those questions are in the Bible."

9. E. K. Hornbeck describes himself as a "cynic." What is a cynic?

A cynic is someone who doubts things, does not take them seriously, and makes fun of what he or she observes.

10. Hornbeck mentions telephone poles, Henry Ford's Tin Lizzie, and Marconi as examples of what?

They are examples of man's scientific progress, creativity, and invention. They are also allusions.

11. When Drummond first appears, for whom does Melinda mistake him?

She mistakes him for the Devil.

12. Identify at least two similes and two metaphors in this scene.

Answers will vary. Examples of simile: "Town's gonna fill up like a rain barrel in a flood."; "He basks in the cheers and excitement, like a patriarch surrounded by his children."; "This name is like a whip-crack."; "A slouching hulk of a man, whose head juts out like an animal's." Examples of metaphor: "Ahhhh, Hillsboro—Heavenly Hillsboro. The buckle on the Bible Belt."; "a cathedral for a cloak, a church spire for a hat...."; "E. K. Hornbeck's brilliant little symphony of words."; "I may be rancid butter,/But I'm on your side of the bread."

13. Hornbeck uses the word *sovereign* three times in one sentence. Discuss how the word has two different meanings.

Used to describe the state, the word means "independent, or having absolute power"; used to describe Bert, it means "excellent."

14. Identify at least three allusions in this scene.

Allusions to Goliath and St. George ; to Sodom and Gomorrah, Socrates, Romeo, the Tree of Knowledge, and Eve, among numerous others.

15. Paraphrase Hornbeck's monologue (directed at Rachel), which he begins with a reference to *Seeping Beauty*.

Brady might have been able to win a case like this in Hillsboro in the past, but scientific and technological advances have made Hillsboro's citizens more skeptical and less faithful.

Act One, Scene II

Vocabulary

superfluous—extra; unnecessary

jauntily—in a lively manner

levity—fun, enjoyment

exalted—glorified

denouncing—condemning

preposterous—ridiculous

wanly—weakly

miffed—annoyed

piously—righteously

affable—good-natured

1. Why does Brady insinuate that Drummond's suspenders come from "the great metropolitan city of Chicago," and why is it a triumph for Drummond when he says that he bought them in Brady's hometown?

Brady is trying to make Drummond look like a "city slicker," who is out of touch with the lives or values of ordinary small-town people. By saying his suspenders are from Brady's hometown, Drummond makes Brady's comment about cities and hometowns petty and meaningless.

2. Why does Drummond object to Brady being called "Colonel" in the courtroom?

Drummond feels the use of the title prejudices the jury against Bert and makes it seem as if Brady has "the forces of right and righteousness" on his side.

3. Why do you think the town made Brady an Honorary Colonel as soon as he arrived, but it made Drummond one only when he objected?

Answers may vary. Example: The town is prejudiced in favor of Brady even before the trial starts.

4. Why do you think the judge feels a sign saying "Read Your Darwin" would be preposterous, but has no objection to the sign saying "Read Your Bible"?

Answers may vary. Example: The judge does not think people should read Darwin; he either does not realize or does not care that the "Read Your Bible" sign undermines the impartiality of the court.

5. Find at least two instances of humor in this scene.

Answers will vary. Examples: Drummond is made a “temporary Honorary Colonel,” a title he finds ridiculous. Drummond asks one potential juror how he feels and then excuses him from serving. In the debate over Sillers, Drummond wonders if Sillers takes “care of this life, and your wife takes care of the next one.” As Drummond and Brady argue, Sillers makes the comment that he just works “at the feed store”

6. Bert tells Drummond that he is scared. Does Bert believe he is guilty?

He does not, which is why he refuses to quit.

7. What is the main emotion Rachel feels in regard to her father?

The main emotion is fear.

8. How does Rachel’s childhood fear of the house being upside down relate to the play?

It suggests that the beliefs of the townspeople are upside down, or possibly, backwards.

Act Two, Scene I

Vocabulary

animosity—hatred, hostility

Chautauqua—a late 19th century and early 20th century form of entertainment that mixed religion, lectures, or popular education, presented outdoors or in large tents

fatuity—foolishness

pagan—non-Christian

zeal—passionate eagerness

1. Hornbeck's line, "How flattering to know I'm being clipped" is an example of what literary term?

It is an example of verbal irony.

2. During his sermon, what does Reverend Brown ask God to do to Cates?

He asks God to "strike down this sinner," to "let his soul writhe in anguish and damnation."

3. Why does Rachel suddenly rush to the platform, and how does her father react?

She goes to beg her father not to condemn Bert; he asks God for a curse upon her, too.

4. Explain the significance of this quotation: "He that troubleth his own house...shall inherit the wind."

Answers may vary. Example: Brady says this to Brown in response to Brown's condemnation of Cates. It means when people create conflict in their family or community, they eventually pay for it. "You reap what you sow" is another aphorism that is similar.

5. Explain what Drummond means when he tells Brady that perhaps Brady has moved away from him "by standing still"?

Answers may vary. Example: Brady has stood still by refusing to make way for scientific progress and by refusing to acknowledge that Darwin's theory should be taught in schools.

6. What do we know of Brady and Drummond's past associations?

They had been friends in the past, based on "a mutuality of understanding and admiration."

Act Two, Scene II

Vocabulary

apostles—supporters

audacity—arrogance

effrontery—shameless boldness

heresies—sacrilegious opinions

imbecilities—unintelligent ideas

incontrovertible—impossible to argue against or reverse

perdition—damnation

unorthodox—not traditional

1. In addition to Bert's fate, what larger issue does Drummond think is on trial in this case?

Drummond believes that the "right to think" is on trial.

2. Does Howard testify that he believes everything that Mr. Cates told him?

Howard says he is not sure and needs to think it over.

3. What causes Cates' outburst during Rachel's testimony?

He wants to make sure the court knows that he left the church because the Reverend said an innocent boy's soul was "damned... writhing in hellfire."

4. How many scientific experts testify for the defense?

No scientists testify because the judge does not allow them to.

5. Who is the biblical expert Drummond calls to testify for the defense? Why is the choice of this person ironic?

Drummond calls Brady; it is ironic because Brady is the prosecuting attorney.

6. What does Drummond consider holy?

Drummond says that the "individual human mind" is holy.

7. What, according to Drummond, makes it impossible to determine the length of a day through the words of the Bible?

We measure days by referring to the sun, and the sun had not yet been created on the first day, according to Genesis.

8. In the play, Brady speaks directly to the fundamentalists in courtroom with the intent of rallying the crowd, as if he is opposed to calmly making a point. In your opinion, does Drummond do this, too? Back your opinion up with an example.

Answers may vary. Example: Drummond does this when he shouts, "Gentlemen, meet the 'Prophet From Nebraska'" and "Brady, Brady, Brady Almighty!" Drummond then bows to the crowd.

9. What does Brady start chanting after Drummond finishes questioning him?

He chants the names of the books of the Bible.

10. What is Brady's demeanor like at the end of Scene II? Compare it with his demeanor at the beginning of the scene.

Brady seems helpless and defeated at the end of the scene; he was confident and swaggering at the beginning.

11. Who continues to show support for Brady by the end of the scene?

His wife continues to support him; however, she also calls him "Baby."

Act Three

Vocabulary

askance—with distrust or disapproval; sideways

brandishes—waves in a threatening manner

bulwark—a protection

crescendos—becomes louder

deference—respect; courtesy

Excalibur—the sword of King Arthur

exultant—filled with joy

grudgingly—unwillingly

hullabaloo—an uproar; confusion

indignant—angry

innocuously—harmlessly, without making much impression

insinuate—to imply

mélange—a mixture

nettled—annoyed

ponderously—clumsily

precedent—something that serves as a model

rotogravures—photographic sections of old-time newspapers

sine die—without any future date being designated; indefinitely

sotto voce—under one's breath

1. List at least three examples of a simile in Act Three.

Answers may vary. Examples: "He is drowning his troubles with food, as an alcoholic escapes from reality with a straight shot."; "The law is like a race horse."; "The radio man looks at the microphone, as if it were a toddler that had just been told the facts of life."; "Brady attempts to lower his voice, but it is like putting a leash on an elephant."; "Then, like a figure in a waxworks, toppling from its pedestal, he falls stiffly, face forward."

2. The word "Moorish" refers to the Arab conquerors of Spain. Why does Hornbeck use the word "Moorish" to describe the courthouse?

The Moors were Muslims, who were driven out of Spain by Christians. Hornbeck uses the term to describe the courthouse; it is also alliterative. "A mélange of Moorish and Methodist."

3. Drummond refers to the implications of the trial by saying, "When they started this fire here, they never figured it would light up the whole sky." What literary term does he use?

It is a metaphor. The comparison is between the publicity, uproar, and results over the trial and a fire in the sky.

4. Paraphrase Drummond's story about "Golden Dancer." Explain how the story relates to the trial.

Golden Dancer was a rocking horse Drummond wanted as a child, a toy that seemed perfect on the outside, but fell apart almost instantly. Drummond's point is that, like this trial, things are not always what they seem. He seems to be saying that, upon careful examination, Brady's strong beliefs in the absolute literal accuracy of the Bible are similar to the rocking horse.

5. At the end of his rocking horse story, Drummond says, "And if it's a lie—show it up for what it really is!" In the context of the trial, explain two different ways this quote is true.

It could refer both to Cates' teaching of evolution over creationism; it could also refer to Brady's exaggerated behavior.

6. Why does the Radio Man believe that the people in the courtroom are "making history today"?

This is the "first time a public event has ever been broadcast." In addition, he may realize the large issues that are being decided in Hillsboro.

7. When the mayor tells the judge to "let things simmer down," what is he really asking the judge to do?

He wants the judge to deliver a sentence that will appease citizens of all political persuasions, so the elections that are soon to be held will not be affected.

8. The stage direction, "The radio man starts at this rumbling thunder, so close to the ear of his delicate child" is an example of which literary term?

It is a metaphor, comparing Brady's voice to thunder and the microphone to a child's ear.

9. Why is the radio man "annoyed" and why does Hornbeck "smirk" when Brady says, "Kindly signal me while I am speaking, if my voice does not have sufficient projection for your radio apparatus"?

Not only is Brady's language overblown and wordy, but it also shows that he is more concerned with his voice being heard than the trial itself.

10. Explain the significance of Hornbeck's remark, "Step right up, and get your tickets for the Middle Ages!"

Hornbeck means that the jury must be old-fashioned or backwards to deliver a guilty verdict.

11. Why do you think the judge forgets to let Cates make a statement before sentencing?

Answers may vary. Examples: The judge is in a hurry to get the trial over with. The judge is eager to hand down a light sentence as a way of compensating for a ridiculous verdict.

12. How does the crowd react to Bert's post-judgment statement?

Many of the spectators applaud.

13. When Bert is sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred dollars, how does Brady react? What is Drummond's reaction?

Brady thinks the sentence is far too light; Drummond, on principle, however, says that Bert would decline to pay a fine of even one dollar, and they plan to appeal.

14. What does the inattention of the spectators toward Brady's closing remarks indicate about their feelings toward him?

Their inattention shows that they no longer view Brady as a hero or a savior. They see him for what he is—simply a man.

15. Paraphrase Hornbeck's speech which begins, "Something happens to an Also-Ran."

People who always finish in second place feel unloved. As a result, they often try to win love by being loud and obnoxious.

16. Hornbeck's line, "Mount Brady will erupt again by nightfall" is an example of what literary device?

It is a metaphor, comparing Brady to a volcano.

17. Drummond says to Bert, "You don't suppose this kind of thing is ever finished, do you? Tomorrow it'll be something else—and another fella will have to stand up." Supply two examples of "something else"; that is, two other issues dealing with the separation of church and state that are still being debated today.

Answers may vary. Examples: Abortion rights, prayer in schools, gay marriage, gay adoption, removing "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, etc.

18. Why does Cates feel "a new pride in what he's done"?

Although Cates has lost his job, he has won the hearts of millions of people. He has also become a pioneer of sorts, paving the way for future revolutionaries.

19. In a number of instances throughout the play, Sarah Brady reminds Matthew that his doctor has told him not to overeat. The stage directions, however, frequently depict Matthew overeating. In retrospect, what dramatic event do these references foreshadow?

They foreshadow Brady's collapse and eventual death.

20. When Drummond tells Hornbeck that Brady "had the same right as Cates," what right is he referring to?

Drummond refers to the "right to be wrong," the right to hold an opinion different from others.

21. After reading it, how does Rachel feel about Darwin's book?

Rachel says she neither understands nor likes the book, but she agrees that ideas, whether good or bad, have the right to exist.

22. Just before leaving the courtroom, Drummond picks up a Bible in one hand, a copy of Darwin in the other, and balances them "as if his hands were scales." Then he puts them into his briefcase, "side by side." What do these actions reveal about Drummond's ultimate opinion of the books and the case?

Answers may vary. Example: Drummond thinks both books are equally worthy of attention; he thinks both books have an equal right to exist.

Inherit the Wind

Study Guide Student Copy

Act One, Scene I

Vocabulary

agnostic—one who neither denies nor admits the existence of God

benign—gracious; harmless

blithely—casually

caricatured—depicted in an exaggerated way, usually as a means of mocking the subject

cooler—slang for “jail”

contempt—disrespect

dogma—a point of view or belief put forth without sufficient proof

extradite—to surrender a criminal to the authorities where the crime occurred

flivver—a small, cheap automobile

galluses—suspenders

heretic—one who disagrees with established church beliefs

hinterland—a remote region

hurdy-gurdy—a stringed instrument operated with a crank

impassively—emotionlessly

indict—to charge someone with a crime

infidel—a non-believer

levity—lightheartedness

monkeyshines—pranks

pariah—an outcast

privy—an outhouse

repast—a meal

rube—an unsophisticated person

unctuously—smugly insincere

vagrant—a bum

venireman—a member of a group from which jurors are drawn

1. What is the setting of the play?
2. What types of information do the stage directions provide for the reader?

3. Why are the Hillsboro residents so impressed that Matthew Harrison Brady is coming to their town?
4. Why does E.K. Hornbeck call the organ grinder's monkey "Grandpa"? What does it have to do with the trial?
5. Reverend Brown describes Drummond as a man "whose head juts out like an animal's." Why is his choice of words ironic?
6. While the townspeople are reluctant to welcome Drummond to Hillsboro, Brady says they should welcome him. Why?
7. Rachel says she cannot think of Bert as a public hero. What does she think a schoolteacher and public servant like Bert should do?
8. Where does Rachel say we can find all the answers to questions about where we came from, where we are now, and where we are going?

9. E. K. Hornbeck describes himself as a “cynic.” What is a cynic?
10. Hornbeck mentions telephone poles, Henry Ford’s Tin Lizzie, and Marconi as examples of what?
11. When Drummond first appears, for whom does Melinda mistake him?
12. Identify at least two similes and two metaphors in this scene.
13. Hornbeck uses the word *sovereign* three times in one sentence. Discuss how the word has two different meanings.
14. Identify at least three allusions in this scene.
15. Paraphrase Hornbeck’s monologue (directed at Rachel), which he begins with a reference to Seeping Beauty.

Act One, Scene II

Vocabulary

superfluous—extra; unnecessary

jauntily—in a lively manner

levity—fun, enjoyment

exalted—glorified

denouncing—condemning

preposterous—ridiculous

wanly—weakly

miffed—annoyed

piously—righteously

affable—good-natured

1. Why does Brady insinuate that Drummond's suspenders come from "the great metropolitan city of Chicago," and why is it a triumph for Drummond when he says that he bought them in Brady's hometown?
2. Why does Drummond object to Brady being called "Colonel" in the courtroom?
3. Why do you think the town made Brady an Honorary Colonel as soon as he arrived, but it made Drummond one only when he objected?

4. Why do you think the judge feels a sign saying “Read Your Darwin” would be preposterous, but has no objection to the sign saying “Read Your Bible”?
5. Find at least two instances of humor in this scene.
6. Bert tells Drummond that he is scared. Does Bert believe he is guilty?
7. What is the main emotion Rachel feels in regard to her father?
8. How does Rachel’s childhood fear of the house being upside down relate to the play?

Act Two, Scene I

Vocabulary

animosity—hatred, hostility

Chautauqua—a late 19th century and early 20th century form of entertainment that mixed religion, lectures, or popular education, presented outdoors or in large tents

fatuity—foolishness

pagan—non-Christian

zeal—passionate eagerness

1. Hornbeck's line, "How flattering to know I'm being clipped" is an example of what literary term?
2. During his sermon, what does Reverend Brown ask God to do to Cates?
3. Why does Rachel suddenly rush to the platform, and how does her father react?
4. Explain the significance of this quotation: "He that troubleth his own house...shall inherit the wind."
5. Explain what Drummond means when he tells Brady that perhaps Brady has moved away from him "by standing still"?
6. What do we know of Brady and Drummond's past associations?

Act Two, Scene II

Vocabulary

apostles—supporters

audacity—arrogance

effrontery—shameless boldness

heresies—sacrilegious opinions

imbecilities—unintelligent ideas

incontrovertible—impossible to argue against or reverse

perdition—damnation

unorthodox—not traditional

1. In addition to Bert's fate, what larger issue does Drummond think is on trial in this case?
2. Does Howard testify that he believes everything that Mr. Cates told him?
3. What causes Cates' outburst during Rachel's testimony?
4. How many scientific experts testify for the defense?
5. Who is the biblical expert Drummond calls to testify for the defense? Why is the choice of this person ironic?

6. What does Drummond consider holy?
7. What, according to Drummond, makes it impossible to determine the length of a day through the words of the Bible?
8. In the play, Brady speaks directly to the fundamentalists in courtroom with the intent of rallying the crowd, as if he is opposed to calmly making a point. In your opinion, does Drummond do this, too? Back your opinion up with an example.
9. What does Brady start chanting after Drummond finishes questioning him?
10. What is Brady's demeanor like at the end of Scene II? Compare it with his demeanor at the beginning of the scene.
11. Who continues to show support for Brady by the end of the scene?

Act Three

Vocabulary

askance—with distrust or disapproval; sideways

brandishes—waves in a threatening manner

bulwark—a protection

crescendos—becomes louder

deference—respect; courtesy

Excalibur—the sword of King Arthur

exultant—filled with joy

grudgingly—unwillingly

hullabaloo—an uproar; confusion

indignant—angry

innocuously—harmlessly, without making much impression

insinuate—to imply

mélange—a mixture

nettled—annoyed

ponderously—clumsily

precedent—something that serves as a model

rotogravures—photographic sections of old-time newspapers

sine die—without any future date being designated; indefinitely

sotto voce—under one's breath

1. List at least three examples of a simile in Act Three.
2. The word “Moorish” refers to the Arab conquerors of Spain. Why does Hornbeck use the word “Moorish” to describe the courthouse?
3. Drummond refers to the implications of the trial by saying, “When they started this fire here, they never figured it would light up the whole sky.” What literary term does he use?

4. Paraphrase Drummond's story about "Golden Dancer." Explain how the story relates to the trial.
5. At the end of his rocking horse story, Drummond says, "And if it's a lie—show it up for what it really is!" In the context of the trial, explain two different ways this quote is true.
6. Why does the Radio Man believe that the people in the courtroom are "making history today"?
7. When the mayor tells the judge to "let things simmer down," what is he really asking the judge to do?
8. The stage direction, "The radio man starts at this rumbling thunder, so close to the ear of his delicate child" is an example of which literary term?
9. Why is the radio man "annoyed" and why does Hornbeck "smirk" when Brady says, "Kindly signal me while I am speaking, if my voice does not have sufficient projection for your radio apparatus"?

10. Explain the significance of Hornbeck's remark, "Step right up, and get your tickets for the Middle Ages!"
11. Why do you think the judge forgets to let Cates make a statement before sentencing?
12. How does the crowd react to Bert's post-judgment statement?
13. When Bert is sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred dollars, how does Brady react? What is Drummond's reaction?
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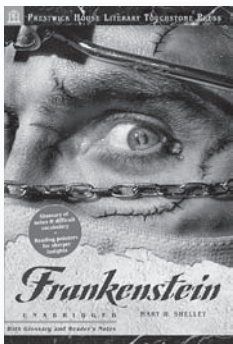
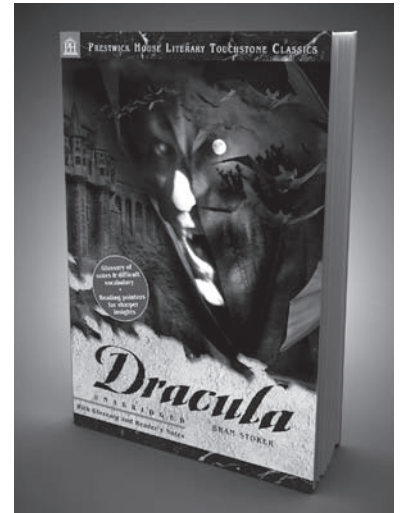
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