

INHERIT THE WIND

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Act 1, Scene 1

Answer the following reading comprehension questions.

1. What crime is the defendant in the play charged with?

Teaching Darwin's Origin of the Species to his students

2. The play takes place in the town of Hillsboro.

3. E.K. Hornbeck writes for what newspaper? Baltimore Herald.

4. Why do the authors have the discussion between Howard and Melinda at the beginning of the play?

To show Howard has learned about Darwin in class. To show that scientific explanations for the origins of life are considered sinful in Hillsboro

5. Brady arrives at Hillsboro by what transportation? Train.

6. What is the name of Darwin's book? Origin of the Species.

7. Cates says that being in jail has two advantages. Name them: *Good food, Cool Air*

8. Who writes to the Baltimore newspaper inquiring about a lawyer for Cates?

Cates

9. What is the storekeeper's opinion of evolution?

He doesn't have any. Having opinions is bad for business.

10. Rachel teaches the 2nd grade. Cates teaches the 10th grade.

11. The royal welcome for the prosecuting attorney shows the town's respect for him.

12. Why does Cates teach Darwin's theory?

He can't deny its truth and doesn't feel it contradicts his faith. It simply says living comes from a long miracle and didn't just happen in seven days.

13. What title does Brady receive when he arrives in Hillsboro? *Colonel*

14. Brady's wife plays the role of a dotting, motherly wife.

15. The townspeople fear Drummond's Arrival.

Act 1, Scene 2

Answer the following reading comprehension questions.

1. Both Brady and Drummond, in choosing the jury men, claim to want a fair trial. What kind of jury men does each lawyer want, however?

Ones that will give them their desired outcome

2. What dramatic effect is achieved by Drummond's coarse language, flippancy, and bright purple suspenders?

Takes spotlight off Brady and stirs him up; steals his thunder

3. Why does Drummond want the "READ YOUR BIBLE" sign taken down?

Feels it prejudices his case; causes jury to be biased

4. a) Why does Drummond object to the title of "Colonel Brady"?

May make people think Brady is more reliable/justified

b) How is this problem solved?

Drummond also receives the title of colonel

5. a) Why is Cates tempted to give and plead guilty to the charge?

To appease Rachel and have everything over with. He is also scared

b) What prevents him from doing so?

He can admit that what he did is wrong because he doesn't feel that it is → feels that it's too late anyway and it wouldn't do any good

6. a) According to Drummond, why are the citizens of Hillsboro so angry with Cates?

Feel he has sinned and corrupted children's minds

b) What has he done?

Broken a state law

7. What does Drummond mean by his final remarks to Rachel:

**"The man who has everything figured out is probably a fool...
it takes a very smart fella to say 'I don't know the answer.'"**

*No one knows everything so if someone thinks they know it all, they are foolish/wrong
It takes courage and honesty to admit that one doesn't know something especially when
another expects one to*

Act 2, Scene 1

Answer the following reading comprehension questions.

1. What images regarding the people of Hillsboro are generated by means of the prayer meeting under the direction of Reverend Brown?

- followers, aim to please
- devout, faithful

2. a) What is revealed about the 'spirituality' of Reverend Brown throughout this scene?

Literalist/fundamentalist

b) What type of God does he believe in? A punitive one (someone who punishes)

3. a) How does Rachel react to her father's condemnation of Bert Cates?

Objects and asks him not to do so

b) Why is the Reverend's response to his daughter a startling one for us as viewers of the play?

He condemns her as well because she stands up for Cates. He treats her like one he has no care for.

4. a) Interpret Brady's remark: "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind."

Hurting your own will lead you lose them, all your house and all you care about

b) How might this scriptural reference apply to:

Cates: he has risked everything & may end up with nothing

Reverend Brown: he will be left with nothing ("the wind")

5. Explain Drummond's remarks to Brady at the end of the scene:

"All motion is relative – Perhaps it is you who moved away – by standing still."

Reference to science → Einstein's theory of Relativity

"relative" → depends on specific situations/circumstances

"standing still" → lack of progress/change/growth; Brady is stuck in the past and his traditional beliefs; refusal to be open minded and accept new truths/perspectives has left him behind and unable to relate to modern society

Act 3

Answer the following reading comprehension questions.

1. How does Hornbeck characterize the members of the jury when he says, "Is the jury still out?"

Swatting flies and wrestling with justice - in that order"

Small town people, hillbillies, red necks

2. Hornbeck further states, "I'll miss Hillsboro – Especially this courthouse" A melange of Moorish and Methodist..." What does this judgement reveal about Hornbeck himself?

Feels Hillsboro lacks diversity and progressiveness

He is prejudiced himself. "Moorish" means uncivilized; "Methodist" means devout/faithful

3. Why does Drummond tell the story of the Golden Dancer?

To not just accept things especially what things may seem like; they are at first glance or by their exterior → expose lies and injustice

4. Do you think Cates will continue to oppose the law he has been accused of violating?

Yes. He is going through with his appeal

5. What influence does the mayor's message to the judge have on the severity of the sentence that Cates receives?

The judge lays down a very light sentence → Hundred dollar fine whereas before cates was facing potential jail time and a large fine

6. Who loses more, Brady or Cates?

Brady loses his dignity, popularity, and the following which fuels his happiness

Cates will likely win his appeal

7. How does Hornbeck reveal his callousness after Brady's death?

Says Brady died of a busted belly (making fun of how much he eats) and goes on to speak ill of him

8. Is Hornbeck a real champion of causes, or is he "a hound that bays about the heels of truly great men"? Explain your answer:

Thrives on confrontation, debate, arguments

He likes to be the one that people hate

He waits for people to fall and then takes advantage

He does pay Cates' bail

9. Is Hornbeck's denouncing of Brady as the "national tear duct" fair? Explain your answer:

Cried enough tears for a whole nation → didn't take his loss well at all; was utterly defeated in all ways

It is not fair. It is cruel. It's hard when everything you believe and who you thought you were crumbles.

10. Contrast Drummond's characterization of Brady with Hornbeck's.

Hornbeck: religious, fundamentalist/fanatic, unprogressive, conservative and egocentric

Drummond: great man who got lost