



Hello, Future 8th Graders!

First and foremost, I would like to wish you all a happy, relaxing, and fun-filled summer, especially after all of the hard work that you have done in seventh grade this year! If you have not yet seen your Google Classroom invite to [Grade 8 ELA 22-23](#), please accept the invitation to join. You will find information about Summer Reading that may help you along the way!

American author, Garrison Keillor, said, “A book is a gift that you can open again and again.” That is exactly what we will be doing with this year’s summer reading text, *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose. We will be using the play as an exemplar text throughout the school year; therefore, it is important for you to not only read the text, but to also develop a strong understanding of the plot, characters, and theme. During the first days of school, there will be in class discussions that will review the text in preparation for a comprehension multiple choice quiz.

Please feel free to reach out via email with any questions that you may have over the break as I will continue to read and respond to messages!

Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. Buskey ([buskeyk@sbs-nj.org](mailto:buskeyk@sbs-nj.org))

Please click on the links below as needed!

Purchase a Hard Copy:

[Barnes and Noble](#)

[Amazon](#)

Digital Text: click [here](#)

Audiobook: [Audible](#)

*Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose  
**Sample Comprehension Questions**

**Act I**

1. What is the charge being tried in the play?
2. The judge informs the jury of a condition of their verdict. What is it?
3. Describe the appearance of the jury room.
4. What is the general mood of the jurors as they enter the jury room?
5. Why would you think the jurors are locked in the jury room?
6. How is the first vote conducted? What problems could you foresee with this kind of vote?
7. What are the reactions of the jurors to Juror Eight after the first vote?
8. Juror Ten makes a broad generalization about a type of people. What does he say?
9. Something is revealed about each of the jurors as each has a turn to tell his own story. Briefly summarize the beliefs of:
  - Juror Two
  - Juror Four
  - Juror Five
  - Juror Six
  - Juror Three
10. What does Juror Eight propose at the end of Act I? In what manner will the second vote be taken? What position does Eight have in the second vote?
11. What do you think gave Eight the idea for his proposition? Do you think he knows how the last vote will turn out?
12. Juror Two thinks the defendant is guilty because “nobody proved otherwise.” In what way is his thinking in conflict with the legal system?
13. How would criminal trials be different if defendants were considered guilty until proven innocent?

**Act II**

1. Do you agree with Juror Seven when he says that they all have a right to know who voted “not guilty?” Why or why not?
2. Why does Juror Seven feel that Juror Five is the one who changed his vote?
3. What is Juror Nine’s explanation for changing his vote?
4. Why does Juror Eight snatch away the paper on which Three is playing tic-tac-toe?
5. What point about the old man’s testimony did Juror Eight first question?

## **Act II (cont.)**

6. What observation does Juror Nine make about the old witness?
7. Why couldn't the old man have run in fifteen seconds to the door to see the boy fleeing the murder scene?
8. How does Juror Three contradict his own words when he says the old man can't be sure about anything?
9. How long does the re-enactment of the old man's actions take?
10. What is proven by Juror Three's shouting, "I'll kill him!" at the end of Act II?

## **Act III**

1. How is the third vote of the jurors conducted?
2. What does Juror Seven say that insults Juror Eleven?
3. What point of discussion does Juror Two bring up about the stab wound?
4. Describe Juror Three as he demonstrates the stabbing.
5. What is contradictory about the wound and the type of knife used in the murder?
6. What disproves the testimony of the woman who saw the murder through the windows of the passing el train?
7. Explain why most of the other jurors turn their backs on Juror Ten during his monologue.
8. Who is the last juror to be convinced to change his vote? Why do you think he did change his vote?
9. Do you feel the defendant is innocent or guilty? Explain your own decision. Remember: "if there is reasonable doubt, you must declare him not guilty."