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### SYNOPSIS

**Act I, Scene 1:** On a hot July night, Rachel Brown enters the courthouse in Hillsboro to petition Meeker, the bailiff, for a visit with high school biology teacher Bertram Cates. Bert has been jailed for violating a state law against teaching Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in public schools. Meeker grants them a private meeting in the courtroom.

Rachel, the daughter of the Reverend Jeremiah Brown, a narrow-minded fundamentalist, is trapped between opposing views. Fearful of powerful opposition from Matthew Harrison Brady, a former presidential candidate, she urges Bert to plead guilty and obey the law. Bert acknowledges reading in class from Darwin's *Origin of Species* and interprets the "right side" to be her father's conservative view of biblical inerrancy.

On a hot morning, the Rev. Brown harangues workers about a banner urging Bible reading. He wants to impress Brady with piety on his arrival on a special train from Chattanooga. Mrs. Krebs supervises a picnic lunch; vendors hawk hot dogs and religious tracts; Mrs. McClain sells 35¢ paper fans advertising Maley's Funeral Home. E. K. Hornbeck, a cynical journalist with the Baltimore *Herald*, sneers at Hillsboro.

As Brady nears town, Brown leads the Bible league in singing "Marching to Zion." A pompous orator, 65-year-old Brady and his wife Sarah alight from the train. He characterizes Bert as arrogant. Hillsboro's mayor extols Brady for championing women's right to vote and for supporting President Woodrow Wilson, who won the war. Brady predicts that he and circuit district attorney Davenport will counter blasphemy.

At the picnic, Rachel declares that Bert is not a criminal. Brady questions her relationship with her father; Rachel reveals that she teaches second grade. Mr. Bannister wonders who will defend Bert. Hornbeck announces that the Baltimore *Herald* is sending the twentieth century's most brilliant lawyer, Henry Drummond, whom Brown defames as vicious and godless. A townsman named Bannister adds that Drummond successfully defended two child murderers. Brown and the mayor conspire to ban Drummond from Hillsboro. Brady surprises them by welcoming a fight with "Goliath." He thanks the Ladies' Aid for lunch and leaves for a nap at Mansion House.

Hornbeck talks with Rachel, who calls helplessly to Bert at the jail. She suspects the reporter of wickedness and wonders why he supports Bert. He explains that he represents both social extremes and takes sides with neither. He accuses Brady of supporting Hillsboro's pious to give him a public forum. That night, Drummond arrives without fanfare. Melinda screams, "It's the Devil!" Hornbeck welcomes the "Devil" to "Hell."

**Act I, Scene 2:** Days later, citizens pack the sultry courtroom as a humorless judge supervises jury selection. Drummond accepts Bannister, who is illiterate, as the eleventh venireman. Brady is annoyed that Drummond amuses the spectators. Meeker questions a farmer and carpenter, Jesse Dunlap, as a potential twelfth jury member. Drummond rejects Dunlap for his belief in the Bible.

Drummond accepts George Sillers, a feed store clerk, on the jury. Brady doubts Sillers's fairness; Drummond remarks that Brady has already approved Sillers. Brady accuses Drummond of trickery; Drummond declares that he wants to protect the United States Constitution from medieval nonsense. The judge recesses until the next day and announces prayer meeting on the courthouse lawn that evening. Drummond objects to this "commercial announcement" and demands removal of the pro-Bible banner.

As spectators mob their hero Brady, Drummond supports Bert for slaying an "old wives' tale." Bert is scared and needs Rachel's support. She divulges that Brady wants her to testify against him. Bert regrets that he has revealed intimate thoughts and doubts to her. She is more afraid of her father than of Brady. Drummond insists that Bert has greatness in him because he has the courage to doubt.

**Act II, Scene 1:** At a press conference that night on the courthouse lawn, Brady denounces Bert's challenge to fundamentalist beliefs. He maintains that he does not dislike Drummond, but accuses Hornbeck of bias. Sarah worries that her husband risks sickness from the night air. At prayer meeting, Brown invokes the biblical story of creation in seven days; the people chant in response. Brown calls for hellfire to strike Bert. At the close of the antiphonal sermon, Brady and Drummond confront each other. Drummond accuses Brady of "standing still."

**Act II, Scene 2:** In the courtroom at midday two days later, Brady cross-examines Howard, a 14-year-old student, about Bert's lecture on evolution. Howard asserts that Bert never referred to God. Brady maligns Bert as a peddler of "Godless science." Drummond declares that the right to think is on trial. Drummond questions Howard's command of logic and determines that he thinks independently.

Davenport questions Rachel about Bert's church attendance. She testifies that he quit attending church two summers ago after Brown condemned Tommy Stebbins, who died without being baptized. Brady probes Bert's personal opinions on creation. Rachel becomes confused; at Bert's insistence, Drummond lets her testimony go unchallenged. The prosecution rests.

Drummond's first three witnesses are zoologist Dr. Amos Keller, Dr. Allen Page, a Congregational minister, and anthropologist Walter Aaronson. Brady blocks this tactic; the judge rules out these experts' testimony. In a surprise move, Drummond calls as a Bible scholar Brady, who delights in a chance to broadcast his opinions. He declares that he has

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never read the *Origin of Species* and that he believes the Bible is literally true. To questions about a fossil found in the county, he cites Bishop Usher, who calculated that the earth was created at 9:00 a.m., October 23, 4004 B.C.

Davenport realizes that Drummond is destroying Brady's credibility and protests the questions as "irrelevant, immaterial, [and] illegal." Brady insists that God speaks to him and contends that all hearers are free agents. Drummond demands the same rights for Bert and excuses Brady from the stand. The audience's laughter unnerves Brady, who names the books of the Bible. The judge halts his litany by adjourning until the next morning.

**Act III:** The next day, as the jury deliberates, Bert fears imprisonment. Drummond compares the law to a race horse. He parallels the long shot win to a wooden horse named Golden Dancer, which his father scrimped to buy for him. The horse crumbled because it was made of rotten wood. Harry Y. Esterbrook, a radio technician, broadcasts the "Hillsboro Monkey Trial" over radio station WGN in Chicago.

When court reconvenes, the jury has found Bert guilty. Drummond insists that Bert get a chance to speak before sentence is passed. Bert declares the law unjust and vows to fight it. Because he has no previous violations, the judge fines him \$100. Spectators are shocked; Brady insists on a more severe penalty. Drummond interjects that Bert will not pay the fine and intends to appeal. The judge grants Drummond's request and sets bond at \$500. When court adjourns, Hornbeck hands bail money to the judge.

Esterbrook ignores Brady's victory speech and concludes the broadcast. Brady stiffens and collapses. While Meeker directs others to carry Brady to the doctor across the street, Brady delivers an acceptance speech for the U. S. presidency. Bert is uncertain whether he won or lost; Drummond insists that Bert's courage "smashed a bad law."

Rachel, who plans to leave town with Bert on the 5:13 train, is dismayed that she helped the jury find him guilty. The judge announces that Brady has died. Hornbeck ridicules the orator. Drummond scolds him and lauds Brady's greatness. Drummond startles Hornbeck by citing from Proverbs that troublesome people "inherit the wind." Surprised at Drummond's religious scruples, Hornbeck accuses him of self-perjury. Drummond places Darwin's book and the Bible in his briefcase and departs.

### TIME LINE

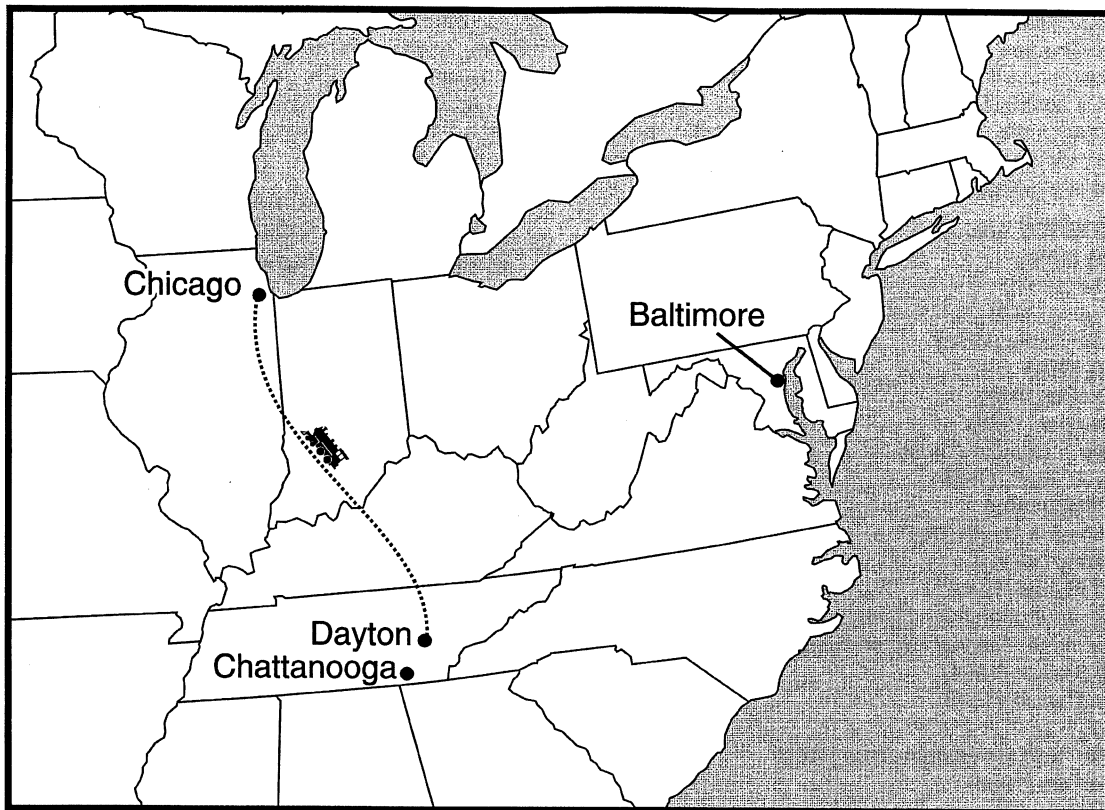
- 1857** **April 18** Clarence Darrow is born in Kinsman, Ohio.
- 1860** **March 19** William Jennings Bryan is born in Salem, Illinois.
- 1880** **Sept. 12** H. L. Mencken is born on in Baltimore, Maryland.
- 1887** Bryan moves to Nebraska.
- 1888** Darrow moves to Chicago and earns a reputation for serving the poor and weak as well as the railroad and unions.
- 1890** Bryan, a Democrat, is elected to Congress.
- 1896** The Democratic convention selects Bryan as its presidential candidate after his famous "Cross of Gold" speech. He loses to William McKinley.
- 1898** Bryan serves as colonel of a Nebraska infantry regiment during the Spanish-American War.
- 1899** Mencken joins the staff of the *Baltimore Herald*.
- 1900** Bryan runs a second time for the presidency. McKinley again defeats him. Bryan launches a pop-

- ulist newspaper, the *Commoner*.
- 1906** Mencken moves to the *Baltimore Sun*.
- 1908** Bryan loses a third bid for the presidency against William Howard Taft.
- 1911** Clarence Darrow loses his place as union advocate and enters criminal law, at which he becomes the prime practitioner of his day.
- 1912-16** Bryan serves as secretary of state under Woodrow Wilson. Bryan resigns after Wilson moves irrevocably toward participation in World War I.
- 1921** The Florida real estate boom makes Bryan a millionaire.
- 1924** Darrow defends Loeb and Leopold, who escape the death penalty for kidnapping and murder. H. L. Mencken founds *The American Mercury*.
- 1925** **Jan. 28** Tennessee approves the Butler Act, a law condemning the teaching of evolution rather than the biblical account of creation in Genesis. The American Civil Liberties Union agrees to defend anyone arrested for testing the law. **May 7** John T. Scopes, a high school biology teacher in Dayton, Tennessee, is arrested for violating the Butler Act. **June 8** Scopes selects Darrow as his attorney. **July 9** Bryan addresses the board of education; Darrow arrives late that day. **July 10** A sign "Read Your Bible" is erected at the courthouse. Twelve jurymen, one illiterate and all farmers, are sworn in. **July 13** Darrow objects to prayer at the opening of court. **July 17** Howard Morgan, a 14-year-old student in Scopes's class, testifies. **July 20** Darrow's only witness is Bryan, a recognized biblical authority. **July 21** The judge orders Bryan's testimony stricken from the record. **July 24** Scopes is found guilty and charged \$100. He appeals. **July 26** Bryan dies in his sleep in Dayton.
- 1926** Mississippi and Arkansas enact laws similar to Tennessee's Butler Act.
- 1927** The Tennessee Supreme Court overturns the judgment on the basis of a technicality: only a jury can impose a fine greater than \$50.
- 1938** **March 13** Darrow dies.
- 1966** An Arkansas teacher challenges the law governing the teaching of creationism.
- 1967** Tennessee repeals its creationism law.
- 1968** In the case of *Epperson v. Arkansas*, the U. S. Supreme Court unanimously overturns Arkansas's creationism law.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Both Lawrence and Lee claim heartland birthplaces and values. The son of poet Sarah Rogen and printer Samuel Schwartz, Jerome Lawrence Schwartz was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 14, 1915, and later abandoned his last name. At age 5 1/2, he debuted in the role of God in "Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden." From his teens, he wrote plays, interviews, and a humor column for the Glenville High School newspaper and acted in classic works by Eugene O'Neill, Charles Dickens, and Anton Chekhov. In 1937,

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Lawrence completed a B. A. from Ohio State and two years of graduate study at the University of California.

Lawrence's writing career moved him from newspapers to combat reporting in World War II to movies. His jobs as reporter and telegraph editor of the Wilmington, Ohio *News Journal*, editor of the New Lexington, Ohio *Daily News*, and continuity editor of KMPC in Beverly Hills preceded work as staff writer for CBS and playwright for Paramount Pictures. He mastered plot and dialogue while working with theatrical and film production at the Dublin Theatre Festival, MGM, Twentieth-Century Fox, Pasadena Playhouse, and Hall Wallis Productions. While serving in North Africa and Italy during World War II as correspondent, newscaster, and consultant to the Secretary of War, he earned a Battle Star and State Department citation for patriotic service. He was one of the founders of the Armed Forces Radio Service.

Robert Edwin Lee, Lawrence's co-author, was born in Elyria, Ohio, on October 15, 1918, to engineer Claire Melvin Lee and teacher Elvira Taft Lee. He attended Northwestern University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Western Reserve University, and Drake University. Seven years before collaborating with Lawrence, he married and fathered a son and daughter. Like Lawrence, he profited from wartime broadcasting experience, including the establishment of Armed Forces Radio and jobs as technician and observer at the Perkins Observatory, director of an advertising agency, and producer of Cleveland's WHK-WCLE. In addition to writing for the partnership of Lawrence & Lee, Inc., formed in 1955, he has taught theater arts at the Pasadena Playhouse College and the University of California.

After the two men met at CBS in 1942, they began writing,

producing, and directing thousands of scenarios, adaptations, TV and radio scripts, operas, record albums, articles, and short fiction for Decca Records, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Dramatics*. During the 1960s, Lawrence represented the U. S. State Department in a cultural exchange. After thirty years' residency in California, in 1969, he served Ohio State as visiting professor. A member of the California State Universities Distinguished Arts Forum, he has taught theater arts at the University of Alberta, New York University, Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, Baylor, Ohio State, Yale, Tufts, American University, Villanova, University of Southern California, Boston, Pepperdine, and Squaw Valley Community of Writers. He has lectured in Russia, Japan, Thailand, Egypt, Greece, France, Poland, and England.

### CRITIC'S CORNER

For fifty years, collaborators Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee produced provocative, creative stagecraft that earned them Tony awards in 1955 and 1966 plus Donaldson prizes, the Moss Hart award, Pegasus award, London Critics award, Outer Circle award, and New York Drama Critics award. They adapted for Warner Brothers their most successful screenplay—the Oscar-winning *Auntie Mame* (1958), a fashion-rich vehicle for Rosalind Russell and Forrest Tucker—from Patrick Dennis's novel. It won Academy Award nominations for best picture, art direction, editing, photography, and acting by Rosalind Russell and Peggy Cass.

In 1981, the duo wrote the Paramount film *First Monday in October*, starring Jill Clayburgh and Walter Matthau and based on their 1975 play about the Supreme Court. Other plays by Lawrence and Lee include *Shangri-La*, a stage ver-

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sion of James Hilton's utopian novel *Lost Horizon*, and *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, a whimsical study of philosopher Henry David Thoreau. The Broadway production of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* ran over 2000 presentations. In honor of the team's contributions to American theater, the Lincoln Center Library of the Performing Arts in New York City features a Lawrence and Lee collection; Ohio State University also maintains a private collection.

### LAWRENCE AND LEE'S PUBLISHED WORKS

*Annie Laurie* (1954)  
*Auntie Mame* (1957)  
*A Call on Kuprin* (1961)  
*The Crocodile Smile* (1972)  
*Dear World* (1969)  
*Diamond Orchid* (1965)  
*Familiar Stranger* (1956)  
*First Monday in October* (1975)  
*The Gang's All Here*, (1959)  
*A Golden Circle* (1993)  
*The Incomparable Max* (1972)  
*Inherit the Wind* (1955)  
*Inside a Kid's Head* (1945)  
*Jabberwock: Improbabilities Lived and Imagined by James Thurber in the Fictional City of Columbus, Ohio* (1974)  
*The Joyous Season* (1964)  
*Look Ma I'm Dancin'* (1948)  
*Mame* (1967)  
*My Love Affair with the Human Race* (1962)  
*The New Yorkers* (1963)  
*The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* (1970)  
*Only in America* (1959)  
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*Shangri-La* (1956)  
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### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To characterize realistic drama
2. To name and define legal procedures
3. To define pariah
4. To debate the significance of media attention to a case at the state court level
5. To characterize bombast, posturing, populism, demagoguery, and sanctimony
6. To describe the importance of freedom of speech
7. To evaluate the influence of mood and atmosphere
8. To typify religious fundamentalism
9. To express the nature and causes of a dilemma

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To describe the conflicting points of view at the trial
2. To account for Bert Cates's incarceration
3. To outline events leading up to the trial
4. To recount Brady's testimony for the defense
5. To cite ways in which Bert sets a precedent for other teachers
6. To account for Rachel's ambivalence toward Bert, her father, and evolution
7. To characterize the behavior of outsiders, especially media representatives
8. To describe Drummond's response to Brady's collapse
9. To contrast Rachel's loyalty before and after the trial
10. To note puns and jokes about monkeys
11. To analyze the historical significance of the Scope trial
12. To account for Drummond's appeal of the guilty verdict
13. To contrast Brady and Drummond as litigators
14. To evaluate the fairness of the trial

### LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's style, present the following terms and applications to the play:

**atmosphere** the prevailing aura or ambience triggered by a work's mood and tone and by incidental text clues that predispose the audience to a particular mindset or expectation of outcome. The variance from rambunctious town festivities to a quiet, private talk between Bert and Rachel and the let-down of the judge's ruling on Bert's case illustrates the volatility of local actions and feelings. These quick shifts also suggest how easily uninformed people fall prey to powerful oratory, courtroom antics, and specious reasoning.

**historic milieu** the setting of fictional events in a real period of history. The connection between the trial and Brady's acceptance speech for the U. S. presidency indicates the decline of his career as a populist orator and politician. Drummond acknowledges his respect for Brady in the last act, a gesture that ennobles his role as an even-handed attorney.

**scripture** any literary text that holds religious or moral implications for a religion, for example, the Torah, Koran, and

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the Bible. Interpretation of scripture dominates the motivation of *Inherit the Wind* and provides the title and character names, particularly Rachel, Sarah, Matthew, and Jeremiah Brown.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The milieu of *Inherit the Wind* is the small town of Hillsboro, Tennessee. It serves the authors as a microcosm of the South, particularly the Bible belt. Among townspeople of little educational background, unquestioned religious beliefs, and worldly experience, men like Hornbeck and Drummond stand out for their freedom of thought, urbane attitudes, and challenge of accepted Tennessee traditions. The playwrights hint at the high degree of narrow-mindedness and suspicion by referring to a drowning victim whom the Reverend Brown condemns for never being baptized and to Melinda's belief that Drummond is the devil.

Endearing qualities of Hillsboro neighbors involve community action, shared food, singing, laughter, and spirited unanimity in religion and philosophy. During the evening prayer meeting on the courthouse lawn, they fill the hot July night with antiphonal responses to the Reverend Brown's preaching. Their assurance and single-mindedness build tension in the play as Rachel calls to Bert and tries to uplift his low spirits.

As the play builds to a climax, the courtroom scenes are tedious and unpleasant because of overcrowding, the lengthy pre-trial task of selecting veniremen, and the absence of air conditioning. The atmosphere is so sticky that Brady proposes that they remove "superfluous outer garments." The tightness of focus of Hillsboro on the judge and his punishment of Bert suddenly bursts forth to nationwide fame after Harry Y. Esterbrook begins broadcasting the event over WGN radio to Chicago. This electronic extension of the setting transforms a small-town drama into headline news.

At the end of the play, no great confirmation of justice relieves the question of whether Bert was right or wrong in teaching evolution to a high school biology class. After Brady's collapse, people seem to mill about distractedly. After the Baltimore *Herald* pays Bert's bond, he and Rachel depart on the train with Drummond. Their departure implies that they expect no understanding or justice from the Reverend Brown and the rest of the people of Hillsboro.

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William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*  
Bette Greene, *The Drowning of Stephen Jones* and *Summer of My German Soldier*  
Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
Herman Melville, *Billy Budd*  
Arthur Miller, *The Crucible*  
Elizabeth George Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*  
Todd Strasser, *The Wave*

Jessamyn West, *Except for Me and Thee*  
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### THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's *Inherit the Wind* should include these aspects:

#### Themes

- conflict
- religious fundamentalism
- lawbreaking
- isolation
- bias
- justice
- dilemma
- disappointment
- penalty
- flight

#### Motifs

- differences between court justice and media justice
- the fall of a once-great public figure
- respect for scripture and tradition
- public mockery of justice
- the use of logic to defeat illogic

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in this novel. Explain each. Act, Scene, and page numbers pinpoint the context in which the item appears.

1. On a raked level above it is the courthouse square, the Main Street and the converging streets of the town. (Act I, Scene 1, p. 3)  
*(The stage is sloped upward to provide the audience with a full view of events at the apron or front level and beyond. Also, the elevation of the courthouse square impresses on the audience the importance of local mind-sets and fundamentalist beliefs on the court's search for justice at Bert's trial.)*
2. This is not so much a literal view of Hillsboro as it is an impression of a sleepy, obscure country town about to be vigorously awakened. It is important to the concept of the play that the town is visible always, looming there, as much on trial as the individual defendant. The crowd is equally important throughout, so that the court becomes a cock-pit, an arena, with the active spectators on all sides of it. (Act I, Scene 1, p. 3)  
*(The interplay between court and town is the focus of Lawrence and Lee's re-creation of the notorious John Scopes Monkey Trial. By displaying the carnival atmosphere of vendors and a banner urging Bible reading, the playwrights imply local unanimity on the subject of evolution and its place in public school science classes. Like a stone wall, the opposition to Drummond as an outsider*

*and agnostic indicates how difficult his job will be when he faces a populist hero in court.)*

3. Elijah! Yes! Why, I had no idea you were still around. I've read some of your stuff. (Act I, Scene 1, p. 14)  
*(Hornbeck cynically mocks the biblical name of a local man who admits to being illiterate. Hornbeck implies a comparison to the Old Testament Hebrew prophet Elijah.)*
4. I am a newspaperman, bearing news.  
When this sovereign state determined to indict  
The sovereign mind of a less-than-sovereign school-teacher,  
My editors decided there was more than a headline here.  
The Baltimore *Herald*, therefore, is happy to announce  
That it is sending two representatives to "heavenly Hillsboro":  
The most brilliant reporter in America today,  
Myself.  
And the most agile legal mind of the Twentieth Century,  
Henry Drummond. (Act I, Scene 1, p. 23)  
*(Hornbeck's overpowering egotism makes him a comic figure. In his revelation of the Baltimore newspaper's interest in the trial, he places himself before the defense attorney, Henry Drummond.)*
5. The boy was eleven years old, and he went swimming in the river, and got a cramp, and drowned. Bert felt awful about it. He lived right next door, and Tommy Stebbins used to come over to the boarding house and look through Bert's microscope. Bert said the boy had a quick mind, and he might even be a scientist when he grew up. At the funeral, Pa preached that Tommy didn't die in a state of grace, because his folks had never had him baptized— (Act II, Scene 1, p. 68)  
*(Tommy Stebbins illustrates the importance of characters long removed from the action. Because of the Reverend Brown's uncharitable funeral sermon for an innocent child, he alienated Bert by illustrating his lack of compassion.)*
6. In a child's power to master the multiplication table there is more sanctity than in all your shouted "Amen's!", "Holy, Holies!" and "Hosannahs!" An idea is a greater monument than a cathedral. And the advance of man's knowledge is more of a miracle than any sticks turned to snakes or the parting of waters! But are we now to halt the march of progress because Mr. Brady frightens us with a fable? (Act II, Scene 1, p. 83)  
*(Drummond builds oratorical momentum to a high point by referring to creation stories as fable, a form of fictional narrative that uses simplified situations and characters to illustrate and ridicule some element of human misbehavior or fault of character. At the end of the speech, he presses the issue of biblical interpretation with the comment, "We must abandon our faith in the pleasant poetry of Genesis.")*
7. I jumped into the saddle and started to rock— . . . And it broke! It split in two! The wood was rotten, the whole thing was put together with spit and sealing wax! All shine, and no substance! (Act III, Scene 1, p. 97)  
*(Drummond compares Brady to Golden Dancer, a toy horse that was beautiful but unstable. The first time Drummond jumped on it, it broke. Brady resembles the*

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horse in that when he was to put to a serious test, he also broke.)

8. Ladies and gentlemen, our program director in Chicago advises us that our time here is completed. Harry Y. Esterbrook speaking. We return you now to our studios and "Matinee Musicale." (Act III, Scene 1, p. 106)  
*(The letdown that Hillsboro feels at the end of the trial carries over to the anticlimax of a nondescript music program that fills air time on the radio. The musicale precedes Brady's collapse, a meaningful part of the falling action that derives from the real demise of William Jennings Bryan days after the Scopes Monkey Trial.)*
9. He becomes a national unloved child,  
A balding orphan, an aging adolescent  
Who never got the biggest piece of candy.  
Unloved children, of all ages, insinuate themselves  
Into spotlights and rotogravures.  
They stand on their hands and wiggle their feet.  
Split pulpits with their pounding! And their tonsils  
Turn to organ pipes. Show me a shouter,  
And I'll show you an also-ran. A might-have-been.  
(Act III, Scene 1, p. 108)  
*(Hornbeck's commentary summarizing Brady's past turns into a poetic speech filled with images of Brady's slip from political importance to blaring bombast and pathetic self-promotion. Another purpose of the speech is to illustrate Hornbeck's heavy-handed style, which departs from the standard intent of journalism to deliver who, what, why, where, how, and when.)*
10. This is your book, Bert . . . I've read it. All the way through. I don't understand it. What I do understand, I don't like. (Act III, Scene 1, p. 111)  
*(An irony of the last act is Rachel's role in Bert's conviction and her inability to understand the motivation of the man she chooses over her father. Peripherally, she understands one aspect of the trial: "A thought is like a child inside our body. It has to be born. If it dies inside you, part of you dies, too!")*

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages from the novel.

#### Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. What events precede the trial?  
*(In July in the town of Hillsboro, Tennessee, Rachel Brown visits prisoner Bert Cates, who is accused of violating state statutes. She urges him to recant his teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution, a repugnant philosophy to her father, the Rev. Brown.  
Outside the courthouse, the Rev. Brown urges workers to raise a pro-Bible banner before Matthew Harrison Brady and his wife Sarah arrive from Chattanooga. Amid hot dog sellers, women spread a picnic, vendors sell Bibles, and onlookers distribute paper fans from Maley's Funeral Home. When Brady arrives, he labels Bert an arrogant young teacher who has "spoken out against the Revealed Word." Hornbeck, a reporter for the Baltimore Herald, announces that his paper will finance the defense led by Henry Drummond, a quick-witted lawyer.)*
2. How does the courtroom scene blend poignance with the jocularity of the previous days?  
*(Various details add wit to the dreary pre-trial proceedings. During jury selection, "Colonel" Brady asks that men remove their coats; "Colonel" Drummond reveals his Nebraska galluses. An illiterate townsman, George Sillers, becomes the twelfth man seated before the recess, which precedes a call-and-response prayer meeting on the courthouse lawn that evening. When the trial opens, Brady cross-examines 13-year-old Howard and defames Bert's teaching as "Godless science" because he doesn't give God credit for creation. In a difficult testimony, Rachel reports that Bert quit church after her father declared that the Tommy Stebbins was in hell after dying without being baptized. After his scheduled witnesses are disallowed, Drummond calls Brady as an expert on the Bible. Without realizing the humorous effect of his words, Brady testifies that the earth was created in 4004 BC at 9:00 a.m. He further lessens his credibility by insisting that God speaks to him.)*
3. How does the trial end?  
*(The morning after testimony concludes, following jury deliberation, George Sillers delivers a slip of paper to the judge stating that Bert Cates is guilty as charged. Harry Y. Esterbrook, a radio technician, sets up a carbon microphone to broadcast the verdict to WGN in Chicago. The judge dismays Brady by fining Bert only \$100 because he has no prior convictions. Drummond asks for thirty days to prepare an appeal; the judge grants his request and sets bail at \$500. Hornbeck pays the money in Bert's behalf.)*
4. How does the trial's bland conclusion affect Brady?  
*(Brady is appalled that the trial has come to a quick, clean end and that he has no opportunity to redeem himself in front of the audience. Because the judge refuses to let him read a prepared commentary before adjournment, Brady must contend with a hawker selling Eskimo Pies and people dispensing lemonade. Only a few remain to listen.  
The self-aggrandizing oration fails. Brady, unhinged by the lack of attention, flaps his arms to draw people back to the podium. Harry Y. Esterbrook directs him to the enunciator, then unexpectedly cuts to the Chicago studio for "Matinee Musicale." Brady babbles briefly, then collapses "like a figure in a waxworks toppling from its pedestal.")*
5. Why is Cates uncertain of the outcome?  
*(Like Melinda, Bert Cates is uncertain whether he won or lost. Drummond explains that a jury of twelve men found him guilty, but "millions of people will say you won. They'll read in their papers tonight that you smashed a bad law. You made it a joke!" Drummond refers to the importance of Cates's stand for free thought in the classroom and against one religious group's simplistic fundamentalism based on the alleged inerrancy of the Bible. Drummond expands on the fact that this type of public stand against ignorance is ongoing, that Cates's courage has helped the next teacher who must stand up to interference in the educational process.)*

#### Questions 6 and 7 (Interpretive Level)

6. What is the play's history?  
*(Calling on actual testimony from court records and*

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news stories, *Inherit the Wind* is a study of the clash between rigid religious views and modern scientific theory. The play broadens in scope to include the rise and fall of a populist orator, William Jennings Bryan, a candidate for the U. S. presidency whose podium appeal lacked the strength to carry the vote. Written during the McCarthy era, the play, thrilled its audiences with its verve, energy, and splash. In 1960, *United Artists'* black-and-white cinema version of *Inherit the Wind* won Academy Award nominations for script and editing, photography, and Spencer Tracy's role as Drummond opposite Frederic March as Brady and Gene Kelly as Hornbeck.)

7. What is the purpose of Lawrence and Lee's version of the trial?

(Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee dramatize through historical fiction a serious clash between freedom of religion and freedom of speech. To enhance their view of insidious threats to First Amendment rights, they fictionalize the confrontation of teacher John Thomas Scopes and his backers, legendary journalist H. L. Mencken and famed attorney Clarence Darrow, against William Jennings Bryan, America's self-proclaimed "Great Commoner." The public forum erupted into a battle of personalities over the right of students to think for themselves.)

### Questions 8 and 9 (Critical Level)

8. What aspects of the play are realistic?

(The play displays the elements of realism by favoring a middle-class or everyman point of view from Bert Cates's lectures in a biology classroom in Hillsboro, Tennessee, the fictional counterpart of John T. Scopes in Dayton, Tennessee. The playwrights focus on actions and their consequences, the core of realism. The themes of religious freedom and freedom of speech challenge false ideals, sentimentality, prejudice, and romantic dreams of clearcut justice and a neat rescue of Bert from a biased court and venue. The playwrights intend their work to influence or change fallacious beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors, in particular, the notion that one court trial changed thinking on evolution.

The drama champions Bert as an individual who must make ethical choices. It characterizes the human element that corrupts or compromises orthodoxy by showing the court's favoritism toward Matthew Brady and by showcasing Henry Drummond's fight to assure a fair trial.)

9. Explain the difference between Drummond's defense of First Amendment rights and Hornbeck's cynical denunciation of the South and the Bible Belt.

(Drummond and Hornbeck demonstrate contrasting attitudes toward truth. Drummond ridicules Brady's bombast and pomposity in court, but he retains admiration for the man's former greatness and forgiveness for his failings. Hornbeck, who tweaks Drummond for defending Brady, composes a mock obituary that notes, "Hail the apostle whose letters to the Corinthians were lost in the mail."

After Hornbeck seizes the Bible and searches for Proverbs, Drummond indicates that he can quote the Old Testament and that he understands the obnoxious people who deliberately stir up trouble and, in recompense, "inherit the wind." He asserts that Brady, like Cates, had "the right to be wrong." He softens the old

man's failings by declaring that he "was looking for God too high up and too far away." Hornbeck seizes on Drummond's religiosity as grist for a new "story of an atheist who believes in God.")

### Questions 10 and 11 (Creative Level)

11. Contrast various examples of loyalty from the play, particularly Meeker's kindness to a prisoner and Howard's uncertainty about testifying against his teacher. Show Rachel's gradual shift from her father's influence to her intent to run away with Bert. Express Drummond's loyalty to Brady as a great man and Drummond's citation from Proverbs, which illustrates his respect for the Bible.
12. Create a role for Melinda, the confused child who does not understand who won the court case. Express in her words the difficulties of living in Hillsboro and seeing one of its teachers publicly reviled as a heretic.

## ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

### Art

1. Draw contrasting murals or posters to demonstrate these settings: jail, courtroom, courthouse square, picnic tables, prayer meeting, radio station WGN, train depot, Reverend Brown's church, boarding house, 5:13 train.
2. Design on computer or paper a poster encouraging readers to buy the Baltimore *Herald*, a welcome sign for Brady, an epitaph for Brady, a travel brochure for Chattanooga, an illustrated guide to Darwin's voyage on the *Beagle*, an advertisement for bibles, frond fans, and religious tracts, a list of questions for the circuit district attorney to ask the judge, a topographical map of changes in the earth since the beginning of time, a week's agenda of the welcome speech, picnic, prayer meeting, and other local events, or a newspaper headline announcing the appeal, posted bond, and court date for Bert's next trial.
3. Draw a frieze or cartoon explaining the events that precede and follow the trial. Why do the trinket sellers, hurdy gurdy, hot dog stands, and free frond fans seem appropriate to Hillsboro? Why does Hornbeck ridicule commercial hoop-la?

### Cinema

1. Draw a storyboard for a movie version of *Inherit the Wind*. Show Hillsboro's downtown, depot, courthouse, jail, churches, feed store, grammar school, high school, telegraph office, and picnic area. Add sketches of summer clothing typical of farmers and city dwellers in Tennessee in 1925, the time of the Scopes trial.
2. View moral and ethical dilemmas in films such as *Lord of the Flies*, *The Power of One*, *Saint Joan*, *Philadelphia*, *Except for Me and Thee*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Hamlet*, *Lord Jim*, *Places in the Heart*, *Remains of the Day*, *Playing for Time*, *Becket*, *Class Action*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Absence of Malice*, and *Schindler's List*. Discuss how universal beliefs in democracy and humanism motivate individuals to look beyond themselves to the rights of others.
3. Determine how a film director would describe setting, atmosphere, mood, tone, theme, and characters for the scenes in which Rachel speaks in private with Brady, the Reverend Brown holds prayer meeting, workers hoist a pro-Bible sign, Sarah Brady tries to keep her husband



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from overeating at the picnic, the men in the courtroom remove their coats, Mrs. Krebs spreads a picnic lunch, and Drummond arrives in Hillsboro and encounters Hornbeck.

### Drama and Speech

1. Write several conversations that are only implied, such as Sarah Brady's attempts to curb her husband's excessive eating and over-exertion, Bert and Rachel's courtship, Bert's lectures to Howard's class, Brady's questions to Rachel, the jury's deliberation, the town's reaction to a drowning, and Drummond's treatment by local merchants. Act out your dialogue for an audio or video taping.
2. Compose a short speech in which you explain Bert's point of view concerning the best way to study science. Include conjectural or contradictory explanations of phenomena, for example, dating fossils or determining the age of the earth.
3. Describe aloud the alteration in audience response after Drummond begins to interact with Brady. Why is Brady a more successful populist orator than presidential candidate or trial lawyer?

### Education

1. Discuss your response toward reading or studying about controversial or religious themes. How can an audience or classroom accommodate all sides of the issues? How can a court protect the innocence of inexperienced young witnesses like Howard? Why does the U. S. Constitution demand separation of church and state?
2. Compose a handout sheet contrasting the creationist philosophy with Charles Darwin's explanation of evolution. Work item by item through these concerns: how and when the earth was created, how science measures time, what forces caused the creation of plants and animals, and how scientific theory challenges fundamentalism.
3. Compose an extended definition of values. How can schools shape student values without violating individual rights? Work with a group on a list of values that all can accept.

### History and Social Studies

1. Contrast elements of the real trial with the fictional one. Take into account Mrs. Bryan's dependence on a wheelchair, John Scopes's death, the Loeb and Leopold case, help from the American Civil Liberties Union, and H. L. Mencken's ridicule of the Bible Belt and uneducated Southern fundamentalists.
2. Read aloud from Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*. Contrast with information from Elaine Morgan's *Descent of Woman*. Note the difference in emphasis in a female perspective of evolution and civilization. What aspects of the play suggest heavy sexism and racism in Hillsboro?
3. Organize a discussion of periods of history when religious groups and individuals have challenged science, philosophy, government, or other religions. Discuss Copernicus, Martin Luther, peace vigils and civil rights strikes, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Amish, Quaker and Mennonite abolitionism, the building of Salt Lake City, and the Ghost Dance.

### Journalism

1. Work with a partner to create a newspaper feature on

the background elements of the real story, particularly court trials, McCarthyism, the Bible Belt and religious fundamentalism, evolution, state control of schools, the trial of Loeb and Leopold, Genesis, *Origin of the Species*, Charles Darwin's other writings, women's suffrage, ACLU, and the careers of William Jennings Bryan, Clarence Darrow, John Thomas Scopes, and H. L. Mencken.

2. Describe in a short speech the divergent purposes of court trials and media coverage. How does a guilty verdict help smash an unjust law? Why is Bert a hero to Drummond? What do the residents of Hillsboro reveal about entrenched ignorance and disregard for individual rights?
3. Compose a short segment of dialogue in which you play a media interviewer asking questions about Bert. What would you learn from Howard, Melinda, Rachel, the Reverend Brown, the judge, Meeker, Mrs. Krebs, or Sillers? Decide whether Brady's opinion is as valuable as those of local people who have known Bert longer.
4. Organize a panel discussion of the value of the media to law. Determine whether the media deserve access to all aspects of legal dealings. What rights do defendants like Bert have to privacy? to free counsel? to an appeal? to bail?
5. Compose a list of questions an interviewer might ask Rachel about growing up in Hillsboro. Discuss the fact that her mother's death left her in the care of Reverend Brown. Ask how she became interested in Bert and how she reacted to his departure from church. Determine why Rachel has chosen to leave home, father, church beliefs, and home town to follow Bert on the 5:13 train.

### Language Arts

1. Discuss with a small group the effect of focusing the play on a microcosm of courthouse, audience, and townspeople. Which characters seem ill at ease in Hillsboro? What businesses get direct mention, for example, the feed store, hot dog stands, and boarding house? How does Harry Y. Esterbrook alter the setting? What is critic Hornbeck's role in bringing the trial to the world? Why is the train important to the plot?
2. Create a list of images from the play that appeal to the five senses, such as "Henry's Lizzie rattles into town and leaves behind the Yesterday-Messiah, standing in the road alone in a cloud of flivver dust," "On the Third Day brought He forth the Dry Land, and the Grass, and the Fruit Tree!," "Little Melinda utters a frightened cry, and buries her head in the folds of her mother's skirt," and "All it says is that man wasn't just stuck here like a geranium in a flower pot; that living comes from a long miracle, it didn't just happen in seven days."
3. Write a theme in which you explain what Rachel and Howard have in common. How have both people come under the influence of Bert and of the Reverend Brown? How does the funeral of the Stebbins boy cloud the issue of teaching evolution to a biology class?
4. Discuss with a group the symbolism of Brady's death. What do the authors imply about his mental and physical collapse? Why does Drummond upbraid Hornbeck for ridiculing Brady? Why does Brady deserve respect? Does the same reasoning apply to respect for the judge,

## INHERIT THE WIND

Reverend Brown, Davenport, and Meeker?

5. Draw a web representing the interconnectedness of characters. Begin with the main figures: Drummond, Brady, Bert, and Hornbeck. Include Rachel, Meeker, the judge, the Reverend Brown, Bert's students, hawkers and hangers-on, innkeepers, and the media.
6. Characterize in a theme the use of humor as a deterrent to pomposity and hypocrisy. Note the difference between Drummond and Brady in making jokes at each other's expense, e. g. the pun "Rock of Ages"/age of rocks.
7. With a group, categorize these vocabulary terms: hurdy gurdy, raked level, cock-pit, Chattanooga, Darwin's *Origin of Species*, Chautauqua, halcyons, rubes, old 94, hawker, Coxey's army, red-hots, frond fans, spit down, cowlick, placard, pitch pipe, pith helmet, camp follower, Happy Hooligan, Barney Google, Abe Kabibble, Socrates, Dreyfus, Little Eva, linotype, truck garden, Sleeping Beauty, great unwashed, Henry's Lizzie, Marconi, peat moss, Montgomery Ward, valise, galluses, Barnum and Bailey, old wives' tale, Reuters, clipping service, press pass, tent show, Milton Sills, Douglas Fairbanks, latitude, longitude, minutes, seconds, degrees, trump card, Houdini, fable, Bishop Usher, fossil, enunciator, carbon microphone, seventh-inning stretch, sotto voce, pitchman, crescendo, anticlimax, larynx, Excalibur, Mr. Chief Justice, waxworks, rotogravure, and tear duct.
8. Compose a description of a minor character, for instance, Howard, Melinda, Sarah Brady, Mrs. Krebs, or Elijah. Explain how minor characters influence the outcome of the trial.
9. Explain in a theme how the authors characterize Bert's moments of self-doubt, fear, self-evaluation, love for Rachel, confusion, determination, confession, defiance, curiosity, courage, and relief. What does the elopement suggest about Bert's hopes for fair treatment in the South?
10. Compose a first person account of Bert's trial from the point of view of the bailiff or a spectator. Mention the influence of extreme heat, overcrowding, hot tempers, accusations of impiety, participation of the media and the ACLU, sexism and racism in impanelment of a jury, suspicion of Drummond, and public attempts to smear or intimidate Bert before he receives a fair hearing.

### Law

1. Explain the meaning of these terms in the play's action: Rhea County, bailiff, extradite, Monkey Trial, Bryan, Darrow, jury box, privy, defense, prosecution, circuit district attorney, suffrage, President Wilson, municipality, State Militia, confer, indict, sovereign, ordinances, open-and-shut case, precedent, hearsay testimony, not admissible, objection overruled, venireman, objection sustained, Federal Court, State versus Bertram Cates, transgressor, sine die, contempt, and perjury.
2. Make a time line indicating other turning points in American law and justice, for instance, *Brown v. the Board of Education*, the Dred Scott decision, the Missouri Compromise, the *Amistad* trial, Japanese internment camps, and the Miranda decision.
3. Study the history of First Amendment rights. Why does this right precede all others? Why is it so frequently challenged? Explain how the signing of the Magna Carta in

1215 prepared the way for the American Bill of Rights.

### Music

Listen to recordings of instrumental, choral, or orchestral music to accompany an audio taping of *Inherit the Wind*. Select patriotic songs, hymns, spirituals, and mood music to emphasize contrasting moods and settings.

### Psychology

Make an oral report on the importance of belief in self. Why does Bert choose not to recant but to continue defying the law? Why does Rachel struggle with her conscience? How does the death of Mrs. Brown contribute to Rachel's dependence on her father?

### Religion

1. Choose several of these terms as library research projects: agnostic, genesis, exodus, Bible Belt, evolutionist, infidel, Elijah, Jeremiah, "Gimme That Old Time Religion," "Marching to Zion," "Go Tell It on the Mountain," dogma, heretic, St. George, Goliath, Sodom and Gomorrah, Sinai, letters to the Corinthians, Pentateuch, Joshua, Pharaoh, state of grace, Tree of Knowledge, apostles, Jonah, solar system, axis, natural law, Copernicus, gavel, and Revelations.
2. Lead a debate about the best way for strict religions to prepare youth for a normal life among liberal opinions, changing ethics, and multicultural worship practices. Give your opinion of home schooling, correspondence courses, segregated schools, white flight, and elitist and religious academies.
3. Create a bulletin board illustrating the major religions of the United States. Note areas of saturation, particularly of Islam, Mormonism, Roman Catholicism, fundamentalism, New Age, Santeria, Voodoo, Seventh Day Adventism, Baha'i, Sikhism, Quakerism, Buddhism, and Judaism. What areas seem least concerned with orthodoxy? What religions are uniquely American, e. g. Unitarianism and the Native American Church?

### Science

1. Explain briefly how scientists ascertain the age of rocks. What could a zoologist, geologist, archeologist, anthropologist, or philosopher tell the court about biblical interpretation? Why would fundamentalists reject such testimony?

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Compose a note from Bert Cates to Howard thanking him for giving honest testimony and for being strong in the face of adversity.
2. Write a letter to the mayor in which you request information about visiting or taking a package to a prisoner in the Hillsboro jail.
3. Draw and letter an advertisement for a job as Bible seller, innkeeper, train conductor, biology teacher, mayor, bailiff, district attorney, journalist, fundamentalist preacher, or courthouse worker.
4. Write the opening and closing paragraphs of a history of First Amendment rights and the American Civil Liberties Union.
5. Act out a scenario explaining evolution. Determine whether Charles Darwin's concepts of selection of the fittest still apply.
6. Deliver a short speech explaining why you do or don't

## INHERIT THE WIND

support the stand of the Reverend Jeremiah Brown and Matthew Harrison Brady on the issue of Bible inerrancy.

7. Add a scene to the play in which the Reverend Brown asks the mayor and bailiff to help him search for Rachel and Bert, who eloped aboard the 5:13 train.
8. Summarize court procedures. Include terms from the play, e. g. sine die, objection sustained, and circuit district attorney.
9. With a group, compare Brady and Drummond as visitors to Hillsboro. Which has a better understanding of the people and town spirit?
10. Explain the forces that cause Bert to defy a state law. Mention the death of the Stebbins boy, Reverend Jeremiah Brown's funeral comments, student interest in science, and the push of fundamentalists against scientific study.

### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Describes scenes for a mural depicting Hillsboro. Include these details:
  - a. religious banners
  - b. hot dog vendors
  - c. the train from Chattanooga
  - d. workers at the courthouse
  - e. Rachel and Bert talking
  - f. boarding houses
  - g. Bible sellers and religious placards
  - h. Howard returning from fishing
  - i. Hornbeck taking notes
  - j. women arranging the picnic
  - k. a monkey and hurdy gurdy
2. Propose ways that Bert can spread the importance of the trial to the rest of the world, for instance:
  - a. appear before a Congressional panel studying the separation of church and state
  - b. compose a new text reconciling scripture with Darwin's *Origin of Species*
  - c. take a job with a large newspaper and report on biology classes nationwide
  - d. assist in creating curriculum suited to areas where fundamentalists are in the majority
  - e. join Hornbeck in retelling the events leading up to the trial
3. Compose a letter from Davenport, Elijah, or Mrs. Krebs criticizing the intervention of outsiders in a local trial. Give reasons why the people of Hillsboro oppose Darwin's theory of evolution.
4. List and explain different styles of narrative in the play. Include dialogue, harangue, witticism, oratory, media broadcast, aphorism, preaching, and call and response.

### ANSWER KEY

#### VOCABULARY TEST

- |               |                  |                 |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. reaction   | 10. vigorously   | 18. suffrage    |
| 2. spattering | 11. prosecute    | 19. familiarity |
| 3. magnetism  | 12. arrogant     | 20. oratorical  |
| 4. slouches   | 13. Revealed     | 21. agape       |
| 5. impressed  | 14. unloosed     | 22. vested      |
| 6. reckoned   | 15. statutes     | 23. confer      |
| 7. alpaca     | 16. Scriptures   | 24. commission  |
| 8. beams      | 17. municipality | 25. Militia     |
| 9. frond      |                  |                 |

#### COMPREHENSION TEST A

##### Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

- |            |             |              |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Bible   | 6. verdict  | 11. law      |
| 2. Herald  | 7. agnostic | 12. Rachel   |
| 3. Chicago | 8. Dancer   | 13. Hell     |
| 4. Brown   | 9. galluses | 14. Bible    |
| 5. grace   | 10. Mayor   | 15. Drummond |

##### Part II: Matching (20 points)

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. E | 5. J | 8. H  |
| 2. A | 6. D | 9. I  |
| 3. F | 7. C | 10. B |
| 4. G |      |       |

##### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. T | 5. T | 8. T  |
| 2. F | 6. T | 9. F  |
| 3. F | 7. F | 10. F |
| 4. T |      |       |

##### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

#### COMPREHENSION TEST B

##### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. G | 5. B | 8. I  |
| 2. A | 6. C | 9. E  |
| 3. F | 7. J | 10. H |
| 4. D |      |       |

##### Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

- |                      |                  |                   |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. State Militia     | 6. creation      | 11. Drummond      |
| 2. Rachel            | 7. Mansion House | 12. the judge     |
| 3. Read Your Bible   | 8. Bert          | 13. George Siller |
| 4. 15                | 9. Bert          | 14. \$500         |
| 5. Drummond's father | 10. Hornbeck     | 15. Nebraska      |

##### Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

1. asking if he has a room
2. Drummond is the Devil
3. Brady is carried from the room
4. he is illiterate
5. Drummond in an Ohio courtroom
6. Rachel is dooming herself
7. Brady be reduced to the rank of private
8. Rachel
9. himself
10. Dunlap
11. Rachel agrees to testify
12. a boy Socrates
13. London
14. Bishop Usher's
15. venireman

##### Part IV: Essay (20 points)

Answers will vary.

## INHERIT THE WIND

### VOCABULARY TEST

Complete the following segments of the play with words from the list below. Capitalize as needed.

agape	confer	lithe	pertinent	slouches
alpaca	effrontery	magnetism	prosecute	spattering
arrogant	familiarity	militia	reaction	statutes
augmented	firmament	muck	reckoned	suffrage
bane	frond	municipality	repast	unloosed
beams	hosannahs	oratorical	revealed	vested
blasphemies	impressed	orgy	rout	vigorously
commission	jubilant	paunchy	scriptures	wry

#### Brady

Friends—and I can see most of you are my friends, from the way you have decked out your beautiful city of Hillsboro—(There is a pleased (1) \_\_\_\_\_, and a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of applause. When BRADY speaks, there can be no doubt of his personal (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Even HORNBECK, who (4) \_\_\_\_\_ contemptuously at far left, is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with the speaker's power; for here is a man to be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ with) Mrs. Brady and I are delighted to be among you! (BRADY takes his wife's hand and draws her to his side) I could only wish one thing: that you had not given us quite so warm a welcome! (BRADY removes his (7) \_\_\_\_\_ coat. The crowd laughs. BRADY (8) \_\_\_\_\_. MRS. MCCLAIN hands him a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ fan. BRADY takes it) Bless you. (He fans himself (10) \_\_\_\_\_) My friends of Hillsboro, you know why I have come here. I have not come merely to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ a lawbreaker, an (12) \_\_\_\_\_ youth who has spoken out against the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ Word. I have come because what has happened in a schoolroom of your town has (14) \_\_\_\_\_ a wicked attack from the big cities of the North!—an attack upon the law which you have so wisely placed among the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of this state. I am here to defend that which is most precious in the hearts of all of us: the Living Truth of the (16) \_\_\_\_\_! . . .

#### Mayor

Mr. Matthew Harrison Brady, this (17) \_\_\_\_\_ is proud to have within its city limits the warrior who has always fought for us ordinary people. The lady folks of this town wouldn't have the vote if it wasn't for you, fightin' to give 'em all that (18) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr. President Wilson wouldn't never have got to the White House and won the war if it wasn't for you supportin' him. And, in conclusion, the Governor of our state . . .

#### Photographer

Hold it! (The camera clicks) Thank you. (MRS. BRADY is disturbed by the (19) \_\_\_\_\_ of the pose.

. . . BRADY assumes the familiar (20) \_\_\_\_\_ pose. The camera clicks. Unnoticed, the barefoot Howard has stuck his head, mouth (21) \_\_\_\_\_, into the picture. The Mayor refers to the last page of his undelivered speech.)

#### Mayor

In conclusion, the Governor of our state has (22) \_\_\_\_\_ in me the authority to (23) \_\_\_\_\_ upon you a (24) \_\_\_\_\_ as Honorary Colonel in the State (25) \_\_\_\_\_.

## INHERIT THE WIND

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

Supply a term to complete each of the following statements. Choose your answers from the list that follows.

agnostic	Chicago	galluses	Mayor	judge
Baltimore	Dancer	grace	Mrs. Krebs	jury
Bible	Darwin	Hell	Rachel	Tommy
Brown	Drummond	Herald	state	verdict
Chattanooga	extradition	law		

1. Drummond exits with a copy of the \_\_\_\_\_ and Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ pays Bert's bail.
3. Harry Y. Esterbrook sets up a radio connection to WGN in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ indicates that the sign should be hoisted before Brady arrives.
5. According to Reverend Jeremiah Brown, Tommy dies outside a state of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ arrives on a slip of paper and is handed to the judge.
7. Hornbeck considers Drummond an \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Golden \_\_\_\_\_ crumbled into rotten wood.
9. Drummond bought purple \_\_\_\_\_ in Weeping Water, Nebraska.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is pleased that Brady helped women gain the right to vote.
11. Bert's final comment about the verdict is a rejection of an unjust \_\_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ admits that she had been afraid to think before reading Bert's textbook.
13. When Drummond arrives in Hillsboro, Hornbeck welcomes him to \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Brady accepts the chance to testify as a \_\_\_\_\_ expert.
15. Brown once saw \_\_\_\_\_ perform in an Ohio courtroom.

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the lettered list that follows.

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| _____ 1. looks through Bert's microscope.                | A. Bannister           |
| _____ 2. wants a front seat.                             | B. Rachel              |
| _____ 3. asks Brady to speak into the enunciator.        | C. Melinda             |
| _____ 4. offers to rent Hornbeck a room.                 | D. Meeker              |
| _____ 5. supported Brady's campaign.                     | E. Tommy               |
| _____ 6. allows Bert privacy with Rachel.                | F. Harry Y. Esterbrook |
| _____ 7. taunts Howard for sinful words.                 | G. Mrs. Krebs          |
| _____ 8. damns "flesh of my flesh" for siding with Bert. | H. Jeremiah Brown      |
| _____ 9. plays with the hurdy gurdy man's monkey.        | I. Hornbeck            |
| _____ 10. fears Brown more than Brady.                   | J. Drummond            |

## INHERIT THE WIND

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Bert's lessons come from the textbook.
- \_\_\_ 2. Elijah sells Bibles, tracts, and hot dogs.
- \_\_\_ 3. At first the people of Hillsboro welcome Drummond to town.
- \_\_\_ 4. Hornbeck declares that Brady has spoken his own obituary.
- \_\_\_ 5. Brown offended Bert by declaring Tommy doomed to hell.
- \_\_\_ 6. The judge equalizes the lawyers by calling both "Colonel."
- \_\_\_ 7. Esterbrook is accustomed to broadcasting world events over WGN.
- \_\_\_ 8. Drummond reminds Brady that no women sit on the jury.
- \_\_\_ 9. Brady declares that almost every word in the Bible is literally true.
- \_\_\_ 10. Drummond proves that Howard does not believe that man came from monkeys.

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Explain why Drummond refuses to let Hornbeck ridicule the great orator.
- 2. Describe the legal process that brings Bert to trial.
- 3. Discuss why fundamentalists fear Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*.
- 4. Explain the *Herald's* interest in violation of a law of a distant state.
- 5. Summarize the letdown that grips Hillsboro after the trial.

## INHERIT THE WIND

### COMPRFEHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match the following quotations with their conclusions. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_ 1. I must get me to a typewriter and
- \_\_\_ 2. You never pushed a noun against a verb
- \_\_\_ 3. He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and
- \_\_\_ 4. You have no more right to spit on his religion than
- \_\_\_ 5. You know what I thought of him, and
- \_\_\_ 6. Tomorrow it'll be something else—
- \_\_\_ 7. Something happens to the feet of a man who
- \_\_\_ 8. They'll read in their papers tonight that you
- \_\_\_ 9. During my term in the White House, I pledge to carry out my promise for
- \_\_\_ 10. From the hallowed hills of sacred Sinai, in the days of remote antiquity,

- A. except to blow up something.
- B. I know what you thought.
- C. and another fella will have to stand up.
- D. you have to spit on *my* religion!
- E. the betterment of the common people of this country.
- F. the fool shall be servant to the wise in heart.
- G. hammer out the story of an atheist who believes in God.
- H. came the law which has been our bulwark and our shield.
  - I. smashed a bad law.
- J. always comes in second in a foot-race.

#### Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to each of the following questions. Then explain its significance.

- 1. Of what is Brady a colonel?
- 2. Whose mother died previous to the play?
- 3. What does the banner urge?
- 4. How many of Drummond's expert witnesses does the judge reject?
- 5. Who works overtime to buy Golden Dancer?
- 6. What biblical story does Brown relate at the prayer meeting?
- 7. Where do Sarah and Matthew stay in Hillsboro?
- 8. Who is quoted as saying, "Man created God"?
- 9. Who refers to Bert's lecture as "Godless science"?
- 10. Whose dispatches arrive by Brady's clipping service?
- 11. Who refers to Brady's version of the bible as a fable?
- 12. Who fines Bert \$100?
- 13. Who hands the verdict to the judge?
- 14. How much bail does Hornbeck post?
- 15. In what state does Brady buy purple galluses?

## INHERIT THE WIND

### Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

1. Mrs. Krebs annoys Hornbeck by (feeding the monkey, offering him a Bible, asking if he has a room, posting a sign for the prayer meeting).
2. Melinda believes that (Drummond is the Devil, Tommy is in Hell, Bert should stay in jail, Howard came from a worm).
3. At the end of the trial, (Esterbrook sets up a microphone, Hornbeck boards a train, Bert returns to Meeker's custody, Brady is carried from the room).
4. Mr. Bannister admits that (he is illiterate, Bert reads from Darwin's Origin of Species, Bert showed Tommy the microscope, the feed store refused to sell Bert any peat moss).
5. Brown once saw (Meeker allowing Bert to roam freely, children reading Darwin in Bert's class, Drummond in an Ohio courtroom, President Wilson's Chief Justice).
6. Brown claims that (Brady should run for the presidency, Rachel is dooming herself, the banner should not be raised at the courthouse, evolution began in 4004 BC).
7. Drummond proposes that (Brady be reduced to the rank of private, gentlemen remove their coats, Mrs. Krebs allow Brady to speak at the picnic, his parents buy him a wooden horse for Christmas).
8. Both Bert Cates and (Jeremiah Brown, Mrs. McClain, Rachel, Elijah) are teachers.
9. Hornbeck claims that the most brilliant reporter in America is (Brady, himself, Esterbrook, Drummond).
10. Drummond rejects (Bannister, Sillers, Dunlap, McClain) as a jury member.
11. Bert becomes frightened when (Rachel agrees to testify, bail rises to \$500, Drummond comes from Chicago to represent him, Brady arrives on a special train from Chattanooga).
12. Hornbeck smirks that Bert is (a boy Socrates, an "Evil-utionist," a pariah in Hillsboro, Godless).
13. A reporter from (Chattanooga, the Baltimore Herald, Weeping Water, Chicago) interviews Drummond about his opinion of Brady.
14. Brady believes (Dreyfus's, Bishop Usher's, President Wilson's, Marconi's) dating of the Earth's beginning.
15. Sillers becomes the final (witness in the Endicott Publishing case, honorary member of the State Militia, reporter to question Brady, venireman).

### Part IV: Essay (20 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Compare the testimony of Howard and Rachel.
2. Discuss the importance of jury selection to the trial.
3. Explain why Bert considers the law unjust.
4. Contrast Hillsboro before and after Brady's death.
5. Describe the atmosphere of the play's last scene.



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