

Advanced English

Lesson 10 Book 1

The Trial That Rocked the World

英语外事管理系

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Teaching Aims

- 1) To get a better understanding of the background information.
- 2) To study the whole text carefully with special focus on the key words and expressions.
- 3) To appreciate the writing style and rhetoric of the passage.
- 4) To understand the theme of the text.

Table of Contents

- I . Background Information**
- II . Writing Style and Structure of the Text**
- III. Detailed Study of Each Part**
- IV. Rhetorical Devices**
- V . Discussion and Homework**

I . Background Information

A. The author and important people in the trial :

a. The author :John Scopes

He is the last surviving principal of the famous Tennessee "Monkey Trial" of 1925.

His name has become synonymous with the teaching of evolution in American schools recalls here highlights of the court drama which inspired the film *Inherit the Wind*.

b. Important people in the trial

1. Clarence Darrow (1857-1938):

American lawyer. He acted professionally in many cases against monopolies or on the side of labor; he pleaded for the Negro defendants in the Scottsboro trial (1932). He was also the president of the American League to abolish Capital Punishment.

2. William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925):

American leader, editor, and popular lecturer; three times a nominee for the presidency of the US., Secretary of State (1901-1913). Just before his death (1925) Bryan figured as one of the prosecuting attorneys and a state's witness against the teaching of Darwinian evolution in the famed Scopes trial held at Dayton, Tennessee.

3. Dudley Field Malone (1882-1954):
American lawyer. He was city attorney at New York (1909) and became third assistant secretary of state in 1913. Malone, known widely as an exponent of liberal ideas, was a member of the defense legal staff at the Scopes trial in Tennessee.

4. Arthur Garfield Hays (1881-?):

American lawyer, notable as counsel in civil liberties cases. He was involved in the Sweet case (1925) Detroit, the case of Senator Wheeler (1925) at Washington, the Sacco Vansetti case (1927), the Reichstage fire case (1933) in Germany.

5. Henry Louis Mencken (1880-1956):

American editor and satirist Mencken's caustic comments on the American scene made him famous. He is the author of *Ventures into Verse* (1903), *The American Language* (1918), etc.

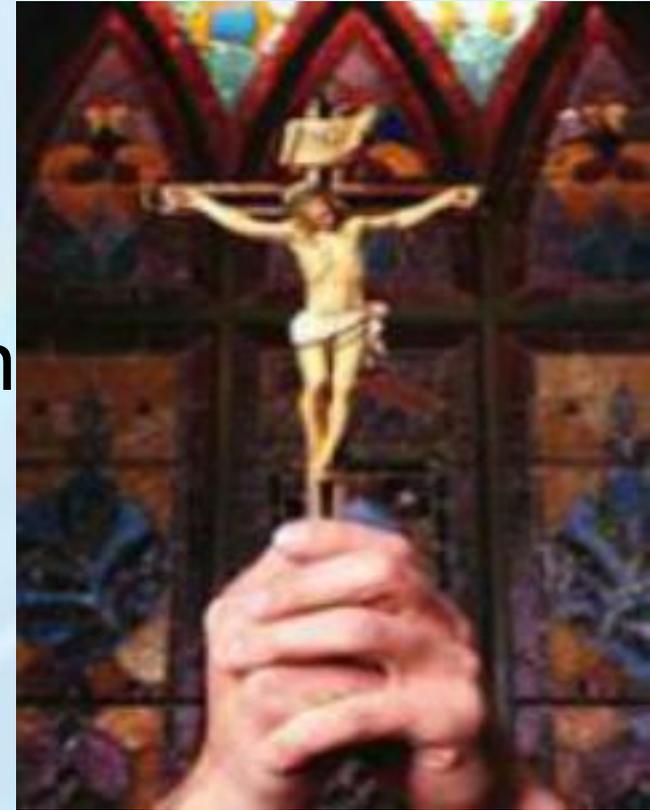
B. About Christianity

1. Basic Understanding:

a. **Three branches:** Roman Catholic, Protestant

Churches, Orthodox Eastern Church

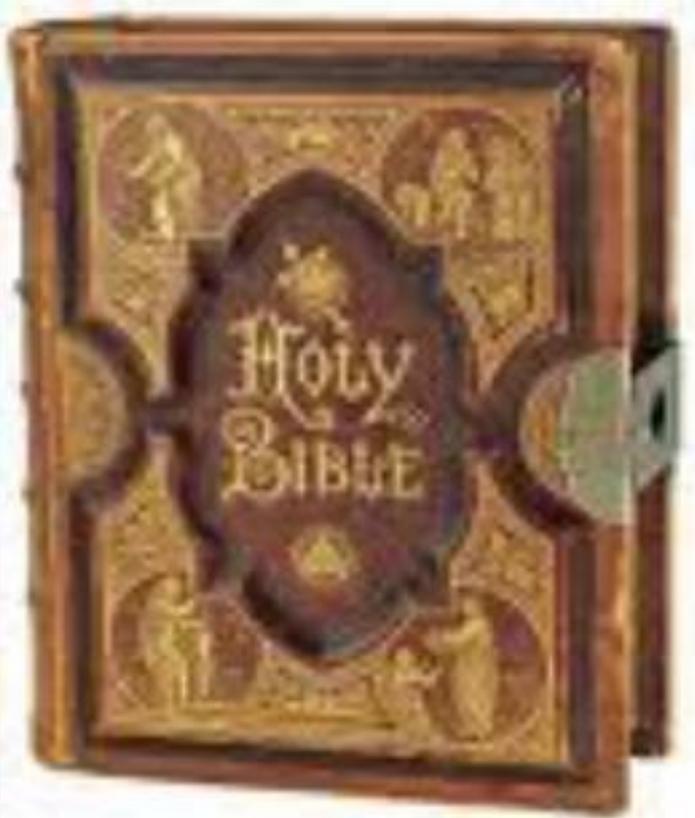
b. **Trinity:** the Holy Father, the Holy Son and the Holy Spirit/Ghost, with Jesus Christ as its incarnation.



2. Bible:

- a. The Christian Bible is divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament, composed of 39 books, is the name given by Christians to the Holy Scripture of Judaism. The New Testament contains the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and his follower.





b. Biblical story in *The Old Testament*

Genesis

Genesis is the first book of the Bible, giving an account of the creation of the universe.



The creation week narrative consists of eight divine commands executed over six days, followed by a seventh day of rest.

First day: God creates light ("Let there be light!")

Second day: God creates a firmament ("Let a firmament be...!")

Third day: God commands the waters below to be gathered together in one place, and dry land to appear (the third command). "Earth" and "sea" are named.

Fourth day: God creates lights in the firmament (the fifth command) to separate light from darkness and to mark days, seasons and years.

Fifth day: God commands the sea to "teem with living creatures", and birds to fly across the heavens (sixth command).

Sixth day: God commands the land to bring forth living creatures (seventh command). He makes wild beasts, livestock and reptiles. He then creates Man and Woman in His "image" and "likeness" (eighth command)

Seventh day: God, having completed the heavens and the earth, rests from His work, and blesses and sanctifies the seventh day.

3. Fundamentalism

Fundamentalism is the religious beliefs based on a literal interpretation of everything in the Bible and regarded as fundamental to Christian faith and morals. It's conservative religious movement and its aim is to maintain word for word interpretations of the Bible.

C. American Court System

a. American governing system

- Legislature: parliament: Congress and Senate
- Executive: the president and his administration
- Judicial: the Federal Supreme Court

b. American Court System



1. Two distinct systems of courts: federal and state.

Each is supreme in its own sphere, but if a matter simultaneously affects the states and the federal government, the federal courts have the decisive power.

2. Civil Law: deal with the rights of private citizens.

Criminal Law: deal with crimes and the punishment

3. Jury trial

Presiding judge

Gavel



- **Jury:** (a legal term) A jury is made up of many people, citizens, every citizen who should be open-minded and impartial to the court case at hand. A jury's job is to decide whether or not the criminal they defended a guilty or not a guilty.



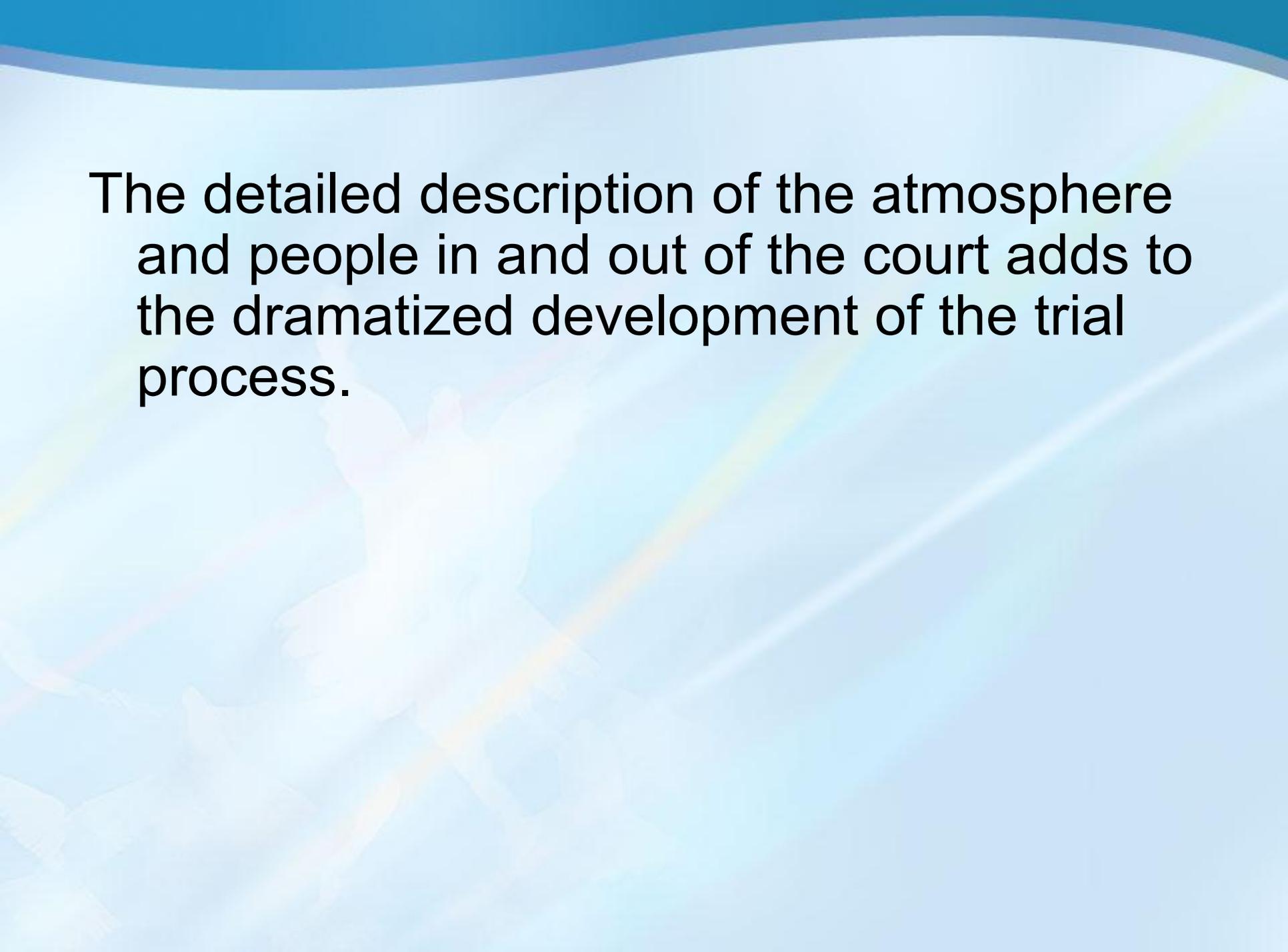
- **Jury trial: (or trial by jury)** It is a legal proceeding in which a jury either makes a decision or makes findings of which are then applied by a judge. It is distinguished from a bench trial , in which a judge or panel of judges make all decisions.

II. Writing Style and Structure of the Text

A. Writing Style

A piece of narrative.

In this narrative text, the author vividly records what is happening during the 3 days of court debate between the two sides of lawyers respectively in support of religious fundamentalism and evolutionary theory.



The detailed description of the atmosphere and people in and out of the court adds to the dramatized development of the trial process.

B. Structural and General Understanding of the Text

Part 1: A buzz ran ... his views
the setting of the scene

Part 2: By the time ... for an oil company
the trail which lasted for 3 days

Part 3: Not long ago...with the passing
years
the ending

❖ Questions for understanding the macro-structure of text and general understanding of the text:

- 1) How much do you know about the author from this article?
- 2) What do you think of the struggles between fundamentalists and modernists?
- 3) Try to elaborate the views of Darrow and Malone and that of Bryan's.
- 4) What have you learned about the law and legal procedures in the U. S.? Do you think them sensible?
- 5) Did John Scopes lose or win the case?
- 6) What have you learned about the Bible?
- 7) What do you think is the message of this article?

III. Detailed Study of Each Part

Part 1

A. Text Appreciation of this part

Discuss with the students their appreciation of this part.

- Invite some students to describe the two counsels for each side. Ask them to tell in what way the author has vividly represented the scene of the trail so many years ago.
- Make sure they are clear about the cause of the trail and the two different ideas of fundamentalism and evolutionary theory.

B. language points:

sweltering: very hot, causing unpleasantness, torrid, sultry

counsel: a group of one or more lawyers (barristers) acting for someone in a court of law. The judge asked counsel for the defence to explain his point.

cf:

council: a group of people appointed or elected to make laws, rules, or decisions

The General Secretary of the UN Security Council
the Premier of the State Council

councillor: a member of a council

counsellor (AmE counselor):

a. (AmE) lawyer

b. adviser

a beauty counsellor; a marriage guidance counsellor

on hand: available, present,

cf: within reach: the distance one can reach;

at hand: near in time or place

Always have your dictionary on hand / within reach / at hand when you study.

I want you to be at hand / near during my interview with the boss of the company.

The post office is close at hand.

reassure: comfort and make free from fear, stop worrying often by saying sth. kind or friendly

The doctor reassured the sick man about his health.

She won't believe it in spite of all our reassurance.

cf: assure: try to cause to believe or trust in sth.; promise

The captain assured the passengers that there was no danger.

adhere to: to favour strongly and remain with, be faithful to an idea, opinion, and belief, etc.; stick firmly to; to hold or support
The wallpaper won't adhere to the ceiling.

They adhere to the contract.

persist in doing / * adhere to doing

If you persist in misbehaving, you'll be punished.

Persist: vi, to continue to exist

The bad weather will persist all over the country.

insist: a. to declare firmly (when opposed), b. to order

He insisted on writing at once.

indict: to indict sb. for a crime means to charge them with it officially

Five men were caught at the scene and indicted.

cf: accuse and charge, indict and prosecute

These three words denote in common to declare a person guilty of a fault or offence.

accuse: is typically immediate and personal, charge frequently connotes seriousness in the offence and formality in the declaration. One may accuse a bystander of trying to pick one's pocket. That is an accusation which may become a formal

charge: One charges a man with cheating which is an example of breaking the rules of a game.

Indict: adds to charge in legal context the implication of a formal consideration of the evidence by a grand jury and the implication of a decision that the accused person should be called to trial. One indicts a man for theft.

Prosecute: to prosecute sb for theft is for a lawyer to represent in court the person who is bringing a criminal charge against sb.

C. Textual analysis

Para.1

What are the settings for the trial?

The terms for law court: defense, defendant, prosecution, plaintiff

Para. 2

See what words have the author used to describe the lawyers for defense and prosecution?

Tell what impression the students they themselves have got about these lawyers of the two sides.

- 1. Who had come to the little town to testify on his behalf?
- 2. Did the trial attract a lot of public attention? How do you know?
- 3. Paraphrase “ we’ll show them a few tricks.”
- 4. Identify and explain the figure of speech embedded in “Darrow had whispered throwing a reassuring arm around my shoulder...”

Para. 3

Introduce the doctrines of fundamentalism and Darwin's evolutionary theory.

- 1. Paraphrase “The case had erupted round my head...”
- 2. What did the fundamentalists adhere to, or believe in?
- 3. How about the modernists?
- 4. What do you know about the Bible and the Genesis?

Para. 4-9

What was the impetus of the trial?

Can you retell the background event of the trial and explain what was the cause in nature?

- 1. What does the state legislature refer to?
- 2. What law had been passed in Tennessee?
- 3. What does the word “indict” mean?
- 4. Identify the figure used in the first sentence and explain it in non-figurative language.
- 5. What was ACLU’s announcement? What is implied in the announcement?
- 6. What do the word “ironically” mean here?
- 7. What did the author think of Bryan?

Part 2

A. Text Appreciation:

- Discuss with the students their appreciation of this part.
- Invite some students to describe what was the situation in and out of the court on the first and second day of the trial.
- Present the evidence found by each counsel in an orderly manner check the students' opinion about the persuasiveness of each counsel's argument.

B. language points:

festoon: If you festoon sth. with decorations, lights or other things, you spread or hang these things over it in large numbers in order to decorate it.

The garden was festooned with coloured lights.

steep: soak, to let sth. stay in a liquid for softening, bringing out a taste etc.

Steep the coffee (vt.)

Leave the coffee to steep for 5 minutes (vi.)

soak up (vi. + adv.) draw in by or as if by suction or absorption

The soil soaked up a huge volume of water very rapidly.

Mark Twain soaked up the colourful language.

steeped in: thoroughly filled or familiar with.

a place steeped in mystery, a mind steeped in law

steep: adj. rising or falling quickly or at a sharp angle.
a steep rise in price; a steep drop in living conditions
an old house with steep stairs; the steepest part of a hill

rampant: widespread and impossible to control, excessive,
used esp. of undesirable conditions, such as crime or
disease. Spinal meningitis was rampant in that spring.
Theft, robbery, trafficking in narcotics, rural women and
children are rampant in some places.
Rich soil makes some plants too rampant.
Mosquitoes are rampant in the dormitory.

enlighten: cause to understand, free from ignorance or false beliefs, give more knowledge.

Can you enlighten me on this subject?

The tour of our country enlightened the foreign visitors on China's open policy.

work for the enlightenment of mankind

the Enlightenment / the age of Enlightenment in the 18th century

contaminate: to make impure, bad by mixing with dirty or poisonous matter

Don't eat the food, it may have been contaminated by the flies.

The river is contaminated with waste from the factory.

Our students are being contaminated by foreign ideas.

reconcile: make peace between, make friendly again

I cannot reconcile the two points of view.

I asked how he would reconcile apartheid with Christianity.

The two girls quarrelled but are now reconciled.

fervour: the quality of being FERVENT, passion, zeal, enthusiasm, intense heat, intense emotion compelling action.

speak with great fervour

fervent: showing strong and warm feelings, hot, glowing, passionate

a fervent love / hatred. a fervent lover / admirer

scorch: to burn (part of) a surface so as to change its colour, taste, or feeling but not completely destroy it, to dry up and take away the life out with a strong heat

The hot iron scorched the tablecloth.

a scorched-earth policy

The hot weather scorched the grass.

scorching hot / heat

intellect, intellectual, intelligence, intelligent etc.

intellect: the ability to understand or deal with ideas and information, the ability to reason rather than to feel or act.

intellectual:

adj. concerning the intellect, able to use the intellect well, showing unusual reasoning powers

n. a person who works and lives by using his mind.

a man of intellect: a man with knowledge, learned person,

an intellectual:

It is man's intellect that distinguishes him from the beasts.

Chess is a highly intellectual game.

intelligence:

a. good ability to learn and understand quickly, esp. compared with others.

b. information gathered by the government or the army about their country's enemies and their activities.

an intelligence test; intelligence quotient (IQ) Use your intelligence.

intelligent: having or showing powers of reasoning or understanding.

spring: to bring forward suddenly, to produce as a surprise, to make known unexpectedly to

He sprang his marriage on his parents.

The film made her spring into fame.

trump card: (in card games such as bridge or poker) each card of a suit that has, for the time being, higher value than the other three suits, means of gaining one's end Hearts (spades, clubs, diamonds) are trumps.

to play one's trump card: to make use of one's most valuable resource

punctuate:

a. to put stops / periods, commas, colons, quotation marks, etc. into a piece of writing.

b. to interrupt from time to time

a speech punctuated with cheers.

forlorn: (typical of one who is) left alone and unhappy, deserted and in poor condition, sad and lonely because of isolation or desertion; it suggests sadness, woe, at separation from someone dear.

as forlorn as King Lear at the end of his days.

hail: a. to salute, greet with enthusiastic approval

The crowd hailed the victor.

The people lined the streets to hail the returning heroes.

b. to summon by calling

to hail a taxi / a passing boat

C. Textual analysis

What is the process of the trial?

Day 1: Preliminary fight. John Scopes is here because ignorance and bigotry are rampant. Today it is the teachers, and tomorrow it will be the magazines, the books, and the newspapers. After a while, it is the setting of man against man and creed against creed until... "That damned infidel".

Day 2: calling witnesses.

Bryan: "The Christian believes that man came from above. The evolutionist believes that he must have come from below."

Malone: "Mr. Bryan is not the only one who has the right to speak for the Bible." "The truth does not need Mr. Bryan. The truth is eternal, immortal and needs no human agency to support it!"

Judge ruled against permitting the scientists to testify for the defense.

Climax of the trial. Darrow's trick to trap Bryan.

Day 3: verdict: guilty, \$100 fine and costs. Victorious defeat.

The views of each lawyer:

Try to understand the views of each lawyer and understand the tactics they have used in their argument.

The legal procedures:

What can we learn from the process the legal procedures in the U.S.A.?

Para.10-15 Day 1

- 1. On the day of the trial, what kind of atmosphere did the town have?
- 2. How did the townspeople make use of the trial?
- 3. What does “infidel outsiders” refer to”?
- 4. What does the last sentence imply about Butler?
- 5. What can you tell about the presiding judge judging by his pronunciation?
- 6. How did the trial start? And what could be anticipated about the trial from the very beginning?
- 7. Why did the author’s father growl, “That’s one hell of a jury”?
- 8. Paraphrase “He is here because ignorance and bigotry are rampant, and it is a mighty strong combination”.
- 9. Identify the figures in “we are marching backward to the glorious age of sixteenth century when bigots lighted faggots to burn the men...”
- 10. Give an example that scientists were persecuted during the dark age of 16th century.
- 11. How did a woman respond to Darrow’s statement? Why?

Para 16-43 Day Two

- 1. What is implied in “There is some doubt about that.” And what figure is used?
- 2. Identify the figure embedded in “The Christian believes that man came from above. The revolutionist believes he must have come from below.”
- 2. What, according to Bryan, the experts who come hundreds of miles to testify?
- 4. How did Bryan think of human being’s origin?
- 2. What was the audience’s reaction?
- 4. Identify the figure in “Gone was the fierce fervor of the days when Bryan had swept the political arena like a prairie fire”, and explain it in non-figurative language.
- 5. Identify the figure in “The crowd seemed to feel that their champion had not scorched the infidels with the hot breath of his oratory as he should have.”. and explain it in plain language.

- 6. Did Malone consider Bryan a devoted server to God or a devoted politician?
- 7. How was Malone's speech received?
- 8. Identify and explain the figure in "Darwin is inside."
- 9. Explain the reporter's words "The poor brute cowered in a corner with his hands over his eyes, afraid of it might be true."
- 10. Did Bryan understand Darrow's tricks by challenging him as a witness?
- 11. How did Bryan meet the challenge?
- 12. How did the crowd react to Bryan's replies?
- 13. Why did Bryan mop his bald dome in silence?
- 14. Retell the climax of the trial.
- 15. What can we infer about Darrow's attitude towards religion from his words "I am examining you on your fool ideas...?"
- 16. How did the author feel when spectators pushed by him to shake Darrow's hands?
- 17. What figure is used in "victorious defeat"?
- 18. What happened to Bryan after the trial and to John Scopes after the trial?

Part 3

A.Text Appreciation:

The ending:

- Is it a triumph or a failure for the author and his layers in reality and why?
- What changes have been brought into being by the trial?
- What figure of speech is used in the last sentence? And what effect has been achieved through the wording?

Part 3

B. language points:

on the books: in a list of members, records.
Here, still listed in the law.

wake: track left by a ship on smooth water
in the wake of: after, following
Many troubles follow in the wake of war.

C. Textual analysis

Para.47 &48

- 1. When the author visited the little town again 37 years after the trial, what changes did he find?
- 2. Why do you think a William Bryan University set up there?

IV. Rhetorical Devices

- Discuss the figures of speech used in the passage. Explain the use of each rhetoric device and the effect achieved through it in this passage. Give more examples. The figures of speech in this text includes:

metaphor simile hyperbole transferred
epithet synecdoche ridicule
sarcasm irony sarcasm antithesis
hyperbole ridicule oxymoron

Metaphor:

No one,... that may case would snowball into...
...our town ...had taken on a circus atmosphere.
The street ...sprouted with ...
He thundered in his sonorous organ tones.
...champion had not scorched the infidels...
...after the preliminary sparring over legalities...

Simile:

...swept the arena like a prairie fire, ...a palm
fan like a sword...

Metonymy

...tomorrow the magazines, the books, the
newspapers...

The Christian believes that man came from
above. ...below.

Hyperbole:

The trial that rocked the world

Ridicule:

Bryan, ageing and paunchy, was assisted ...
Bryan mopped his bald dome in silence.

Sarcasm:

There is some doubt about that.

Antithesis

The Christian believes that man came from above. The evolutionist believes that he must have come from below.

Assonance:

when bigots lighted faggots to burn...

Repetition:

The truth always wins...the truth...the truth...

Pun:

Darwin is right --- inside.

A pun is a play on words, or rather a play on the form and meaning of words. It is not strictly a figure of speech, but because it relied heavily on metaphorical or figurative meanings of words for its effect, it is often included in lists of such figures.

Oxymoron:

formed by conjoining of two contrasting, contradictory or incongruous terms. A rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined, as in a deafening silence and a mournful optimist. 矛盾修饰法

Malone called my conviction a "victorious defeat".
bitter sweet memories, orderly chaos, a
damned saint.

Irony:

marching backwards to the glorious age of
the 16th century

Irony: a figure of speech that achieves emphasis
by saying the opposite of what is meant, the
intended meaning of the words being the
opposite of their usual sense.

Hiroshima---the liveliest city in the world.

Transferred epithet

He passed many an anxious hour in the
train.

V . Discussion and Homework

Discussion

What is satirized in the process of trial that rocked the world?

What is the mental influence of the trial on the later world?

Homework

Practice the oral retelling of the process of the trial and write about your understanding of the theme of the text in 250 words.



Thanks !