Learn English through Films: *12 Angry Men*

Opening Scene



- Describe the courthouse—the exterior as well as the interior. How might such a structure affect those who see it or enter it?
- What words are written on the exterior of the building? Do you agree with the statement?
- Compare the demeanor of various people in the opening scene. In your opinion, why did the filmmakers include this scene?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Judge's Instructions



- In your own words, summarize the instructions that the judge gives to the jurors. At a minimum, identify what the defendant is charged with, how many jurors must vote "guilty" for the accused to be convicted, and the sentence to be imposed if the defendant is found guilty.
    - At one point, the judge says, "The bench will not entertain a recommendation for mercy." How do you interpret this statement? What does *entertain* mean in this context?
- Watch the scene again, paying attention to each juror's demeanor and actions. What does each juror's body language communicate about him?
- *Define the following terms/phrases:*
    - *premeditated murder*
    - *testimony*
    - *duty*
    - *to separate facts from fancy*
    - *at stake*
    - *reasonable doubt*
    - *verdict*
    - *unanimous*
    - *mandatory*

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The Defendant



- Describe the defendant.
- Describe the music. What emotion does this music evoke?
- The jury room is small, cramped, and drab. The walls are bare and there is a single table and chairs. What mood does the setting establish?

LIVEWORKSHEETS