

1	The first movie we will study in this class is	53	
2	called "12 Angry Men." It came out in 1957	54	It's now your duty to sit down and try
3	and shows how 12 men decide whether or not	55	and separate the facts from the fancy.
4	a 17 year old boy is guilty of the crime of	56	
5	murder.	57	"It's now your duty to sit down and try and
6		58	separate the facts from the fancy." A duty is
7	I'd like to begin by talking about the some of	59	something that someone must do. Longman
8	the judge's instructions to the jury at the	60	says that it is "something that you have to do
9	beginning of the movie.	61	because it is morally or legally right." "Fancy"
10		62	is something that is imagined but is not true.
11	You've listened to the testimony.	63	Longman says that fancy means "an idea or
12	You've had the law read to you and	64	opinion that is not based on fact." So, in other
13	interpreted as it applies in this case. It's	65	words, the jurors must sit down and decide
14	now your duty to sit down and try and	66	what is true and what is not true.
15	separate the facts from the fancy.	67	
16		68	Now, let's listen to this part of the judge's
17	Now, let's look at each sentence.	69	instructions again.
18		70	
19	You've listened to the testimony.	71	You've listened to the testimony.
20		72	You've had the law read to you and
21	"You've listened to the testimony." The judge	73	interpreted as it applies in this case. It's
22	is not speaking very clearly here. He sounds a	74	now your duty to sit down and try and
23	little bored. I think he must be saying "You've	75	separate the facts from the fancy.
24	listened to the testimony" but I can't hear him	76	
25	say "you've." The Longman English	77	Soon after this the judge tells the jurors that
26	Dictionary says that the word "testimony"	78	they must make their decision on the basis of
27	means "a formal statement that something is	79	"reasonable doubt."
28	true." When people speak in a court of law	80	
29	about what happened in a case like this one,	81	If there's a reasonable doubt in your
30	their speech is called "testimony." One	82	minds as to the guilt of the accused -- a
31	important job of a juror is to listen to	83	reasonable doubt -- then you must
32	testimony.	84	bring me a verdict of not guilty. Now
33		85	if, however, there's no reasonable
34	You've had the law read to you and	86	doubt, then you must, in good
35	interpreted as it applies in this case.	87	conscience, find the accused guilty.
36		88	
37	"You've had the law read to you and	89	"If there's a reasonable doubt in your minds as
38	interpreted as it applies in this case." Ordinary	90	to the guilt of the accused -- a reasonable
39	people become jurors. Unlike judges and	91	doubt -- then you must bring me a verdict of
40	lawyers, they are not experts on the law but	92	not guilty." Longman says that "doubt" is "a
41	they must make very important decisions	93	feeling of being not sure whether something is
42	based on the law. It is the job of the judge to	94	true or right." The phrase "not sure" is
43	make sure that the jurors have had the	95	important. Even if we think that it is likely
44	relevant laws read to them and that the laws	96	that something happened, we may still have
45	have been explained properly. The jury	97	some doubts about it. It is also important to
46	system is based on the idea that, in a	98	think about why we do not feel sure. The
47	democracy, ordinary citizens are smart enough	99	judge uses the phrase "reasonable doubt."
48	to understand the laws. In other words,	100	"Reasonable" is based on the word "reason."
49	ordinary citizens may not have broad	101	If a doubt is "reasonable" there are reasons for
50	knowledge of the law but they have the ability	102	it. It is possible to doubt anything. We might
51	to understand the laws if they are explained	103	doubt, for example, that the sun will come up
52	properly.	104	again tomorrow. However, if we don't have a

105 reason to doubt that the sun will come up, our 130
106 doubt is not a reasonable one. When the judge 131
107 says "If there's a reasonable doubt . . . you 132
108 must bring me a verdict of not guilty" he is 133
109 saying that the jurors must consider whether 134
110 or not there is a good reason to think that the 135
111 boy might not be guilty. This is very different 136
112 from considering whether or not the boy is 137
113 probably guilty. This idea of "reasonable 138
114 doubt" is at the heart of the jury system and 139
115 this movie. Let's listen to the judge talk about 140
116 reasonable doubt one more time. 141
117 142
118 If there's a reasonable doubt in your 143
119 minds as to the guilt of the accused -- a 144
120 reasonable doubt -- then you must 145
121 bring me a verdict of not guilty. If, 146
122 however, there's no reasonable doubt, 147
123 then you must in good conscience find 148
124 the accused guilty. 149
125 150
126 The "verdict" is the decision that the jurors 151
127 make. They will either say "guilty" or "not 152
128 guilty." "The accused" is the boy. He has been 153
129 accused of murder so he is called "the

accused."

Then, the judge tells the jurors that their decision must be unanimous.

However you decide, your verdict must be unanimous.

"However you decide, your verdict must be unanimous." Longman says that "a unanimous decision, vote, agreement etc is one in which all the people involved agree." Everyone must agree. This, too, is a very important idea in the American jury system and in this movie. If one or more people on the jury do not agree with the other jurors they must talk more. The requirement that the decision be unanimous often forces the jurors to talk more than they would if it were only necessary that a majority or the jurors agree. It also makes it harder to find the accused guilty. In order to find the accused guilty, all twelve jurors must agree that there is not a reasonable doubt about the guilt of the accused.