

The American Experience| Scottsboro, An American Tragedy| PBS

Name _____ Period _____

October 11-14, 2010

Atticus, in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, tells his daughter Scout that he knows he will lose the Tom Robinson case first time around; however, he says the case stands a good chance of winning on appeal. Harper Lee bases the Tom Robinson trial on the Scottsboro, Alabama case. Consider what the nine men had to endure while waiting to be free.

1. On March 25, 1931 during a racial confrontation on a train traveling from _____, a group of _____ travelers fought a group of _____ travelers and kicked them off the train.
2. When the train stopped in Alabama, two _____ women, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, accused the black men of _____ them; a group of _____ men met the _____ men as they got off the train.
3. The nine accused black men were taken to _____, where a _____ mob formed and threatened their lives; the _____ warned the mob against approaching the jailhouse.
4. Why were the Scottsboro Boys on the train?
5. By 1931 wages in the textile mills were so low that Victoria Price and Ruby Bates had to live where? What did they do for extra money?
6. Describe the atmosphere outside the courthouse when the trial began on April 6.
7. What was the prevailing belief about black men's interest in white women, and how is that attitude reflected in the case?
8. "The five thousand people who were lynched from 1880-1940, most of those were cases of black men accused of raping or sexually assaulting _____."
9. After Victoria Price took the stand and testified that the black men raped her, Ruby Bates agreed with her story, but she could not _____.
10. Who was the first attorney hired to represent the Scottsboro Boys for \$60?
11. This lawyer urged his clients (the 9 men) to plead _____.

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12. What were all nine Scottsboro defendants convicted of doing at the end of the **first trial**? What was their sentence?
13. _____ saw the Great Depression as proof of the decline of capitalism and the rise of the worker; the Scottsboro tragedy had created the ideal platform for them to promote their ideology.
14. The lawyers defending the Scottsboro boys pleaded to the Supreme Court that their clients had not received _____ - during their first trial; they were granted a second trial.
15. Why did the prosecution want to put Haywood Patterson on the witness stand?
16. In the 1930s, _____ was one of the most famous criminal lawyers in America; he gained his reputation by winning 77 of 78 murder trials. He agreed to represent the Scottsboro Boys because the case was highly publicized.
17. Attorney General Thomas Knight represented the _____ in this case.
18. What race were the people in the courtroom, aside from the defendants?
19. Describe Leibowitz's defense strategy; focus on his questioning of Victoria Price.
20. Why, according to Leibowitz, did Victoria Price and Ruby Bates try to hide when the black men were first arrested? More specifically, how did the women avoid arrest?
21. Describe Victoria Price's testimony. How did she behave?; What did she remember?; What did she not remember?; Was her testimony believable?
22. How did the audience in the courtroom and the jury respond to Leibowitz's attack on Victoria Price?
23. Who was Leibowitz's surprise female witness? Summarize her testimony.

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24. Who said that his presence cost them the case/ resulted in a guilty verdict for the defendants for the second time?
25. Who decided that there was merit to the motion to overturn the guilty verdict and on June 22, 1933, announced the Scottsboro defendants would stand trial for a third time?
26. In the third trial, Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson were quickly found guilty. How did the Scottsboro Boys begin to behave toward one another in jail after their verdicts?
27. _____ appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, hoping to stop the scheduled execution of Paterson and Norris; in **February 1935**, the _____ ruled the boys' rights were violated when blacks were purposely excluded from sitting on the _____.
28. . The fourth Scottsboro trial resulted in the conviction of _____ of the nine Scottsboro boys.
29. It was not until _____ (insert year in blank) that Alabama paroled all the defendants except _____.
30. How many years did eight of the nine Scottsboro Boys spend in prison?
31. _____ worked at Atmore Prison Farm 12 hours a day until July 1948, when he and eight other prisoners _____.
32. After their release, most of the Scottsboro boys continued to lead troubled lives:
_____ killed a man; _____ was falsely accused of raping a white girl; _____ served in the military, but later killed his wife and then himself.
33. Why do you think Harper Lee uses ideas from this case in her novel To Kill a Mockingbird? Provide a detailed response. You may also write on the back.