

# Human Nature on Trial

## Your Task:

You will be either the prosecuting lawyer or the defending lawyer for Human Nature. The question you are trying to determine is whether Human Nature is inherently good. You will choose 6-8 characters from any text you have read in your high school years to put on trial. In partners you will choose one of your team's characters and you will write a paper on that character pulling evidence from the text to back up your point. Then during the trial one of you will act as the witness and one as the lawyer in the trial. Your partnership will also be given one of the opposing side's witnesses to cross-examine.

## Assignments/tasks you will be graded on:

1. Witness List
2. Witness Essay
3. Cross examination question and evidence.
4. Finalized opening/closing statements
5. Performance in Trial
6. Reflection

## What you get if you win:

The winning side will not have to write the final paper for *The Good Earth*.

## Structure of Trial Days:

### Day 1

- Prosecution's opening statement: 6 minutes
- Defendant's opening statement: 6 minutes
- Questioning prosecution's witnesses: 60 mins (10 mins per witness)
  - Prosecution questions witness: 6 mins
  - Cross-examination question of witness: 4 mins

### Day 2

- Questioning defendant's witnesses: 60 mins (10 mins per witness)
  - Defendant questions witness: 6 mins
  - Cross-examination question of witness: 4 mins
- Prosecution's Closing Statement: 6 mins
- Defendant's Closing Statement: 6 mins

### Day 3

- Ruling from Jury
- Write final essay for *The Good Earth*

## Tentative Schedule leading up to Trial:

Day 1 \_\_\_\_\_: Choose witnesses/Develop questions for witness

Day 2 \_\_\_\_\_: Develop questions for witness/Research

Day 3 \_\_\_\_\_: Research

Day 4 \_\_\_\_\_: Research

Day 5 \_\_\_\_\_: Write opening statements

Day 6 \_\_\_\_\_: Write body paragraphs

Day 7 \_\_\_\_\_: Write counterclaims

Day 8 \_\_\_\_\_: Write closing statements

Day 9 \_\_\_\_\_: Revise paper/practice for the trial.

Day 10 \_\_\_\_\_: Trial

Day 11 \_\_\_\_\_: Trial

Day 12 \_\_\_\_\_: Ruling

# Witness List

## Instructions:

You have now been split up into the prosecution and the defense. The prosecution is arguing that Human Nature is evil, while the defense is arguing that Human Nature is good. As a team, you need to come up with a witness list. Choose at least 6 characters, one for each partnership on your team that you will call to the stand in your trial. You must choose characters from novels you have read throughout your High School English classes (9th Grade- 12th Grade). Be sure to choose witnesses who will clearly support your side! Here are some suggestions:

### Romeo and Juliet

- Romeo Montague
- Juliet Capulet
- Tibalt
- Priest

### To Kill a Mockingbird

- Scout
- Atticus Finch
- Tom Robinson

### Fahrenheit 451

- Mildred Montag
- Guy Montag
- Clarisse McClellan
- Faber
- Captain Beatty
- Granger

### The Crucible

- John Proctor
- Elizabeth Proctor
- Abby
- Judge Danforth
- Reverend Hale

### The Great Gatsby

- Jay Gatsby
- Nick Caraway
- Daisy Buchanan
- Tom Buchanan
- Myrtle Wilson
- George Wilson

### Tuesdays with Morrie

- Morrie Schwartz
- Mitch Albom

### Beowulf

- Beowulf
- Grendel

### Macbeth

- Lady Macbeth
- Macbeth
- Macduff
- Malcolm

### Code Name Verity

- Julia Wallace Beaufort Stuart (Queenie)
- Maddie Brodatt
- Captain Amadeus Von Lindon

### Pride and Prejudice

- Elizabeth Bennet
- Fitzwilliam Darcy
- Jane Bennet
- Charles Bingley
- Lydia Bennet
- George Wickham
- Mr. Collins
- Mr. Bennet

### Oedipus The King

- Oedipus
- Jocasta

### Things Fall Apart

- Okonkwo
- Ikemefuna
- Ekwefi
- Mr. Smith
- Nwoye
- The district commissioner
- Mr. Brown
- Obierika

### The Good Earth

- Wang Lung
- Olan

### Random Books

- Amir (The Kite Runner)
- Richard Parker (The Life of Pi)
- The Chef (The Life of Pi)