

George's Strange Trial

George had stolen some money, but the police had caught him and he had been put in prison. Now his trial was about to begin, and he felt sure that he would be found guilty and sent to prison for a long time.

Then he discovered that an old friend of his was one of the members of the jury at the trial. Of course, he did not tell anybody, but he managed to see his friend secretly one day. He said to him, "Jim, I know that the jury will find me guilty of having stolen the money. I cannot hope to be found not guilty of taking it – that would be too much to expect. But I should be grateful to you for the rest of my life if you could persuade the other members of the jury to add a strong recommendation for mercy to their statement that they consider me guilty."

"Well, George," answered Jim, "I shall certainly try to do what I can for you as an old friend, but of course I cannot promise anything. The other eleven people on the jury look terribly *strong-minded* to me."

George said that he would quite understand if Jim was not able to do anything for him, and thanked him warmly for agreeing to help.

The trial went on, and at last the time came for the jury to decide whether George was guilty or not. It took them five hours, but in the end they found George guilty, with a strong recommendation for mercy.

Of course, George was very pleased, but he did not have a chance to see Jim for some time after the trial. At last, however, Jim visited him in prison, and George thanked him warmly and asked him how he had managed to persuade the other members of the jury to recommend mercy.

"Well, George," Jim answered, "as I thought, those eleven men were very difficult to persuade, but I managed it in the end by tiring them out. Do you know, those fools had all wanted to find you not guilty!"

I. COMPREHENSION: (15 points)

(BASE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT.)

A. Answer these questions in your own words (4 pts.)

1. What had George been accused of?

.....

2. What would George appreciate?

.....

3. Why did George feel pleased about the decision?

.....

4. Who do you think is the biggest fool?

.....

B. Are these sentences true or false? Justify (3 pts.)

1. George was a thief:

.....

2. Jim was the twelfth member of the jury

.....

3. The jury was very easy to convince

.....

C. Choose the right answer from the list given (3pts)

1. Which phrase best defines a “jury”?

A. A person who works in a court.

B. A policeman.

C. A judge.

D. A group of people who decide if someone on trial is guilty or not guilty.

2. According to the passage George wanted his friend Jim to:

A. to help him run away from prison

B. to believe he was not guilty

C. to make the jury ask for less severe punishment for George

3. The jury made a decision:

A. after several hours of heated discussion

B. after having had a vote

C. shortly after Jim said George was guilty

D. Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as:(2 pts.)

1. Appreciative or thankful :

2. Convince :

E. What do the underlined words in the text refer to?(3 pts.)

1. his :

2. it :

3. those fools :

II. GRAMMAR: (15 points)

A. Use the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the spaces (3 pts.)

1. My brother writes really stories; he wants to be a novelist. **IMAGINE**
2. You have to work very hard if you want to **SUCCESS**
3. He finds it very difficult to accept at work. **CRITIC**

B. Circle the correct words (4 pts.)

1. You *can / mustn't* get some really good bargains in the sales.
2. Amine thinks that people *can / will be able to* live on other planets in the future.
3. You *may / should* be more ambitious.
4. Sami is such as a good footballer that he *ought to / may* play on a team.

C. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense: (4 pts)

1. If you help me with this exercise, I (do) the same for you one day.
2. I don't know how to play baseball, but I am sure that if I did, I (play) a lot better than anyone in this awful team.
3. Let me give you some advice. If you (smoke) less, you wouldn't feel so tired.
4. If I phone you tonight, (you / be) in?

D. Fill in the blanks with the right preposition :(4 pts.)

1. I was so scared when the plane **took** It was my first flight.
2. Don't **throw** those cans and paper. We can recycle them.
3. Please, **speak** so that your classmates at the back can hear you.
4. **Try** these pants I think they're your size.

