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Don't lose hope just yet.

Some interesting events can take place during jury duty, the play "Twelve Angry Men" shows just how interesting, exciting and thought provoking jury duty can get. Out of the twelve characters in the play they all seem to come from different areas of life such as rich, poor, old, young, intelligent, stupid, open minded and close minded. Some of the Jurors in this play couldn't keep their own opinion ready to be swayed one way or another. Other Jurors would stick to their guns until the bitter end. One of the Jurors that did stick to his guns was Juror number Ten. He kept to his morals until it was very obvious that he had been proven wrong on the issue. Juror number Ten is a close minded bigot, however he is not "lock" minded and can be guided towards the truth.

During jury duty the jury must give the defendant a fair trial, however sometimes a Juror can turn out to be prejudice and this can jeopardize the fair trial that the defendant is supposed to be given by law. In Act 1 the Jurors are talking about the defendant's background and how he grew up in the slums; Juror number Ten comments on the matter with this statement "... I don't want any part of them, believe me," (Rose 21) this shows the prejudice in Ten's character. Tens prejudice will affect his judgment, clouding his thoughts with his own hateful emotions rather than seeking the truth. Also the way that number Ten worded this statement suggests that he fears the residents of the slums and just want them gone, erased, or gone from his society. Now, he wanting the residents

gone will make him immediately sway towards declaring the defendant guilty, because now he has been given the legal right to erase the defendant from his society without the consequence of being criticized on a moral basis. Juror number Ten represents the type of person in the society that drives everyone apart with his hatred, and does not try to bring unity, peace, but rather cause more conflict. While it is inevitable that there will be people who are prejudiced against a group of people, it is even worse is when one keeps a closed mind about the issue. In Act III after discussing the case very thoroughly, Ten becomes very frustrated with the other Jurors and starts to rant letting his hatred towards the people living in the slums get the better of him, now one significant part of this rant is when he said, "Look, you know how those people lie. I don't have to tell you." (Rose 59) this shows his reluctance to change. He says that people in the slums lie or commit other crimes, but do not feel guilt afterward. He said this quote even after the Jurors discussed the alibis the defendant gave and came to the conclusion that they may be true, this showing that he is starting to, or trying to, block out the truth. The second part of the quote where he says that he shouldn't have to tell the other Jurors about the defendants' behavior, shows that Ten thought that everyone would agree with him on the matter; he is so ignorant that he thought his opinion was the only one that made any sense. Even though he is very close minded and prejudice about the issue and seems to show no signs of changing this does not mean he is hopeless, and doomed to a life of complete ignorance.

Even the most close minded people can be changed if shown enough evidence, they may do it unwillingly but they will not completely block out the truth. In Act three the Jurors are starting to vote not guilty instead of guilty this frustrates Juror number Ten

and he starts ranting about the people that live in the slums, and one important part in this rant of his, is when he says, "They're no good. There's not a one of 'em who's any good," (Rose 59) this shows Ten's obvious racism but it also might go a bit deeper than that and show other hidden feelings. What is important about this quote is that he instead of pointing to evidence that seemed like fact like he did earlier in the play he just starts to insult the residents of the slums and use their stereotypes as a way to show that they are guilty no matter what, this shows that he is starting to grow desperate because his evidence is starting to be refuted. This also shows that he will not deny the obvious truth; he might value his sanity over his bigotry. Now him turning desperate shows something that might not be obvious, he is now starting to realize that he was wrong and that there is a very strong chance that the defendant is not guilty, this also shows that he does look at evidence. While it has been shown that Juror number Ten is not blind to the evidence that is shown, this does not mean that his racism will corrupt his thinking and he might not be able to come to a decision. Also during the end of Act III, when almost everyone has voted not guilty and all the evidence has been refuted he finally says this "I will always wonder. But there is a reasonable doubt," now it seems he was able to put his bigotry aside and finally come to a conclusion. What this quote shows about Tens character is that he is able to put his prejudice aside and go outside his comfort zone to vote for the truth no matter how painful it is. This also shows that his close minded behavior is not lock minded behavior he is able to change his thoughts on a matter even if it goes against his beliefs or hatred. Juror number Ten is a person in the world that just slows things down like he did in this case, however he will not stop everything because of his personal

feelings. This has shown that Ten is a close minded bigot, however he is not insane and he will look up to the truth over his bigotry even if it does hurt, just a little bit.

In conclusion Juror number Ten is an obstacle trying to stop the deliberation of this case. Juror number Ten plays the role of being one of the major problem causers in this play; his role is simply to give the protagonist, Juror number Eight, an obstacle that can be overcome. Juror number Ten shows how one person can slow things down, just as in the real world, however that there is still hope because they can be shown the light and convinced otherwise. He also shows that in society one might appear to be a bigot and “not wanting anything to do with a group of people,” however he also shows that there is hope for the seemingly “blind.” As said before he slowed the entire play down by being ignorant, and individuals in the real world have tendency to do the same, maybe if man hadn’t had the unfortunate problem of being close minded, the human race would be one hundred years further in their evolution.