

The Trial of Dayan:

A Drama Script Exploring Courtroom Procedure



Cross-Curricular Connections

The Trial of Dayan: Teacher Notes

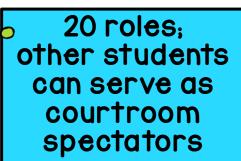
This script is meant to supplement student learning about the criminal justice system, and it allows students to examine different points of view. The play centers on the trial of Dayan, an alien from Pandora, who is charged with vandalizing a local store. The last scene (jury deliberations) is not portrayed, as students are invited to debate the guilt or innocence of Dayan based on the evidence itself. It can be used to meet curriculum expectations in:

- Dramatic Arts
- Reading (reading the script)
- Writing (features of a play)
- Social Studies (Civics)
- Media Literacy (students can film their play, and perhaps share it on a classroom website)
- Art/Technology(building a set, if you so choose)

Cast

- Court Clerk
- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Defense Lawyer
- Witnesses for the Prosecution: Mr. Taft & Mrs. Callwood
- Witness for the Defense: Kendall
- Defendant: Dayan
- Jury: 12 students







7 Page Script

The Trial of Dayan

Court Clerk: All rise for the Honourable Judge

(Judge walks in and takes his place.)

Court Clerk: Please be seated. This is the trial of the accused, Dayan,

who is charged with vandalizing a local electronics store.

Judge: Will the prosecution please give their opening statement?

Prosecutor: Thank you, Judge (turning to look at jurors). Jurors, today we

are asking you to take seriously the decision that you will be making, and not to be influenced by your own opinions. You promised the court to listen to only the facts and the

evidence provided in making your decision. Thank you. We

will now call our first witness, Mr. Taft.

(Mr. Taft goes to the witness stand.)

Court Clerk: Do you promise to tell only the truth, the whole truth, and

nothing but the truth?

Mr. Taft: I do.

Prosecutor: Thank you for coming today, Mr. Taft. As the owner of a

large electronics store, can you tell us if you have had

much trouble with vandalism?

Mr. Taft: No, I haven't, until this incident. However, I have had security

cameras installed outdoors since that time.

Prosecutor: Have you had any contact with aliens before last March

 10^{th} , the day of the incident?

Mr. Taft: No, I had heard of them recently on the evening news, and my

friend, Mr. Smith, told me that he has had trouble with aliens at his

shoe store as well.

Prosecutor: Mr. Taft, on the morning of March 10th of this year, did

you witness the accused, Dayan, in your electronics store?

Clear Text

Mr. Taft: Yes, he came in the stor video game section. He excitedly throughout th

Prosecutor: Did you see or hed defendant was int

Mr. Taft: No, but I left the stor bank that's aroung corner, I saw the a blue spray paint fr the side of my bu

Prosecutor: What happe

Mr. Taft: I quickly called feature on my police to arriv

Prosecutor: Thanky and Jur the vide should

Judge: Defense,

Than Defense: com alie

> go de

Mr. Taft: No

Prosecutor

Court Cle

(Kendall walks to the witness stand.)

Court Clerk: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing Kendall: I do.

Defense: Kendall, you are considered to be an expert on the planet Pandora, and you sometimes act as a consultant to various governments here on Earth. Please tell us about Pandora.

Kendall: I would be happy to. Pandora is a small planet which has very little crime. The citizens of Pandora get along well together, and while there are police, they are not kept very busy.

Defense: Please tell us about Pandoran attitudes towards stores.

Kendall: On Earth, people show their preferences for a particular store by tweeting about it, or rating it on the internet. On Pandora, people show that they like a store by decorating the outside walls of it. You can tell how popular a store is by how much

Defense: Is it illegal to spray paint stores?

Kendall: No, it is not.

Defense: Thankyou, Kendall. (Turns to the judge) I have no further

Judge: Prosecution, your witness.

Prosecutor: We have no questions for this witness.

Judge: Thank you for your service to the court, Kendall. You may now leave the stand. (Kendall exits the stage.) The prosecution may now present their closing statements.

Verdict is Left in Your Students' Hands!

Teacher Notes:

- I have not provided the last scene for this script, as I like my students to
 either write the ending themselves, or do an impromptu ending,
 where the 12 students portraying jurors debate their decision in front
 of their classmates.
- You will note that Dayan's age is nevermentioned in the script. If you
 teach in a country or region with a particular youth justice system, such
 as in Canada, you may want to portray Dayanas a young person.
 This would allow students to examine how a youth is treated in the
 criminal justice system, and how the sentences for a crime may be
 different from those given to an adult accused of a similar crime.
- You will need to be familiar with the sentencing practices of your area, so that if your "jurors" decide to convict Dayan, they are aware of the possible sentences that may be given.

Other Resources:

While this resource was originally created for use in Canadian classrooms, I have provided links to a variety of websites where you can find further Information about the court systems in a variety of countries:







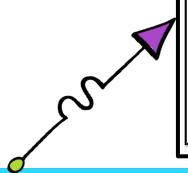


http://www.justice.govt.nz/se rvices/access-tojustice/civics-educationl/ideas-for-teachers



http://www.findlaw.com.au/faqs/ll87/wha t-are-the-different-courts-in-australiaand-how.aspx

@ Coach's Corner



Links to Information About the Judicial Systems of 5 Countries!