**The Outsiders Dialogue Assignment**

**The Trial of Johnny Cade**

As part of studying the intricacies of S. E. Hinton’s novel, *The Outsiders*, as well as to put their knowledge of the characters and plot into action; in this project, students will WRITE and DRAMATICALLY READ a dialogue on the Trial of Johnny Cade.

Imagine that Johnny Cade is still alive and has to go to trial to defend himself from charges of murder or manslaughter. Choose dialogue from the characters/roles listed below, research and prepare for their role, write an dialogue from the perspective of their character, as well as portray their character in a mock trial, a role-playing activity, in which the students will put Johnny on trial for the murder of Bob and determine how he should answer for his alleged crimes, as would have happened in the novel had Johnny not passed away first.

You will be asked to play roles that require a bit of dramatic reading, you must examine information carefully and make accurate decisions that MAKE SENSE in the context (FROM WHAT WE KNOW) of the novel.

**Possible Roles**

* Judge
* Defendant (Johnny Cade)
* Prosecution
  + District Attorney
  + Character Witness #1 (Randy Adderson)
  + Character Witness #2 (Sherri “Cherry” Valance)
  + Expert Witness (to be decided)
* Defense Team
  + Defense Attorney
  + Character Witness #1 (Ponyboy Curtis)
  + Character Witness #2 (Dallas Winston)
  + Character Witness #3 (Jerry Wood)
  + Expert Witness (to be decided)
* Bailiff/Clerk (swears in witnesses)

**Description of Roles**

* **Prosecution Team** – Will need to decide what crime to charge the defendant (Johnny), prepare an opening and closing statement and cross examinations.
* **Defense Team** – Decide on what style of defense you will write, not guilty, justifiable homicide, self-defense, etc. Prepared your plea, figure out how to prove it. Prepare your opening and closing statements and cross examinations, and get ready for the actual trial. You must dress the part!
* **Bailiff/Clerk**- Maintains order in the courtroom, act on any directive of the judge, and handle the defendant, responsible for having anyone who takes the stand take oath (Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth…?”)
* **Johnny** - Your role is to stand before the court and defend your actions, testify on the stand, answer cross-examination by the State.
* **Witnesses** – Help convict or acquit Johnny, depending on which side has called them. Some might be characters from the book, or you might have an expert witness such as a ballistics expert or psychologist. Expert Witnesses may be a fingerprinting expert, a ballistics expert, a coroner, a psychologist, or any other expert you feel the need to prove their case.

**Courtroom Proceedings**

**(The order of events)**

Opening Statements

Prosecution

Defense

Witness Testimony and Cross-Examination

Prosecution Presents Evidence

Prosecution Calls Witnesses

Witness(es) is/are Sworn in under Oath

Direct Examination by Prosecutors

Cross-Examination by Defense

Re-Direct Examination

Defense Presents Evidence

Defense Calls Witnesses

Witness(es) is/are Sworn in under Oath

Direct Examination by Defense

Cross-Examination by Prosecution

Re-Direct Examination

Closing Statements

Defense

Prosecution

Jury is Dismissed

Jury Votes

Jury Delivers Verdict to Judge

Judge May Rule Against Jury; Judge Delivers Final Verdict

**Legal Lingo**

Directions: Throughout the trial, you should use the following terms appropriately. Refer to this glossary as needed throughout the trial preparation and the actual trial.

Charges

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Charges or Crime | What the prosecution has to prove |
| Murder in the first degree | The suspect intentionally and willfully killed a person with premeditated and malicious plans |
| Murder in the second degree | The suspect intentionally and willfully killed a person with malice, but the plans were NOT premeditated or planned in advance |
| Voluntary Manslaughter | The suspect intentionally killed a person but there was no prior intent to kill, and the act was committed under circumstances that  would “cause a reasonable person to become emotionally or mentally disturbed” |
| Involuntary Manslaughter | The suspect committed an act that unintentionally led to death, usually by negligence. |

Objections

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Say this… | …When you want to object to… |
| OBJECTION! Leading Question | A question that assumes an answer or leads the witness to answering in a prescribed way |
| OBJECTION! Beyond the Scope | A question that asks a witness to respond to a question they are not qualified to answer |
| OBJECTION! Relevance | A piece of textual evidence or a question that does not directly relate to the case at hand |
| *OBJECTION! Prejudicial* | A question or remark that is clearly intended to prejudice the jury against the defendant |
| OBJECTION! Speculation | A question that asks a witness to guess or hypothesize, rather than state a known fact |

Judge’s Rulings

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| When the judge says this… | …It means… |
| SUSTAINED! | The judge agrees with the objection, and the question or comment is thrown out and struck from the record |
| OVERRULED. | The judge disagrees with the objection, and the question or response can be continued |