NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Kirk Douglas, Jason Robards, Darren McGavin 1988 (1h 36m)

1. Give the approximate date of the film and site examples of the scenery, culture, transportation, etc. that characterize that period in our country’s history.

2. What kind of town was Hillsboro? (rural, urban; rich, poor; religious, liberal, educated, etc.)

3. What was the actual issue being called into question in the beginning of this film? In other words, why was Bertram Kates put in jail? Did he break the law?

4. Why did Bertram Kates teach evolution in the classroom? In other words, what caused him to change his thinking? How did you find this out?

5. Why do you think the producers entitled this movie, “Inherit the Wind?”

6. By the end of the film, what was the issue being called into question? Why didn’t the trial just end and the issue get resolved? Why did they appeal the court’s decision at the end?

7. What is your belief in terms of evolution and creationism? Be specific?

8. How do you feel after viewing this film in terms of your position? In other words, did this film cause you to rethink your position?

9. For each of the following people in the film (which were real people in history) give a brief description of who they were, explain the movie portrayed them firstly at the beginning of the film and then at the end of the film? If they changed in some way, explain why they changed. Be specific for full credit.

A. Matthew Harrison Brady –

1. Beginning –

2. End –

B. Henry Drummond –

1. Beginning –

2. End –

C. The Judge –

1. Beginning –

2. End –

B. Rachel –

1. Beginning –

2. End –

Answer Key

TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT SRUDENTS MUST GIVE CLEAR, THOUGHT-OUT EXPLANATIONS FOR ALL YOUR ANSWERS

1. Give the approximate date of the film and site examples of the scenery, culture, transportation, etc. that characterize that period in our country’s history.

***~1910. Cars and a train along with horse drawn buggies. There are some amenities, but no computers. Electricity is in the buildings along with many luxuries (telephone, radio), but no television.***

2. What kind of town was Hillsboro? (rural, urban; rich, poor; religious, liberal, educated, etc.)

***Hillsboro was a rural, very religious, relatively uneducated town whose citizens were probably lower to middle “middle class.”***

3. What was the actual issue being called into question in the beginning of this film? In other words, why was Bertram Kates put in jail? Did he break the law?

***Bertram Kates was teaching Darwin’s theory of evolution to his students which was against the law at that time in Hillsboro. He did break the law.***

4. Why did Bertram Kates teach evolution in the classroom? In other words, what caused him to change his thinking? How did you find this out?

***The Stebbins boy drowned and the preacher at the funeral said he his soul was writhing in hellfire. This caused Mr. Kates to forsake religion and go after evolution.***

5. Why do you think the producers entitled this movie, “Inherit the Wind?”

***Actually, there was a twofold shift in the movie. (1) Mr. Brady used the phrase to describe Henry Drummond, the Chicago lawyer that vindicated a suspected murderer on technicalities. (2) Later, the producers obviously pointed at Mr. Brady as the one to “inherit the wind.” Inherit the Wind was a quote from the book of Proverbs, meaning that whoever caused trouble in his household would come to nothing. Mr. Brady died of a heart attack after being humiliated by the trial process.***

6. By the end of the film, what was the issue being called into question? Why didn’t the trial just end and the issue get resolved? Why did they appeal the court’s decision at the end?

***The real issue in this film was an unjust law. The law stated that only creationism could be taught in schools and no other views of origin were legal. The trial didn’t just end the argument, but allowed for an appeal so that higher courts could eventually determine the justness of the law. In history, the 1910 law was repealed so that evolution could be taught in school alongside of views of a universe created by God. It is interesting that today, creationism is NOT allowed to be taught as a viable, scientific theory of origin in most states.***

7. What is your belief in terms of evolution and creationism? Be specific?

***Students should give their honest view with specific beliefs or understandings.***

8. How do you feel after viewing this film in terms of your position? In other words, did this film cause you to rethink your position?

***The film is quite biased so it irritates those who believe in God creating the universe. On the other hand, it does provoke thought about laws that were unjust or unconstitutional. Religious people often become very narrow in their viewpoints and impose their view on others. Many laws were made which follow this kind of order. These laws need to be questioned and adjusted in view of our constitution.***

9. For each of the following people in the film (which were real people in history) give a brief description of who they were, explain the movie portrayed them firstly at the beginning of the film and then at the end of the film? If they changed in some way, explain why they changed. Be specific for full credit.

A. Matthew Harrison Brady – T***he preacher who was “famous” to Hillsboro citizens and was dubbed an honorary colonel in the state militia. He had been a presidential candidate twice. Here, he was the prosecutor in the trial.***

1. Beginning ***Brady was religious and held a prayer meeting when he arrived in town. He was gracious to his opponent despite Drummond’s questionable tactics as a lawyer. He took a strong religious stand in everything he did from choosing jurists to questioning witnesses. He was clearly the favorite.***

2. End ***The producers made Brady look like a religious “boob” who was narrow minded and inflexible. He tried to expose Kates’ character by misusing confidential evidence by Rachel. He could not adequately defend his own beliefs when Drummond questioned him, but actually helped the defendant’s cause in making the law look stupid.***

B. Henry Drummond – ***The defendant’s attorney who had been a personal friend and campaign manager for Brady’s two presidential runs. He had defended a child murdered and won the year before.***

1. Beginning ***Drummond and Brady were cordial, but clearly opponents. Drummond attended Brady’s prayer meeting and spoke graciously to Brady and his wife. Drummond seemed cantankerous and uncooperative, giving the impression that he was the enemy.***

2. End ***Drummond was portrayed as the open minded one who was willing to compromise his own views to allow other views. When he “balanced the two books in his hands” (Bible and Darwin) it gave the impression that the Bible and Darwin could coincide as viewpoints (which is not true at all). Many religious people have tried to mix evolution with their beliefs. Drummond ended as the hero who had smashed a stupid law and outwitted his opponent.***

C. The Judge –  ***A nothing special kind of guy who was appointed judge in that county.***

1. Beginning ***The judge held firm to the law on the books … that no theory could be taught in school that did not acknowledge the divine creation. He put up with Drummond’s antics, but the producer gave the impression that the judge was for Brady’s cause.***

2. End ***The judge was pressured by his colleagues and somewhat succumbed to them rendering a sentence that did not “fit the crime.” He no longer gave Brady the respect as at first.***

D. Rachel – ***Megan Follows played Rachel, a young girl who was Kates’ girlfriend (against her religious father’s, the town minister, wishes). She did not believe in evolution, but love Kates. She taught at the same school as Kates.***

1. Beginning ***She felt Kates was wrong and tried to get him to admit his error and stop teaching evolution. She eventually visited Brady to explain why Kates had changed his origins viewpoint.***

2. End ***She decided to marry Kates despite her disagreement with him over evolution. She read the book of Darwin to see what was in it. She still did not like evolution, but she realized that people had a right to think and not be forced to conform to what she or others dictated.***