**NINE:** Well, the woman across the L tracks saw the murder through the L train, so someone in that L train could have seen the murder, too.

**EIGHT:** A possibility, but no one did that we know of.

**NINE:** It would take an awfully dumb man to take that chance, doing the murder as the train went by.

**EIGHT:** Exactly. A dumb man, a very stupid man, a man swept by emotion. Probably he heard nothing; he probably didn't even hear the train coming. And whoever did murder the father did it as well as he could.

**FOUR:** So?

**EIGHT:** The kid is dumb enough to do everything to associate himself with the switch knife - a switch knife murder -and then a moment after the murder he becomes smart. The kid is smart enough to make a kind of wound that would lead us to suspect someone else, and yet at the same instant he is dumb enough to do the killing as an L train is going by, and then a moment later he is smart enough to wipe fingerprints away. To make this boy guilty you have to say he is dumb from eight o'clock until about midnight and then about midnight he is smart one second, then dumb for a few seconds and then smart again and then once again he becomes stupid, so stupid that he does not think of a good alibi. Now is this kid smart or is he dumb? To say that he is guilty you have to toss his intelligence like a pancake. There is doubt, doubt, doubt!

**FOUR:** I hadn't thought of that.

**EIGHT:** And the old man downstairs. On the stand he swore that it was fifteen seconds; he insisted on fifteen seconds, but we all agree that it must have been almost forty seconds.

**NINE:** Does the old man lie half the time and then does he tell the truth the other half of the time?

**EIGHT:** For the kid to be guilty he must be stupid, then smart, then stupid and then smart and so on, and, also, for the kid to be guilty the old man downstairs must be a liar half of the time and the other half of the time he must tell the truth. You can reasonably doubt.

**SEVEN:** *[breaking silence]* I'm sold on "reasonable doubt."

**TWELVE:** I think I am, too.

**SIX:** I wanted more talk, and now I've had it.

**TWO:** I want another vote.

**FOREMAN:** Okay, there's another vote called for. I guess the quickest way is a show of hands. Anybody object? All right. All those voting not guilty raise your hands.

*[Jurors TWO, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, ELEVEN and TWELVE raise their hands immediately. FOREMAN looks around table carefully and then he, too, raises his hand]* Guilty? *[THREE, FOUR and TEN raise their hands.]* Three. The vote is nine to three in favor of acquittal.

**TEN:** I don't understand you people! How can you believe this kid is innocent? Let’s talk facts, these people are born to lie. You’re all educated, I don't have to tell you. They don't know what the truth is. You take a look at them. They’re different. They think different, they act different, and let me tell you, they don't need any real big reason to kill someone, either. Well, it’s true, everybody knows it. They get drunk, smoke some crack, and bang! Someone’s lying in the gutter. Nobody’s blaming them. That’s how they are. You know what I mean? Violent! Human life don't mean as much to them as it does to us. Hey, where are you all going? Look, these coloreds be drinking and stealing and fighting all the time, and if somebody gets killed, somebody gets killed. They don't care. They breed like goddamn monkeys! Oh, sure, there are some good things about them, too. Look, I'm the first to say that. I've known a few who were pretty decent-

**NINE:** You know you’re a sick man?

**TEN:** Sick? You old son of a bitch. No, who is he to tell me that? He can hardly stand up. No, I’m speaking my peace today and you’re going to listen-

**TWELVE:** Hey, maybe you-

**TEN:** You shut up! They’re no good. There's not a one of 'em who's any good!

**SIX:** Shut up!

**TEN:** No, you listen! Listen to me! What are you doing? I'm trying to tell you something. . .

**TWO:** I've heard enough of this.

**TEN:** Don’t you see? This one on trial… we got him. We got him. I don’t give a damn about the law, why should I? They don’t. You weeping bastards. We better watch out. We’re living in a dangerous time. They’re going to take us out.

**SIX:** You keep talkin’, I'm going to split your skull.

**TEN:** No, you need to-

**FOUR:** Sit down. And don’t open your filthy mouth again!

*[No one speaks]*

**TEN:** *[softly].* I'm only trying to tell you.

*[long pause as SIX stares down a TEN,]*

**FOUR:** *[ALL move back to their seats. When they are all seated FOUR fakes a stand behind men on upstage side of table, He speaks quietly.]* It’s very hard to keep personal prejudice out of a thing like this. And no matter where you run into it, prejudice obstructs the truth. Now, I don’t know what the truth is. No one ever will. All I know is the facts and what I believe. You have given some excellent points, yet,in my opinion, the boy is guilty. I'll tell you why. To me, the most damaging evidence was given by the woman across the street who claimed she actually saw the murder committed.

**THREE:** That's right. As far as I'm concerned that's the most important testimony.