

A Time to Kill

Book key

- 1 a They are about law, justice, and the court system.
b Possible answers: They are exciting and entertaining. They are also about the battle between ordinary people and large, powerful, dishonest organizations. This mirrors the problems that we all face in modern, everyday life. Many of Grisham's books have been turned into movies, which have been seen around the world.
- 2 a arrest, charge, deputy, evidence, rape, victim
b case, defendant, evidence, prosecute, sustained
c client, defendant, deputy, nigger, psychiatrist, Reverend, victim
- 3 Open answers
- 4 a Billy Ray Cobb / Pete Willard
b Willie Hastings / Deputy Looney / Ozzie Walls
c Jake Brigance / Rufus Buckley
d Lucien Wilbanks / Jake Brigance
e Carl Lee Hailey / Lester Hailey
f Deputy Looney / Carl Lee Hailey
g Ethel Twitty / Jake Brigance
- 5 a Ozzie Walls. He is proud of being the only black sheriff in Mississippi. It is difficult because 74% of the population of his county is white.
b Jake Brigance and Rufus Buckley. Jake works hard because he wants to be the most successful lawyer in Mississippi. Rufus Buckley wants a big public position, "maybe, even, Governor." Both men enjoy appearing on TV.
c Lucien Wilbanks. He has been thrown out of the legal profession because of his serious drink problem. He has been more hurt by this than anything else.
d Pete Willard. He is frightened by Ozzie Walls's stories about the state jail at Parchman.
e Carl Lee Hailey. Jake advises him not to take revenge on his daughter's rapists, but he ignores this advice and kills them.
f Lester Hailey. He drives from Chicago to help Carl Lee. He helps his brother to plan the revenge killing, and drives him to Memphis in his new Cadillac to buy an automatic weapon.
g Carl Lee. He is confident of avoiding the electric chair and thinks that Jake's job will be easier than it really is.
h Customers at the coffee shop / Jake Brigance. They are quieter with Jake than normal because he is defending the man who wounded Deputy Looney. Looney is popular with them.
i Billy Ray Cobb's family. They think that the Ku Klux Klan might help them to take revenge on Carl Lee.
j Jake Brigance. He is lucky, according to Lucien Wilbanks, to have an important case. But he is not going to get much money for it, he is getting threatening phone calls, and his best friend does not believe that he can win the case.
- 6–7 Open answers
- 8 a must b an unintelligent farmer c work
d late e insane f his family g greedy
h Jake's house i Dr. Rodeheaver
- 9 a He thinks that the great publicity will be useful for his career.
b He believes that Carl Lee is a lawless man who should receive the maximum sentence for his crime.
c He thinks that the case might be useful to the Ku Klux Klan. It could bring together all the southern white people who do not want black people to have an equal place in society.
d He is happy because the Hailey case is not mentioned and there are no pictures of Rufus Buckley on the screen.
e He is Jake's friend, and they help each other professionally. He shares Jake's dislike of other lawyers, especially of Rufus Buckley.
f He is pleased because the date of the trial suits him, not Rufus Buckley.
g He sees it as a chance to make money.
h Carla is frightened and thinks that the case is too dangerous. Jake has no intention of walking away from the case.
i He is not happy about taking the case. He knows his weaknesses and is afraid of making a fool of himself.
j He is worried about Dr. Bass as a witness because Dr. Bass is drunk and does not wake up.
- 10–11 Open answers
- 12 a 10 b 2 c 8 d 9 e 3 f 7 g 4 h 1
i 6 j 5
- 13 a 9 b 5 c 6 d 10 e 1 f 4 g 8 h 2
i 7 j 3

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14–15 Open answers

16 a X b X c ✓ d X e ✓ f ✓ g ✓ h X
i X j ✓

- 17 a helpful: He mentions the rape in his opening speech and he speaks for too long.
b helpful: Jake easily destroys their effectiveness as witnesses for the prosecution.
c unhelpful: Twenty people who seem likely to be sympathetic to Carl Lee have had burning crosses in their yards. They are therefore taken off the list of possible jurors. Ellen Roark cannot help Jake during the trial because she is tied to a pole in front of a burning cross and taken to hospital.
d helpful: He is sympathetic to Carl Lee.
e unhelpful: The prosecution destroys his effectiveness as a witness for the defense.
- 18 a Stump Sisson is shouting at the black people during his speech by the courthouse steps.
b Lucien Wilbanks gave Jake this advice several years earlier.
c Carl Lee is talking to Jake. He is surprised that Jake allowed an all-white jury to be selected.
d Jake is talking to Nora Cobb and Earnestine Willard during the trial. He wants to show the jury that their sons were bad men.
e Deputy Looney is talking to the court about Carl Lee. He does not blame Carl Lee for killing the two rapists.
f Ozzie Walls is warning Carl Lee about the Ku Klux Klan's plans before the second day of the trial.
g A soldier is talking to Jake about having to protect him as he walks toward the courthouse moments before he is shot by the Ku Klux Klan.
h A member of the Ku Klux Klan is talking to Ellen Roark after she has been tied to a pole in front of a burning cross.
i Rufus Buckley is talking to Dr. Bass in the courtroom when Bass denies having been found guilty of rape in 1956.
j Lucien Wilbanks is talking to Jake about the facts behind Dr. Bass's arrest for rape.

19–21 Open answers

22 a 2 b 2 c 2 d 1 e 2 f 1 g 1 h 2 i 2

23 a The Ku Klux Klan: On Monday morning, they begin to think that they might win the case.

- b Jake: He is lonely because Ellen Roark is not with him. He is annoyed with himself for not doing better in court when Rufus Buckley was questioning Dr. Bass.
c Ellen Roark: She is angry about what the Ku Klux Klan did to her. She is more confident than Jake about the case.
d Dr. Rodeheaver: He has a lot of experience of being a witness for the prosecution in insanity cases.
e Carl Lee: According to Dr. Rodeheaver, Carl Lee was not insane when he killed the rapists.
f Dr. Rodeheaver: His effectiveness as a witness for the prosecution is destroyed by Jake.
g Jake: In his final speech, he is calm when he apologizes for Dr. Bass's appearance in court, and angry when he talks about the two rapists.
h The jury: Before their final decision is announced, most of them have been crying after listening to Wanda Wornack. They are also scared of the public reaction to their decision.
i Carl Lee's family: After the jury's decision, they are crying and shouting with joy.
j Wanda Warnack: She asks the jury to imagine that the rape victim was white, not black, and the rapists black, not white. This persuades the jury to believe that Carl Lee was insane and therefore not guilty of murder.

24–36 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–2 Open answers

- 3 a American
b He worked as a small-town general lawyer.
c *A Time to Kill*
d His novels are a success. Most readers enjoy them. They have become best-sellers.
e The fact that many of his novels have been made into movies.
f He kept an old promise he had made before he retired from law and represented the family of a railroad worker who was killed in an accident.
g They are about law, justice and the court system.
- 4 a Ozzie Walls
b Billy Ray Cobb and Pete Willard
c Lucien Wilbanks
d Jake Brigance
e Pete Willard

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5 Open answers

- 6 a (1) Because everybody knew Carl Lee had committed the crime. (2) Because Carl Lee was a black man who had killed two white men in a mainly white county. (3) Because Rufus Buckley was the prosecutor and would do everything he could to win. (4) Because Carl Lee cannot pay him much at all.
- b Because he wants a big public position and the publicity will help him.
- c Because Carl Lee shot him by mistake and his leg has been removed below the knee. People will be very angry about this.
- d Because there aren't many blacks in the county so there will not be many blacks on the jury.
- e Because the murders were not an accident and Carl Lee did not shoot in self-defense. Everyone saw him do it.
- f Because if Jake wins the case he will be famous.
- g Because she and her husband have received two threatening phone calls.

7–9 Open answers

10 Suggested answers:

burning of wooden crosses on people's yards; threatening phone calls; violence; search and destroy tactics; hit and run tactics

11 Open answers

- 12 Things look more hopeful as Jake has found a psychiatrist who will say that Carl Lee was insane. However, he is a drunk. Carl Lee's family had very little money – this was bad. But then the black people collected money – this was helpful. The fact that Jake has quite a long time to prepare for the trial is good. The fact that the Ku Klux Klan wants to get involved and has put a burning cross in front of Jake's house is bad. Buckley sounds too unpleasant and self-important. This will be helpful to Jake and Carl.

13–15 Open answers

- 16 a Harry Rex says this. He has secretly given the list of possible jurors to Jake.
- b Jake says this to Harry Rex. He is talking about Ellen Roark, who is going to work for him as a law clerk and do research on the case.
- c Ellen says this to Harry Rex when she meets him, because he asks, "What did you hire a female law clerk for?"
- d Harry Rex says this to Ellen when she tells Jake she thinks Harry is sweet.

- e Ellen screams this at Jake after her husband has been badly beaten by the Klan.

17–23 Open answers

24 Suggested answers:

- What the Klan did to Ellen
- Tonya's rape
- the attack on Sissen

25–34 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a Because neither of them wants to kill her.
b She is in very bad shape but will survive.
c He spends the night at the courthouse and rehearses how he is going to go about the attack.
d He tells Pete about what happens to rapists when they go to prison.
e He uses an M16, an automatic weapon used by U.S. army. Lester and Carl Lee go to Memphis to get it from an old friend of Carl Lee's.
f Because Lester has accidentally killed a black man. Carl Lee has planned and murdered two white men.
g He is accidentally shot in the leg by Carl Lee.
- 2 a 5 b 1 c 2 d 9 e 7 f 12 g 3 h 8
i 4 j 10 k 6 l 11
- 3 a A white man who rapes Tonya Hailey
b Another white man who rapes Tonya Hailey
c Tonya's father
d A police force deputy
e The first black Sheriff in Mississippi
f Jake Brigance's former employer
g Jake's secretary
- 4 a T
b T
c F He is the leader of the Klan in Mississippi.
d T
e F He used to be a member.
- 5 a Stump Sisson to Freddie Cobb. They are planning their actions for the trial.
b Harry Rex Vonner to Jake when he goes to Jake's office to inform him he has to be at the court room at 10:30.
c Rufus Buckley to Judge Noose. They are deciding a date for Carl Lee's trial.
d Carl Lee to Jake when Jake informs him the trial will begin in two months.
e Dr. Bass to Jake when they are talking about the doctor's role during the trial.

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- 6 a attack b arrest c dynamite d bomb
e friends f pick-up g prison
- 7 a Because they want to support Carl Lee and fight the Klan.
b He is badly burned by a firebomb and dies.
c He calls them in to keep order because the situation between blacks and the Klan is out of control.
d They look at the list of possible jurors and try to find the best people – if possible, black. Ellen prepares Carl Lee's insanity defense.
e Because the Klan put burning crosses outside their houses in order to frighten them.
f "Do any of you believe that the insanity defense should not be used at a murder trial?" It is a clever question because the possible jurors will now begin to wonder if Carl Lee was insane when he killed the rapists.
- 8 a 2 b 6 c 4 d 5 e 7 f 1 g 3
- 9 a T b F c F d T e F
- 10 Open answers
- 11 a more confident than Jake
b Because, despite Dr. Rodeheaver's evidence, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity.
c He shows that out of 46 trials where he was an expert witness for the prosecution, he had never found anyone insane but the jury had.
d To thank her for what she had done
e He feels like crying. He only wants to go home.
- 12–13 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1 a Tonya Hailey
b Gwen Hailey
c Carl Lee Hailey
d Ethel Witty
e Ozzie Wells
f Billy Ray Cobb
g Rufus Buckley
h Jake Brigance
i Lucien Willbanks
j Lester Hailey
- 2 a 5 b 2 c 1 d 3 e 7 f 6 g 9 h 4
i 10 j 8
- 3 a ✓
b ✗ – She is a law student.
c ✓
d ✓
e ✗ – He kept the money his church had collected to help Carl Lee instead of giving it to Gwen.
- 4 a Mr. Looney
b Ellen Roark
c Jake Brigance
d Stump Sisson
e Rufus Buckley
f Pete Willard
g Freddie Cobb
h Jake Brigance
i Carl Lee Hailey
j Dr. Bass
- 5 a 2 b 1 c 2 d 3 e 1