

The King of Torts

Book key

- 1 a They are about law, justice, and the court system. They are also about the battle between the honest "little" person and large, powerful, dishonest organizations.
- b The good guy and the bad guy are the same person. It is a story of one man's moral difficulties, and is more an attack on an evil system than on evil people.
- 2 a colleague, committee, counselor, paralegal, plaintiff
b class action, damages, file, lawsuit, litigate, plead, prosecute, settle, sue, tort, plaintiff
c arthritis, bladder, hormone, malignant, menopause, tumor, urine
- 3 Open answers
- 4 a Tequila Watson, Adelfa Pumphrey
b Paulette Tullos c Talmadge X
d Bennett Van Horn e Rodney
f Washad Porter g Senator Ian Ludkin
h Rebecca i Jonah j Max Pace
- 5 a This is where Tequila Watson kills Pumphrey.
b This is where Tequila Watson is being held when Clay interviews him.
c This is the rehab center where Tequila was being treated for drug addiction.
d This is where Clay has dinner with the Van Horns.
e This is the rehab center where Washad Porter was being treated for drug addiction.
f This is the D.C. bar where Clay and Rebecca first met four years earlier, and where they now meet for the last time before their separation.
g This is where Clay meets Max Pace.
h This is where Clay's new firm has its offices.
- 6 a Both murders are apparently motiveless, and are committed by people from drug rehab centers.
b Van Horn thinks that Clay is an unambitious loser. Clay dislikes Van Horn for trying to control his life.
c The unnamed company produced a drug, Tarvan, to cure people of drug addiction. They tested the drug at the rehab centers where Tequila Watson and Washad Porter were being treated. The drug is responsible for turning the young men into killers.
d Open answers
- 7 Open answers
- 8 a share the same address
b have been killed as a result of Tarvan
c joints
d Max Pace
e to work with Clay
f Philo Products buys Ackerman Labs
g a Pennsylvania cement company
h agrees to pay compensation
- 9 Possible answers:
- a He feels grateful that there are no more unhappy widows and parents to talk to, and happy because the job has been successfully completed.
- b He feels unhappy about having to solicit clients, but excited about being \$33 million richer.
- c He feels anxious and disgusted with himself for soliciting clients on the phone, but excited about the money he will make.
- d He feels proud to see an article about himself, and happy that the article will be good for his business.
- e He feels a little guilty because he thinks that he owes Tequila something, but he isn't sure what.
- f He is impressed with French's wealth and lifestyle, but unsure about whether to accept French's offer.
- g He feels happy because, on Pace's advice, he buys back shares in Ackerman Labs and makes a large profit.
- h He is not interested in Crittle's anxieties about the firm's finances, and is even more eager to spend money (on a private jet).
- i He is excited about another tort case and even more money.
- j He feels sad and lonely because Rebecca is getting married and he still misses her.
- 10–12 Open answers
- 13 a 7 b 8 c 4 d 10 e 2 f 6 g 1 h 5
i 3 j 9
- 14 a Clay is telling Jonah that he needs a beautiful young woman to accompany him to Rebecca's wedding.
b Ridley is talking to Clay about Rebecca (at Rebecca's wedding reception at the Potomac Country Club).
c Clay is talking to Rebecca at her wedding reception about her new husband.
d Mrs. Van Horn wants Clay to leave Rebecca's wedding reception.

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- e Patton French is encouraging Clay not to worry about the angry Dyloft clients.
- f Max Pace is talking to Clay about Maxatil.
- g Max Pace is talking to Clay about Dale Mooneyham.
- h Clay is explaining to Max Pace why he has not told French and the other lawyers about filing a lawsuit against Goffman.
- i French is talking to Clay about the case against Goffman.
- j Dale Mooneyham is telling Clay why he dislikes mass tort lawyers.
- 15** Possible answers:
Max Pace obviously trusts Clay enough to make a lot of money, but probably only uses Clay because Clay's inexperience leads him to take bigger risks than other more experienced lawyers.
Patton French seems to admire Clay's bravery, but probably does not think that Clay shows enough good judgement.
Dale Mooneyham has no respect for Clay or other tort lawyers because he thinks they are greedy and their actions will make it difficult for plaintiffs in the future to sue big companies.
+ Open answers
- 16** Open answers
- 17** a ✓ b ✗ c ✗ d ✗ e ✗ f ✓
g ✗ (not Ackerman Labs) h ✗ i ✓ j ✗
- 18** Possible answers:
- a Clay is worried because none of the other lawyers on the Dyloft Plaintiffs' Guidance Committee have decided to sue Goffman. They think that it would be too difficult to prove a link between Maxatil and breast cancer in court.
- b The owners of the Hanna Portland Cement Company cannot meet Clay's demand for settlement. Clay, worried about his Maxatil cases, cannot afford to reduce his demands.
- c Clay has no problems with Rebecca. He is happy because her marriage is in trouble, and he sees a real possibility that they might eventually get back together.
- d The FBI visit Clay twice. On their first visit, they want to know about Max Pace. On their second visit, Clay is forced to lie to them about his shares in Ackerman Labs.
- e Rex Crittle, Clay's accountant, informs Clay that their insurance company is cancelling its cover because it is worried about the twenty-four thousand Maxatil cases.
- f Ted Worley and other Dyloft clients begin to develop life-threatening tumors. They hire a lawyer, Helen Warshaw, to sue Clay for behaving unprofessionally and for having provided them with very inadequate financial settlements.
- 19** a 4 b 10 c 2 d 5 e 8 f 3 g 7 h 1
i 9 j 6
- 20–21** Open answers
- 22** a 1 b 1 c 2 d 2 e 2 f 2 g 1 h 2
i 2 j 1
- 23** a Joel and Marcus Hanna, because Clay refuses to reduce his demands for a settlement.
- b Clay, because he has just received a lot of bad publicity in the press after Ted Worley and other Dyloft clients sue him.
- c Dale Mooneyham, because Clay has told the press how many Maxatil cases there are, which does not help Dale Mooneyham's case against Goffman.
- d The men who attack Clay cover Clay's car with cement from the Hanna Portland Cement company.
- e Jonah, because he finds the contrast between Clay's public reputation as one of the country's most successful lawyers and his present situation, wrapped from head to toe in bandages in a hospital bed, amusing.
- f Clay, because Rebecca and Ridley are staring at each other angrily across his hospital bed.
- g Dale Mooneyham, because Mooneyham unexpectedly loses his case against Goffman.
- h Helen Warshaw, the angry Dyloft plaintiffs' lawyer, refuses to settle with Clay outside of court.
- i Ridley, probably because she loses interest in Clay after he loses all his money.
- j Paulette and Rodney because, without him, they would never have made enough money to live the lives they wanted.
- 24** Possible answers:
- a Angry and disappointed, because Clay breaks his contract with them and they will not be receiving the compensation from Goffman that he promised them.
- b Quietly satisfied that one of his main competitors has failed.

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- c Sympathetic, but probably more worried that now he has to find another job.
- d Sympathetic, because Clay gave them the chance to earn a lot of money.
- e Angry, because there is no money to repair their houses.
- f Happy, because she loves Clay and now they are together again.
- g Glad to be out of his life after he loses all his money.
- h Angry and wanting revenge, because Clay made a lot of money out of the Dyloft settlement but didn't get her husband, now dead, a fair settlement.

25–36 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1 He was a builder and a cotton farmer. Because he realized he didn't have the talent for it. He graduated in 1981. He worked for ten years as a general lawyer. *A Time to Kill* was his first book. *The Firm* was best selling novel in 1991. *The Innocent Man*. Julia Roberts and Denzil Washington starred in *The Pelican Brief*.
- 2 burglary, fraud, arson, bribery, blackmail, assault, forgery, drug trafficking, manslaughter, mugging, shoplifting
- 3 Clay: Listen, your father is only interested in getting you married off to someone rich. That's why he wants me to take that job.
Rebecca: That's not true. And anyway, don't you want to make anything of your life?
C: Yes, but not with his help.
R: I think you're pathetic. I want to give up work to start a family and we can't do that with your money.
C: Money, money, money. That's all you ...

4–8 Open answers

- 9 Mr. Worley: This is ridiculous. You promised me a lot more money than this.
Lawyer: Mr. Worley, if we hadn't filed a lawsuit against the company you wouldn't have received anything or even have known there was something wrong with the drug.
Mr. W: And now I am ill, I need more money to ...

10–12 Open answers

- 13 angry, unhappy, bad, brave, negative, good, happy, crazy, old-fashioned, boring, frightened, puzzled, unusual, proud, anxious, impatient, shocked, lucky, weak, tough, excited, sad, careful, scared

14–15 Open answers

- 16 Example questions: *Do you work outside? Is your job dangerous? Do you work in an office? Do you earn a lot of money? Do you wear uniform? Do you work with other people? Do you work with computers? Is your job difficult?*

17–20 Open answers

- 21 The Hanna Portland Cement Company was started in 1946. Rex Crittle had worked for an accounting firm for eighteen years. The Hanna company employed 4,000 people. The insurance company would cover the first 5 million of any claim. Clay's fee was 33% of the money. Helen Warshaw sent copies of the lawsuit to a dozen newspapers. Clay had settled Mr. Worley's case for \$62,000. Clay's lawyer, Battle, charged \$750 an hour.

22 Open answers

23 Answers: a 2 b 2 c 1 d 3 e 3

24 Possible words: drowsy, glum, dim, hazy

25–27 Open answers

28 Answers provided in section

29–31 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a 2 b 6 c 3 d 5 e 1 f 4
- 2 a swollen b rush c briefly d smart e mess
f hire g resign
- 3 a Tequila Watson b Paulette Tullos c Talmadge X
d Bennett Van Horn e Rebecca f Max Pace
g Clay Carter
- 4 lock – up
break the – silence
get rid – of
solicit – clients
keep a – secret
do – a test
plead – guilty
buy – shares
- 5 a The first victim had been shot outside Starbucks.
b Dyloft had been linked to the creation of tumors.
c Clay's colleagues imagined how they would spend the money.
d Clay was impressed by the inside of a plane.
e Clay signed the contract in a top Manhattan restaurant.
f Clay met some rich lawyers in French's enormous ranch.
g A company was having problems with their cement.

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- 6 a excitement > misery
b bladder > breast
c persuasive > unusual
d unhealthy > attractive
e pleased > anxious
f angry > confused
g stupid > brave
- 7 a Because her English was poor.
b Because they wanted to avoid angry phone calls from clients.
c It made razor blades and mouthwash.
d Because he was shocked that Patton French hadn't decided to file a case.
e Change the law to protect companies from the lawyers.
f Because he was worried someone was listening.
- 8 a jealous b artificial c puzzled d tougher
e statement f victories
- 9 a buying b nobody c of d became e had
f while g nor
- 10 a a third b pleased c sometime after
d the hospital e felt guilty f All
g slightly optimistic
- 11 a Clay b Rebecca c Mooneyham d Worley
e Oscar f French g Paulette

- 12 bankrupt – company
deep – voice
brief – summary
unnecessary – risk
window – shades
sleeping – pills
speedy – recovery
folding – table

Progress test key

- 1 a 3 b 7 c 5 d 10 e 9 f 1 g 4 h 8
i 6 j 2
- 2 a X b X c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f X g X h ✓
i X j X
- 3 a He shot him in the head.
b In the Potomac Country Club.
c Big companies who had difficult problems.
d It made people very violent.
e Patton French.
f Ackerman Labs.
g Dale Mooneyham.
h He had tumors in his bladder.
i They were angry about the Hanna Cement company going bankrupt.
j In the hospital.
- 4 a bright b angry c knew d urine
e spending too much f profit g Russia
h didn't like it i cold j tort lawyers
- 5 a chains b unbearable c joke d shock
e gamble f link