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INHERIT THE WIND

1960, 127 min. SPENCER TRACEY, FREDRICK MARCH NR

This is a fictionalized account of the famous Scopes monkey trial which took place in Dayton Tennessee in 1925. The names have been changed but the characters clearly correspond to actual people. This film is very useful to consider ethical issues surrounding the separation of church and state.

:00-3:00

Burt Kates is arrested for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution in a public school.

3:00

Meeting of town leaders to decide whether to prosecute.

12:00

Matthew Brady arrives in Hillsboro and attends a rally.

19:00

Discussion between a minister and his daughter about the case.

22:40

Defense attorney Henry Drummond arrives in town.

29:00

First day of the trial and the selection of the jury.

41:00

Discussion of why the trial needs to continue.

45:00

Brady explains why he is fighting the case.

48:30

Minister Brown runs his prayer meeting.

54:00

Brady and Drummond discuss old days.

Seminar Questioning Sequence:

Seminar questions should be used to discuss how recent Supreme Court decisions have molded the establishment clause of the First Amendment and how the concept of a loose or strict interpretation of the constitution applies to the concept of the prohibition of the establishment of religion.

What is the rule today about teaching evolution in the schools?

What test was created by the Court in the case of Lemon v. Kurtzman to determine if a government policy violated the First Amendment?

Should the Establishment Clause be construed to prohibit the words: "In God We Trust" from American currency?

Should schools be allowed to begin the day with a prayer? Can school allow voluntary prayer?

Can governments give aid to parochial schools without violating the Establishment Clause?

Can students use school facilities for religious activities when school is not in session?

Report topics about some of the key characters should precede a showing of the complete film:

**John T. Scopes
American Civil Liberties Union
Clarence Darryl
William Jennings Bryan
Fundamentalism
H.L. Mencken**

Reports on key Supreme Court cases concerning the establishment of religion should be heard after the film is seen and become the basis of the seminar questioning sequence which considers current freedom of religion issues.

**Everson v. Board of Education 1947
McCullum v. Board of Education 1948
Zorach v. Clauson 1952
Engel v. Vitale 1962
Abington District v. Schempp 1963
Epperson v. Arkansas 1968
Lemon v. Kurtzman 1971
Widman v. Vincent 1981
Wallace v. Jaffree 1985
Edwards v. Aguillard 1987**

<p>57:00 Trial begins. A student questioned.</p> <p>1:06:00 Rachel Brown is called to testify.</p> <p>1:14:00 Expert witnesses for the defense are not allowed to testify.</p> <p>1:17:45 Drummond speaks against fanaticism and is cited for contempt.</p> <p>1:25:00 Drummond calls Brady to the stand as an expert on the Bible.</p> <p>1:34:00 Drummond makes a speech about the divinity of the human mind.</p> <p>1:43:00 Brady's wife and Rachel Brown discuss Brady.</p> <p>1:53:00 Guilty verdict.</p>		
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Notes