

A person's surroundings can influence him. In "12 Angry Men" by Reginald Rose a young man's

life is held by twelve men with contrasting views. Eight is a caring man, who wishes to talk about why the

other jurors think that the boy is guilty, clashes with Three, a sadistic man who would pull the switch

himself to end the boy's life. According to Rose, several elements can influence a jury's verdict, such as the

emotional make-up of individual jurors.

Many elements can change a juror's decision. Juror Three, who is convinced that the boy is guilty,

is allied with Four who is eventually convinced. Eight's showing of how the two testimonies given by the old

woman and old man are lies, votes guilty. Three outraged by this exclaims "A guilty man's gonna be

walking the streets... he's got to die! Stay with me." (23) But Four sees the truth that Eight has brought

into the light and still votes guilty. Eight tries to convince Three how the boy is not guilty beyond

reasonable doubt but Three does not listen and would rather see the boy die. "For this kid, you bet I'd pull

the switch." (17) This shows how emotionally unstable Three is. He is a grown man living in a civilized

community and would like to see a boy who he does not even know die by his own hands. Eight does not

think highly of Three for what he says about killing the boy and shouts "you're a sadist." (17) which is the

absolute truth about Three.

The emotional make-up of a juror can change his decision on whether or not to let a man live or

die. When someone is asked to judge someone else, should not you look at all the facts to be sure beyond a

shadow of a doubt that the man who committed the crime is guilty? Yes, a juror should look at all the

facts but some do not, they just judge the person on how that person feels.

