

Only the Accused Were Innocent

A Case of Social Injustice

Record your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to answer in thoughtful, complete sentences.

1. In the third paragraph, the reader discovers that the details of the rapes reported by Victoria Price and Ruby Bates were "so shocking that women of all ages and men under 21 were barred from the courtroom." Explain how this move by the court may have actually increased public attention on the case.

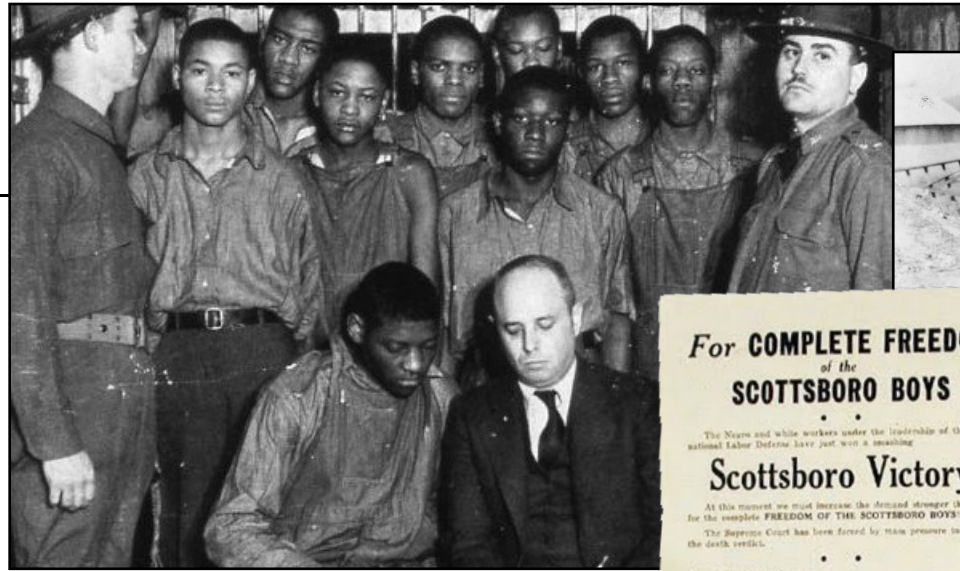
2. In the sixth paragraph, what small detail does writer David Oshinsky include about the book's author, James Goodman, that helps build Goodman's ethos?

3. In the seventh paragraph, Oshinsky brings to the reader's attention the hypocrisy of the United States. Find and write down the full sentence from that paragraph that shows Oshinsky's frustration with this nation's unequal treatment of its citizens.

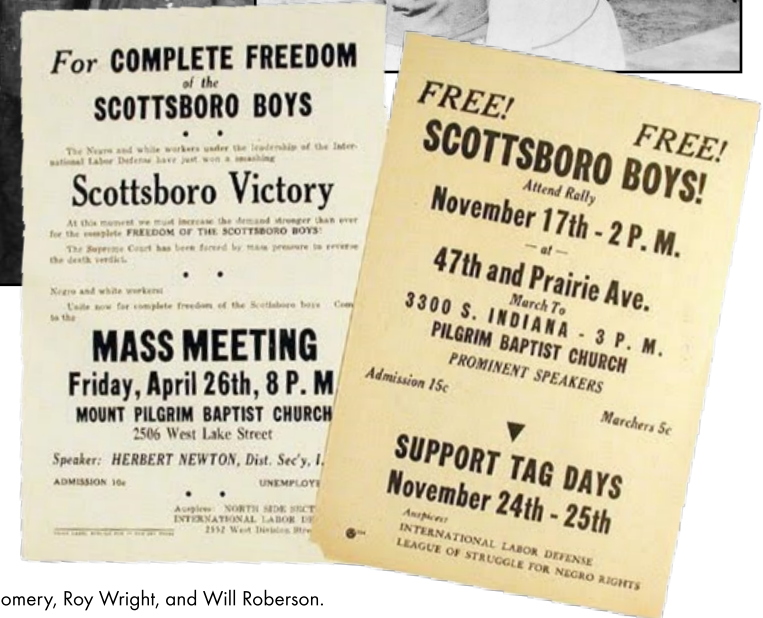
4. Before representing the young men in the Scottsboro Trials, what was Samuel Leibowitz's record of legal wins and losses? What does this show the reader?

5. The article compares powerful white Southern racists to Hitler and his Nazi party during World War 2. Explain how the two groups were similar. Is this a fair comparison? Explain your thoughts.

6. Writer Oshinsky makes the point that the defenders of the Scottsboro Boys weren't without their own flaws. What evidence do we have that both Leibowitz and famed African-American writer Langston Hughes were sexist?



Ruby Bates and Victoria Price



The Scottsboro defendants in 1932 with attorney Samuel Liebowitz, bottom right. The accused teens included Eugene Williams, Haywood Patterson, Charles Weems, Clarence Norris, Andy Wright, Ozzie Powell, Olen Montgomery, Roy Wright, and Will Roberson.

7. In following up on the fates of the Scottsboro Boys, Goodman discovers many unhappy tales. Do you think the false accusations and prison time ruined these young men's lives or were their lives already doomed before the night they were first arrested? Explain your thoughts.

8. List four similarities between the Scottsboro Boys case and the case against Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

9. The title of this article is, "Only the Accused Were Innocent," which implies that everyone else involved in the trials was guilty. How is this true?

10. Oshinsky's article is a book review. Did this article make you want to read Goodman's full book or learn more about the trials of the Scottsboro Boys? Why or why not? Explain your answer.