

Lesson 4

The Trial That Rocked the World

John Scopes

Outlines

- Background Information
- Detailed Study
- Rhetorical Devices
- Exercises on Vocabulary
- Check on Understanding

Background Information

- *Religions*
- *American Governing System*
- *Scopes Trail (Monkey Trial)*
- *Fundamentalism*
- *Charles Darwin*

Religions

- God: the Deity, the Divinity, Holy One, Jehovah, the Lord, Providence, the Almighty, the Creator and etc.
- There is only one God in heaven. But the belief in God has developed three religious sections:
 - Christianity, Judaism and Islam.



Christianity:

- Roman Catholic
- Protestant
- Orthodox Eastern Church
- Trinity: the Holy Father, the Holy Son and the Holy Spirit/Ghost, with Jesus Christ as its incarnation.



- **Bible:**

Name of the Christian Scriptures, the Old Testament and the New Testament.



- Bible



- Old Testament: Christian name for the Hebrew Bible, the first portion of the Christian Bible
- Genesis: first book of the Old Testament which tells the origin of the world and of man

About the invasion

- Bible
 - New Testament: the distinctive Christian portion of the Bible
 - Gospel: Greek word for good news. the first four books of the New Testament.

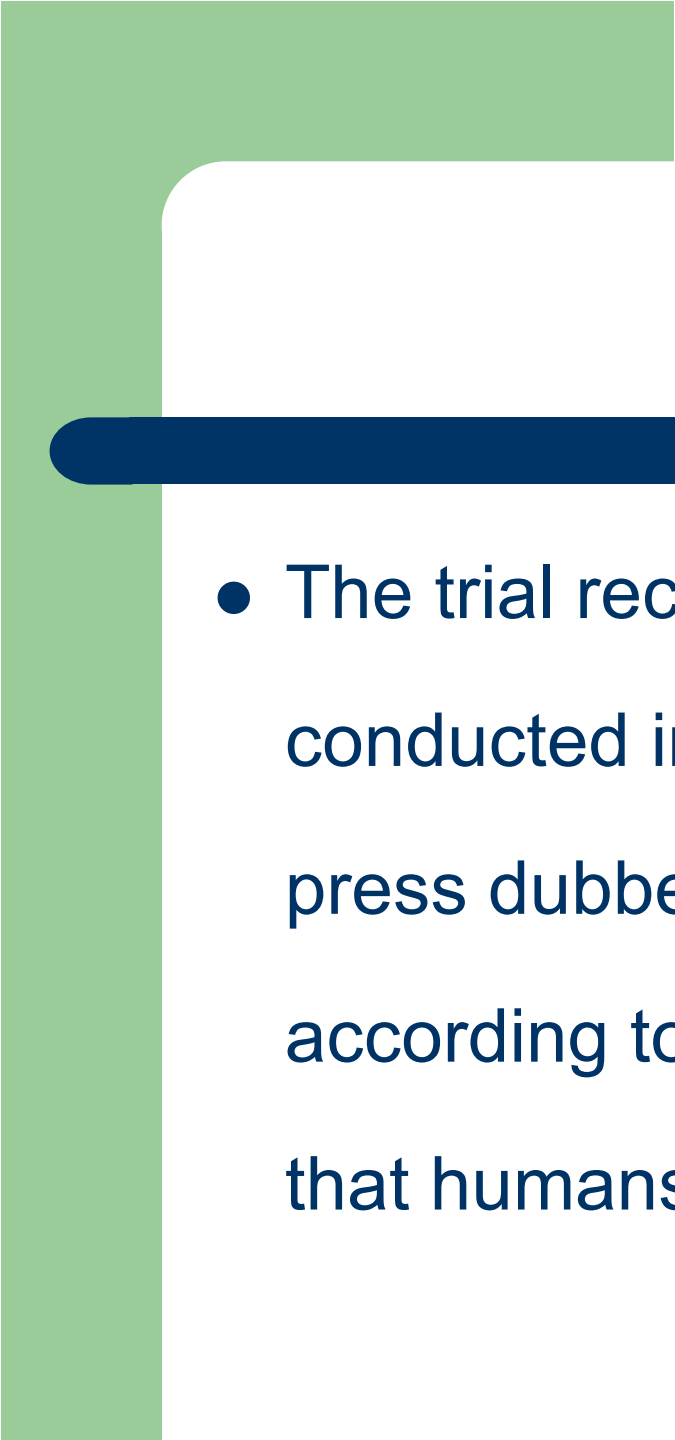

American governing system

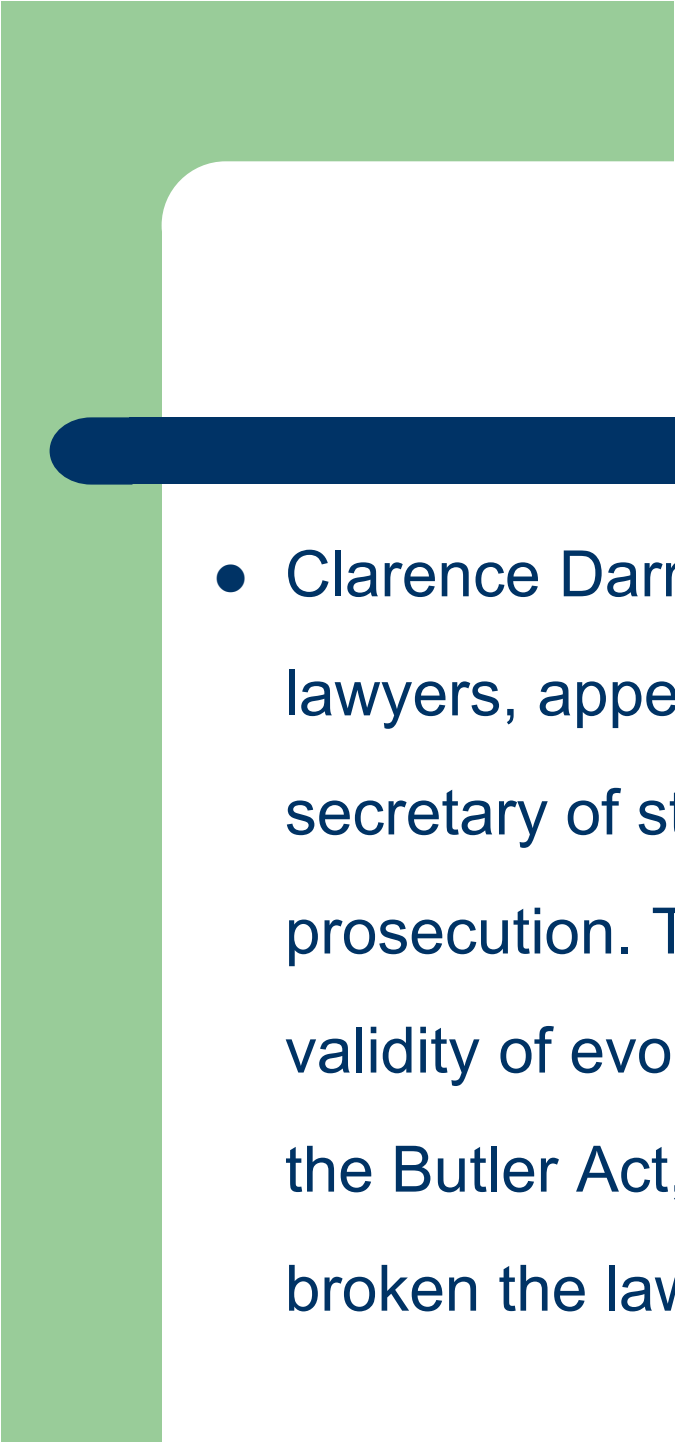

- **a. Legislature:** parliament---Congress and Senate
- **b. Executive:** the president and his administration
- **c. Judicial:** the Federal Supreme Court

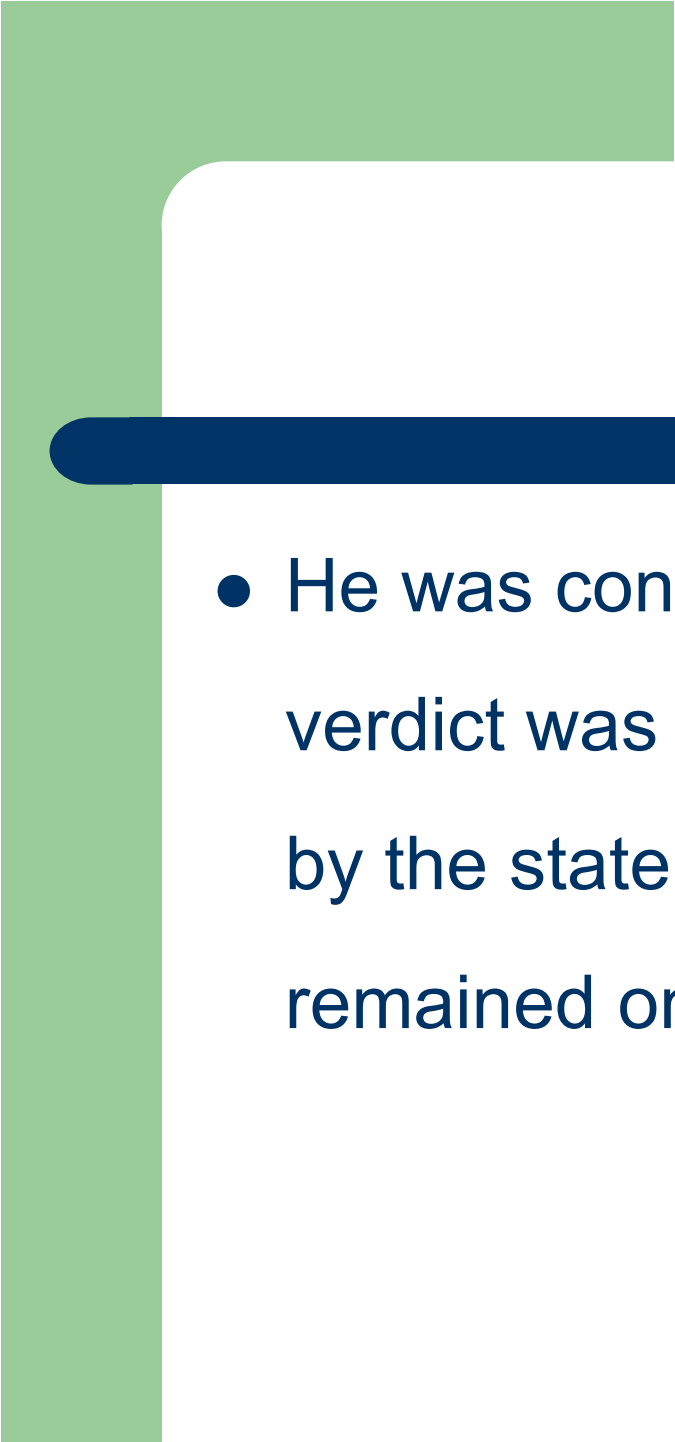

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- Civil Law:
 - Criminal Law
 - Jury
 - Counselor / Counsellor

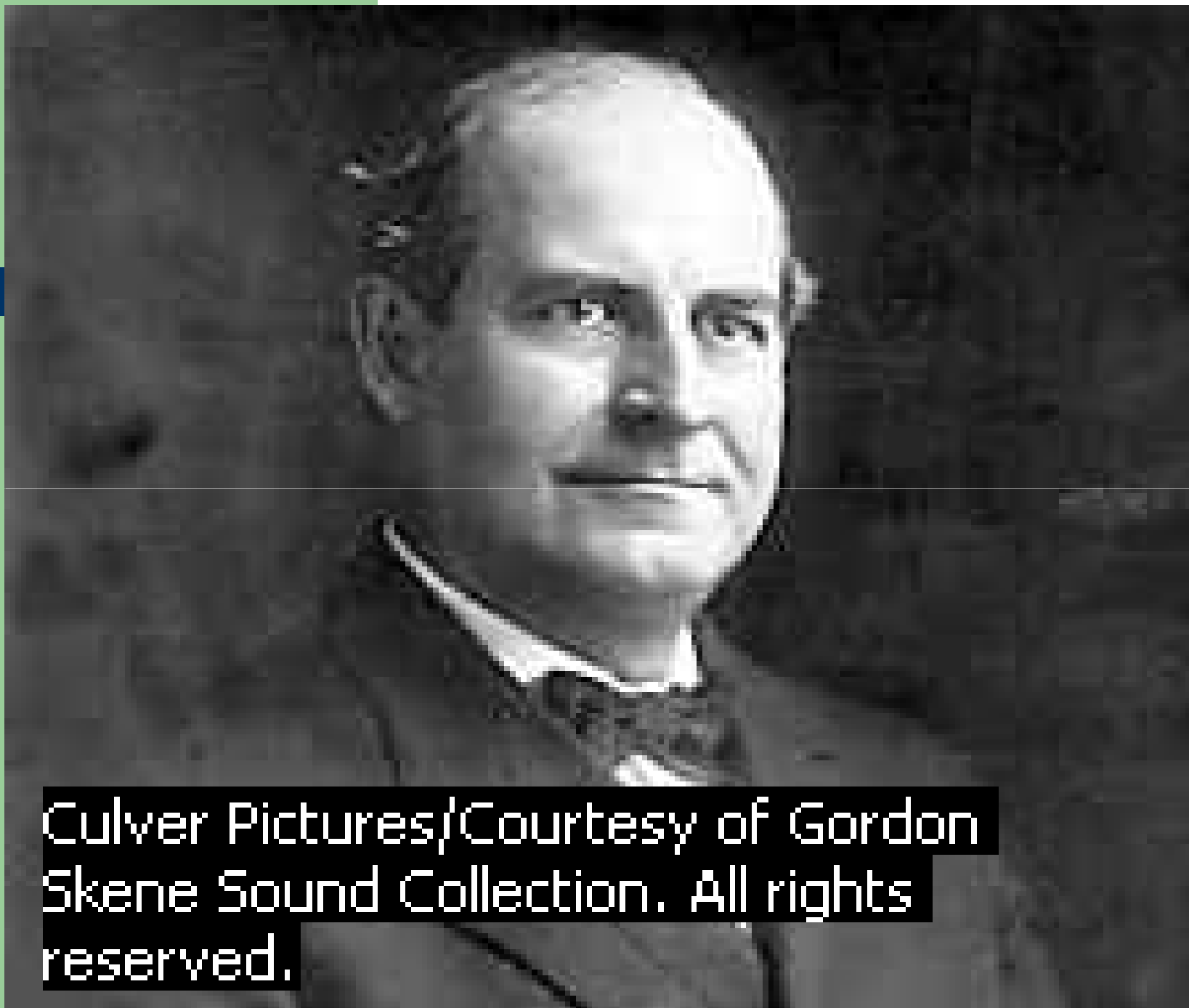
Scopes Trial

- Scopes Trial, prosecution, in 1925, in Dayton, Tennessee, of a high school biology teacher who taught the theory of evolution. The teacher, John T. Scopes (1900-1970), was accused of having violated the Butler Act, a Tennessee law that forbade the teaching of the theory of evolution in public schools because it contradicted the account of creation in the Bible.

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- The trial received worldwide publicity and was conducted in a circuslike atmosphere. The press dubbed it the Monkey Trial because, according to popular belief, evolution meant that humans were descended from monkeys.

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- Clarence Darrow, one of America's leading criminal lawyers, appeared for the defense, and former U.S. secretary of state William Jennings Bryan for the prosecution. The defense argued for the scientific validity of evolution and against the constitutionality of the Butler Act, but it did not deny that Scopes had broken the law.

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- He was convicted and fined \$100, but the verdict was later reversed on technical grounds by the state supreme court. The Butler Act remained on the books until 1967.



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William Jennings Bryan

- William Jennings Bryan won fame as a persuasive lawyer, orator, and statesman. Three times an unsuccessful presidential candidate, Bryan served as secretary of state under President Woodrow Wilson from 1913 to 1915. A religious fundamentalist, Bryan argued for the prosecution in the famous Scopes trial, asserting that a teacher violated state law by teaching evolution in a Tennessee public school.



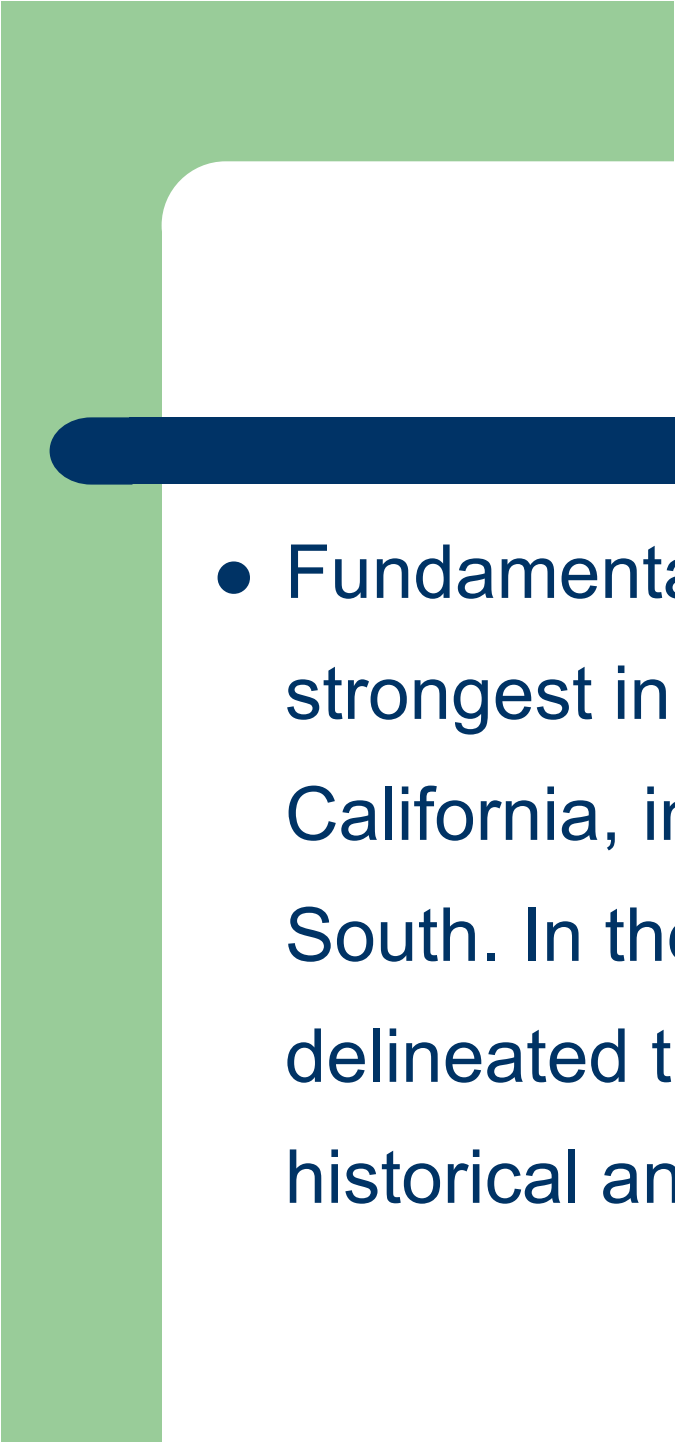

Archive Photos



Clarence Darrow

- Guided by liberal beliefs and a strong sense of justice, Clarence Darrow often defended the underdog in controversial legal cases. Perhaps his best-known case was the 1925 Scopes trial in which he defended John T. Scopes, who had violated the Butler Act, which forbade the teaching of evolution in public schools.

Fundamentalism

- Conservative movement among Protestants in the United States, which began in the late 19th century. It emphasized as absolutely basic to Christianity the following beliefs: the infallibility of the Bible, the virgin birth and the divinity of Jesus Christ, the sacrifice of Christ on the cross as atonement for the sins of all people, the physical resurrection and second coming of Christ, and the bodily resurrection of believers.

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- Fundamentalism spread in the 1920s. It was strongest in rural areas, particularly in California, in the border states, and in the South. In these areas, Fundamentalists sharply delineated the issue of biblical infallibility in historical and scientific matters.

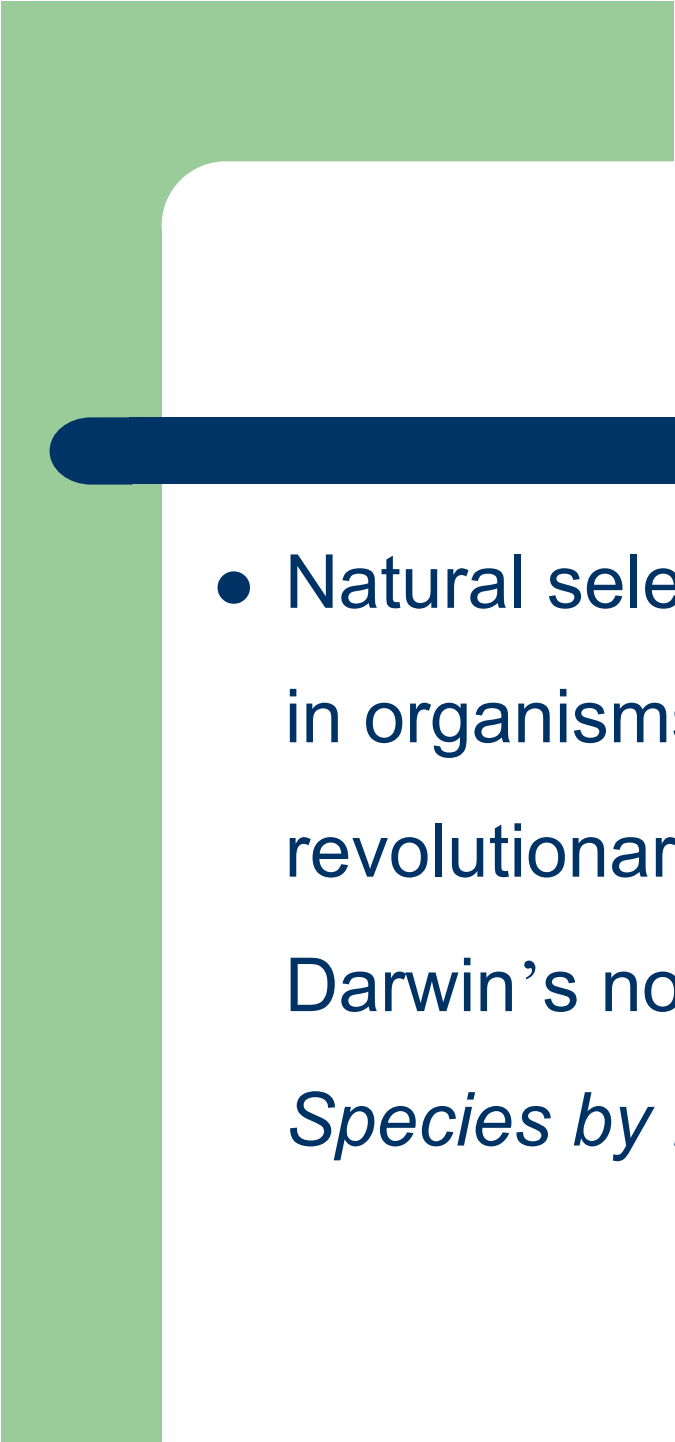

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- The controversy over this issue grew most intense in the secular sphere when Fundamentalists urged many states to pass legislation forbidding the teaching of evolution in public schools. Several southern and border states, among them Tennessee, passed such laws.



Culver Pictures



Charles Darwin

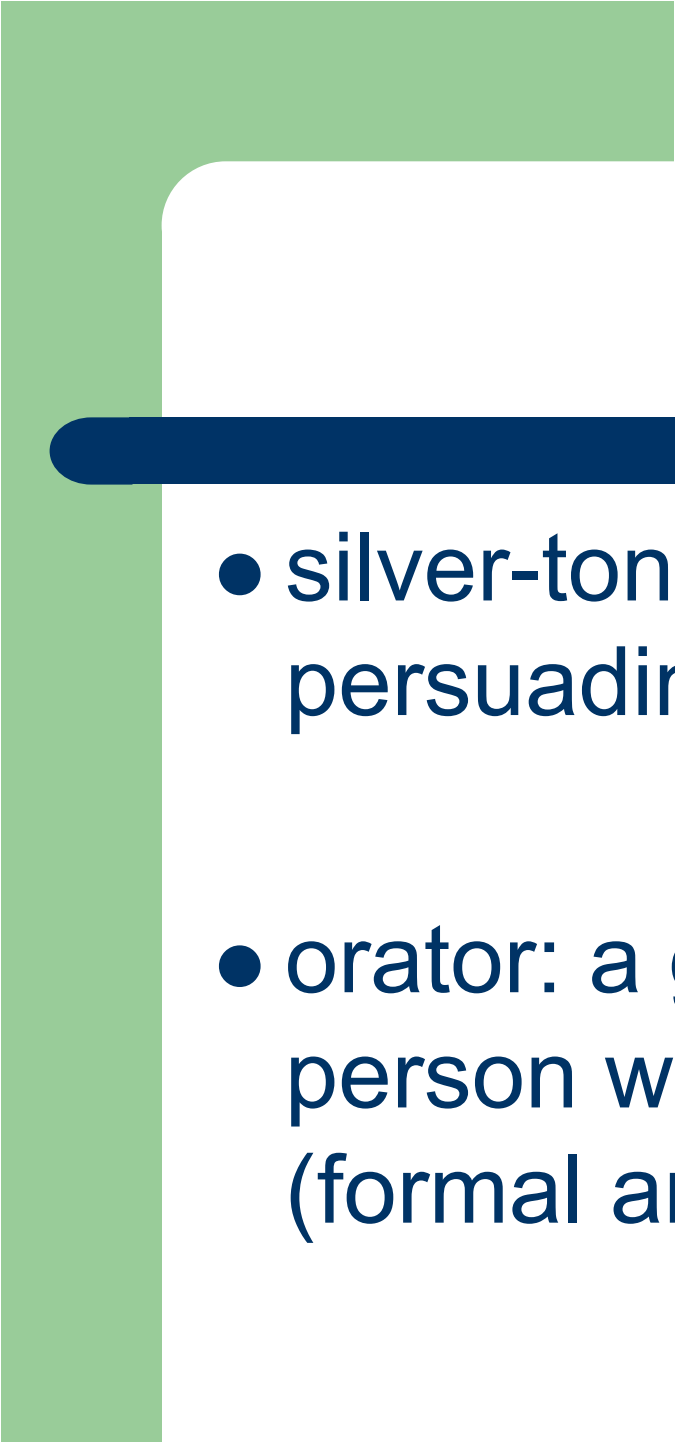

- Charles Darwin was greatly influenced by the geologist Adam Sedgwick and naturalist John Henslow in his development of the theory of natural selection, which was to become the foundation concept supporting the theory of evolution. Darwin's theory holds that environmental effects lead to varying degrees of reproductive success in individuals and groups of organisms.

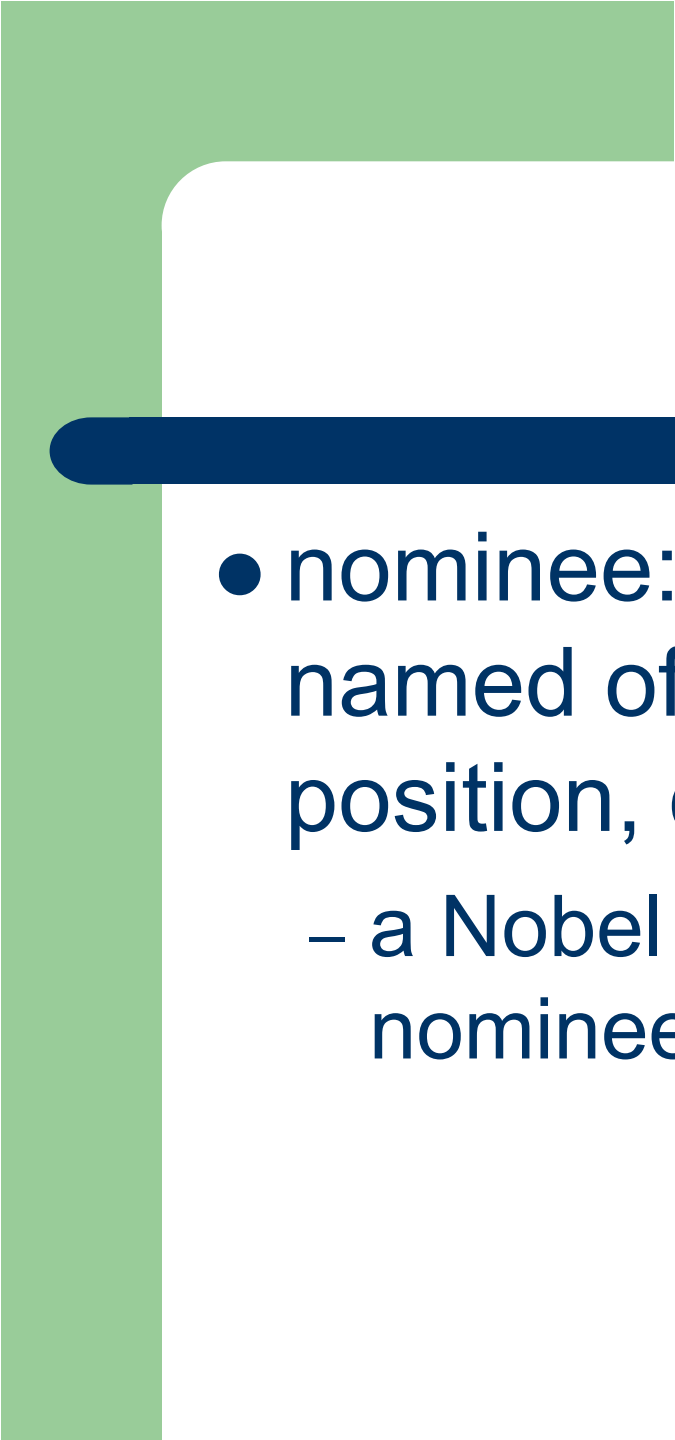

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- Natural selection tends to promote adaptation in organisms when necessary for survival. This revolutionary theory was published in 1859 in Darwin's now famous treatise *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*.

Detailed Study

- buzz: a noise of a low hum, low confused whisper
- sweltering: very hot, causing unpleasantness, torrid, sultry

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- **counsel:** a group of one or more lawyers (barristers) acting for someone in a court of law
 - **prosecution:** the act of bringing a criminal charge against sb. in a court of law

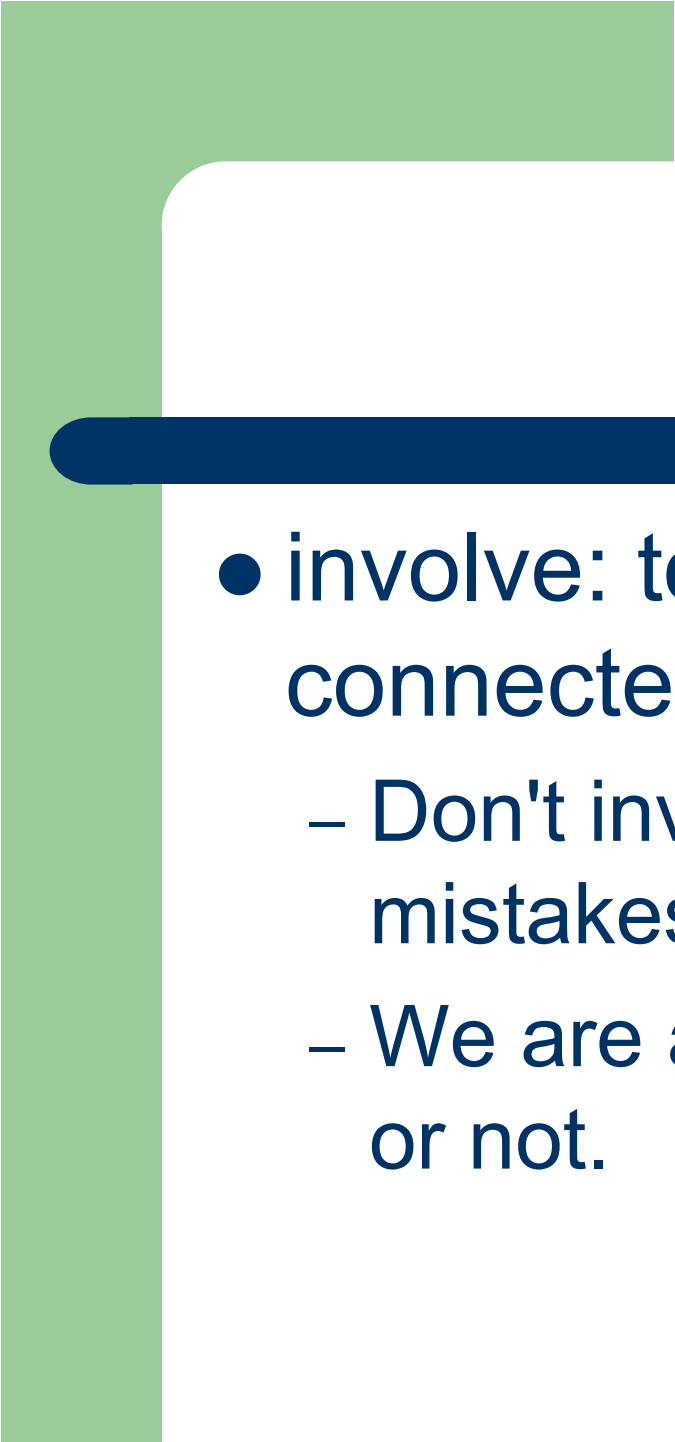

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- silver-tongued: (lit.) able to give fine persuading speeches, eloquent
 - orator: a good public speaker, a person who delivers an oration (formal and solemn public speeches)


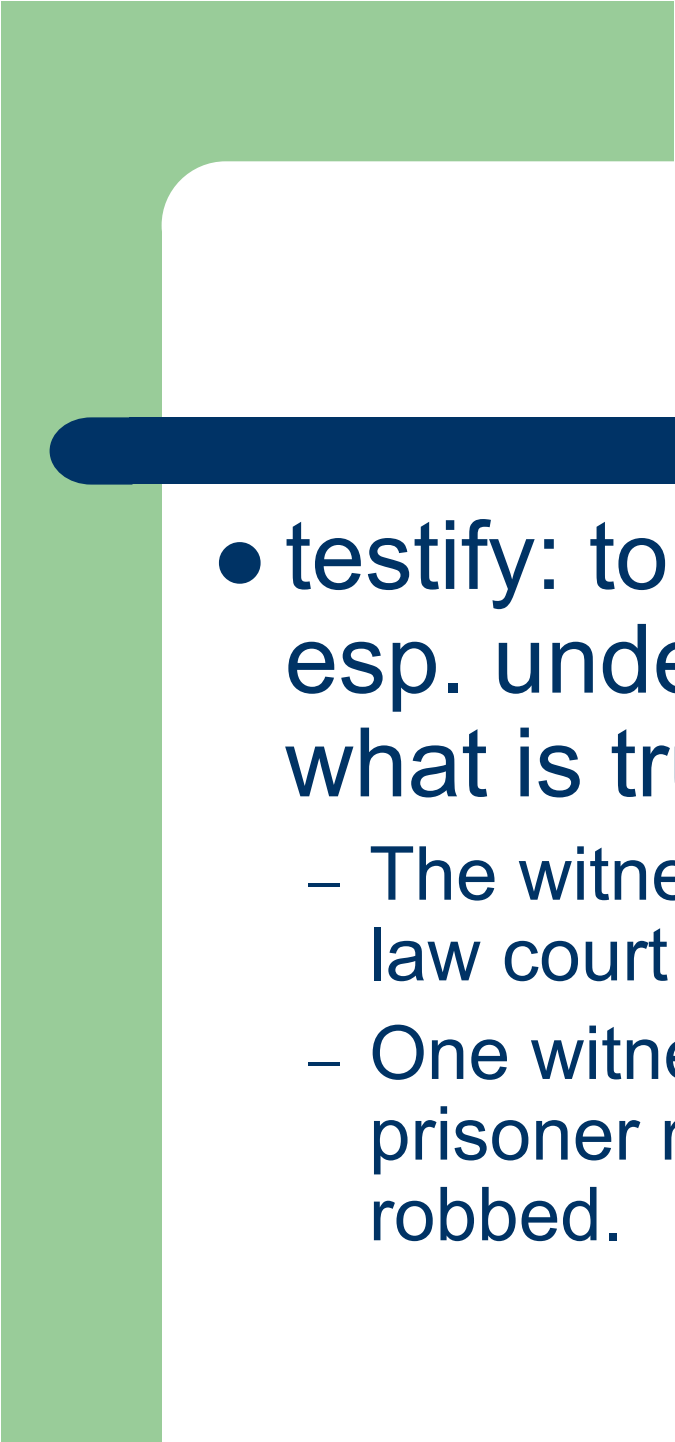
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- nominee: a person who has been named officially for election to a position, office, honour, etc.
 - a Nobel Prize nominee / a presidential nominee



- bring about: cause

- Scientists have brought about great changes in our lives.

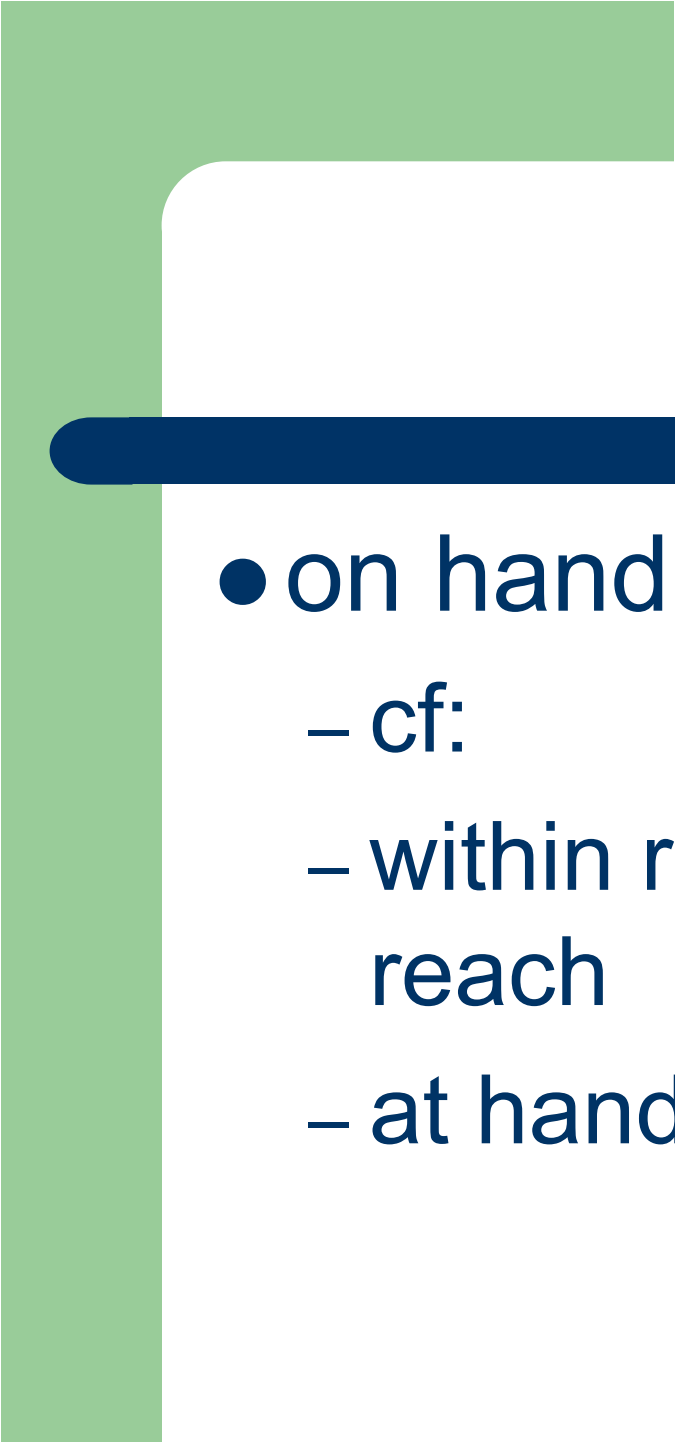

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- **involve: to cause sb. to become connected or concerned**
 - Don't involve other people in your mistakes.
 - We are all involved, whether we like it or not.

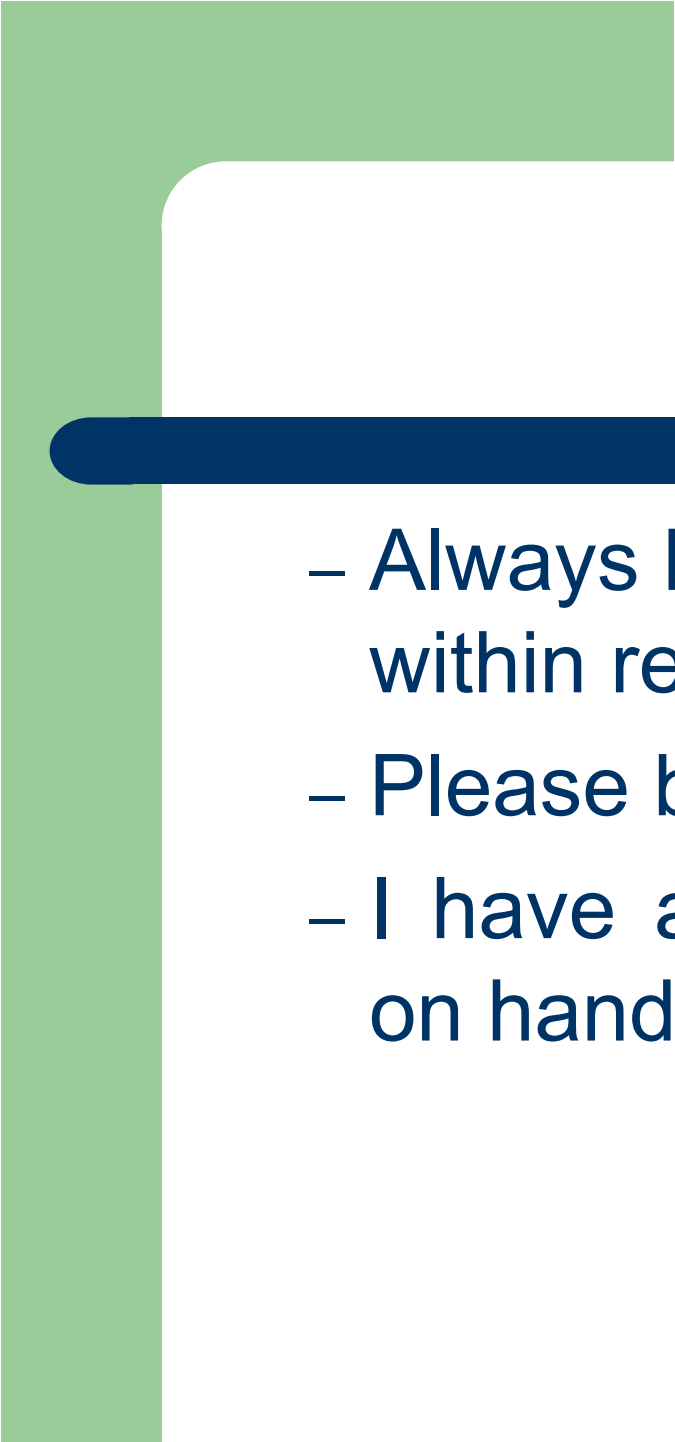



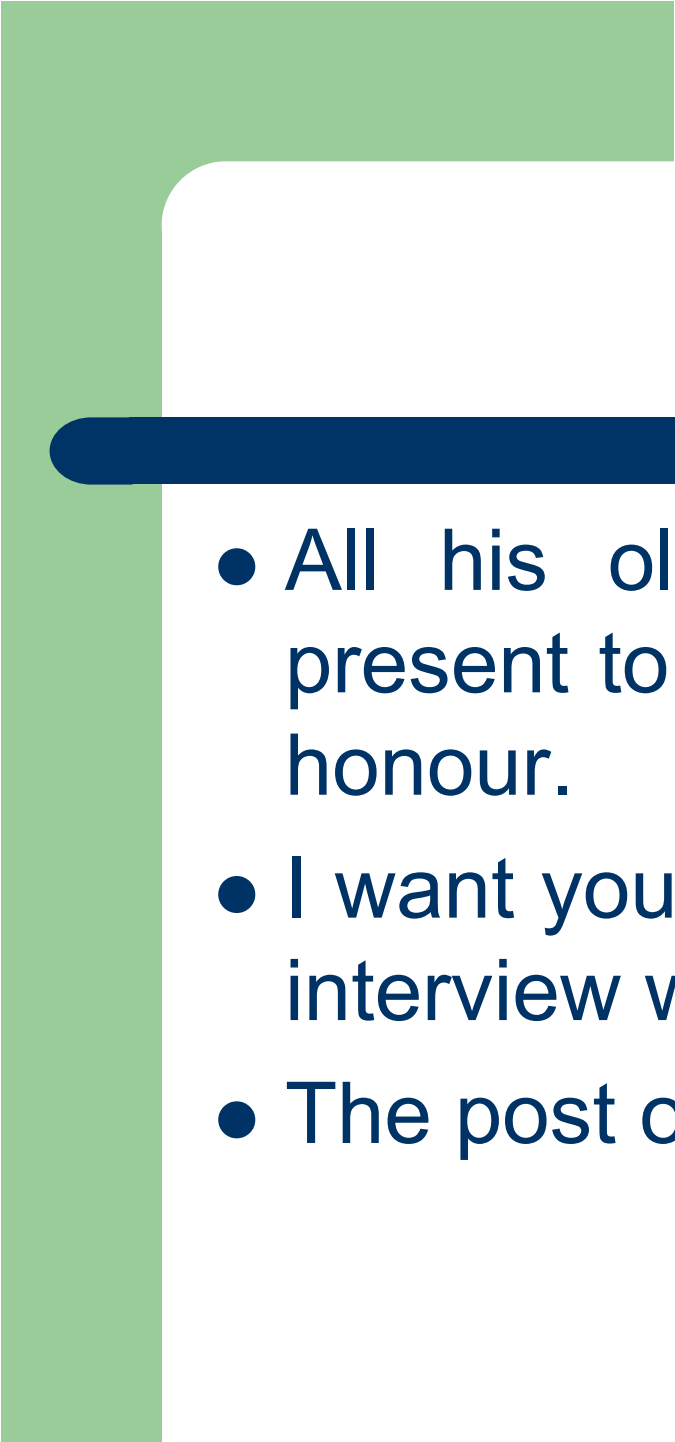

- testify: to make a solemn statement, esp. under oath in a court of law, of what is true

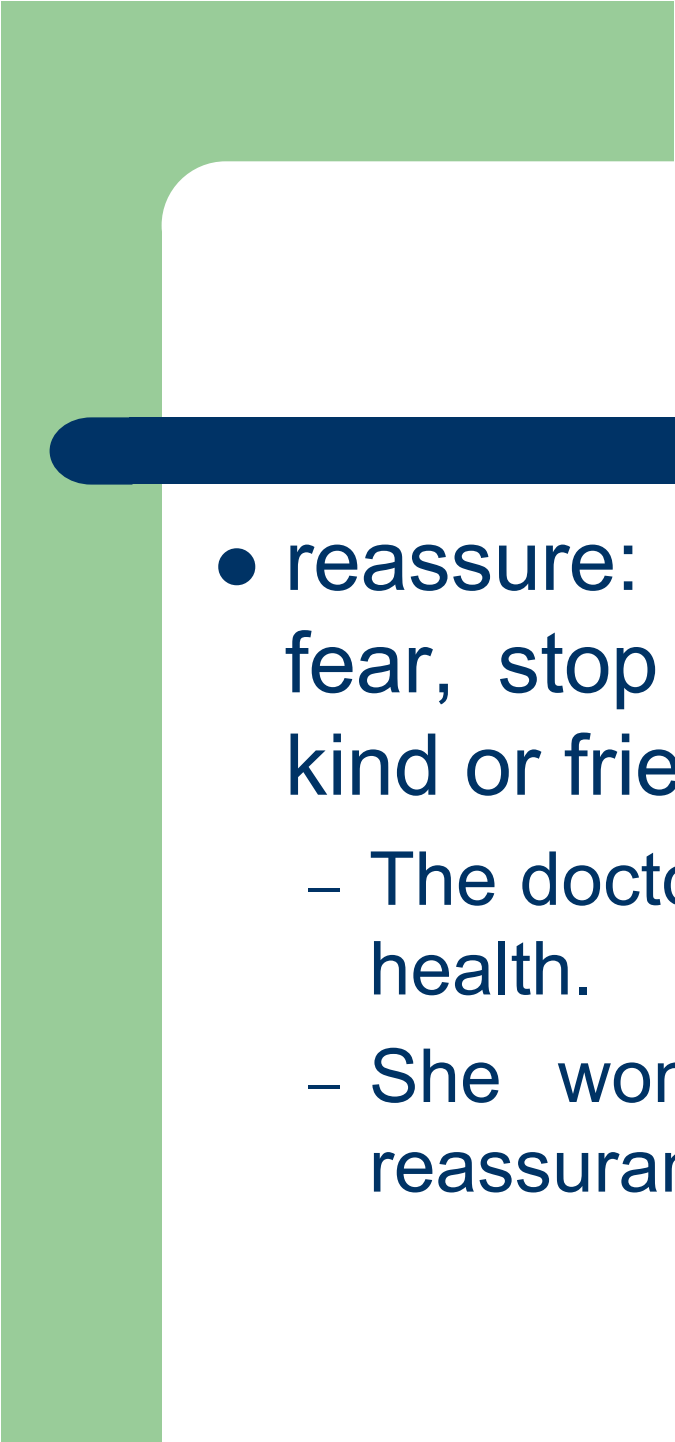

- The witnesses testify / give evidence in the law court.

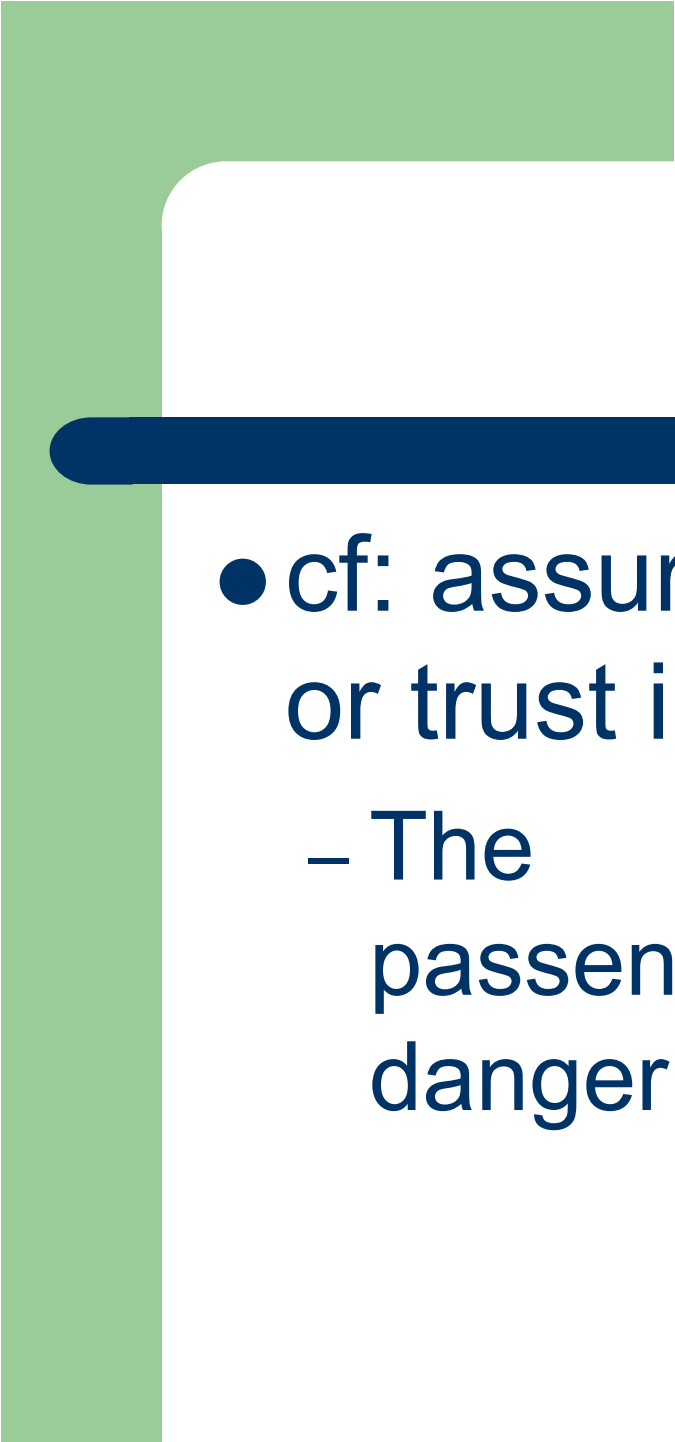

- One witness testified that he had seen the prisoner ran out of the bank after it had been robbed.

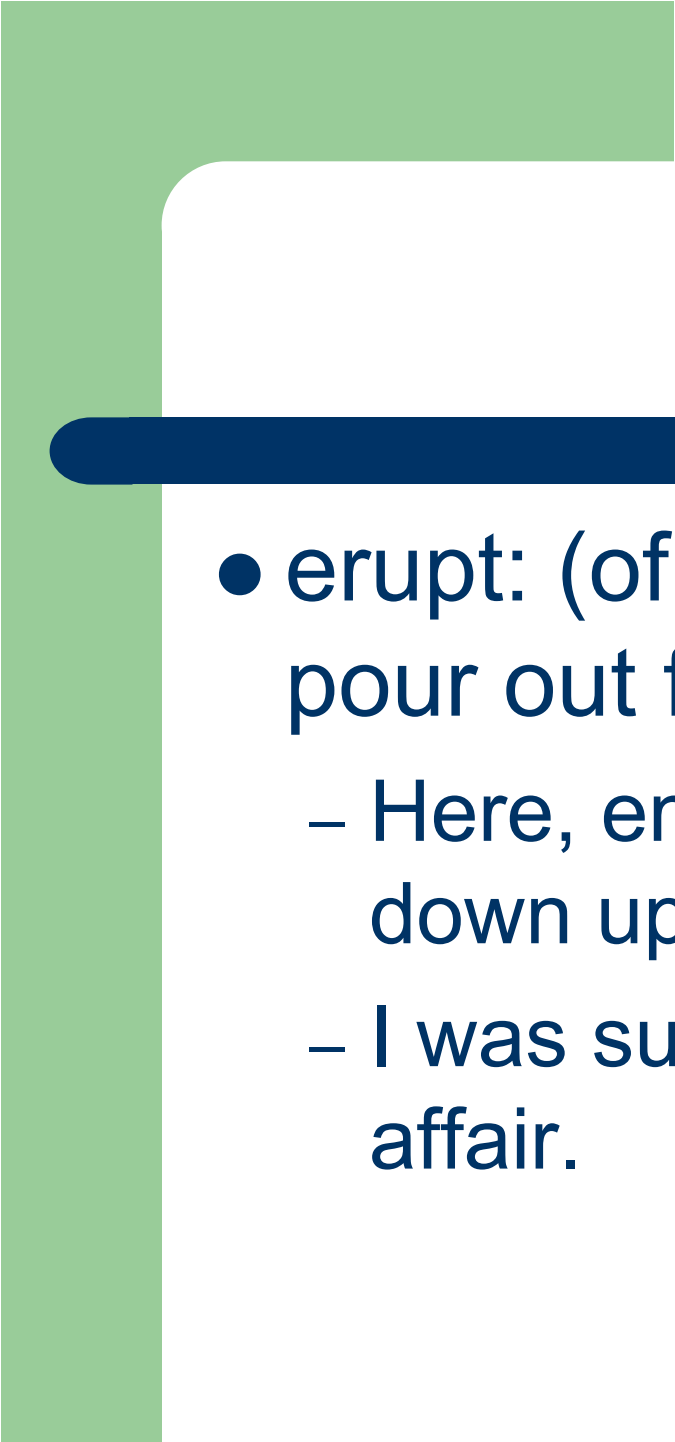

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- on hand: available, present,
 - cf:
 - within reach: the distance one can reach
 - at hand: near in time or place

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- Always have your dictionary on hand / within reach / at hand when you study.
 - Please be on hand at 12 sharp.
 - I have a great deal of important work on hand.

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- All his old friends will be on hand / present to see Jack receive the medal of honour.
 - I want you to be at hand / near during my interview with the boss of the company.
 - The post office is close at hand.

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- reassure: comfort and make free from fear, stop worrying often by saying sth. kind or friendly
 - The doctor reassured the sick man about his health.
 - She won't believe it in spite of all our reassurance.

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- cf: assure: try to cause to believe or trust in sth.; promise
 - The captain assured the passengers that there was no danger.

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- erupt: (of a volcano) to explode and pour out fire
 - Here, emerge, happen quickly, come down upon unexpectedly and violently;
 - I was suddenly engulfed by the whole affair.

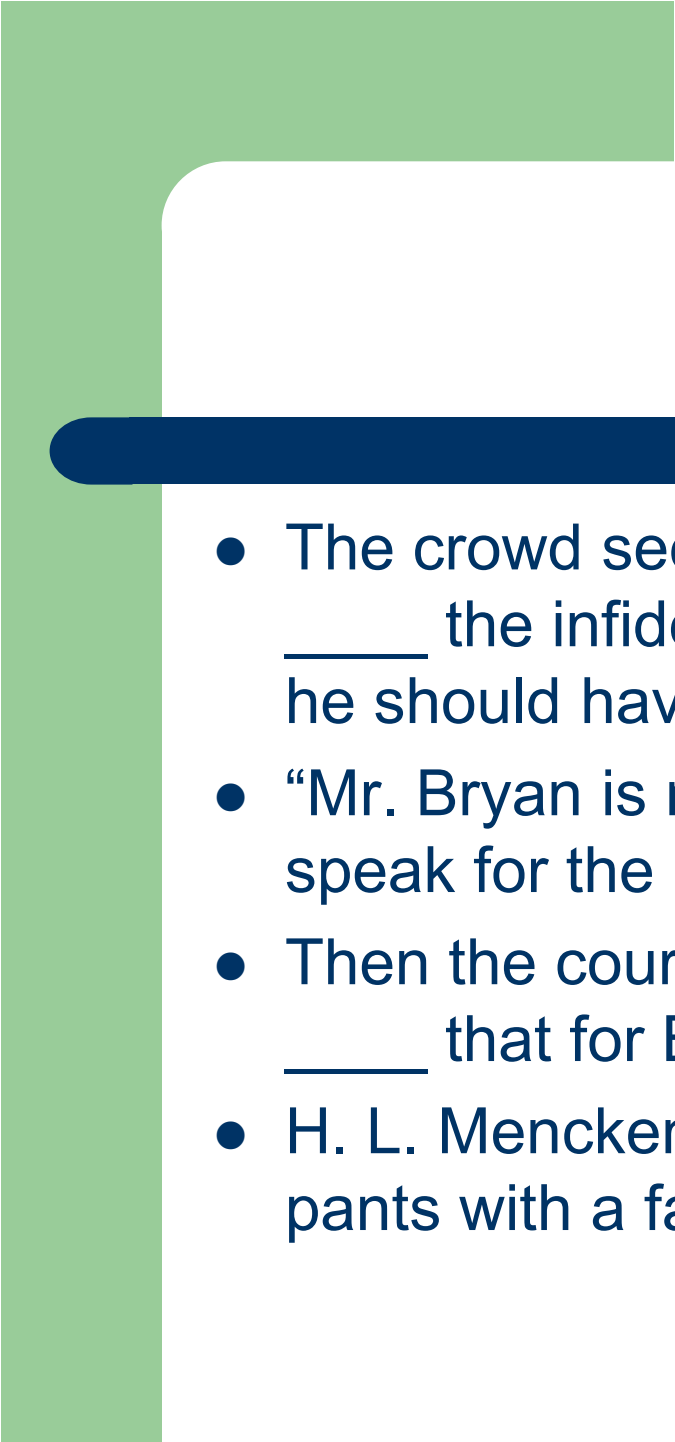

Rhetorical Devices

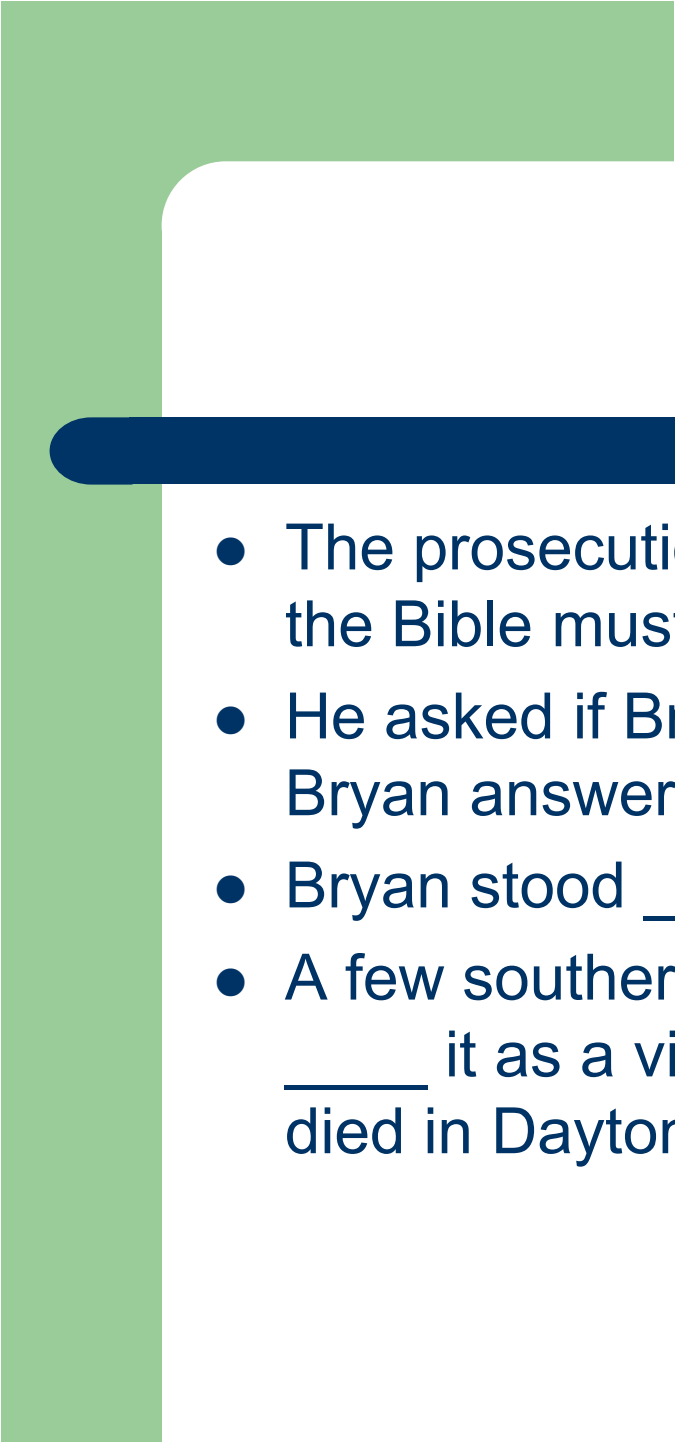

[Rhetorical Devices Related to B1L4.ppt](#)

Exercises on Vocabulary

- A buzz ran through the crowd as I took my place in the _____ court on that _____ July day in 1925.
- Leading counsel for the prosecution was William Jennings Bryan, the _____ orator.
- Now I was _____ in a trial reported the world over.
- More than 100 reporters were _____ (present).
- Darrow had whispered, throwing a _____ arm round my shoulder.
- The fundamentalists _____ to a _____ interpretation of the Old Testament.
- Our town had _____ on a circus atmosphere.
- The buildings along the main street were _____ with banners.

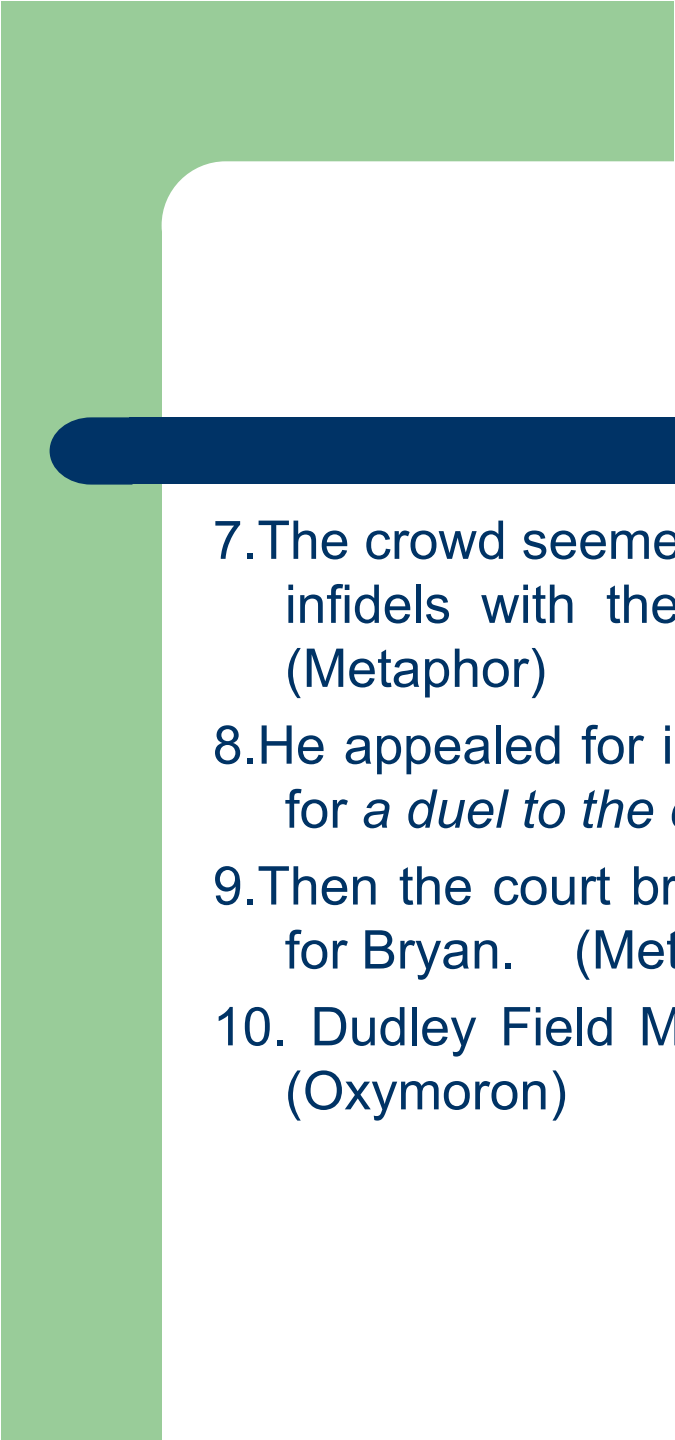

- The street around the three-storey red brick law court _____ with rickety stands.
- Arthur Garfield Hays, quiet, scholarly and _____ in the law.
- The judge called for a local minister to open the session with prayer, and the trial _____.
- I had taught them evolution, but added that they had not been _____(corrupted) by the experience.
- After the evidence was completed, Bryan rose to _____ the jury.
- “The Bible,” he thundered in his _____ organ tones.
- Experts testify that they can _____ evolution, with its ancestors in the jungle, with man made by God in His image and put here for His purpose as part of a divine plan.

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- The crowd seemed to feel that their champion had not _____ the infidels with the hot breath of his oratory as he should have.
 - “Mr. Bryan is not the only one who has the right to speak for the Bible,” he _____.
 - Then the court broke into a storm of applause that _____ that for Bryan.
 - H. L. Mencken wrote _____ dispatches sitting in his pants with a fan.

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- The prosecution was forced to take the position that the Bible must be _____ literally.
 - He asked if Bryan believed literally in the story of Eve. Bryan answered in the _____.
 - Bryan stood _____ alone.
 - A few southern papers, loyal to their faded champion, _____ it as a victory for Bryan. But Bryan, sad and _____, died in Dayton two days after the trial.

Check on Understanding

- Please figure out the figures of speech employed in each sentence.
 1. Darrow had whispered throwing *a reassuring arm* round my shoulder as we were waiting for the court to open. (Transferred epithet)
 2. The case had erupted round *my head* not long after I arrived in Dayton as science master and football coach at the secondary school. (Synecdoche)
 3. After a while, it is the setting of man against man and creed against creed until we are *marching backwards to the glorious age* of the sixteenth century... (Irony)
 4. "*There is some doubt about that,*" Darrow snorted. (Sarcasm)
 5. "The Christian believes that man *came from above*. The evolutionist believes that he must have *come from below*." (Antithesis)
 6. Gone was the *fierce fervor* of the days when Bryan had *swept the political arena like a prairie fire*. (Alliteration; Simile)

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7. The crowd seemed to feel that their champion had not *scorched* the infidels with the *hot breath of his oratory* as he should have. (Metaphor)
 8. He appealed for intellectual freedom, and accused Bryan of calling for *a duel to the death* between science and religion. (Metaphor)
 9. Then the court broke into *a storm of applause* that surpassed that for Bryan. (Metaphor)
 10. Dudley Field Malone called my conviction a “*victorious defeat*.” (Oxymoron)



The End