

Reading activity 3

Trial by Jury

10 Today I witnessed the trial of a fine man, Socrates –
19 a philosopher who questioned the existence of the gods
29 as recognised by the state. Socrates knew how the court
40 system worked but when he was found guilty by a vote
52 of 280 to 220 men, he was angry. His accusers suggested
61 that the punishment should be the death penalty. Socrates
69 found the charges against him ridiculous so initially
78 responded with the sarcastic remark that he should be
86 rewarded! He eventually suggested his fine should be
96 one piece of silver. If Socrates had proposed a stronger
104 punishment (for example, exile from Athens), the jury
110 probably would have voted for it.

120 But he left them little choice by not treating the
122 trial seriously...



Quick Questions



1. How many men were on the jury?



2. Which two words mean the same as 'recommended'?



3. Summarise the main points of this text in 20 words or less.



4. What do you think happened to Socrates in the end?
