

Episode Ten: The Best Defense is a Good Defense

Name: Date:

1. Why does the judge in Adnan’s first trial ask the question that he does of the potential jurors?

2. Why does Adnan’s mom believe that Adnan was arrested for the murder of Hae? Does Sarah, the narrator, believe this?

3. According to the prosecutor, why should Adnan not be permitted to be released on bail? Would it have been prejudice if he was denied bail based on her arguments? Explain.

4. For what does the prosecutor apologize to the judge? Should such “mistakes” be allowed in court. Do you believe that such “mistakes” can make a difference in a case? Explain.

5. According to the jury, what role did religion play in the trial? What role did his “culture” play in the trial according to the jurors statements?

6. What was Adnan’s biggest criticism of his lawyer, Christina Gutierrez, during his trial? How did he feel about her generally?

7. Why does Adnan’s first trial end in a mistrial? Why did some believe that the mistrial was Christina’s fault?

8. According to the poll conducted after the mistrial, how was the jury leaning in regards to whether or not they believed that Adnan was guilty?

9. How many days did she cross examine Jay?

10. In what way was Adnan’s lawyer, Christina Gutierrez, ineffective in her cross examination of Jay (based on what Adnan states, what you hear in her cross examination and Sarah’s narrative)?

11. As Sarah states, Adnan’s lawyer, Christine Gutierrez, puts a lot of effort into discrediting Jay. However, despite this effort, the jurors still believed him. What does Sarah believe that she should have put more effort into presenting in trial?

12. What information does Jay provide during cross-examination that Christine Gutierrez “freaks out about”? What is the problem with this whole transaction? Why was it so “patently improper”?

13. Why does the judge not believe that the above discussed scenario is a reason for a mistrial? Explain. Do you agree?

14. How long did it take for the Adnan’s defense to present its witnesses?

15. Why does Sarah not believe that Adnan’s lawyer, Christina Gutierrez, threw Adnan’s first case so that she may be paid to present an appeal?

16. Why did Adnan’s parents want to hire Christina Gutierrez to represent Adnan? How did her actions, especially towards the end, make them question her?

17. What happened in the Whitman’s case (also represented by Christina Gutierrez)? In other words, how could someone argue that she wasn’t a stellar lawyer in this case. Give examples.

18. What happened in the Whitman’s case in January of 2001?

19. Sarah states that just a year after Adnan’s case, Christina Gutierrez’s career had collapsed with clients complaining and the involvement of the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland. How much money was paid out as a result?

20. Why does Sarah not seem to believe that Adnan wanted his lawyer, Christina Gutierrez, to seek a plea deal?

21. Why does Adnan have such a slim chance of getting out early?

22. At this point, what are your feelings about Adnan’s guilt in Hae’s murder?