

More Human Yet More Complex: Prompt 4

Throughout this unit we acted this period and strike out as a mock trial. In doing so, it made the event feel more human, yet at the same time, more complicated.

On one hand, acting this unit out made the strike/lockout feel more real, not like I'm just reading about an event from the past. When we acted it out, and it made it feel like I was really there, so I get a better sense of what was happening, and sort of how the people really felt. When we did this mock trial – at least as an attorney – we went really in depth, and I kind of got to know the witnesses as real people and not just figures of history.

On the contrary, it made the unit really complicated, sometimes ignorance is bliss. Getting to know the people as real people made it hard. Frick for instance, his son had just died, and his daughter also passed away before as well, and as you could imagine, he did not take it greatly, and at the same time he is being told to do this and that for the Carnegie company. That especially made it hard to judge his character. Getting really in depth, to know the case well enough is also hard, when you just study the history, you skim the surface of it, but acting it out, you go deep down.

All and all, this unit was a great way of learning history. You get to go in depth, know the event almost as if you were there. It can be complicated, but so can everything else, so I think balances itself out.

A Philanthropist in Daylight, Tyrant in Darkness: Prompt 8

Carnegie was a businessman, no doubt about it. Yet in daylight, he built colleges, and libraries, pretty much to cover up the mistakes he made, and rebuild his public image. But without those colleges, Pittsburgh would not be where it is today. I find this highly ironic; the man behind the dreaded steel mill, is the reason Pittsburgh is thriving today.

In my theory, the only reason why he built these libraries, – one of which we got our resources from – as well as the colleges in Pittsburgh, was because he was so focused on repairing his public image after the Homestead Strike. If it were not for the *alleged* fact that ten people died because of his orders for a lockout, he likely wouldn't have needed to build another library, or any if he would have had good working conditions. In daylight he built libraries and schools, yet in darkness, he deteriorated men's lives as they worked tirelessly in the steel mill. I find that highly ironic.

To this day, without the Carnegie libraries or colleges, Pittsburgh would not be a thriving city, it would be much like Buffalo or Cleveland. Without the strike, or lockout, Pittsburgh would likely still be struggling to rebuild itself as an industrial city. Now how ironic is it that he killed workers, yet built libraries to cover it up.