**AXES October focus: Characterization**

**A-** In Reginald Rose’s 1957 New York court drama *Twelve Angry Men*, Juror Number Eight uses his wit to show that he will not be bullied by opposing jurors.

**X-** In Act I, the jurors are discussing pieces of evidence. The man that lives in the apartment below the boy and his father claims he heard the boy say, “I’m gonna kill you” (15). On page 37, the Eighth Juror states that “I’m gonna kill you” is a phrase that is trite in society; however, the Third Juror claims that “Anybody says a thing like that the way he [boy] said it, they mean it.”

**E-** At the end of Act I, the Third and Eighth Jurors have an altercation, and the Third Juror says, “I’ll kill him!” The Eighth Juror, remaining calm, cleverly replies, “You don’t really mean you’ll kill me, do you?” (48). The Eighth Juror proves that people do say this phrase unintentionally, which contradicts what the Third Juror says earlier in the act.

**S-** The Eighth Juror uses his words to make his points instead of raising his voice like the bullies do. It is important to stand your ground in a non-violent way so you aren’t stooping down to the bullies’ level.