



“Philadelphia” Movie Questions

1. What disease does Andrew Beckett have? Why is it such a serious matter?

HIV/Aids. It is such a serious matter because there is no known cure and the disease attacks the immune system.

2. What type of reputation did Andrew (Tom Hanks) have as a lawyer? Support your answer with 1 piece of evidence from the film.

Andrew had a great reputation and was respected amongst his colleagues. This is evident in the scene when he first arrives back at the office after his bloodwork. His coworkers congratulate him on a good job and others like to make conversation with him. He was a great lawyer and was given the highline case and promoted to senior associate.

3. What type of lawyer was Denzel Washington before the "big case" involving Andrew? State a scene to support your answer.

Personal injury lawyer: he only gets money if they win, "TV guy" adds on TV. Andy makes a joke in the elevator asking him if the man on crutches was his client.

4. Describe Joe Miller's (Denzel Washington) first reaction to Andrew (Tom Hanks) when he was searching for a litigator for his case against the law firm. How many lawyers did Andrew go to before he went to Joe?

scared of him, wanted to stay far away, doesn't want to be near AIDS, didn't think the case would win. Didn't take the case at first because he didn't want to get AIDS because he didn't like gays. 9 Lawyers.

5. List some signs and symptoms that Andrew goes through with his disease throughout the film.

Lesions on his face and body. Loss of vision. Fatigue. Loss of weight. Hard time breathing. Throwing up.

6. Name 3 scenes from the film that displayed society's fear of HIV/Aids. Or Society's negative views of homosexuality.

Joe pulled away from Andrew's handshake very fast after discovering he has AIDS. Joe tells his wife he doesn't like working with a gay person because he might touch him. Different people in the film think that they can catch HIV/AIDS from Andrew. Joe even sees a doctor and asks him if it is contagious. Joe admits to being homophobic to his wife. Librarian asking Andrew to move. The high level bosses thought Andrew belonged to homosexual groups and went to

bars all night. The bartender.

7. What is the name of the law that Andrew tells Joe about in the library? What is its significance to Andrew's case? (Joe reads it outloud)

Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Prohibits discrimination against otherwise qualified handicap persons who are able to perform the duties required by their employment. Aids is protected as a handicap by law because it imposes physical weakness to the body and because there is a lot of prejudice surrounding the disease.

8. Discuss the specific scene in the film that changed Joe's outlook about Andrew's case. (And Homosexuals in General) What happened in the scene?

During the costume party, which was a gay party, it happened when Joe was slow dancing with his wife and watching Miguel and Andy dance and saw them as equals.

9. In regards to the trial, who were the **defendants** and **what were they trying to prove** and who were the **plaintiffs** and **what were they trying to prove?**

Plaintiffs- Andrew and Joe. They were trying to prove that Andrew was framed and the files for the case were never lost. His bosses knew he had aids and wanted an excuse to fire him. They were discriminating against him because he had aids and was a homosexual. Andrew was always a good lawyer and never made a mistake in the first place.

Defendants- Whyatt Wheeler They were trying to prove that Andrew could have

lost them a big client and made a mistake with important documents. They said Andrew had an attitude problem and no longer had a trusted future at the firm.

10. Discuss 2 courtroom scenes that helped Denzel Washington and Tom Hanks win the case. (Andrew and Joe) Be Specific! (Who said what)

- First Witness Lies about Andrews Quality of work. "Bologna Sandwich"
- Women with lesions who used to work for the same firm was discriminated against as well at work. She tells the jury everyone with the disease is the same.
- Secretary testifies that Wyatt and Wheeler knew Andrew had AIDS and it was obvious. She also says that she was discriminated against as well for being African American.
- Multiple employees testify that Andrew was a good boss and great lawyer.
- Joe makes everyone realize that homosexuals are discriminated against very strongly and this case was more about Andrew being gay than having AIDS.
- CEO of the law firm admits to physically abusing a homosexual in the past and having hatred toward them

- Mr. Simon said he suspected that Hanks had AIDS

Wyatt Wheeler Hellerman Tetlow and Brown

