

Thomas Hobbes Reflection Chart

Put yourself in the mind of Thomas Hobbes. Answer each question below as he might have, based on his beliefs about authority, order, and safety in society.

Question	Your Response (as Thomas Hobbes)
What does Hobbes mean when he says life without government is “nasty, brutish, and short”? How does this idea relate to Éloïse’s trial?	
Why does Hobbes believe strong laws and punishment are necessary for keeping people safe and society in order?	
Some people said Éloïse’s trial was unfair. What does Hobbes say is more dangerous than one unfair trial? Why does he believe that?	
What does Hobbes say about finding a balance between being too harsh and too weak? How does the court’s decision to give Éloïse life in prison fit into this idea?	
Why does Hobbes care more about safety and public order than about perfect justice? Do you agree with his view? Why or why not?	

