

I'M GOING TO FEDERAL COURT!



with
MARK & JULIE



AN ACTIVITY BOOK for children going to Federal Court

Written by Ellen Alexander
Illustrated by John Suhr



This Activity Book was created by the National Crime Research and Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina. This activity book was adapted from the "Inside Federal Court" video, produced by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Indiana by the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Medical College of South Carolina. Funding for both the video and activity book was received from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.

Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
Advocating for the Fair
Treatment of Crime Victims

I'M GOING TO FEDERAL COURT WHAT WILL I DO THERE?

A companion to the "Inside Federal Court" video



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



AN ACTIVITY BOOK

for Children Going to Federal Court

This activity book has games, puzzles and information for all sizes of children ... big or little. You do not have to complete all of the activities ... just do the ones you like. If some of the activities are too hard, ask a friend or family member to help you. Maybe they would like to learn more about going to court too! Most of all, we hope you'll have some fun while you learn all about court.

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HI, WE'RE

MARK & JULIE!



We're MARK & JULIE ... CUB REPORTERS! We heard you have to go to FEDERAL COURT to be a WITNESS. You may not know what COURT is or why people go there. You may not know what a WITNESS is and why it is important for you to be one. You may have lots of questions about Court and don't know who to ask. It's our job to take you inside FEDERAL COURT so you can learn all about Court, see who works there and learn what your job will be.

We hope that after you have learned all about Court and why people go there, you'll feel better about being a Witness. LET'S GET STARTED!

Mark & Julie's Hidden Message #1



Can you break the code to discover the hidden message? Fill in the letters using the numbers to break the code.

12	20	6	16	9	5	13	4	
10	19	11	9	5	9	17		
8	5	11	15	9	13	7		
12	5		11	5	1	16	13	
1	11	11		1	2	14	19	18
3	14	19	16	18				

Hidden Word Key:

1 = A
2 = B
3 = C
4 = D
5 = E

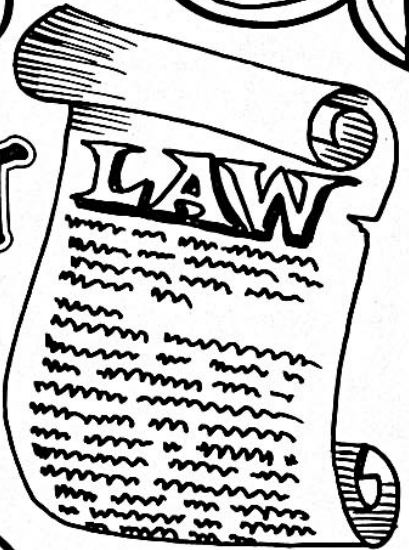
6 = F
7 = G
8 = H
9 = I
10 = J

11 = L
12 = M
13 = N
14 = O
15 = P

16 = R
17 = S
18 = T
19 = U
20 = Y

(To check your answer, turn to the Answer Page at the end of the book.)

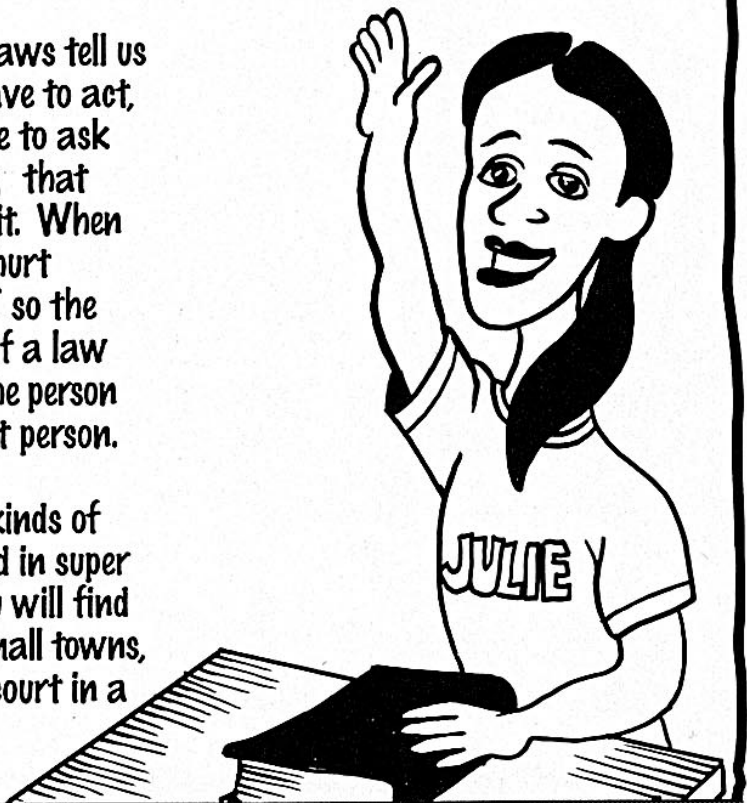
WHAT IS FEDERAL COURT AND WHY DO PEOPLE GO THERE?

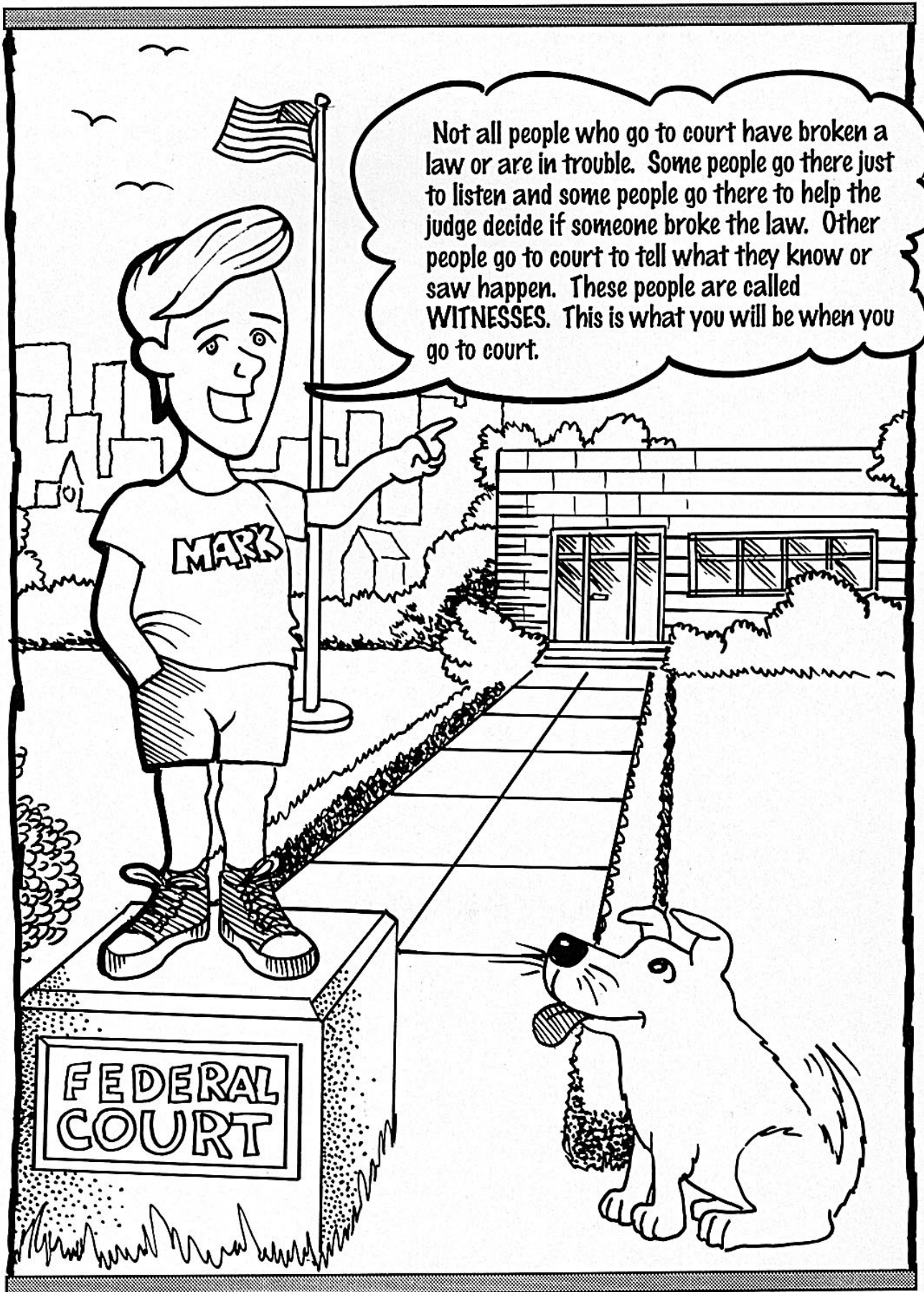


FEDERAL COURT is a place where we go to see if someone broke a law against the government of the United States. A LAW is a rule that everyone has to follow so that everyone in the country is safe. Laws are like the rules you have to follow at home or school except everybody has to follow them.

There are all kinds of laws. Some laws tell us how fast we can drive, how we have to act, and some laws tell us that we have to ask someone if we can have something that belongs to them before we can take it. When we think someone broke a law or hurt someone, they have to go to COURT so the people who work there can decide if a law was broken and if the defendant (the person we think broke the law) is the right person.

Federal Courts can be found in all kinds of different places. They can be found in super tall buildings or in little rooms. You will find Federal Courts in big cities and in small towns, but most of the time you will find court in a Federal Court.





Not all people who go to court have broken a law or are in trouble. Some people go there just to listen and some people go there to help the judge decide if someone broke the law. Other people go to court to tell what they know or saw happen. These people are called **WITNESSES**. This is what you will be when you go to court.

WHAT IS A WITNESS AND WHY DO I HAVE TO BE ONE?

A **WITNESS** is a person who goes to court to tell about what they know, saw or had done to them by somebody who may have broken a law. A witness does this by going to court and answering questions.

It is important for you to go to court because the **JUDGE** and the **JURY** (the people who decide if someone broke a law) were not there when the law might have been broken. They do not know what you saw, felt or heard. Only you can tell them. They need you to tell them so they can decide if the law was broken and if the **DEFENDANT** (the person who may have broken a law) is the person who broke the law.



I'M AFRAID

ABOUT

GOING TO COURT

DO ALL KIDS FEEL THIS WAY?



Anytime someone does something new, they get a little afraid and nervous.

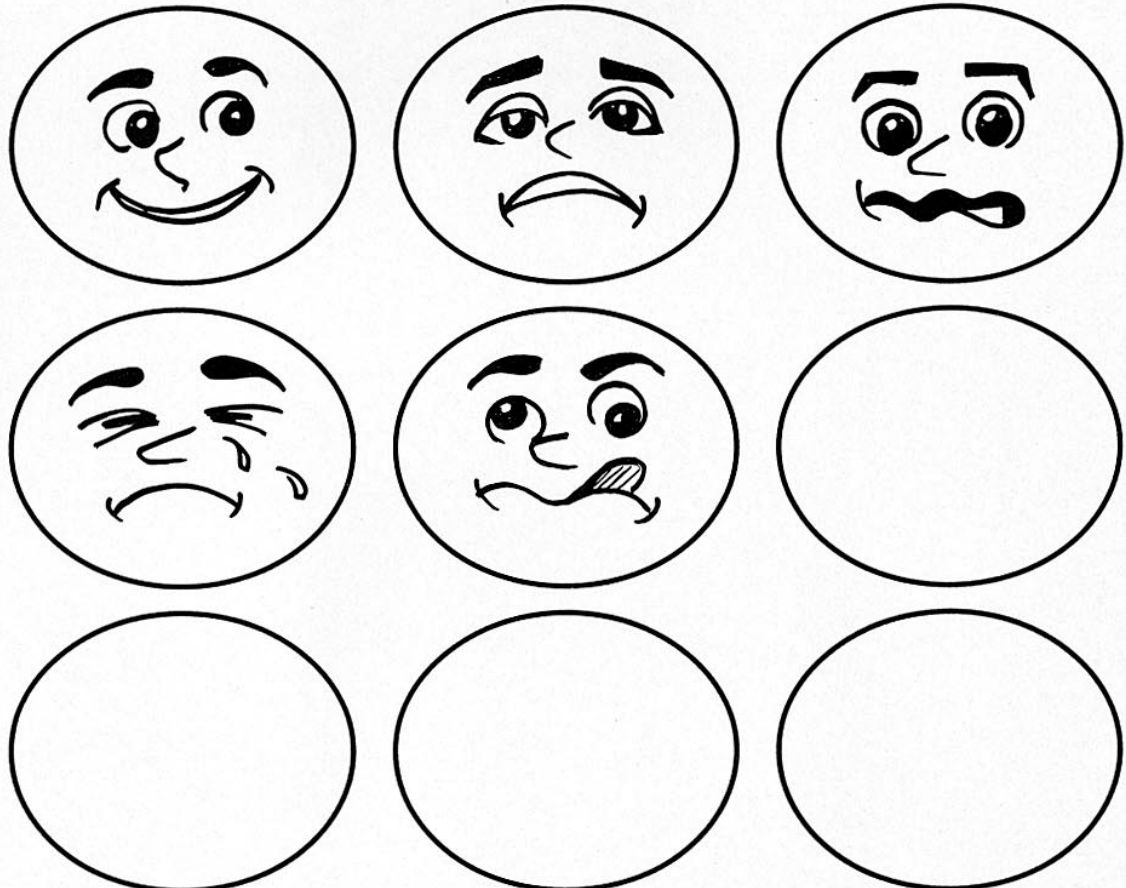
Some kids may not tell any of their friends because they are afraid their friends would think they did something wrong. They don't know that a lot of kids have to go to court.

If you are feeling mixed-up about going to Court, there are people who would like for you to talk to them about your feelings. You can talk to your parents, grandparents, teacher, or anyone else who makes you feel good and safe.

There are people who work at the courthouse who can help you understand too. Let's go meet them and all of the other people you'll see in court.

"FEELING FACES"

These kids are going to court. Some are happy, some are sad and some are nervous. How do you feel about going to court? Circle the face that best shows how you are feeling. If none of the faces shows your feelings -- draw your own "feeling face"



OR ...write a story or a poem about how you are feeling.

DOT-TO-DOT

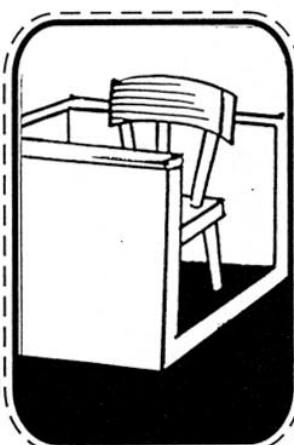
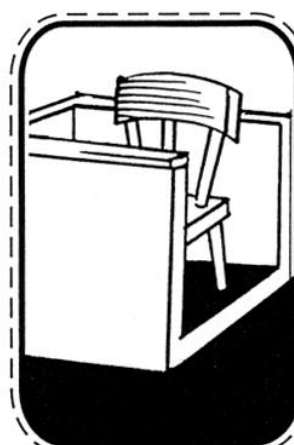
Connect the dots to show where Mark is sitting.



Now that you have connected all of the dots, what is Mark sitting in?

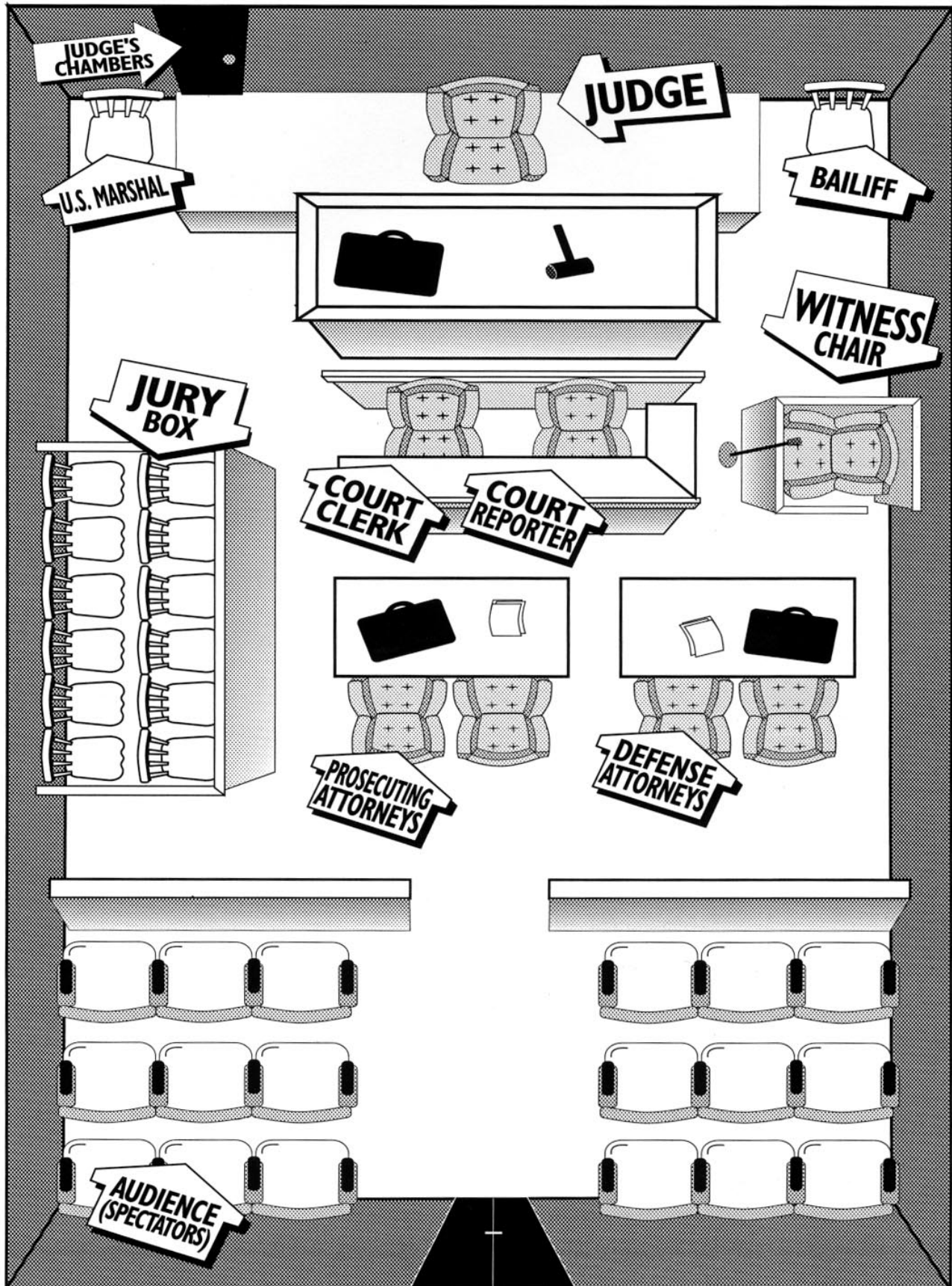
(Look at the Answer Sheet to check your answer)

MATCH GAME



1. Color the playing cards.
2. Cut the cards out and glue them on squares of poster paper or cardboard.
3. Mix the cards together and put them face down (no peeking) on the floor or table.
4. Turn the cards over two at a time and try to match the ones that have the same picture.
5. If you don't have a match, lay the cards back where they were and the next player's turn begins.
6. When you have a match, take the cards and put them next to you. (Hint: You can play this game with a friend, brother or sister. The winner of the game is the person with the most matches.)

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF A TYPICAL COURTROOM



WHAT DO THESE PEOPLE DO IN COURT?



Court Reporter

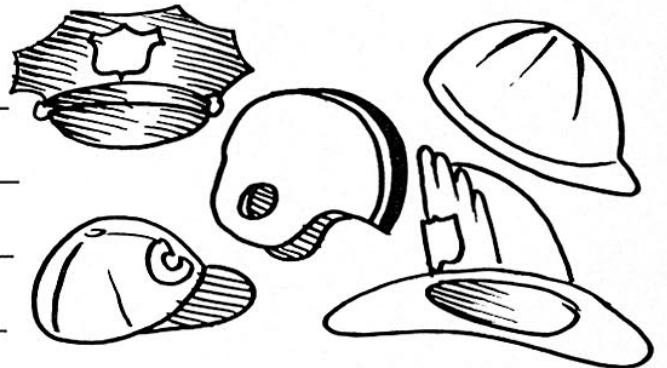
A COURT REPORTER writes down everything that is said in the courtroom. He or she uses a special machine called a STENOGRAPH. It is like a typewriter but it is very fast. In some courts the COURT REPORTER uses a tape recorder to help hear everything in the courtroom. Most Court Reporters use a microphone to help them hear what the witness is saying. You will want to talk in a normal voice, not too quiet and not too loud. If you answer a question that is a yes or no question, you should say "yes" or "no". The Court Reporter can't write down that you shook your head "yes" or "no".

U.S. Deputy Marshal

The U.S. DEPUTY MARSHAL makes sure that everyone in the courtroom is safe. He or she is there to make sure that everyone behaves while they are in court.

Who else do you know that wears a uniform? Write them down Here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Court Clerk

The COURT CLERK will ask you to raise your right hand and promise to tell the truth about what you know or saw happen. This promise is called an oath. After you take an oath you should always tell the truth. Remember, everybody that goes to court must tell the truth.

Bailiff

The Bailiff is the person who tells us when it is time for court to start and when the judge is ready to enter the courtroom. This lets everyone know they should sit down and be very quiet so court can start. In some courtrooms, the Bailiff will call out your name when it is time for you to go to the witness chair.

HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE?

How many words can you find in the word "WITNESS CHAIR"? The first two have been done for you. (Hint: there are over 15)

WITNESS CHAIR

NEST

NICE

WHAT DOES THE JUDGE DO IN COURT?

The person who makes sure that everyone follows the rules when they are in court is called a **JUDGE**. The Judge is the boss of the courtroom.

In some courts the **JUDGE** wears a black robe so everyone will know that he or she is the **JUDGE**. **JUDGES** come in all different colors and sizes just like you do. A **JUDGE** can be young or old, tall or short, a man or woman.

Because the **JUDGE** has to go to school for a long time to learn all about the law, we show our respect for the **JUDGE** by calling him or her "**YOUR HONOR**".



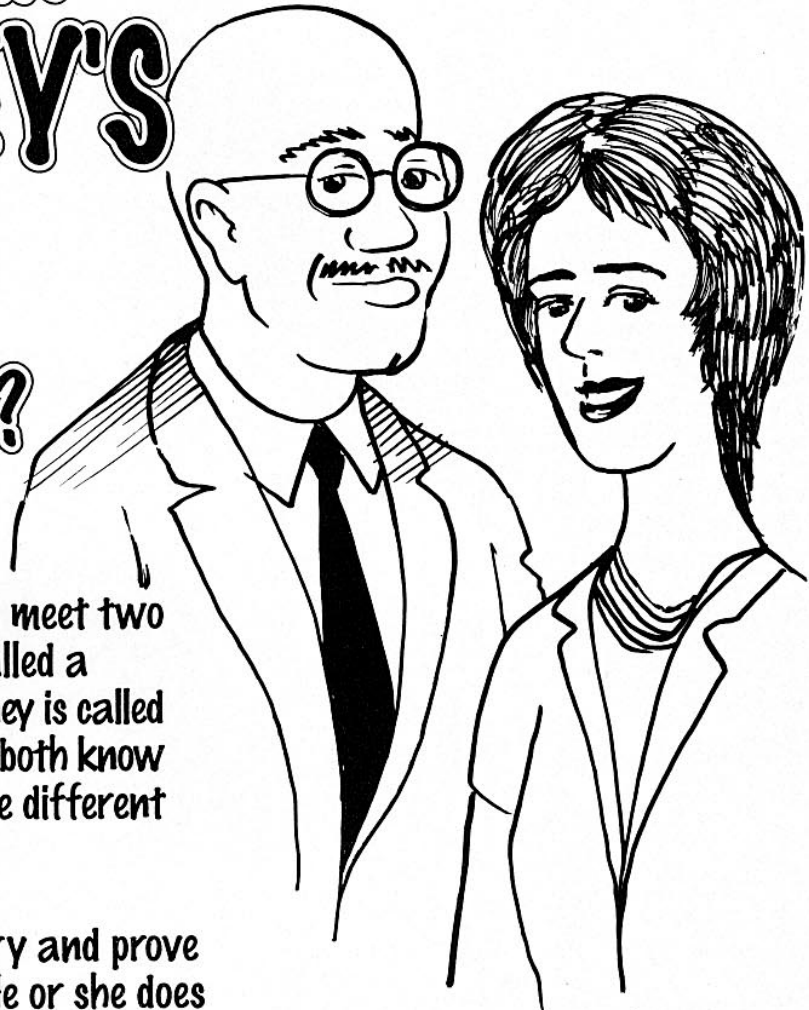
Now that you know what the Judge does in the courtroom, circle the correct answer to the question.

What is the Judge's job?



- A. Write poetry.
- B. Listen to records or CD's.
- C. Make sure the rules of the courtroom are followed.
- D. Knit a sweater for his or her dog.

WHAT IS AN ATTORNEY'S JOB IN COURT?

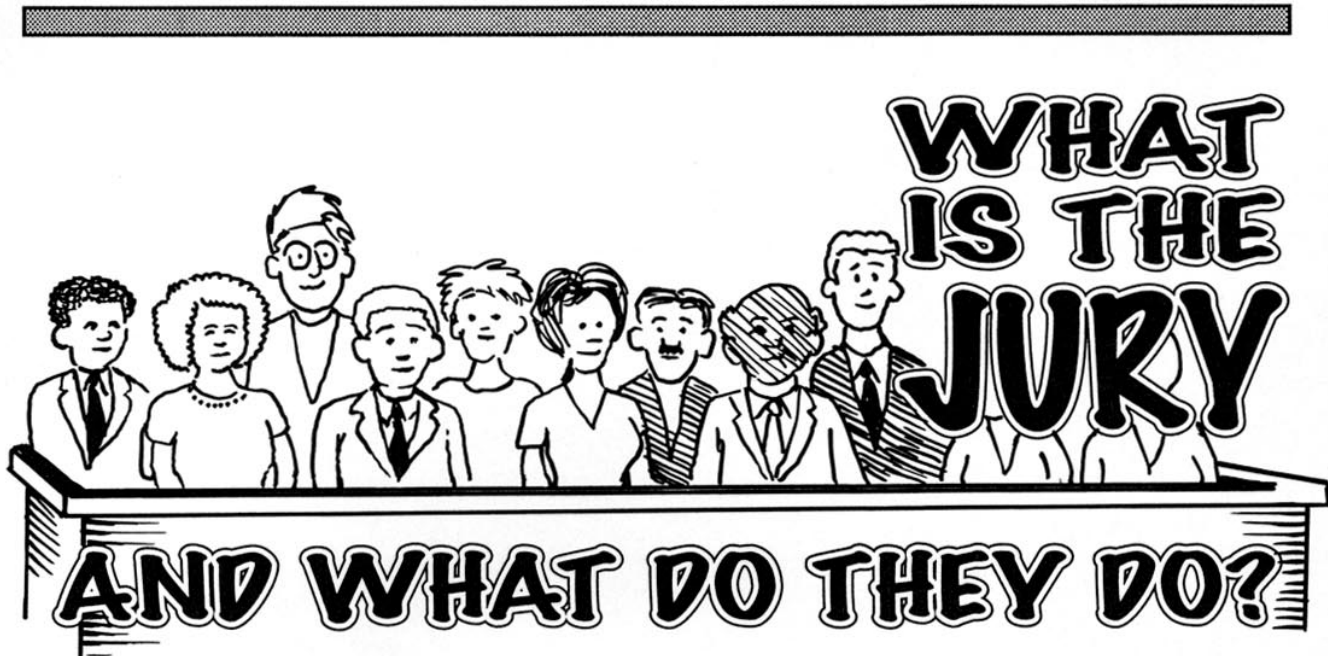


When you go to court you will meet two attorneys. One attorney is called a **PROSECUTOR** and other attorney is called the **DEFENSE ATTORNEY**. They both know a lot about laws but they have different jobs in the courtroom.

The **PROSECUTOR'S** job is to try and prove the **Defendant** broke a law. He or she does this by showing **Evidence**. **EVIDENCE** means to show the judge or jury information about something that happened. Evidence can also be what a witness, like you, says in court.

The **DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S** job is to help make sure the **DEFENDANT** is treated fairly. The **Defense Attorney** will also help the **Judge** and **Jury** decide if the **Defendant** broke the law. He or she does this by trying to show **EVIDENCE** that the defendant did not break the law.

Both the **Prosecutor** and the **Defense Attorney** will ask you questions. If you do not understand a question, tell the attorney that you don't understand. He or she will ask you in a way that you can.



In some courts, the Judge decides if a person broke a law. In other courts, the Judge has people to help him or her decide if a person broke the law. They are called the **JURY**. The Jury's job is to listen very carefully to everything that is said in the courtroom about a case. After all of the witnesses have finished telling what they saw or know, the **JURY** decides if the Defendant is **GUILTY** or **NOT GUILTY** of breaking a law. "**GUILTY**" means that the **JURY** thinks the Defendant did break the law and "**NOT GUILTY**" means the **JURY** does not think the Defendant broke the law.

The **JURY** will not ask you questions, they will just listen to what you and all of the other witnesses have to say. It is not your job to make sure the **JURY** thinks the Defendant broke the law. Your job is to tell the **TRUTH** about what you know, saw or felt about what happened.

What is the Jury's job in court?

Circle the right answer.



- A. To have a party.
- B. To play loud music and sing and dance.
- C. To help the Judge decide if the Defendant broke the law?
- D. Shop for new clothes.

DEFENDANT

A **DEFENDANT** is a person we think might have broken a law. The Defendant has to go to court so the Judge and the Jury can decide if the Defendant broke a law.

The Defendant has someone who helps to make sure the Judge and Jury hears or sees everything that is known about the case. This person is called the **DEFENSE ATTORNEY**. The Defense Attorney will ask you questions when you go to court.

VICTIM ADVOCATE

A **VICTIM ADVOCATE** works with the Prosecutor and knows all about court. He or she will help you and your family understand what will happen when you go to court and what your job will be as a witness. Your Victim Advocate will help you learn all about the people you will see in court and what the rules of court are. He or she will help you understand some of the words you will hear in court. It is the Victim Advocate's job to help you feel comfortable as possible about going to court.

In some courthouses, the Victim Advocate is able to take **KIDS** on a tour of the courthouse and courtroom before they go to court. Sometimes they can't do this because court gets so busy or the courthouse is too far away from your house. If you can't go see the courthouse before you go to court, you might ask your Victim Advocate how a courtroom looks by asking him or her to draw you a picture of a courtroom and show you where you will sit. The Victim Advocate may even have a picture of the courthouse or courtroom to show you.

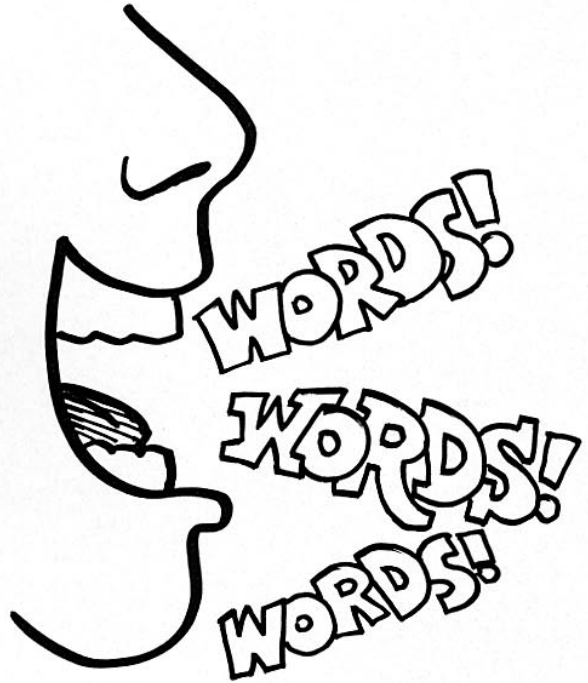


A COURTROOM

Draw a picture of what you think the courtroom will look like. You can ask your victim advocate or an adult to help you. (Hint: You might want to think about the courtrooms you have seen on TV or in a book or if you and your Victim Advocate went on a tour of the courthouse, draw what the courtroom looked like.)

WORDS YOU MIGHT HEAR IN COURT

We have talked about the people you will see in the courtroom. Here are some new words that you might also hear when you go to court.



Law ... Rule that each town, city, tribe or state has to make sure that everyone that lives there is safe.

WORDS!



Charge ... When we say the Defendant broke a law, the people who work in court have to tell the Defendant what law he or she may have broken. This is called a charge.

WORDS!



Crime ... When a law has been broken.

WORDS!



Gavel ... A wooden hammer the Judge bangs to make everyone in the courtroom be quiet.

WORDS!



Jury Box... A special place in the courtroom where the Jury sits.

WORDS!



Trial ... When a Defendant says he or she did not break the law, the Judge has a meeting to decide if he or she did break the law. This meeting is called a Trial.

WORDS!



Testimony ... What the witness says in court and the court reporter writes down.

MORE WORDS YOU MIGHT HEAR IN COURT



Testify ... When a witness comes to court to tell what he or she knows or saw happen.



Recess ... When the Judge lets everyone take a break to go to the bathroom, have a drink of water, or go to lunch.



Statement... What a witness tells the police or writes down about what he or she knows, saw, or heard when the law was broken.



Cross-examine... After a witness has answered the Prosecutor's questions, the Defense Attorney gets to ask the Witness questions too.



Sentence ... The punishment the Defendant gets if he or she broke the law.

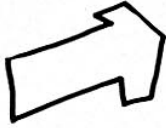


Plea... When the Defendant goes to court, the Judge will ask the Defendant if he or she broke the law. The Defendant will answer yes or no. This is called a plea. When a Defendant admits that he or she broke the law, the Judge does not have to make the witnesses come to court to tell what they know or saw happen.



Postponement... Sometimes the people who work in court get sick or have to go out-of-town and can't go to court. When this happens, the Judge will change the day everyone has to go to court to another day so everyone can be there. In some courts, a postponement is called a CONTINUANCE. The Prosecutor or your Victim Advocate will tell you the new day you have to go to court.

MATCH THE WORD GAME



Draw a line from the word to the definition that tells what the word means.



THE WORDS

1. DEFENSE ATTORNEY
2. JUDGE
3. JURY
4. PROSECUTOR
5. GAVEL
6. LAWS
7. JURY BOX
8. WITNESS
9. COURTROOM
10. BENCH
11. MICROPHONE
12. Victim Advocate

THE DEFINITIONS

- Makes sure the rules of court are followed.
- Rules everyone has to follow so we are safe.
- Where the Jury sits in the courtroom
- Person who tries to show the Defendant broke a law.
- People who decide if the Defendant broke the law.
- What a witness might talk into so that he or she can be heard by everyone in the courtroom.
- Name of the place the Judge sits in the courtroom.
- Person who sits in a special chair and tells what they know or saw happen.
- What the Judge bangs to make everyone be quiet.
- Person who helps the Defendant.
- Place we go to decide if the Defendant broke the law.
- Person who helps us understand what our job is when we go to court.

WORD SCRAMBLE



UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS by changing the letters around. You will find some silly words mixed in. Circle all of the silly words you find. The first one is done for you.

C O U R T

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R T C O U

W I T S S E N

C N D A Y

J Y R U

A T C

L E S U R

S A B E L L A B

G V A L E

T R T H U

D U J G E

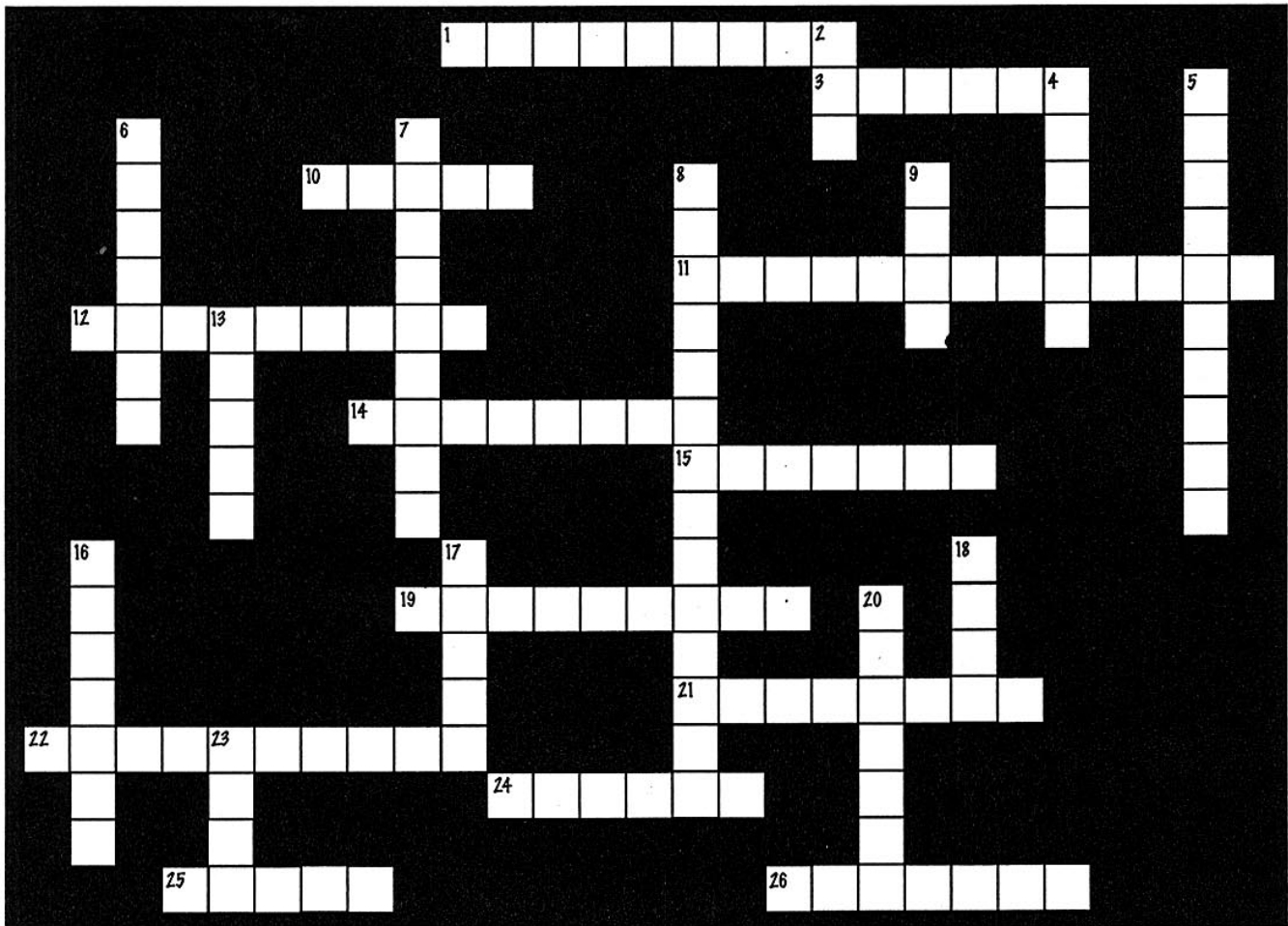
A T H O

B U B L E S B

Look at the Answer Page at the end of the activity book to check your answers.

MARK & JULIE'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Follow the clues across and down to find out all of the court words in the puzzle. (Hint: There are a few words that are not court words. You can have a friend or parent help you. Check your answers on the answer page at the end of the activity book.)



ACROSS

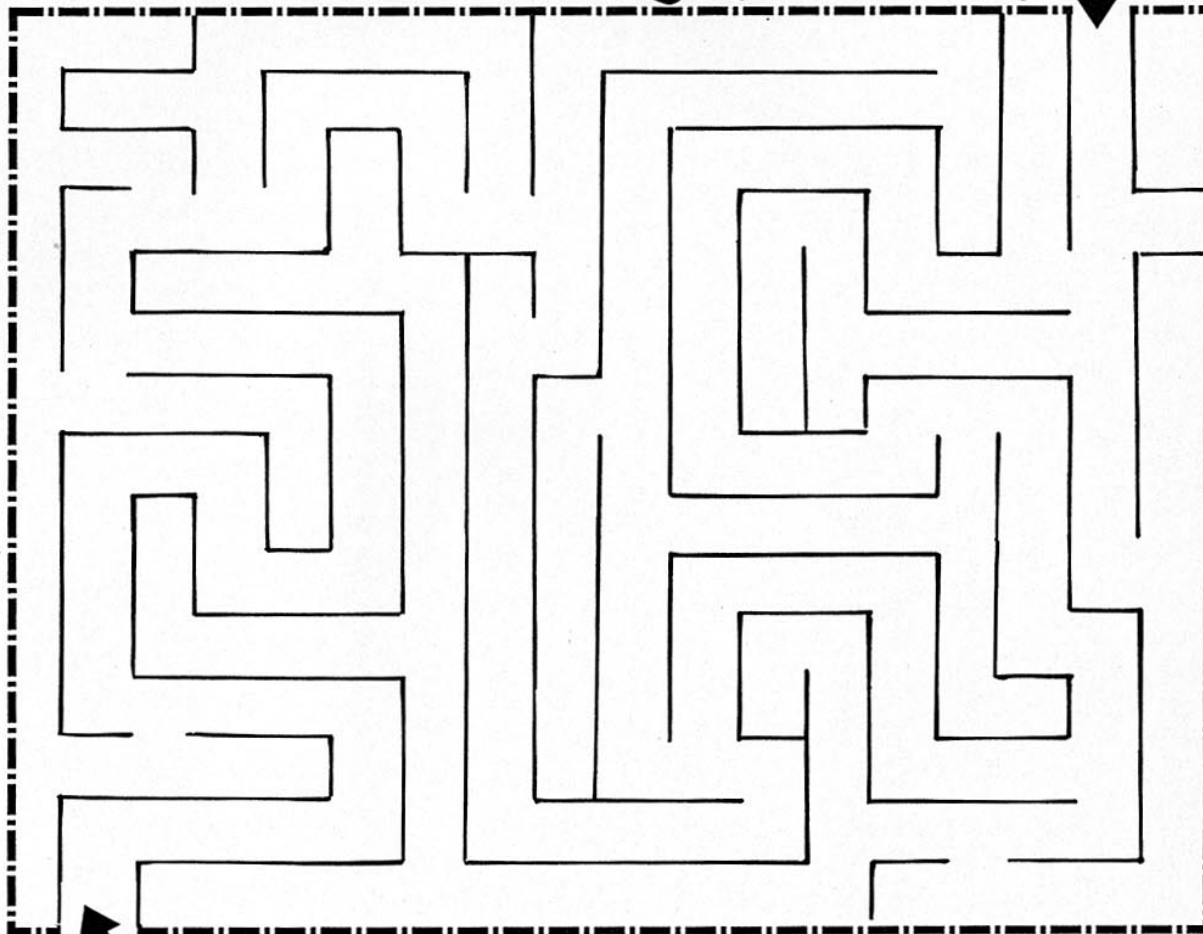
1. Helps keep everyone in the courtroom safe.
3. BJ's friend who helps him find someone to tell him all about court.
10. If you don't know the answer, don't do this.
11. Person who takes down everything said in the courtroom.
12. Another word for telling what we know or saw happen.
14. Something you should use before you go to court.
15. What dogs, cats, deer and raccoons are.
19. What the Prosecutor and Defense Attorney will ask you
21. Another name for lawyer.
22. What you talk into when you go to court.
24. Something you do with your ears and you should do very carefully before answering questions.
25. What a witness sits in.
26. Means to tell what you know or saw happen.

DOWN

2. A rule everybody has to follow.
4. The color of bananas.
5. Game BJ and his friends like to play.
6. Another word for a special person.
7. What we call the person who may have broken the law. 8. Person who helps us learn all about court. (He or she probably gave you this book.)
9. People who help the Judge decide if he Defendant broke the law.
13. What you must ALWAYS tell when you are in court.
16. Person who lets us know when court is ready to begin.
17. Boss of the courtroom.
18. What a dog likes to chew.
20. How you may feel before you go to court.
23. A promise to tell the truth.

GETTING READY TO GO TO COURT

Trace the path from your home to the courthouse.



FINISH!

Here are some things you will want to do before you go to court:

- ✓ Pick out what you will wear to court the night before you go. You do not have to wear fancy clothes but you should wear clothes that are neat, clean and comfortable.
- ✓ If you are too nervous to sleep, you may want to talk with your family or any grown-up that will make you feel better.
- ✓ Look at this book again to make sure you remember what your job is and what court will be like.
- ✓ The most important thing you can do before you go to court is to RELAX. You are going to do a fantastic job. Remember, all you have to do is to tell the truth when you are asked questions.




PICTURE STORY


Write the word above the picture in the story to tell the story. This is a good story to share with your family..

The night before I go to court, I need to get a good night's



and in the morning,  should  a good breakfast.

 can't take my  or  with me when I go to court.

I'll tell them all about court when I get  I need to wear clean

 and go to the bathroom before I leave my house.



When I get to court, I will sit in a



I have to raise my

right  and promise to tell the truth. This is called an oath.

To make sure every  in the courtroom can hear me, I might have to

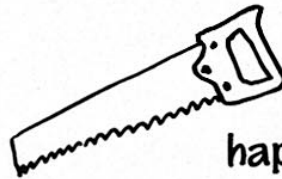
talk into a . If I don't understand a , I should tell

the prosecutor or defense attorney that  don't understand. They

will ask the  a different way. If  need a  of

, I'll tell the judge or my victim advocate.

A witness tells what they know or



happen. A witness is

a very important  and they should always remember

 tell the truth.





WHAT IF I CAN'T REMEMBER SOMETHING OR I DON'T UNDERSTAND A QUESTION?

If you don't know the answer to a question, don't guess or make up an answer. It's okay to say that you don't know or you don't remember.

Don't hurry with your answers. Take as much time as you need to think about your answer. If the Prosecutor or the Defense Attorney asks you a question you don't understand, or if he or she uses words you don't know, it is all right to say that you don't understand the question or know what the word means. It is their job to ask you questions in a way that you can understand.

WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM OR I NEED A GLASS OF WATER?

If you really have to go to the bathroom and you can't wait, ask the Judge if you can take a break. If you are thirsty and need a drink of water, tell the Judge. Remember, court is a very busy place. Ask for a break only if it is really important. Try to remember to go to the bathroom or have a small drink of water just before you go into the courtroom.



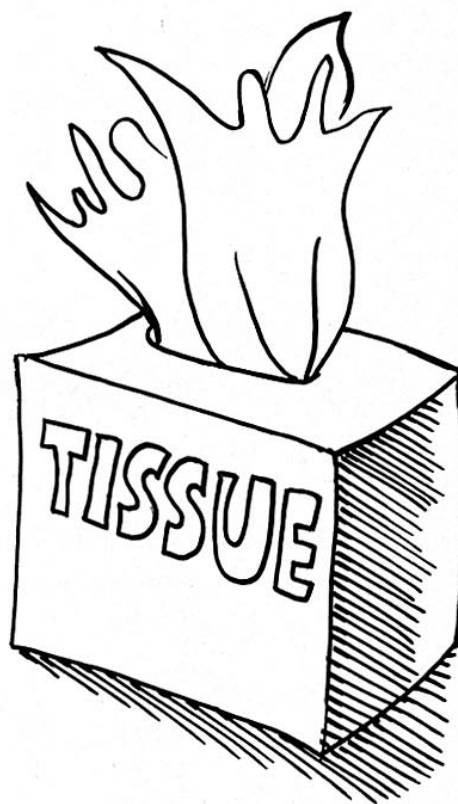


CAN MY MOM, DAD OR FAMILY COME TO COURT WITH ME?

If your Mom, Dad or family knows or saw something about a crime, they might have to go to court to be a witness like you. If they will be witnesses, they may not be able to go in the courtroom with you but you can choose someone else you want to go to court with you or you can ask your Victim Advocate to go to court with you.

WHAT IF I GET SO NERVOUS THAT I START TO CRY OR FORGET THE ANSWER?

Even grown-ups get nervous about going to court. It is very hard for some people to talk about things that hurt or upset them. If you get nervous, take 5 deep breaths or count to 10 silently to help you relax. Even if you cry or forget something, everyone in Court will think you are a special person.



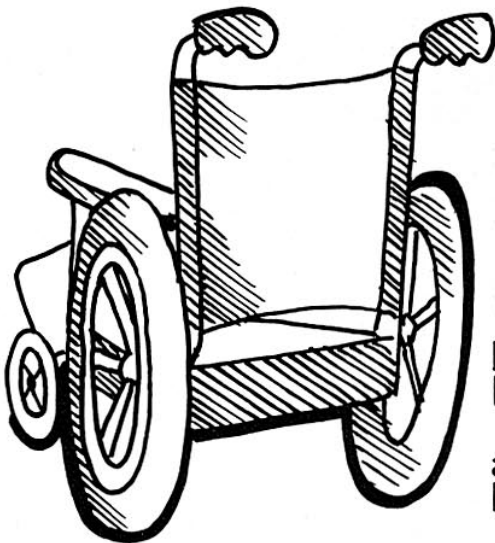
WHAT IF SOMEONE ASKS ME A QUESTION THAT MAKES ME FEEL ASHAMED?

Sometimes witnesses have to talk about things that may make them feel uncomfortable in front of people they don't know...like bad touches on our bodies or to repeat bad words they may have heard the Defendant say.

The people in court know that answering these kinds of questions can be very hard for kids. If you are asked questions that embarrass you and make you feel ashamed, remember the questions you are asked are very important to help the Judge and Jury decide if the Defendant broke the law. The people in court won't think badly of you when you answer these questions.



WHAT IF I'M DIFFERENT FROM OTHER KIDS? WHAT IF I NEED SPECIAL HELP? IS THERE SOMEONE WHO WILL HELP ME?


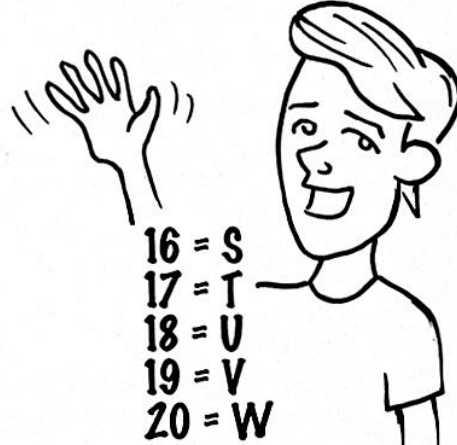


Witnesses come in all shapes and sizes. Some witnesses speak in different languages. Some witnesses may need special help because they are in wheelchairs or have crutches. If you need special help with anything you should let your Victim Advocate know.. Your Victim Advocate will make sure that the people who work give you all of the help you need.

Mark & Julie's Hidden Message #2

Can you break the code to discover the hidden message? Fill in the letters using the numbers to break the code.

8	1	11	6	13	8	12	6	17	13	
3	13	18	15	17	17	13	2	5		
1	20	8	17	12	5	16	16			
17	7	8	16	11	5	1	12	17	8	
7	1	19	5	17	13	17	5	10	10	
17	7	15	9	18	4	6	5	1	12	4
17	7	15	14	5	13	14	10	5	8	12
3	13	18	15	17	20	7	1	17	8	
16	1	10								

Hidden Word Key:

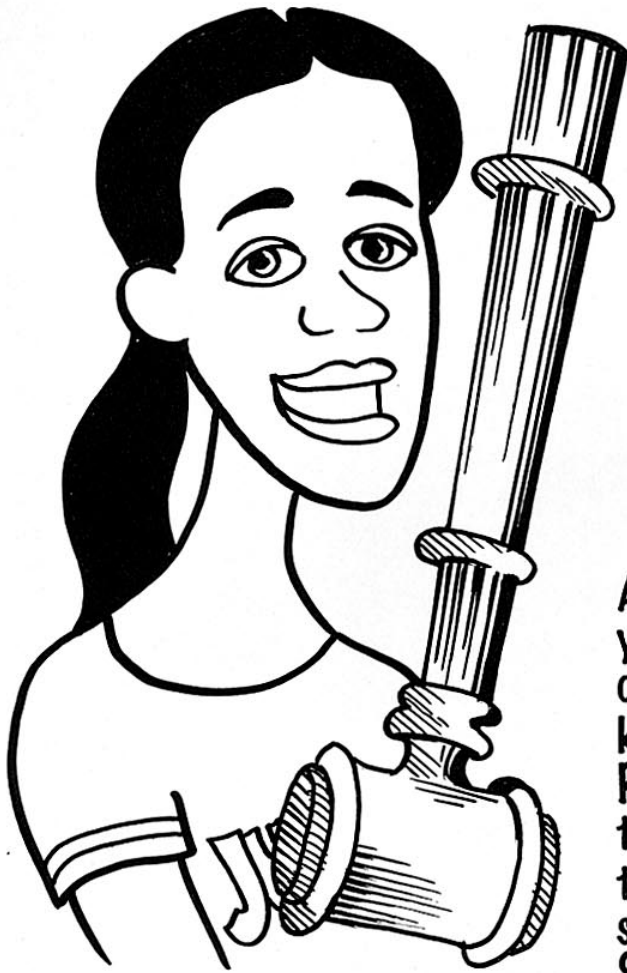
1 = A
2 = B
3 = C
4 = D
5 = E

6 = G
7 = H
8 = I
9 = J
10 = L

11 = M
12 = N
13 = O
14 = P
15 = R

16 = S
17 = T
18 = U
19 = V
20 = W

(To check your answer, turn to the Answer Page at the end of the book.)



WHAT HAPPENS IN COURT AFTER I AM FINISHED BEING A WITNESS?

A trial is like a great big puzzle. When you put a puzzle together, you need all of the pieces if you want to see what kind of picture they make. The Prosecutor and the Defense Attorney try and put all the pieces of information together so the Judge and Jury can see what happened in a case.

Sometimes kids who have to go to court and testify against the Defendant feel bad that they helped the Defendant get punished. But witnesses shouldn't feel bad because they came to court and told the truth. You didn't do anything wrong.

Even if the Judge and the Jury say the Defendant is Not Guilty, it does not mean they did not believe you or the other witnesses. It just means that they did not have all of the puzzle pieces they needed to say the Defendant broke the law.



If you want to find out what happened to the Defendant, you can ask the Victim Advocate or the Prosecutor. They will be happy to talk to you about your feelings so you can understand what happened.

But most important of all, they will want to tell you that you are a very brave person.



Fold the lines together to see the surprise message.

Y
W
D
A
G
J
W
Y
G
T
C

D C P
K L N
O U 4
N O P
O P Q
L L D
Y E N
D C P
Y I Z
G R H
H H J

Y
A
A
V
B
A
S
P

N P Q
M I R
M V C
B R T
D P O
W Q Y
B B X
R E U

O U
I L L
O

R E A T
O B
H E N

O U
O
O
O U R T

O U
R E

E R Y
R A V E
N D
P E C I A L
E R S O N

LINE A

LINE B





MARK & JULIE'S ACTIVITY BOOK ANSWER SHEET



Answer to Mark & Julie's Hidden Message # 1 – Page 3

My friend Julie is helping me to learn all about court.

Answer to what is Mark sitting in? – Page 10

A witness chair

Answer to "How many words Can You Make" Game – page 14

Nest, With, Hair, Air, Tin, Chart, Twin, Their, Newt, Cat, Rain, Sew, Sit, Chest, Rest.

Answers to the "Match the Word" Game – Page 22

Defense Attorney – Person who tries to help the Defendant.

Judge – Makes sure the rules of the court are followed.

Jury – People who decide if the Defendant broke the law.

Prosecutor – Person who tries to show the Defendant broke a law.

Gavel – What the Judge bangs to make everyone be quiet.

Laws – Rules everyone has to follow so we are safe.

Jury Box – Where the Jury sits in the courtroom.

Witness – Person who sits in a special chair and tells what they know or saw happen.

Courtroom – Place we go to decide if the Defendant broke the law.

Bench – Name of the place where the Judge sits in the courtroom.

Microphone – What a witness might talk into so that he or she can be heard by everyone in the courtroom.

Victim Advocate – Person who helps us understand what our job is when we go to court.

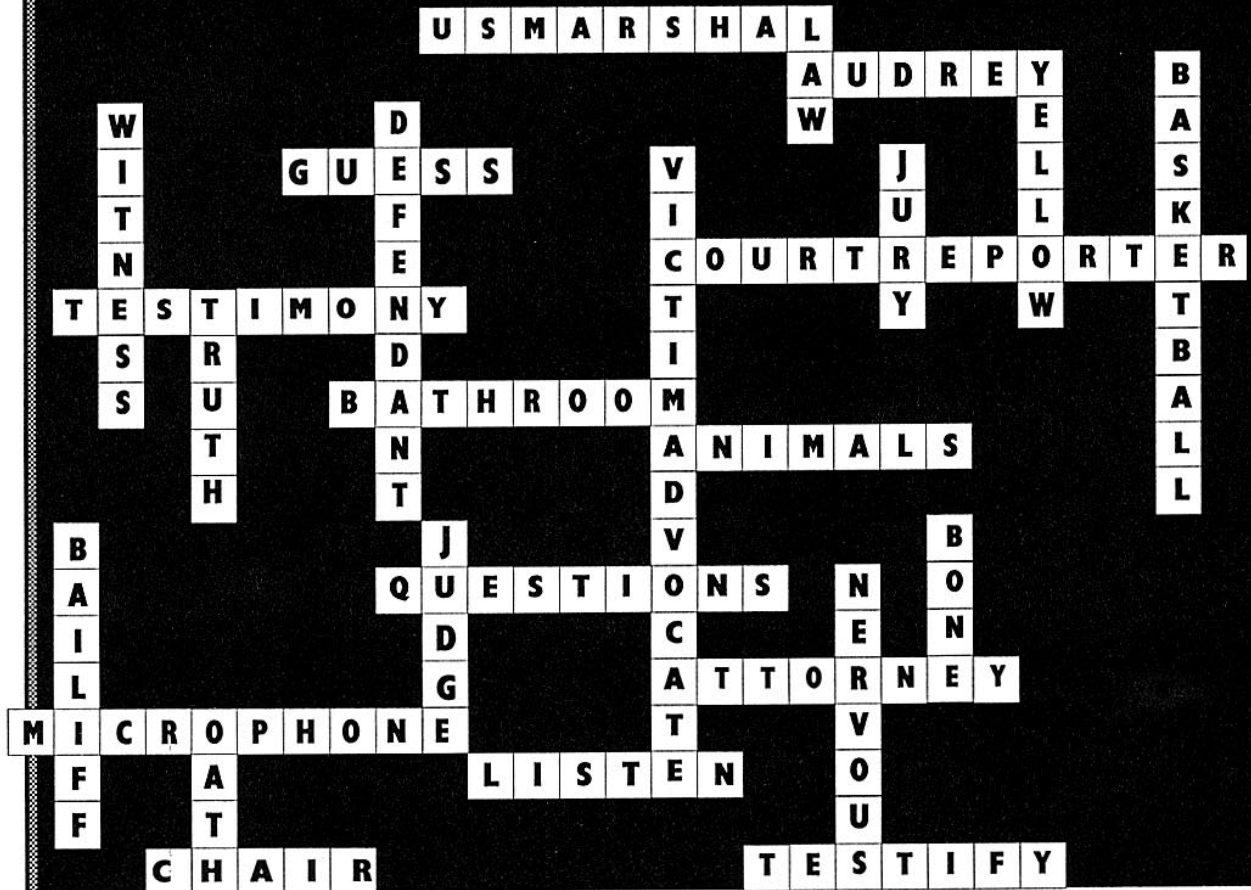


Answers to "Word Scramble" Game – Page 23

Court, Witness, Candy, Jury, Cat, Rules, Baseball, Gavel, Truth, Judge, Oath, Bubbles.

MARK & JULIE'S ANSWER SHEET 2

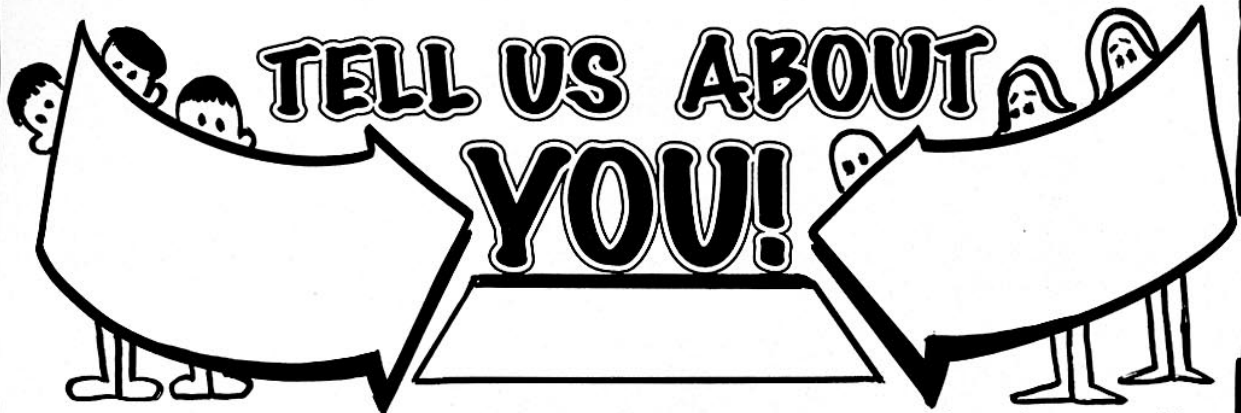
Answers to Crossword Puzzle – Page 24



Answer to Mark & Julie's Hidden Message #2 – Page 30

I am going to court to be a witness. This means I have to tell the Judge and the people in court what I saw.





We've spent a lot of time telling you about court and the people you will meet there. Now we would like to learn all about you. Please answer the questions on this page and when you have finished, give it to your Victim Advocate.

What is your name? _____.

What name do you like people to call you? _____.

How old are you? _____.

Do you go to school? If you do, what grade are you in? _____.

What is your favorite subject at school? _____.

Do you have any brothers and sisters. If you do, write down their names and how old they are. _____
_____.

Do you have a pet? If yes, write down your pet's name _____
_____.

What is your favorite TV show? _____.

Who in your Family will come to court with you? _____.

**YOU'RE
THE
STAR!**

**DRAW A PICTURE, WRITE A POEM
OR SHORT STORY**

that tells all about YOU!
Include members of your family
or some of your friends if you would like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for a student to draw a picture or write a poem or short story. The box occupies most of the page below the instructions.