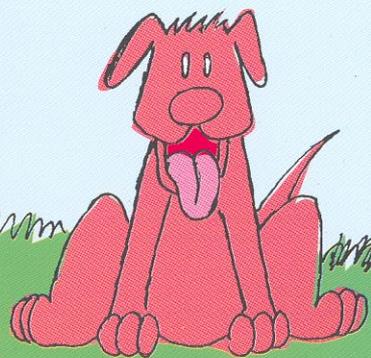
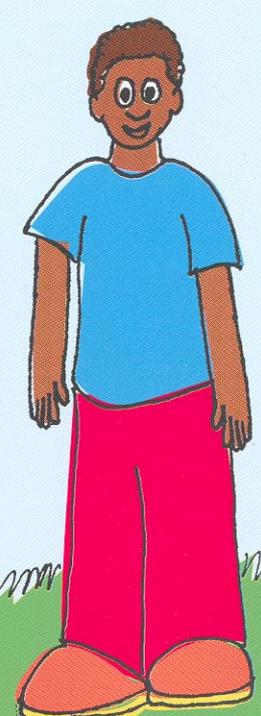
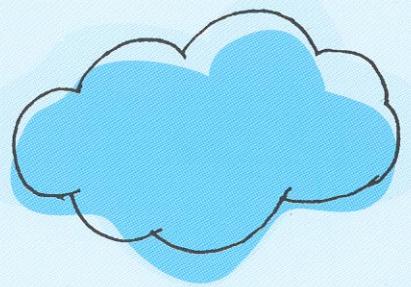
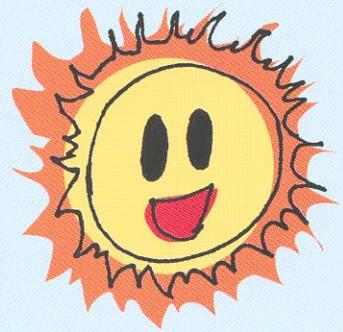


Going to Court



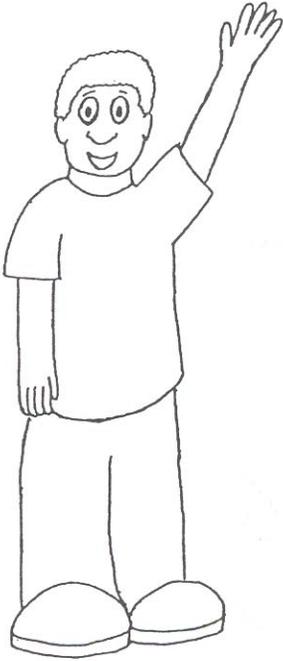
An Activity Book For Kids Who Are Going To Court

Presented by Hon. Lynne Abraham, District Attorney Philadelphia, PA

Write *your* name here.

This book is all about
going to court.

Going to Court



Hi! I'm Jesse. My friend Tanya and I have just come from Court.



Soon, you will be going to Court, too.

Going to Court is an *important* job.



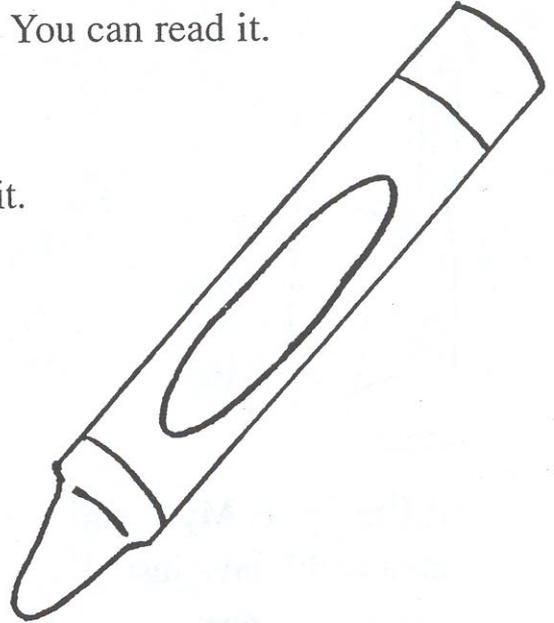
When we go to Court, we talk to the Judge.

This is *y*our *b*ook to keep.

You can read it.

Write in it.

Color in it.



Doodle all you want in it.

It is yours -- you can take it home with you.

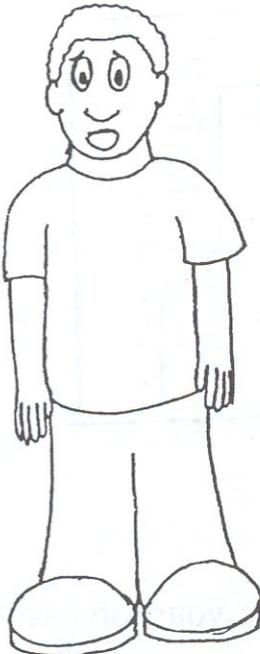


Maybe it's something we saw or heard.
Maybe it's something that happened to us.

Whatever we say, telling the Judge
makes us witnesses. This is called testifying.
That is another word for "telling the truth."

At school, we have rules so that work gets
done and no one gets hurt.

Grownups have rules too. They call
their rules laws. The Judge helps make
sure everyone follows them.

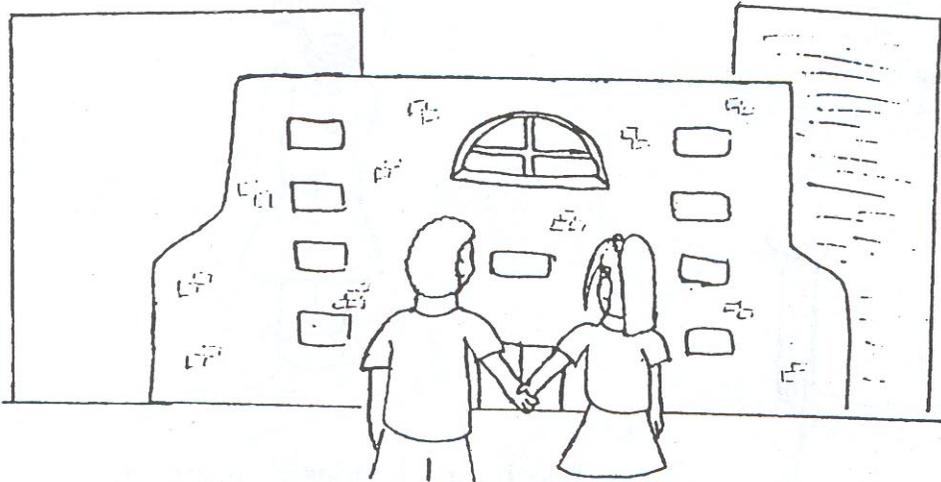


The Judge decides if a grownup
followed a law or broke it. This grownup
is called the Defendant. To figure it out,
the Judge needs to find out what happened.



By being a witness, we help the Judge find out what happened.

So, read this book and do the activities to learn all about being a witness. We'll come with you.



Together, we can think of questions to ask to help make your job easier. We'll also learn things about Court and the people who work there.

Things To Do Before You Go To Court

A day in Court can be tiring.

The night before you go to Court, go to bed early and get your rest.



You should also eat some breakfast before you come to the Court House.

And bring a book to read or a stuffed animal if that will make you feel more comfortable.

Of course, you may bring this book with you.

Going To The Court House



The first time we went to the Court House, we were a little scared. It is OK if you are a little scared, too.



But, when we got there, we found that it was not too scary. Everyone was **nice** to us.

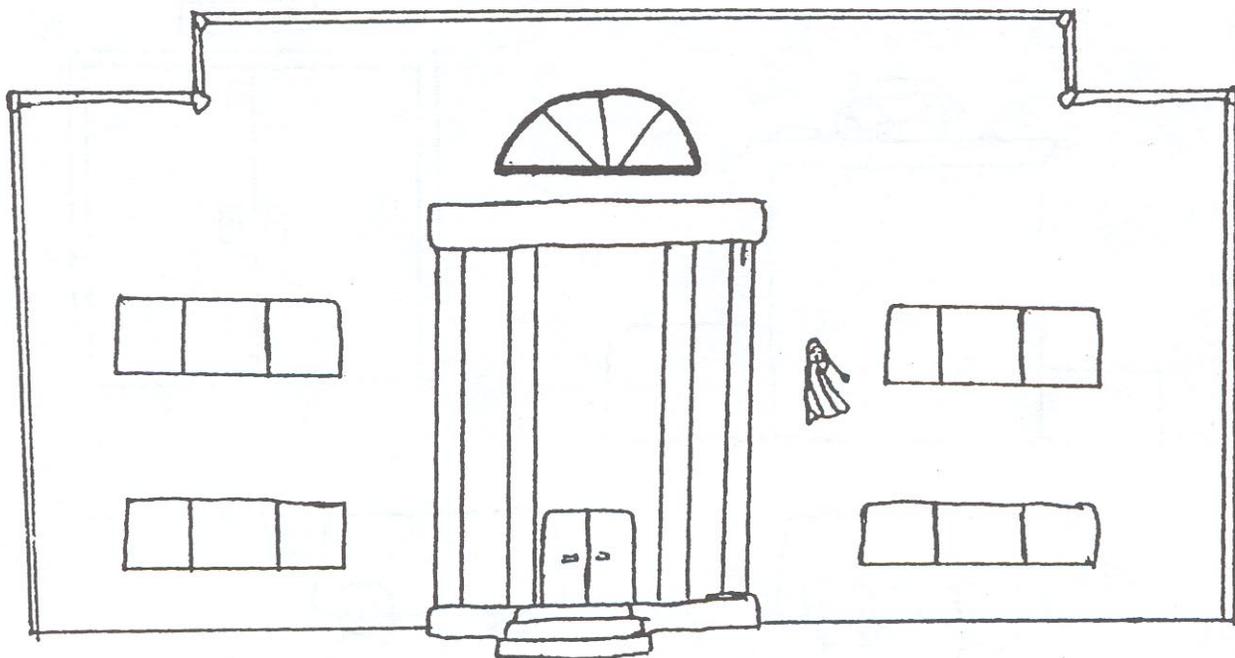


There is one very important thing that we learned. At the Court House, you must always be on your best behavior!

When you go to the Court House, it is like going to school or to church.

People really want to hear what is happening, and everyone must pay attention.

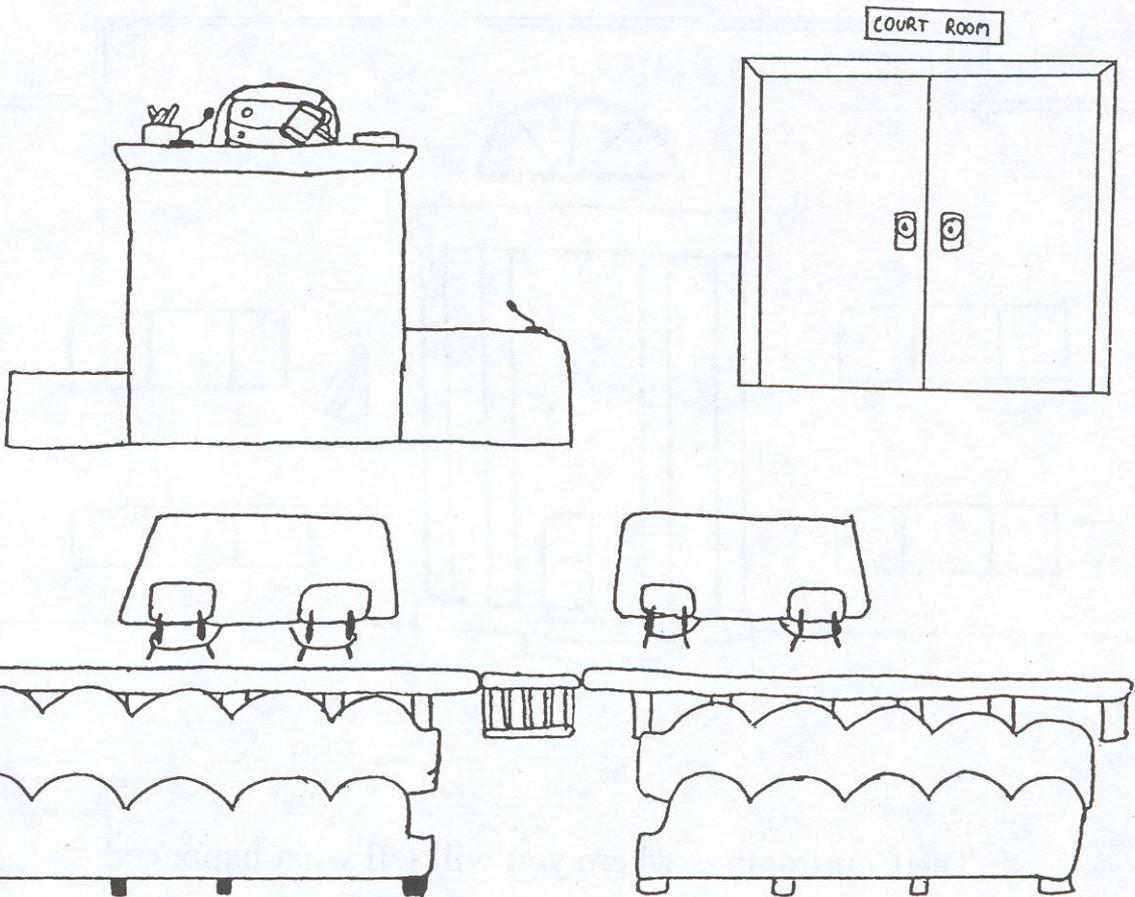
The Court House is a **big** building.



The Courtroom is where you will tell what happened.

In The Courtroom

Maybe **you** have seen a Courtroom on TV.

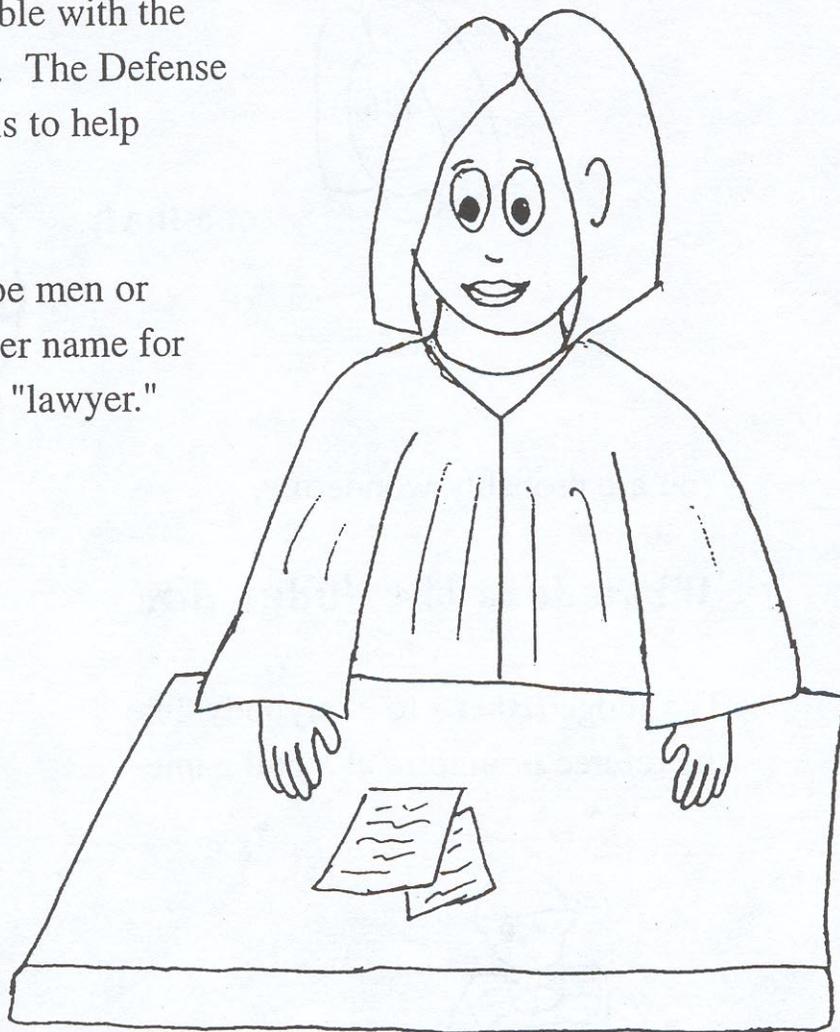


There will be a high desk where the Judge sits. There will also be lower desks and chairs for the Judge's helpers.

There will be a table and chair for the Assistant District Attorney. The Assistant District Attorney's job is to prove that the Defendant broke the law.

The Defense Attorney will sit at another table with the **Defendant**. The Defense Attorney's job is to help the Defendant.

Attorneys can be men or women. Another name for an attorney is a "lawyer."



The Judge is the **boss** in the Courtroom.
Everyone there has to do what the Judge says.

You will recognize the Judge. A Judge wears a black robe. No one else in the Courtroom will have a robe.

The Judge may be a **woman**



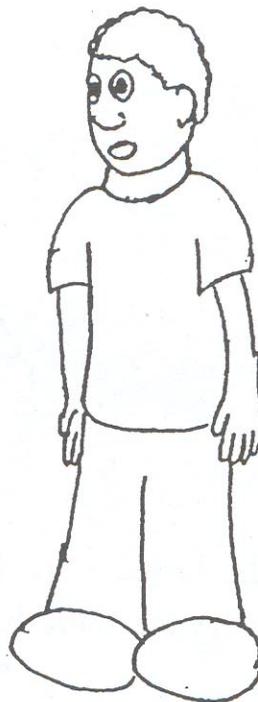
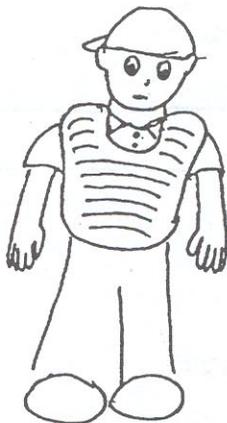
or a **man**.



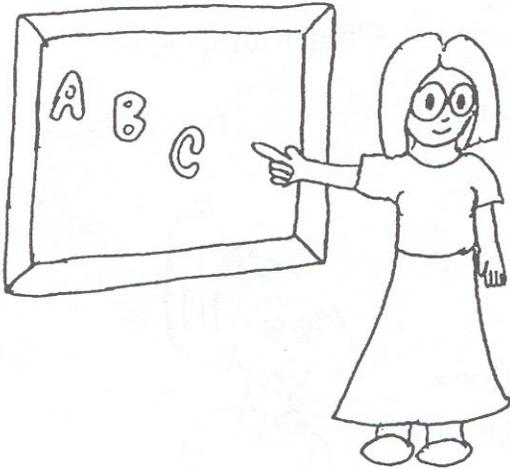
You are probably wondering,

"What does the Judge do?"

The Judge *listens* to everybody, like the referee or umpire at a ball game.



Like the teacher at school.



The Judge tries to be *fair*, and gives everybody a chance to talk.

The Judge really wants to hear what you have to say.

Remember: You should tell the Judge if you don't understand something.

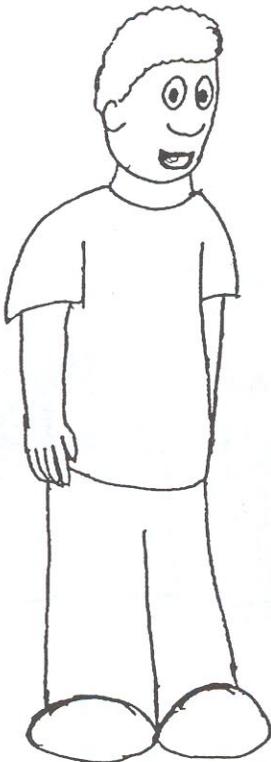
Before you answer a question, another of the Judge's helpers will ask you to make a promise to tell the truth.





Another of the Judge's helpers has a typewriter or keyboard. That helper has to write down every word that is said in the Courtroom.

Sometimes, the Judge will ask you questions. The Judge wants to make sure that you know what it means to tell the truth.



What will the judge ask me?

When you first sit in the witness chair, the Judge will ask you a few questions, such as:

"How **o**ld are you?"

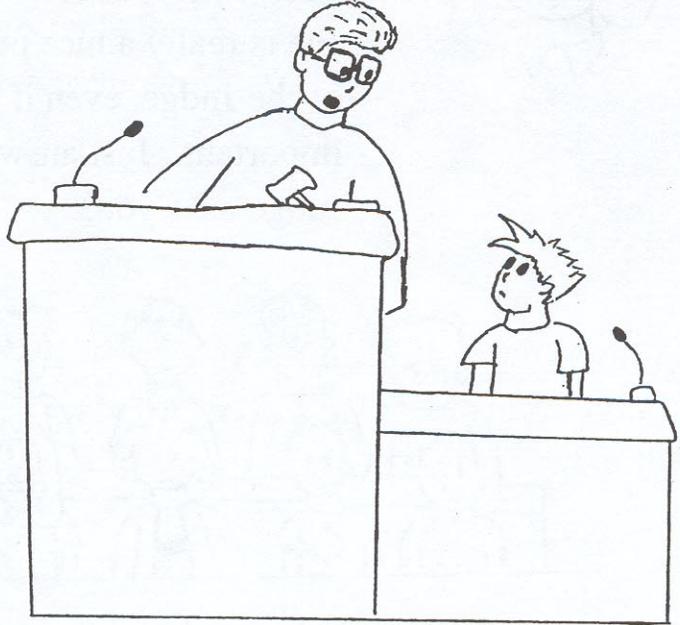
"Where do you go to **s**chool?"

and

"Will you tell the **t**ruth?"

You must answer the

best that you can.



In Court, everyone wants to find out the **t**ruth.

It is very important for you to tell the truth. Before the judge will let you tell what you know, you have to promise "to tell the truth." The judge has to make sure that you know what promising "to tell the truth" means.

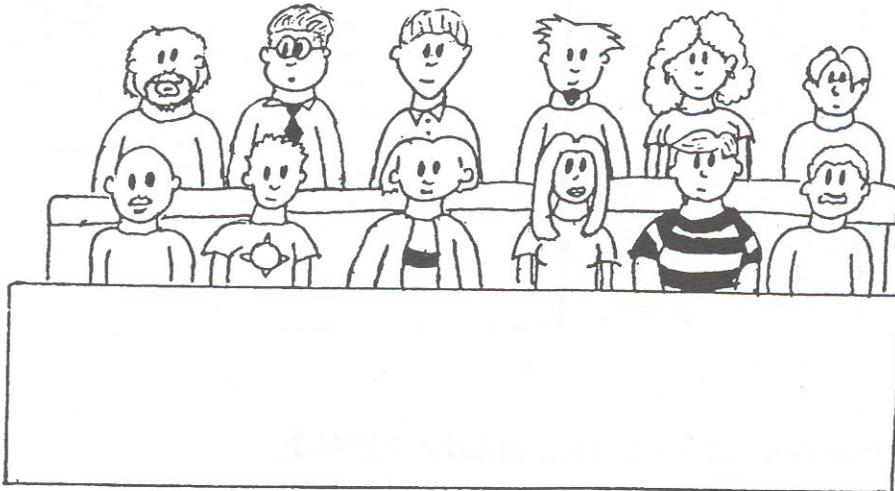
Most important, the Judge will ask "Do you promise to tell the truth today?"

You must **p**romis**e** to do that.



Judges like children. They do not want children to be afraid of them.

The Judge will look important, but he or she is really a nice person. Do not be afraid of the Judge, even if he or she looks big and important. Just answer the questions the Judge asks you.



There are also chairs for the people of the jury. The jury is a group of people who are there to help the Judge. They usually sit on one side of the room by themselves.

They really want to hear what you have to say, so be sure to look at them and speak up so that they can hear you when you answer a question.



What is a **jury**?

The jury is made up of a bunch of people (usually 12).

They sit in their special chairs.

They are people who live in Philadelphia, and they were chosen to listen to this case. They are people from all backgrounds and races, and can be men or women. They are a lot like your neighbors.

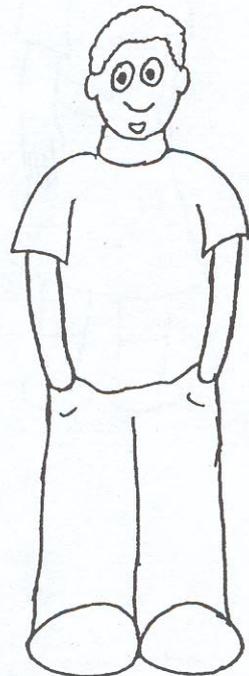
When I was in Court, I wondered,
"What does the Jury do?"
Here is what I found out.

The jury decides whether the
Defendant broke the law. They
listen to everybody in the courtroom:
the Assistant District Attorney, the
Defense Attorney, the Judge, the
witnesses--and you.

They are not allowed to talk in
the courtroom during the trial.

Jury members really want to hear what
you have to say, so that's why they will
probably all look at you when you talk.

You may feel weird at first,
but then you'll get used to it.



Will Other People Ask Me *questions*?

After the Judge has talked to you,
the Judge will let the Assistant
District Attorney talk to you.

The Assistant District Attorney
can be a man or a woman. You
have probably already talked to
the Assistant District Attorney in
his or her office. You have told
him or her what happened.

The Assistant District Attorney will
ask you lots of questions, such as:

"What is your *name*?"

"Where do you *live*?"

"Who lives with you?"

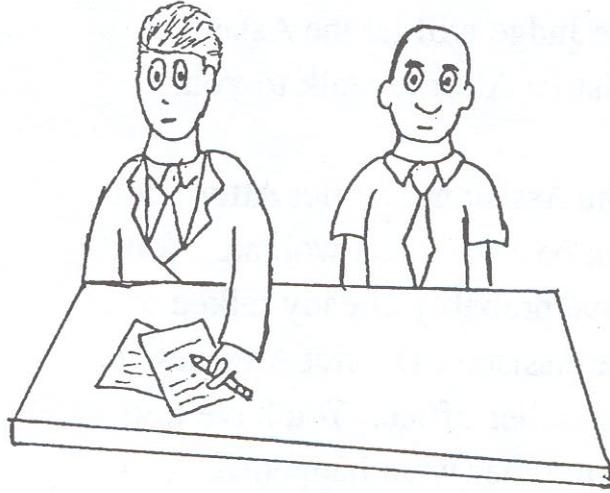
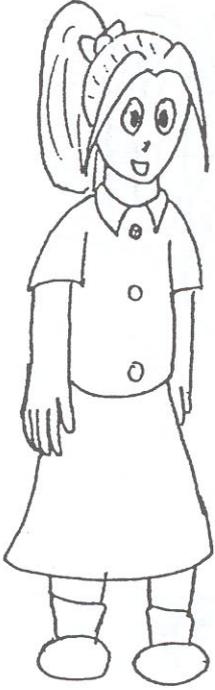
"How *old* are you?"

"Where do you go to *school*?"

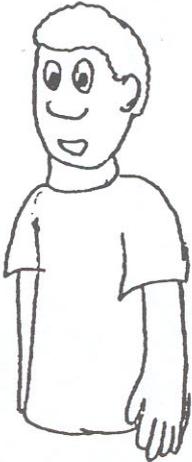
and



"What grade are you in?"



The person sitting with the Defense Attorney is the **Defendant**. The Defendant is the person who has been accused of doing something wrong.



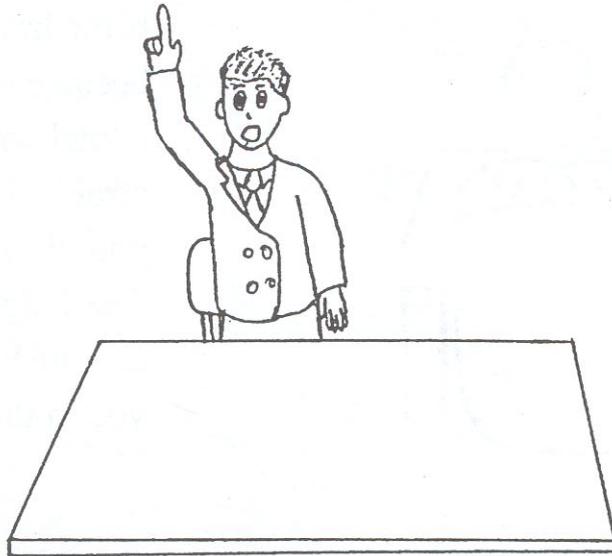
The Defendant will stay seated at the table while you are in the courtroom. The Defendant is not allowed to talk to you.

The Defendant's Attorney will ask you some questions. Listen to his or her questions and then answer them truthfully.

Remember, if anyone in the courtroom asks you a question that you do not understand, tell the Judge.

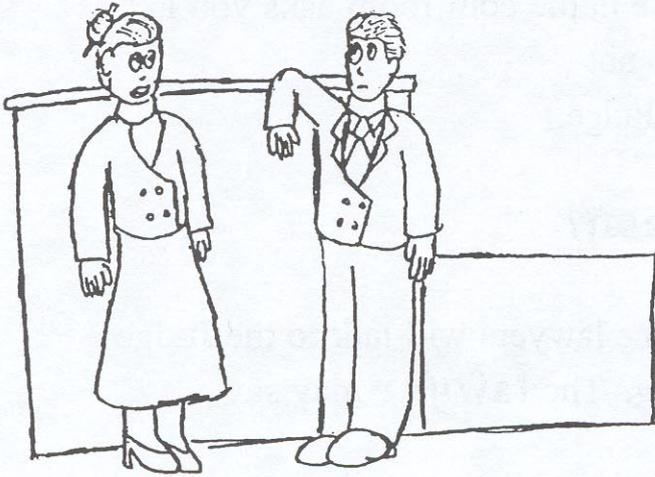
What is an **objection**?

Sometimes, one of the lawyers will talk to the Judge while you are talking. The **lawyer** may say "Objection."



"Objection" is the word that lawyers and Judges use when they want to talk to one another.

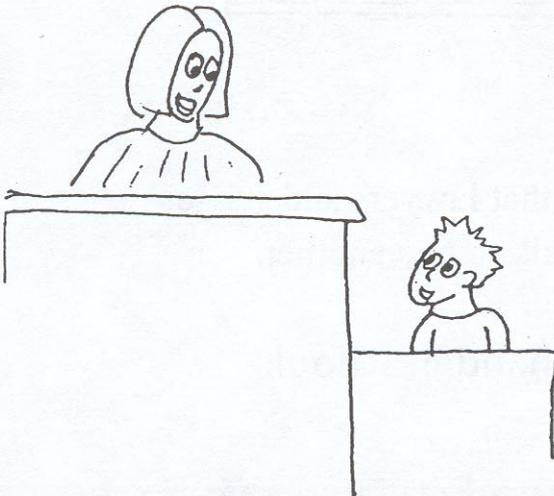
It is like raising your hand in school.



If one of the lawyers says "Objection," or if the Judge wants to talk to the lawyers, you should just sit quietly while the Judge and the lawyers talk. The Judge will tell you when it is your turn to talk again.

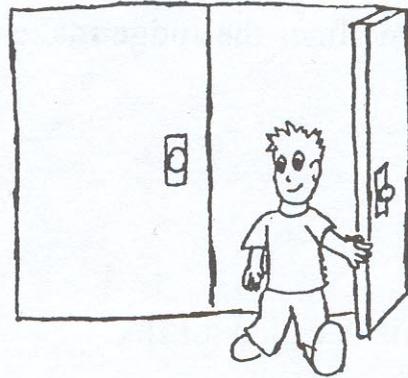


If the lawyers or the Judge become excited and talk in a loud voice, do not be afraid. They are not mad at you, they are just excited. The Judge will never let anyone hurt you or scare you in the Courtroom.



What Happens When MY Job Is Done?

After the lawyers have asked you some questions, the Judge will excuse you from the Courtroom. That means that you may leave and go back to school (or home, if it is not a school day).



When you are finished being a witness, your job at court is done.



The Jury will decide if the defendant broke the law or not. They will decide that after they hear all the evidence. What you tell them is part of the **evidence**.



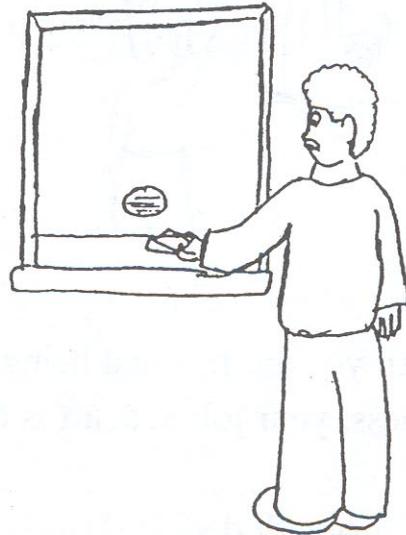
If the Judge or Jury find the Defendant did not break the law, they say that he or she is NOT GUILTY. The defendant is free to go.

If they say that the Defendant did break the law, they say that he or she is GUILTY. Then, the Judge has to decide how to keep the Defendant from breaking the law again.

To do this, the Judge sets rules about what the Defendant can or cannot do.

Sometimes the Judge makes the Defendant pay money.

This is called a **Fine**.
Sometimes he sends the Defendant to jail.



Who can I talk to?

If you have any questions about what the Judge or Jury decides in the case, you can ask the Assistant District Attorney.

Some kids want to come back and find out what the Court decided at the end of the case. Some don't want to know. Either way is OK.

You can always talk to the Assistant District Attorney about what you would like to do.



After it's all over, some kids feel sad or upset, or a little confused.

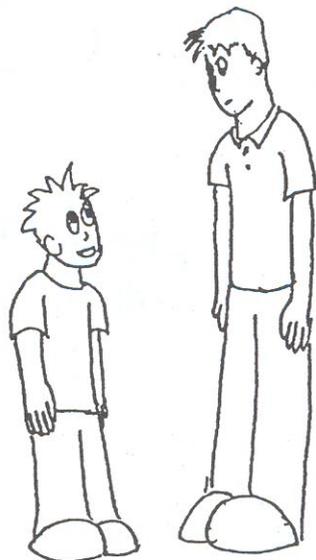
Lots of kids feel this way.

If you feel this way, you should talk to someone you trust about how you feel. It is OK to do this.

Whatever happens, you should be proud of yourself for going to Court and talking to the Judge.

You did an **important** job.

By being a witness, you helped the Judge do his or her job, too.



You also had the chance to **learn** a lot about courts and what goes on in them.



We hope this book helps you **understand** what happens when you go to Court.

Glossary

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The lawyer who must prove in court how the defendant broke the law.

COURT REPORTER

One of the Judge's helpers in the courtroom. This helper has a little typewriter and writes down everything you will say. You must speak loudly enough for the court reporter to hear what you say.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

The lawyer who helps the defedant tell his side of the story in court.

DEFENDANT

The person accused of breaking the law.

EVIDENCE

Things used by each of the attorneys to help tell their sides of the story. Evidence can be things, such as a picture or a broken window, or it can be someone's testimony. Your testimony (what you will tell the Judge and the Jury) is evidence.

JUDGE

The person in charge in the courtroom. The Judge makes sure that the law is followed. You must speak loudly enough for the Judge to hear what you say.

JURY

The people (usually 12) who listen to all the evidence and then help the Judge decide if the defendant broke the law. You must speak loudly enough for the Jury to hear what you say.

LAW

The rules that all citizens must obey.

OATH

A promise to tell the truth. Before you can tell the Judge and the Jury what you know, you must take an Oath to tell the truth.

TESTIMONY

Spoken evidence. What you tell the Judge and Jury is called Testimony.

WITNESS

A person who comes to court to answer questions and tell the truth about what they know. When you come to court, you will be a witness.

WITNESS STAND

The place where you will sit when you tell the court what you know.

Activities

WORD SEARCH

A J U A T T O R N E Y
J U D G E R Q U I E T
Y R A J U U N O R Y R
U Y J U A T N O M Y I
J O O A T H A A I E A
L A W Y E R E Y W A L
E A B R E A K F A S T
E R R E P O R T E R Y
Y E W S A A I E A Y W
L A W T U N O R Y A T

FIND AND CIRCLE THESE WORDS:

ATTORNEY

JURY

QUIET

TRIAL

BREAKFAST

LAWYER

REPORTER

TRUTH

JUDGE

OATH

REST

MY QUESTIONS

If you have questions you think of that you want to ask the District Attorney, write them here (or have a grown up do it for you).

**The District Attorney's Office of the City of Philadelphia
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Christopher J. Spence, Illustrator, Monroeville, NJ.