



## Teacher-to-Teacher

Lesson Four focuses on the principles of justice and the role of the judiciary. By following a young girl as she tries to recover her stolen bicycle, the narrative provides a context for understanding the process of resolving a conflict from negotiations to trial. This process is further developed and discussed through the read aloud *The Cupcake Thief* by Ellen Jackson. The chapter book, *Stone Fox*, provides the background for the students to participate in a mock trial in order to better understand the judicial system. Students are asked to serve as judges in the activities *You Be the Judge* and *Student Voices*. In all the lesson activities, students are gaining practice in examining and discussing issues from different viewpoints before rendering a decision. As an extension activity, student groups can develop and perform their own mock trials based on familiar fairy tales or fables. An instructional framework for writing a mock trial is provided.

The activities listed below are designed to give students opportunities to understand our legal system, its process, participants, and value.

- The *Sticky Situation* and *Student Voices Bulletin Board* give students opportunity to strengthen problem solving skills and build student voice with discussion and deliberation.
- Mock Trial: *Jackson Wyoming vs. Stone Fox* brings the courtroom into the classroom.
- *You Be the Judge* activity sheet puts the students in the role of judge regarding a classroom incident.
- *Student Voices Bulletin Board* asks student to determine if Little Willy, one of the main characters in the *Stone Fox* book, really won the race based on the rules of the competition.
- *Writing a Mock Trial: An Instructional Framework* provides student groups with a method for writing and producing their own courtroom dramas.