

# We're **CIVICS** Kids



## Law And Order Use Your Good Judgement

Honest Insights  
It's the Law

★ Chew on This  
What Would You Do?

☆ Say What?  
Speak Up & Help Out



Lesson 4



## Lesson 4: Principles of Justice and the Role of the Judiciary

Isabella thinks Vivien took her bicycle without permission. Isabella decides to confront Vivien. Vivien says that she did ask Isabella for permission to borrow her bicycle and that Isabella said it was okay. Isabella decides to **negotiate** with Vivien to get her bicycle back. (Negotiation is a conversation between two people with the goal of resolving a conflict.) After several attempts at negotiating the conflict, Isabella feels she needs some help. She asks her teacher to **mediate** the disagreement she is having. (Mediation is when a third party helps two people resolve their conflict.) As with her attempt at negotiation, Isabella's attempt at mediation fails. Her next step is to enter into **arbitration**.

(Arbitration is a method in which a third party hears both

sides and decides the outcome.) In a short period of time, Isabella realizes that arbitration is not going to work either. Her goal is to get her bicycle back and none of her attempts to resolve the conflict have worked.

Isabella realizes that it is now time to enter into **litigation**. (Litigation is the process of having a trial with a jury as a way to resolve your conflict.) Trials are held when a conflict that parties are having is unable to be resolved by **negotiation** and/or **mediation** and/or **arbitration**.



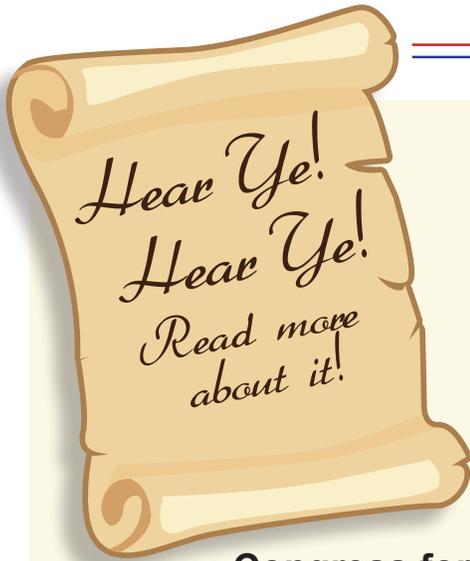
There are lots of people involved in a trial. First there is the judge, the person who is in control of the trial and hears the case. The Judge tells the jury what the law is. The judge is supported by a bailiff who swears in the witnesses and marks the evidence, and the court reporter who takes down what is being said during the trial. The attorneys or lawyers present the case to a jury. Each side has an attorney. The attorney's job is to tell their side's story through the witnesses. The jury decides what the facts are. Did Isabella give Vivien permission to borrow the bike? A jury is made up of between 6 and 12 people. The jury decides the verdict as well as the sentence. When a U.S. citizen turns 18, he/she gets to register to vote. Once registered, people become eligible to serve on a jury as long as they are proficient in English, have lived in their district for at least 1 year, and have not been convicted of a crime. It is everyone's civic responsibility to serve on a jury when asked.

When you argue your Mock Trial, think about all of the people who are involved. Also, think about how else the conflict in your mock trial might have been resolved.

## Sticky Situation

One of your classmates comes to school complaining about the fact that he/she was sent to bed without dinner last night and woke up late for school leaving the house quickly with no breakfast. During a morning break, you noticed that he/she is eating your snack.





## Civic Literacy Links The Judiciary Read More and You Be The Judge

- **The Lorax** by Dr. Seuss
- **Stone Fox** by John Reynolds Gardiner
- **The Cupcake Thief** by Ellen Jackson
- **Congress for Kids:** [www.congressforkids.net/Judicialbranch\\_index.htm](http://www.congressforkids.net/Judicialbranch_index.htm)
- **We the Jury:** <http://www.icivics.org>

# Let's Hear Your Voices!

**Question:** Did Little Willy really win the race?

In the novel, *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner, Little Willy was declared the winner, was given the prize money and saved his Grandfather's farm.

However, according to the rules of the race did Little Willy really win the race? Should he have been declared the winner?

Write your ideas on a card and post it on the Student Voices Bulletin Board. Be sure to support your decision.

