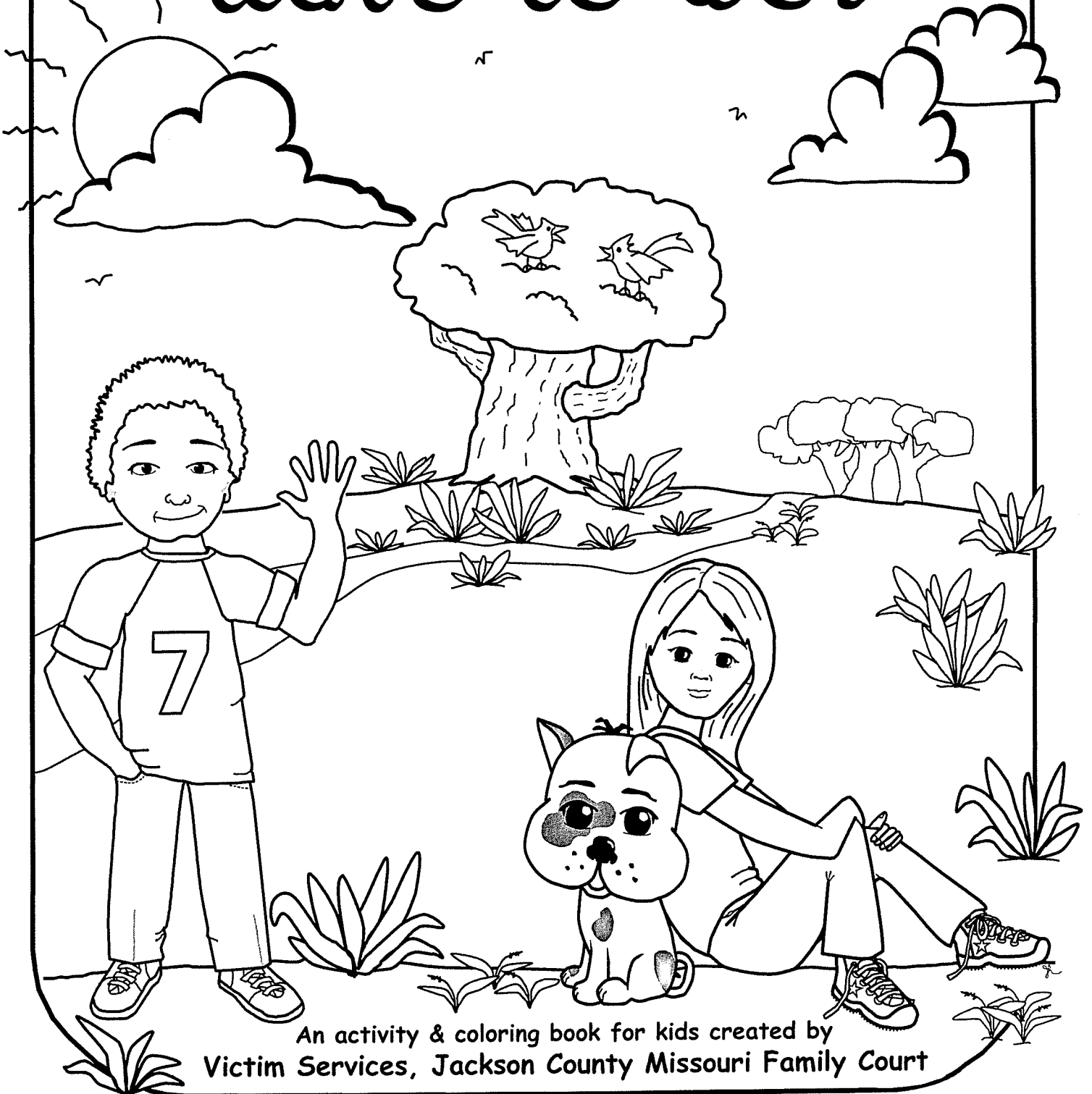
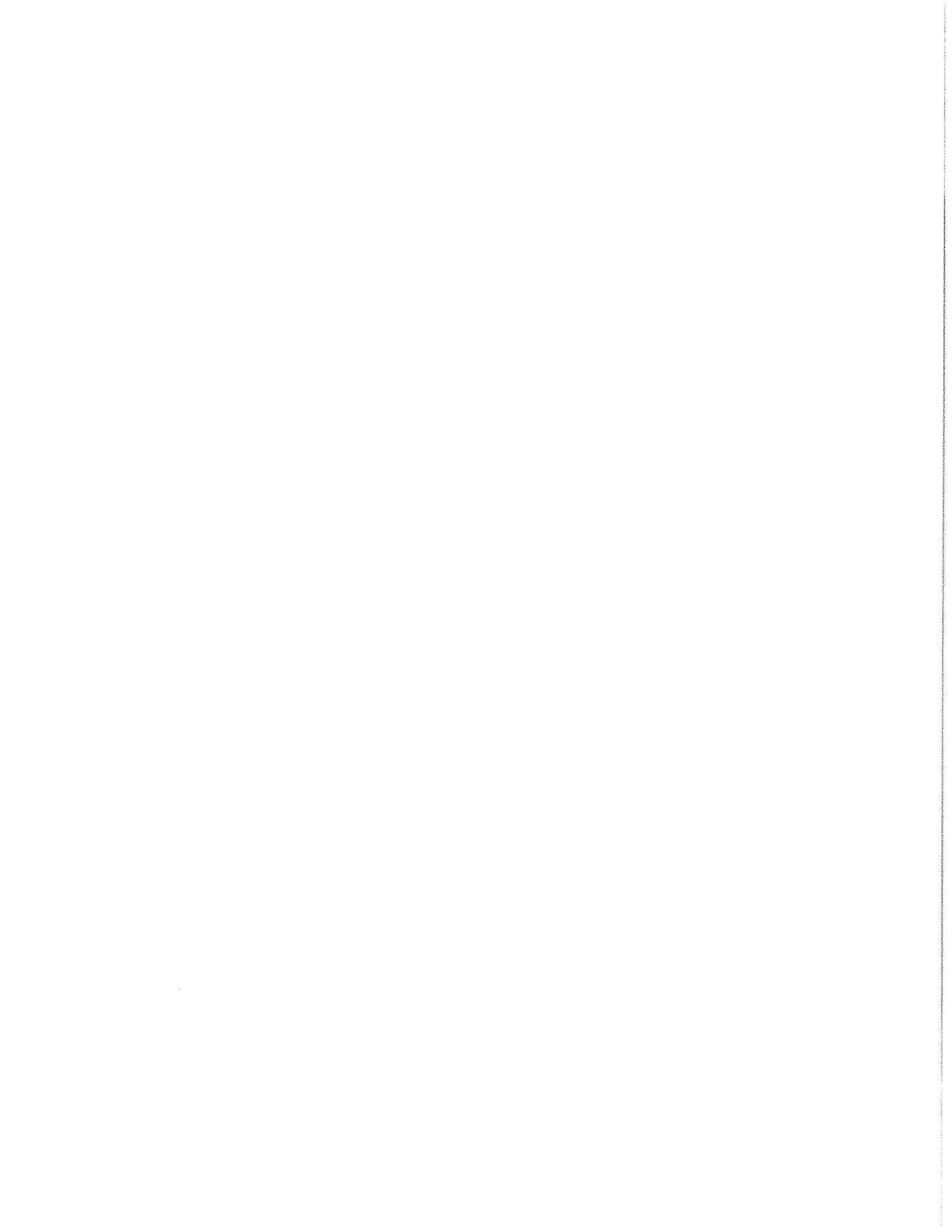


What is Court & Why Do I Have to Go?

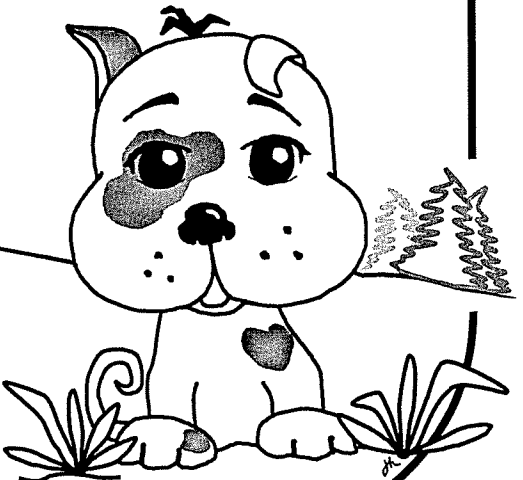
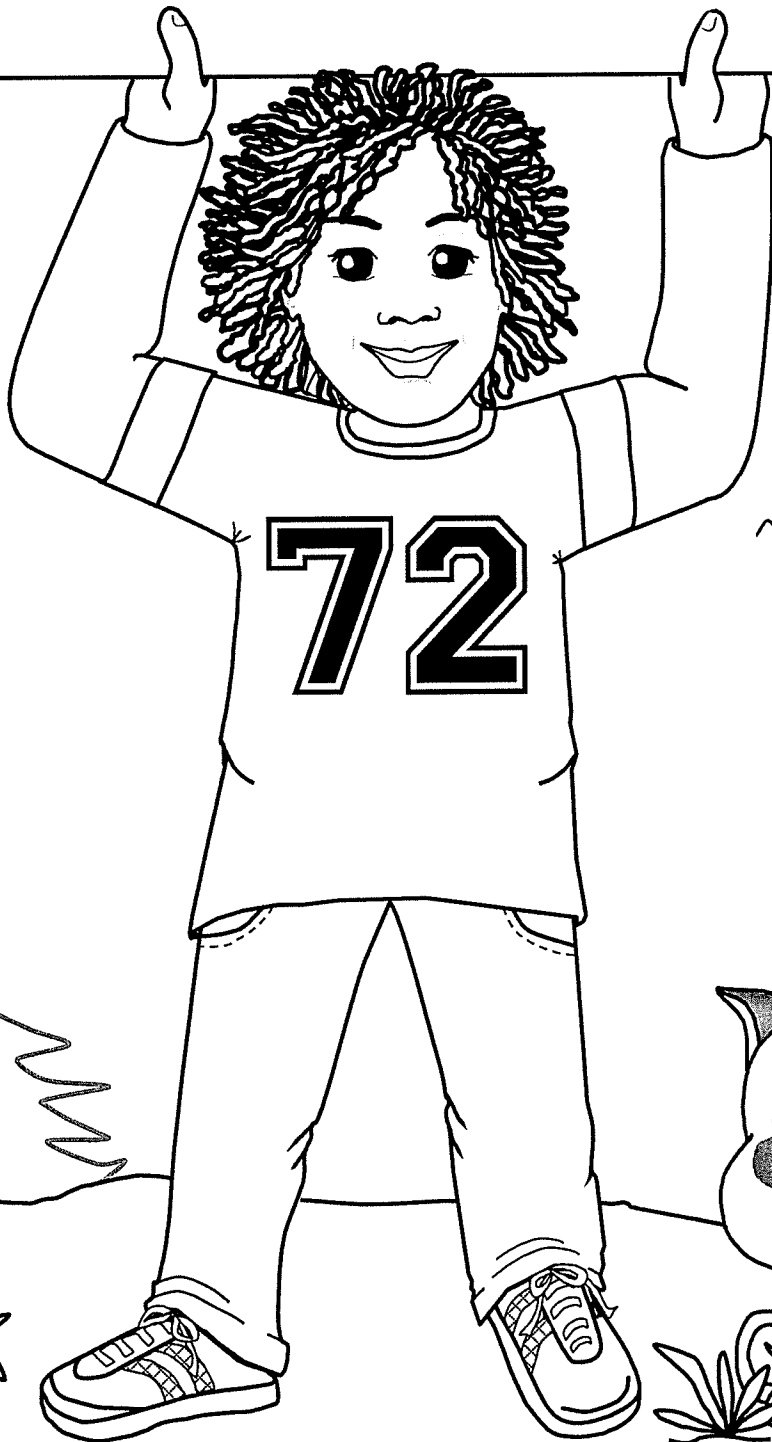


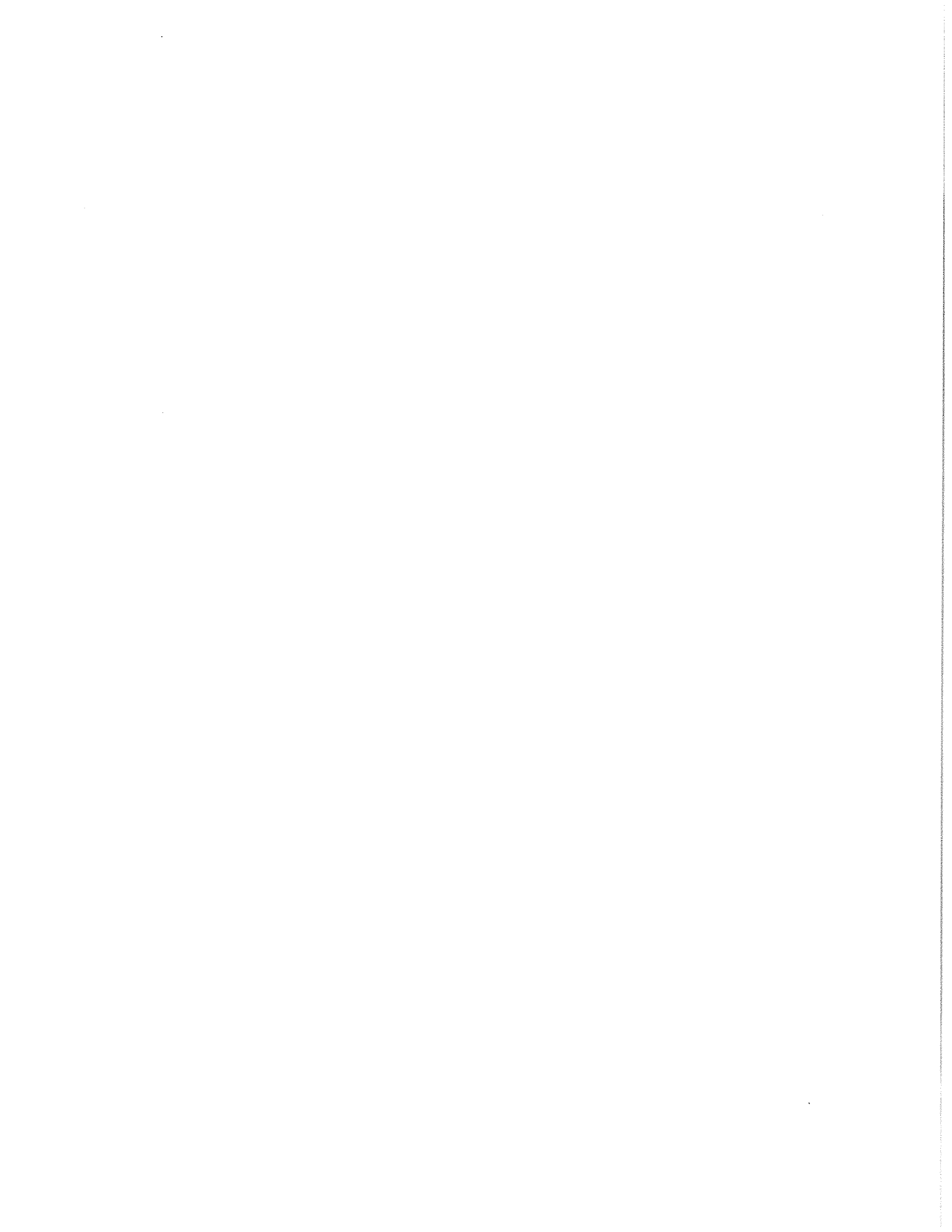
An activity & coloring book for kids created by
Victim Services, Jackson County Missouri Family Court



This book belongs to

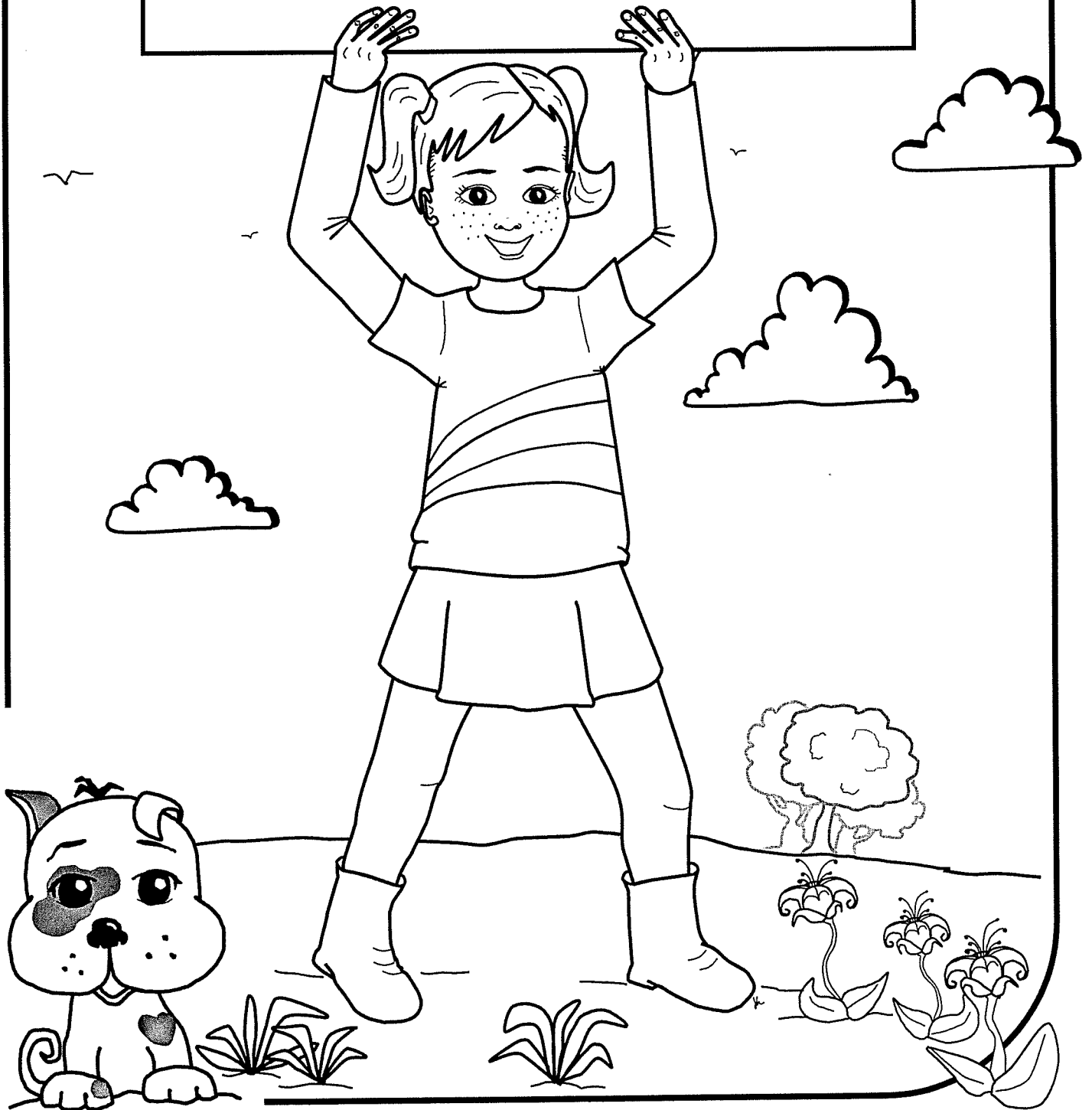
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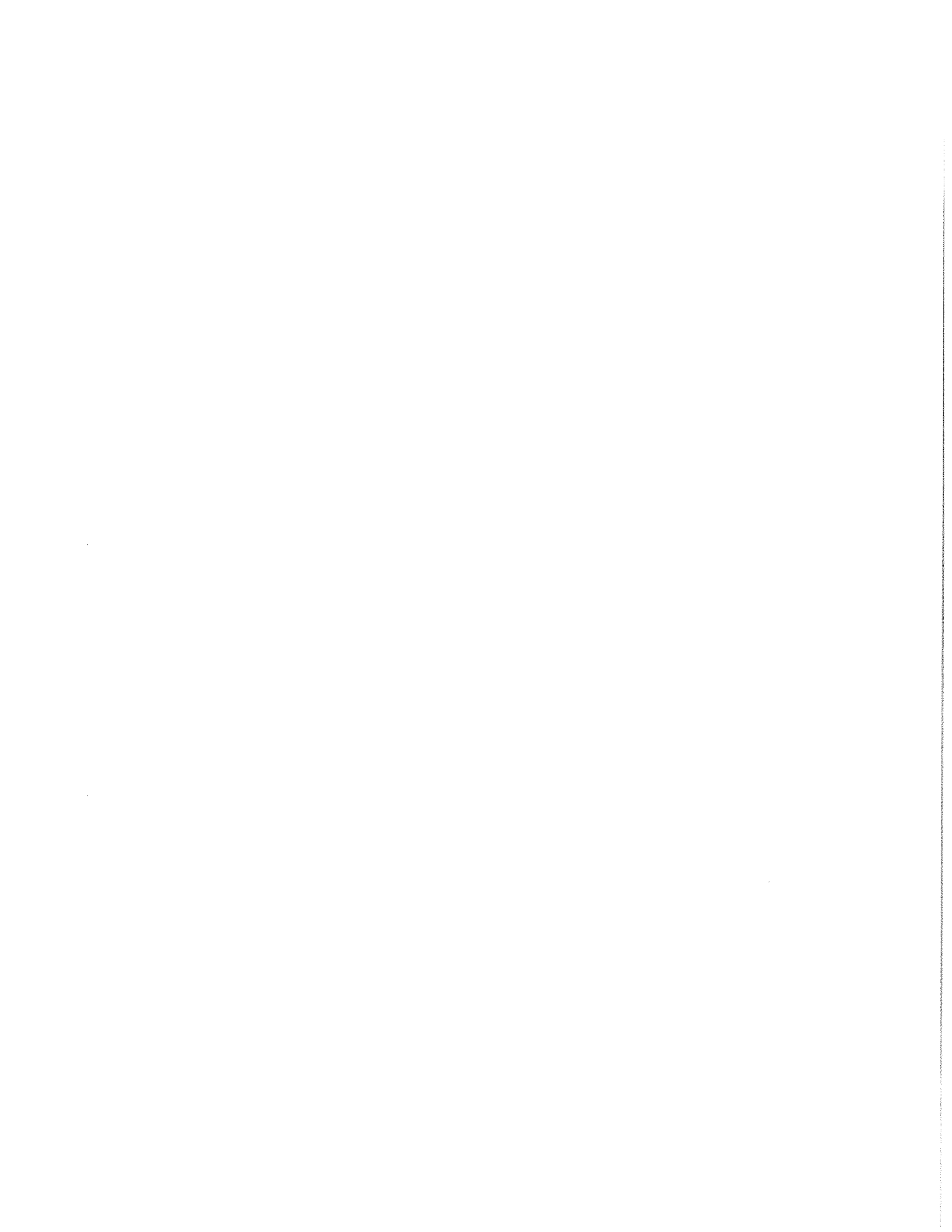




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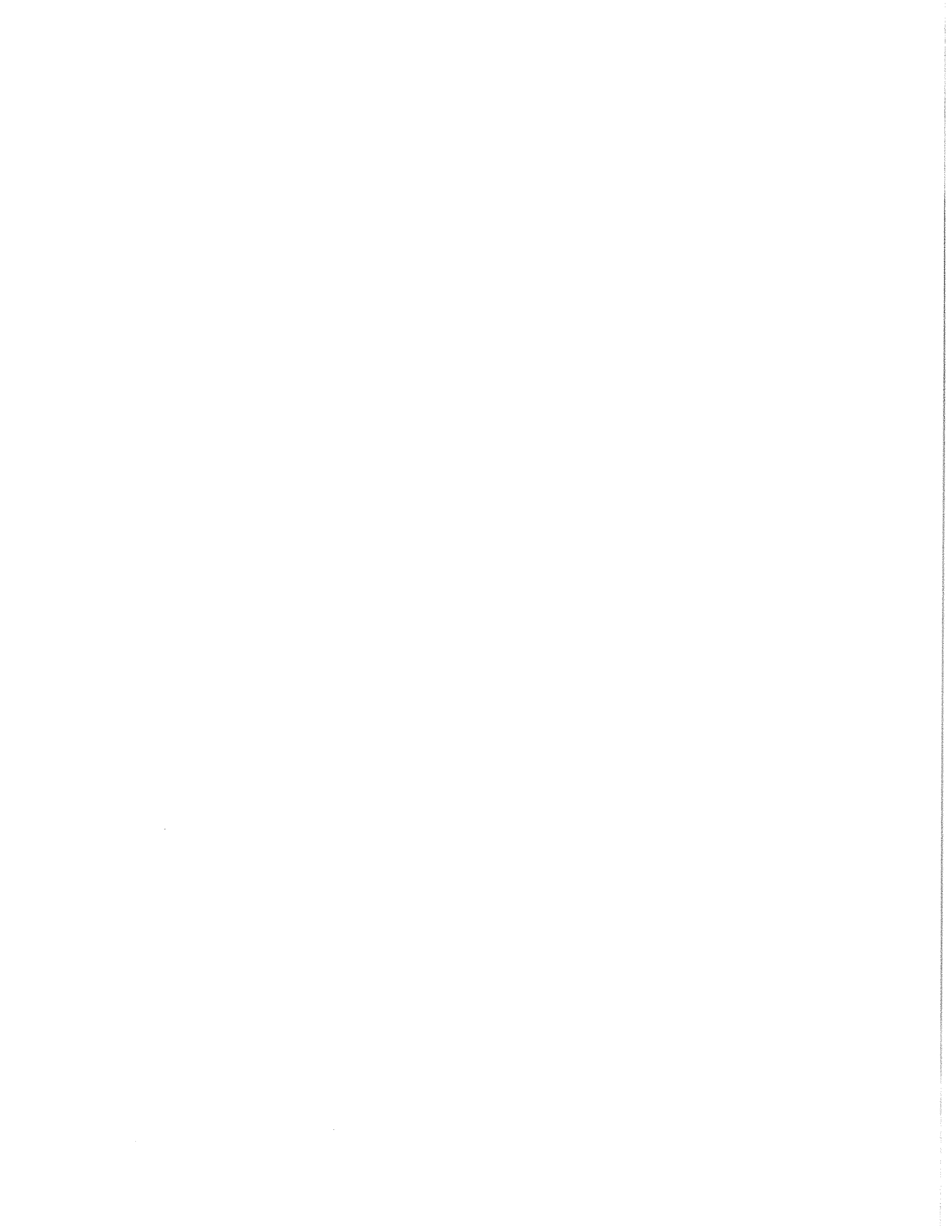
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Let's Get Started

This activity book was created just for you
and kids like you to explain
what happens when you go to Court.

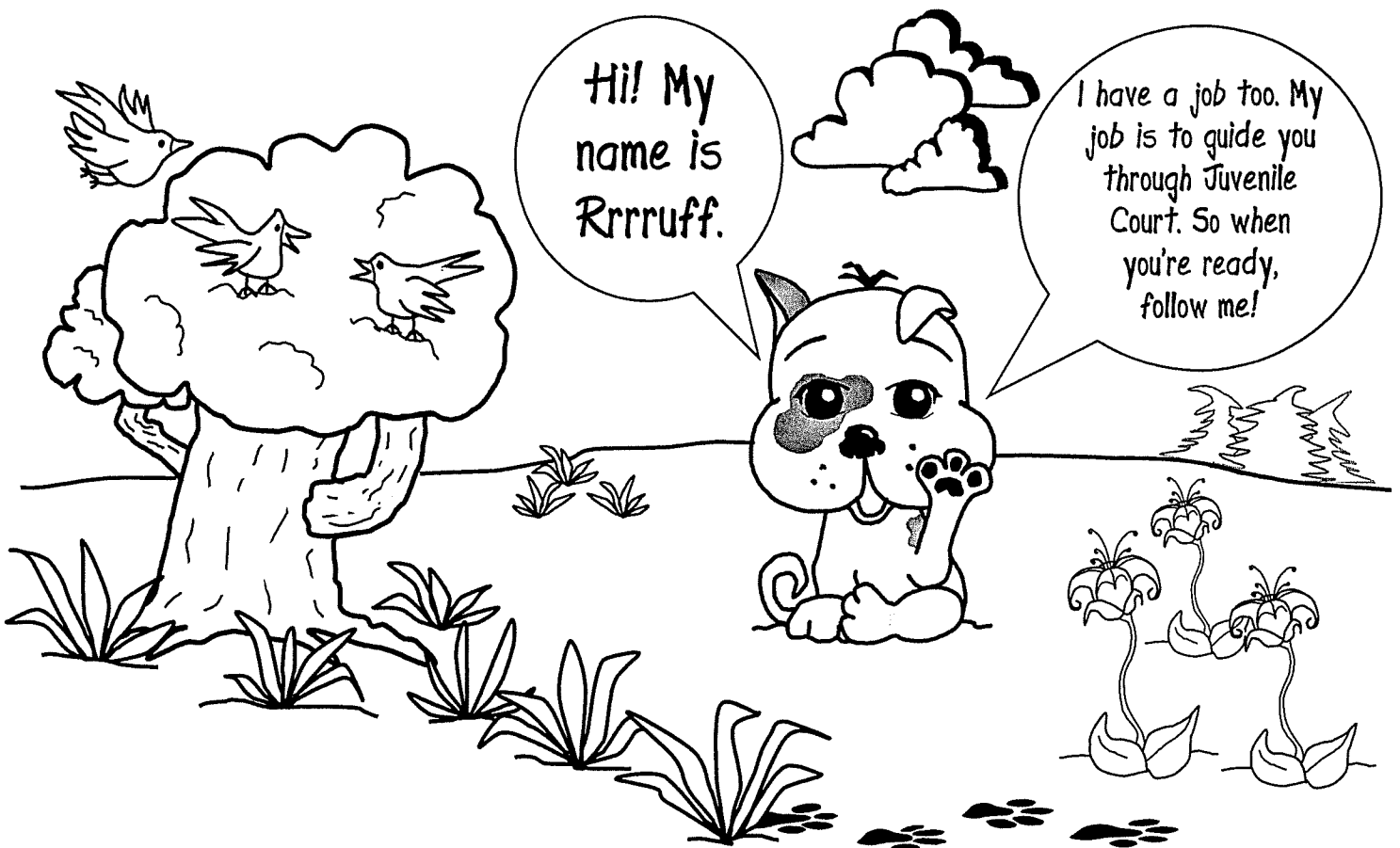
In this book, you'll also learn
all about your very important job.

JOB? ME?

That's right. You may be coming to Court
because you have a job to do
and that job is to be a **Witness**.

In this book you'll learn all about the very special
job duties that **Witnesses** have and how Court works.

So as you read this book, complete the activities
and color the pictures, I hope you'll also have fun learning
about your job and why you may have to go to Court.



What is Court and Why Do I Have to Go?

The Jackson County Family Courthouse is a big building with different offices and Courtrooms where lots of people work. People who work at the Courthouse make sure if a **law*** is broken, something needs to happen to try to make it better again. A **law** is a rule that everyone must follow.

There are many different reasons why someone must go to Court. You may be coming to Court because you saw someone breaking a **law**. Someone who saw a person breaking a **law** is called a **Witness**. If you were hurt, touched in an inappropriate way or had something taken from you when someone broke a **law**, then you're also what is known as a **Victim**. The person accused of breaking the law is called the **defendant**, but in Family Court if that person is 16 years old or younger, they are called a **Juvenile**.

Witnesses come to Court to answer questions so a **Judge** can then decide if a **law** was broken and who broke that **law**. This is called a **trial**. A **trial** is like a big puzzle the **Judge** must put together to try to see the whole picture of what happened. When **Witnesses** come to Court to tell the **Judge** what they know about someone breaking a **law**, it is called **testifying** and what the **Witnesses** say in Court to the **Judge** is called **testimony**. All the information **Witnesses** bring to Court to share with the **Judge** is called **evidence**. All this **evidence** is like pieces of the puzzle the **Judge** has to put together to try to see the whole picture of what happened.

It's important to come to Court and tell what happened to you so a **Judge** can decide if a **law** was broken and what the person who broke the **law** will have to do to make the situation better again. It's wrong for anyone, kids, **Juveniles** and adults, to break the **law** and it was not right that you were hurt, touched in a bad way or had something taken from you.

Telling the truth is important, especially when you are in Court. Just before the trial starts, **Witnesses** are asked to make a promise to the **Judge** to tell the truth about what happened. This is called an **oath**.

Coming to Court can be scary. Lots of people feel that way, even grown-ups. But your **Victim Advocate** is there to answer your questions and to help you understand what is happening. What is a **Victim Advocate**? You'll learn more about that later in this book.



When words appear in **BOLD type it means they have been or will be explained somewhere in this book.*

To 'witness' something means to see it happen. So a **Witness** in Court is a person who saw someone break a law or has information about what happened.

A law is a rule that everyone must follow.

An oath is a promise to tell the truth.

Evidence is the information **Witnesses** bring to the trial such as what they saw happen or information about what happened to them.

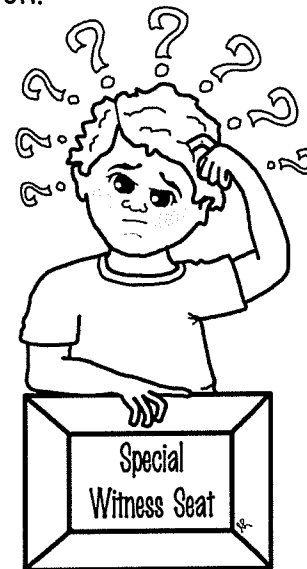
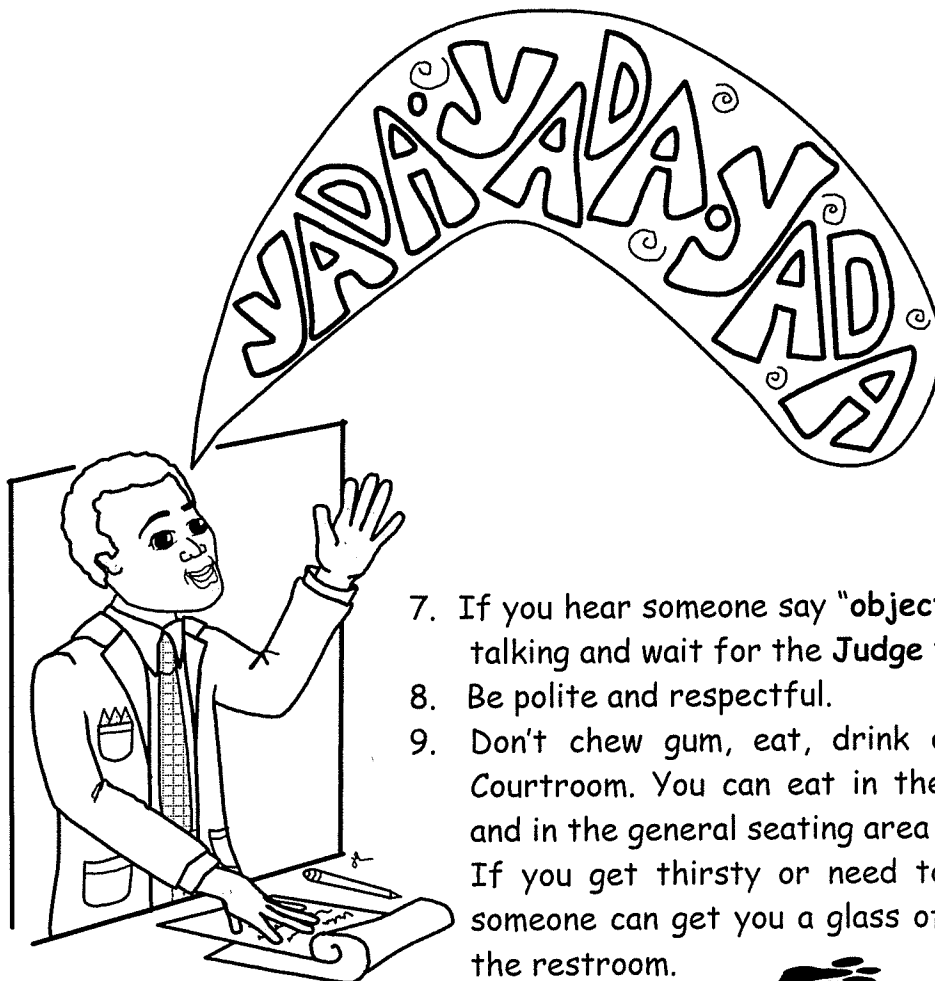
A **Victim** is a person who was hurt when someone broke a law.



Rules for Witnesses

Many people go to Court to be **Witnesses**. They can be police officers, nurses, doctors, social workers, teachers, mothers, fathers and kids just like you. But all **Witnesses** should follow these rules and suggestions:

1. Always tell the truth.
2. Speak clearly and loud enough so everyone in the Courtroom can hear you.
3. Use your words: Say "yes" or "no." Don't just nod your head. What you say is being recorded, sometimes by a **Court Reporter** (you'll learn more about that later), so you must use your words and make sure you are being understood.
4. Listen carefully to the questions you're being asked and don't answer till the person has finished asking the question.
5. If you don't understand a question, say so. Say you don't understand. If the person asks you the question in a different way and you still don't understand, it's okay. Just say you still don't understand.
6. If you don't know the answer to a question, say you don't know or if you don't remember, say you don't remember if that is the truth. But don't say you don't remember just because you don't want to answer the question.



7. If you hear someone say "objection" or "I object" stop talking and wait for the **Judge** to tell you what to do.
8. Be polite and respectful.
9. Don't chew gum, eat, drink or wear a hat in the Courtroom. You can eat in the Victim Waiting Room and in the general seating area outside the Courtroom. If you get thirsty or need to go to the bathroom, someone can get you a glass of water or show you to the restroom.

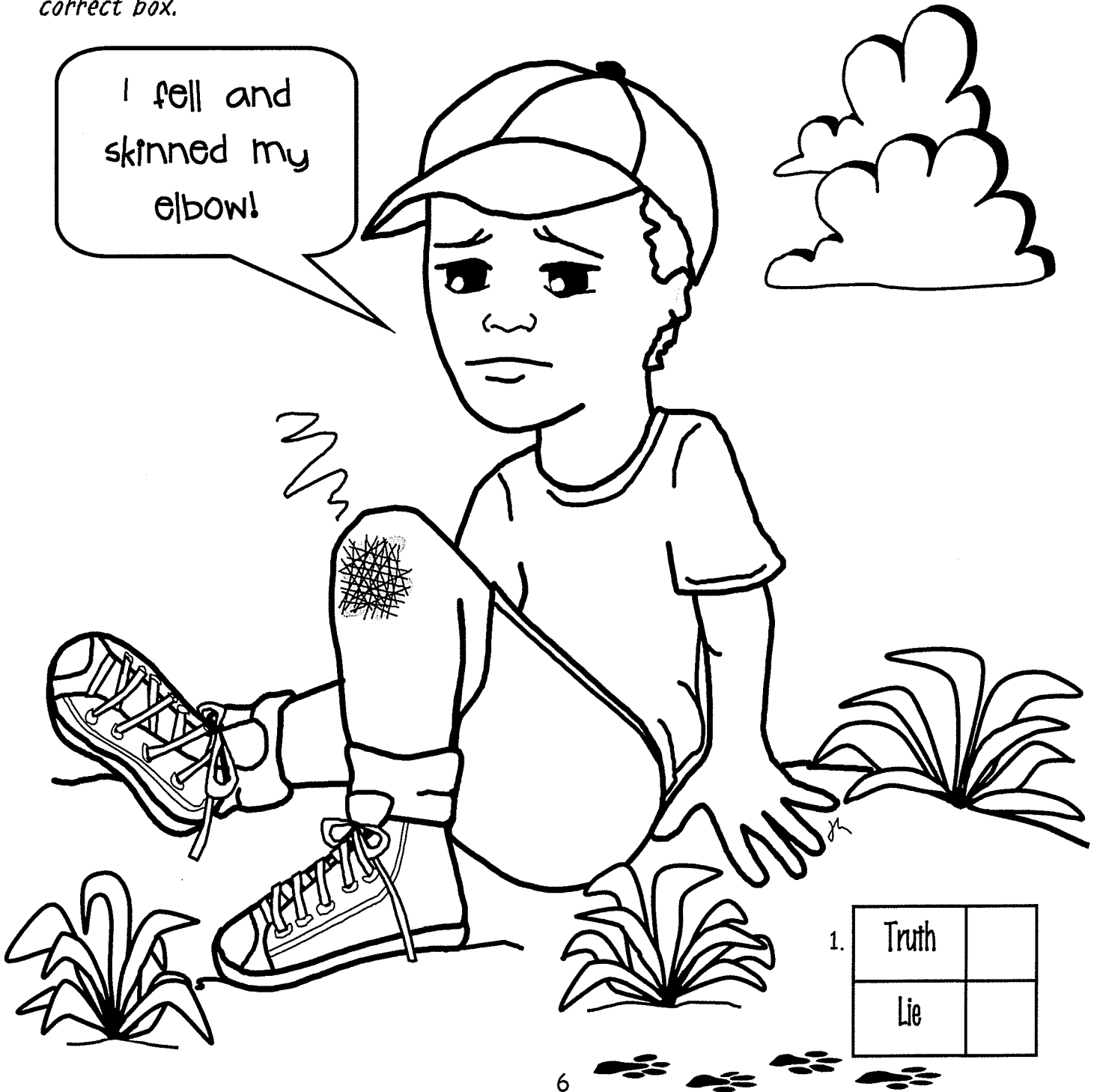


Remember, when you're in Court
it's important to speak clearly and loud
enough so the Judge, the Attorneys and the
Court Reporter can hear you. Also remember
to use your words: Say "yes" or "no."
Don't nod your head or cover your mouth
with your hands. What you have to say
is important and everyone
in the Courtroom needs to hear you.



GAME TIME*

Truth or Lie? It's very important for people to tell the truth, especially when they are in Court. Do you know the difference between the truth and a lie? Are these kids in this next section telling the truth or are they telling a lie? Check the correct box.



1.

Truth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lie	<input type="checkbox"/>

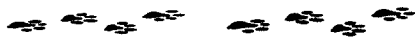
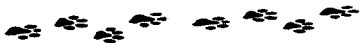
* All answers to Game Time games are on pages 54, 55 and 56.

I'm riding my skateboard.

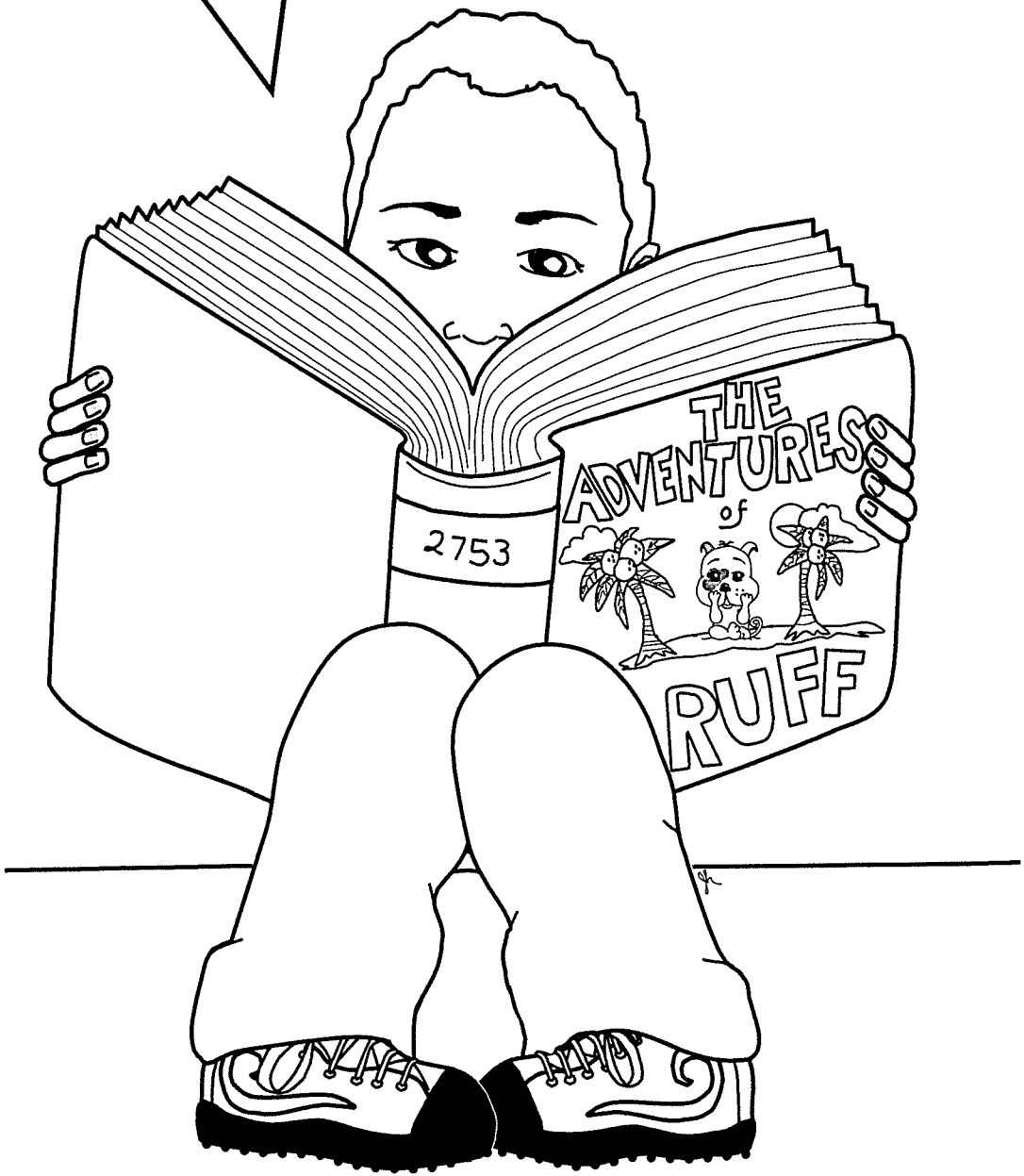


2.

Truth	
Lie	

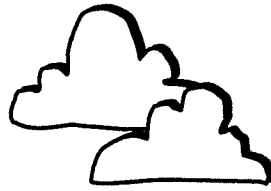


I'm reading
a chicken.



3.

Truth	
Lie	



I'm going
to eat an
ice cream
cone.



4.

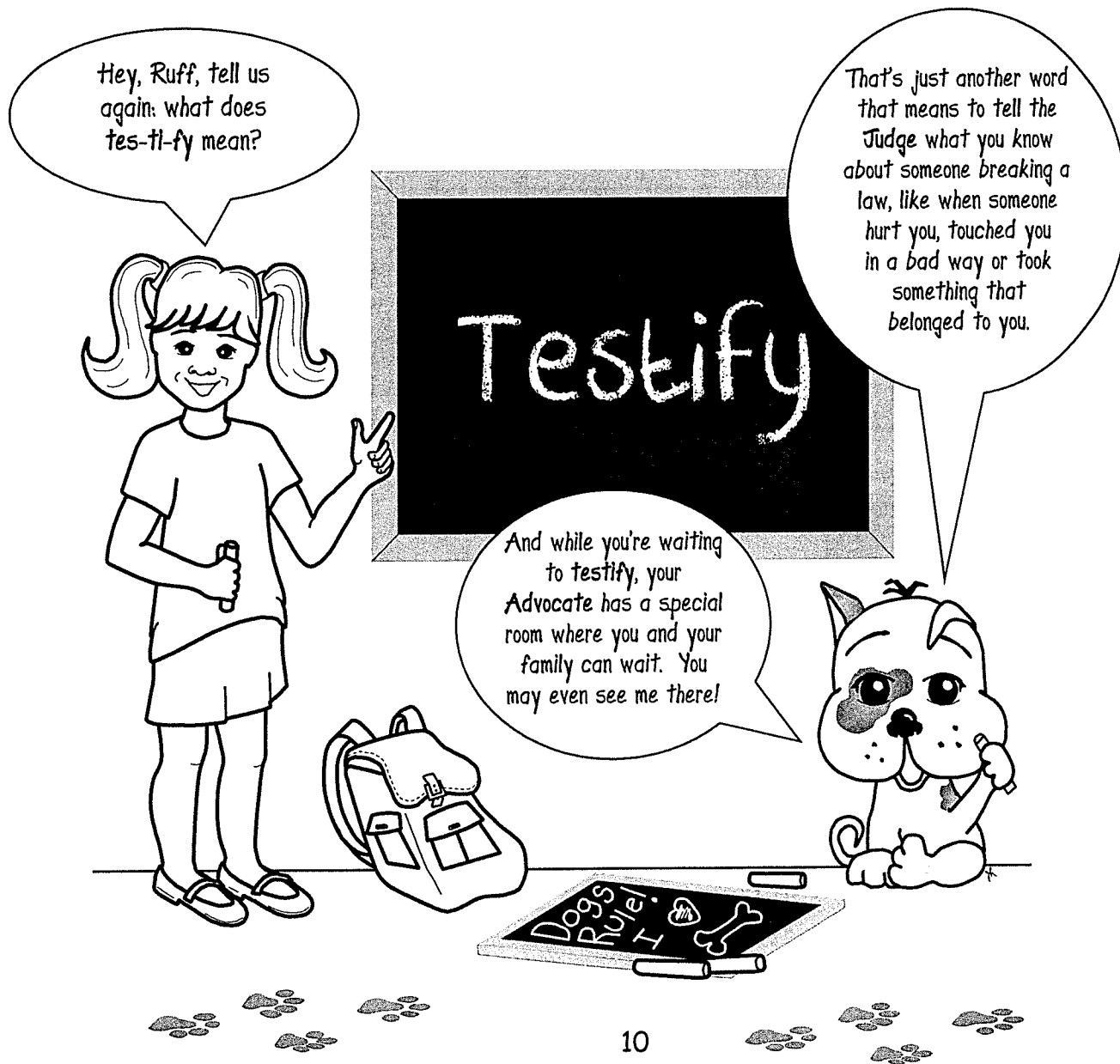
Truth	
Lie	



What is a Victim Advocate?

A **Victim Advocate** is a person who works for the Court. Her job is to help you and your family. She can answer your questions, explain more about how Court works and go over the rules for **Witnesses** with you. Your **Advocate** can also remind you about your relaxation exercises and if you like, help you practice them before you testify (more about that starting on page 29). She will also be with you in the Courtroom when it's your turn to be a **Witness**.

Your **Advocate** also has a special Victim Room for you and your family to wait till it's your turn to **testify** and again after you **testify** when you may have to wait till the trial is over. There's lots of fun stuff to do there. You can draw pictures, play games and watch videos.



Who Else Works at the Courthouse?

Lots of people work at the Courthouse. Some people are there to help the **Juvenile**, some people are there to help the **Victim** and some people are there to make sure all the rules and **laws** are followed and some people are there to keep everyone safe.

These people may be in the Courtroom on **trial** day. Most of them will be there because they have a job to do.

A **Judge** is like the boss of the whole Courthouse. Some **Judges** are women and some are men. Like a lot of bosses, **Judges** have many different jobs to do. They have to make sure all the rules and **laws** are followed and they must listen when all the **Witnesses** testify. The **Judge** then must decide if the **Juvenile** did break a **law** (guilty) or did not break the **law** (not guilty).

Other people who work at the Courthouse are Attorneys. There are many kinds of Attorneys. A **Prosecutor** (also called a **Juvenile Officer** in Juvenile Court) works for the Court. Their job is to try to prove to the **Judge** that the **Juvenile** broke a **law**. Another kind of attorney is a **Defense Attorney**. They work for the **Juvenile** and represent the **Juvenile's** side if there is a trial, trying to prove the **Juvenile** did not break the **law**. Sometimes, a few days or weeks before the trial, both Attorneys may want to talk to you about what happened. This is a special meeting called a **deposition**. A **deposition** helps the Attorneys understand what each **Witness** knows and what each **Witness** would say if there is a **trial**.

Judges have lots of responsibilities. One is to decide if the Juvenile is guilty or not guilty.

The Prosecutor, or Juvenile Officer, has a big job to do too: to prove to the Judge that the Juvenile is the person who hurt you, touched you in a bad way or took something from you.

And don't forget: your Advocate is there to help you understand Court and what you are supposed to do.



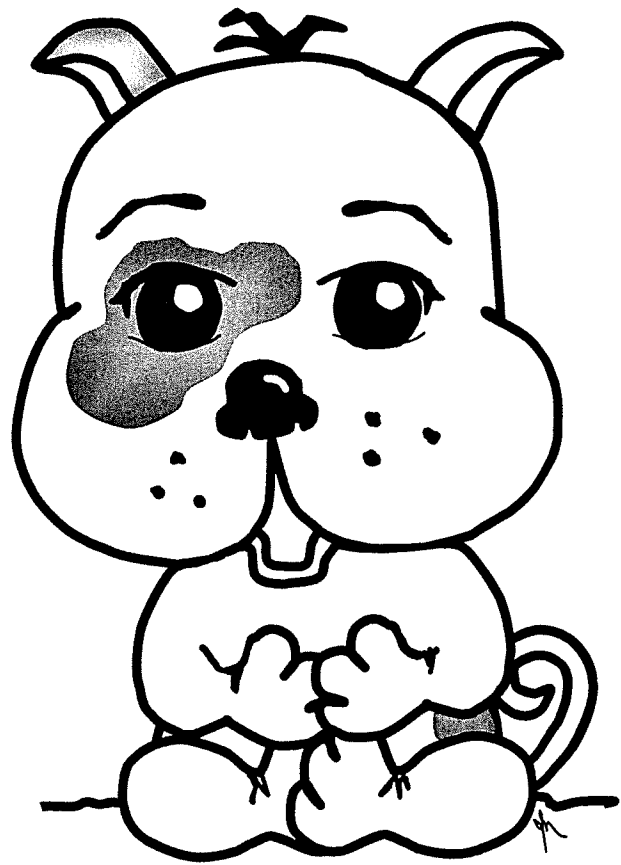
Some Courtrooms have equipment to record what you and the other **Witnesses** say. If the Courtroom does not have this equipment a person called a **Court Reporter** will be in the Courtroom to take down everything everyone is saying during the **trial**. If the **Judge** has questions about something a **Witness** said, they can look at this record. This is private record though and not everyone can see it.

Another person who works for the Court is the **Juvenile's Probation Officer**. Probation Officers are there to work with the **Juvenile** and to make suggestions to the **Judge** about the kind of help or treatment the **Juvenile** needs if they are found guilty (We'll learn more about that later).

Sometimes there will also be a **Guard** in the Courtroom to make sure everyone is safe.

The **Juvenile** and their parents will also be in the Courtroom. That may sound scary, but the **Juvenile** is not allowed to speak to you, touch you or hurt you in any way.

Even though the person accused of breaking a law will be in the Courtroom, they will not be allowed to talk to you or hurt you in any way. There are lots of people in Court to keep you safe. Court Day will be YOUR day. It will be your turn to tell your story about what happened to you.

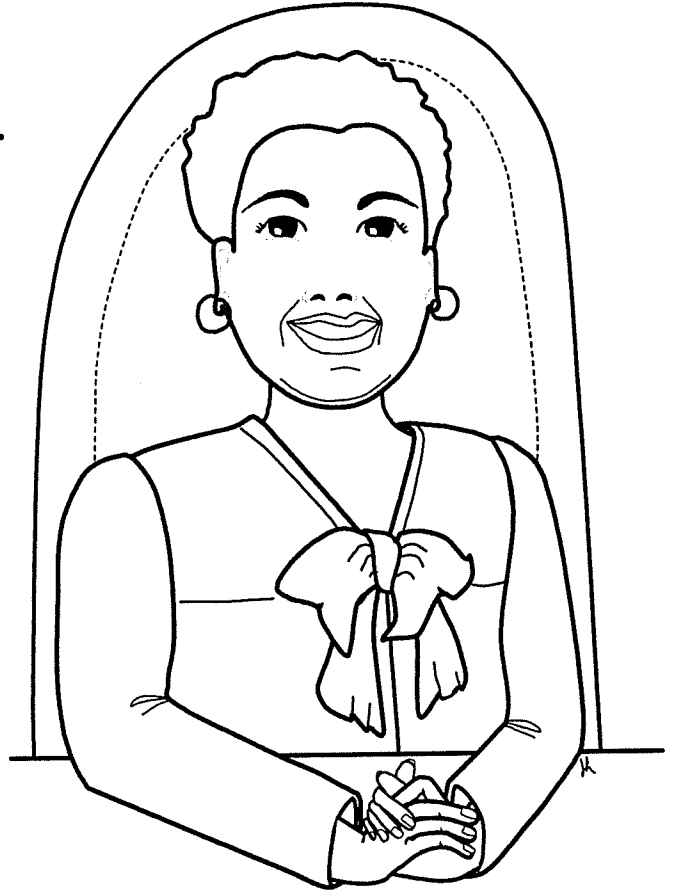
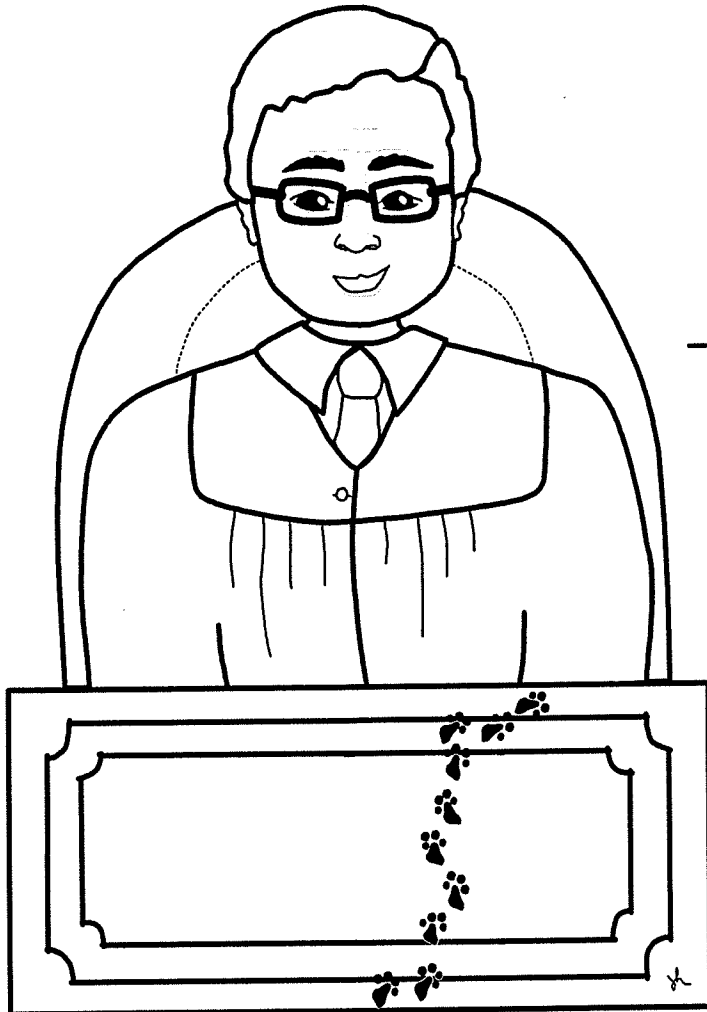


GAME TIME

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences.

1. Some Judges are

_____ .



2. Some Judges are

_____ .

Words, Words, Words: What Do They Mean ?

Admission: Instead of having a trial, the Juvenile agrees to tell the Judge they are guilty of breaking a law.

Advocate: A person who helps Victims and Witnesses get ready for court. An Advocate can answer your questions, go to Court with you and provide a safe, quiet room to wait till it's your turn to testify. Also called a Victim Advocate.

Commissioner: This is a type of Judge in Juvenile Court.

Court Reporter: In some Courtrooms this person records everything the Witnesses say as they testify in Court during a trial using a special typing machine.

Defendant: The person accused of breaking a law. If this person is 16 years old or younger they are called the Juvenile.

Defense Attorney: An Attorney who helps the Juvenile. Their job is to try to prove the Juvenile did not break a law if the case goes to trial.

Deposition: A special meeting for the Defense Attorney and the Prosecutor to ask Witnesses questions about what they saw happen or to ask Victims questions about what happened to them.

Disposition: A part of the trial that happens after all the Witnesses have testified and the Judge has found the Juvenile guilty or the Juvenile has admitted to breaking the law. The Judge then decides what the Juvenile must do to make things better, like getting counseling so they won't hurt kids again, apologizing to the victim, paying the victim for something that was stolen or broken or sometimes they order that for a while, the Juvenile must live at a place that helps kids with special problems.

Evidence: Different kinds of information (such as testimony, documents, pictures, videos) Witnesses bring to the trial to offer as proof that the Juvenile either did or did not break a law.

Judge: This is the boss of the Courtroom. Judges makes sure all the rules and laws are followed. They also decide if there is enough evidence to prove that a law was broken and that it was or was not the Juvenile who broke the law.

Juvenile: An individual, under the age of 16, accused of breaking the law.

Law: A rule everyone must follow.

Objection: When an Attorney interrupts a Witness as they are testifying to talk to the Judge.



Oath: A promise Witnesses make in Court to tell the truth.

Probation Officer: A person who looks into the Juvenile's history (school, police, court and mental health records), then during the disposition, testifies in Court about what type of treatment the Juvenile needs so they won't want to break the law again and what they should do to make the situation better like paying the victim back for things that were taken or broken or writing a letter of apology to the victim.

Prosecutor: An Attorney who works for the Court. Their job is to try to prove to the Judge that a law was broken and it was the Juvenile who broke that law. Also called the Juvenile Officer.

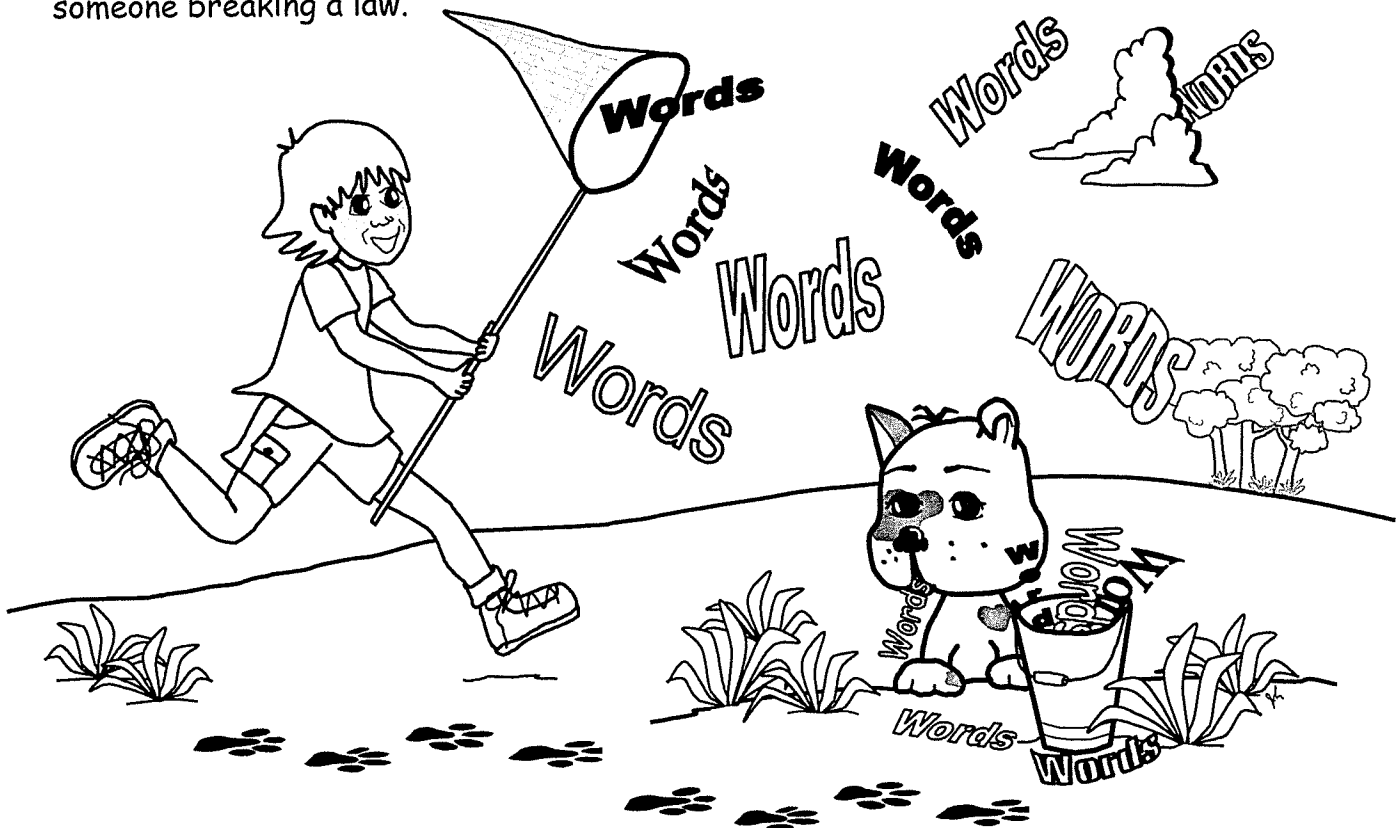
Testify: This is what Witnesses do when they come to Court: telling a Judge what they know or what they saw happen when someone was breaking a law.

Testimony: What the Witnesses say in Court under oath.

Trial: When the Judge, Attorneys, Witnesses, Victims, the Juvenile and other people who work for the Court come together to try to decide if the Juvenile did or did not break a law.

Victim: A person who was hurt, touched in a bad way or had something taken from them by another person when that person broke a law.

Witness: Any person who comes to court to tell a Judge what they know about someone breaking a law.



GAME TIME

Word Scrambler: Unscramble the letters below to make words you have seen somewhere in this book.

1. duJeg _____

2. teWniss _____

3. boJ _____

4. fuRf _____

5. cavoteAd _____

6. Arettony _____

7. thruT _____

8. ieL _____

9. feDdennat _____

10. nEvieced _____

11. aOth _____

12. mitciV _____

13. minoTesty _____

14. wLa _____

Match the Job to the Person: Draw a line to match the person in Column 1 to a description of their job in Column 2.

Column 1

Column 2

A. Witness

1. A Court employee who is there to help you and your family.

B. Judge

2. An Attorney who's there to help the Juvenile.

C. Advocate

3. The person who may have broken a law. Also called the defendant if 17 or older.

D. Probation Officer

4. The boss of the Courtroom who makes sure all the rules are followed.

E. Prosecutor

5. A person who comes to Court with information to tell the Judge about someone breaking a law.

F. Juvenile

6. An Attorney who works for the Court. Also called the Juvenile Officer.

G. Defense Attorney

7. A person who tells the Judge what kind of treatment the Juvenile needs so they won't want to break the law again.

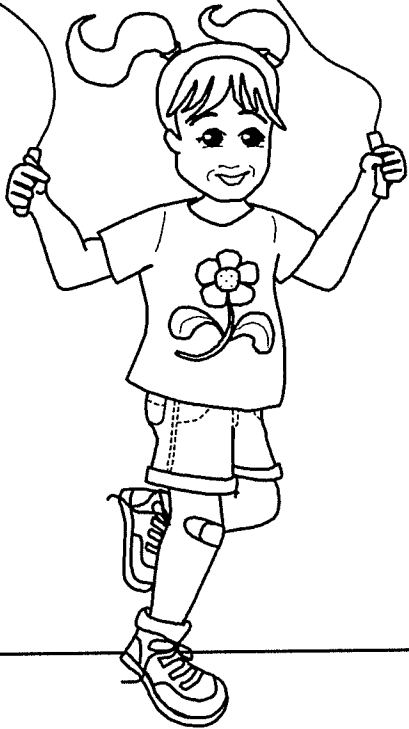


Word Find: Find and circle the words listed below. Some words appear more than once.

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

- | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Admission | Disposition | Just tell the truth | Oath | Testify (2) |
| Advocate (2) | Evidence (2) | Juvenile | Objection | Testimony |
| Court (3) | Family Court | Law (6) | Probation officer | Truth |
| Court Reporter | Guard | Lie | Promise | Victim (6) |
| Defendant | Guilty (2) | No | Prosecutor | Witness (3) |
| Defense attorney | Judge (4) | Not guilty (2) | Speak clearly | Yes |

Your Special Information



My Judge/Commissioner is _____

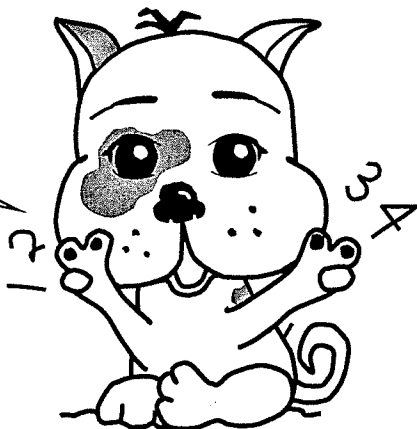
My Prosecutor/Juvenile Officer is _____

His/her helper is _____

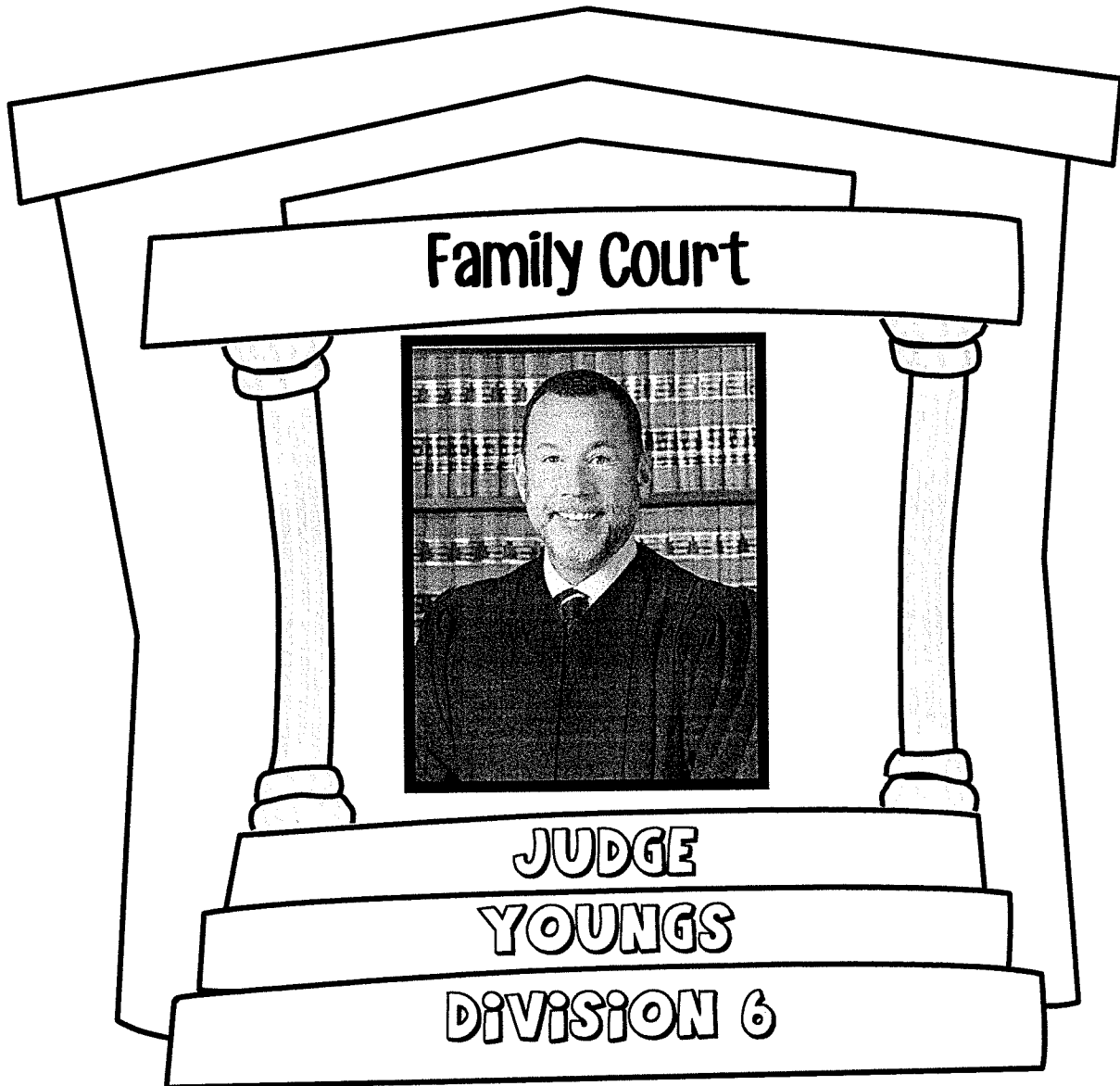
My Advocate is _____

My trial will be in Division/Courtroom _____

Now I'll introduce you
to the 4 Family
Court Judges.



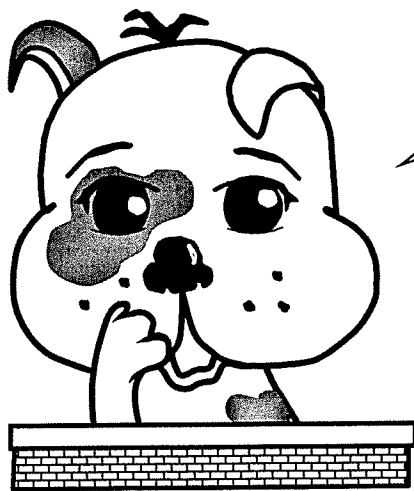
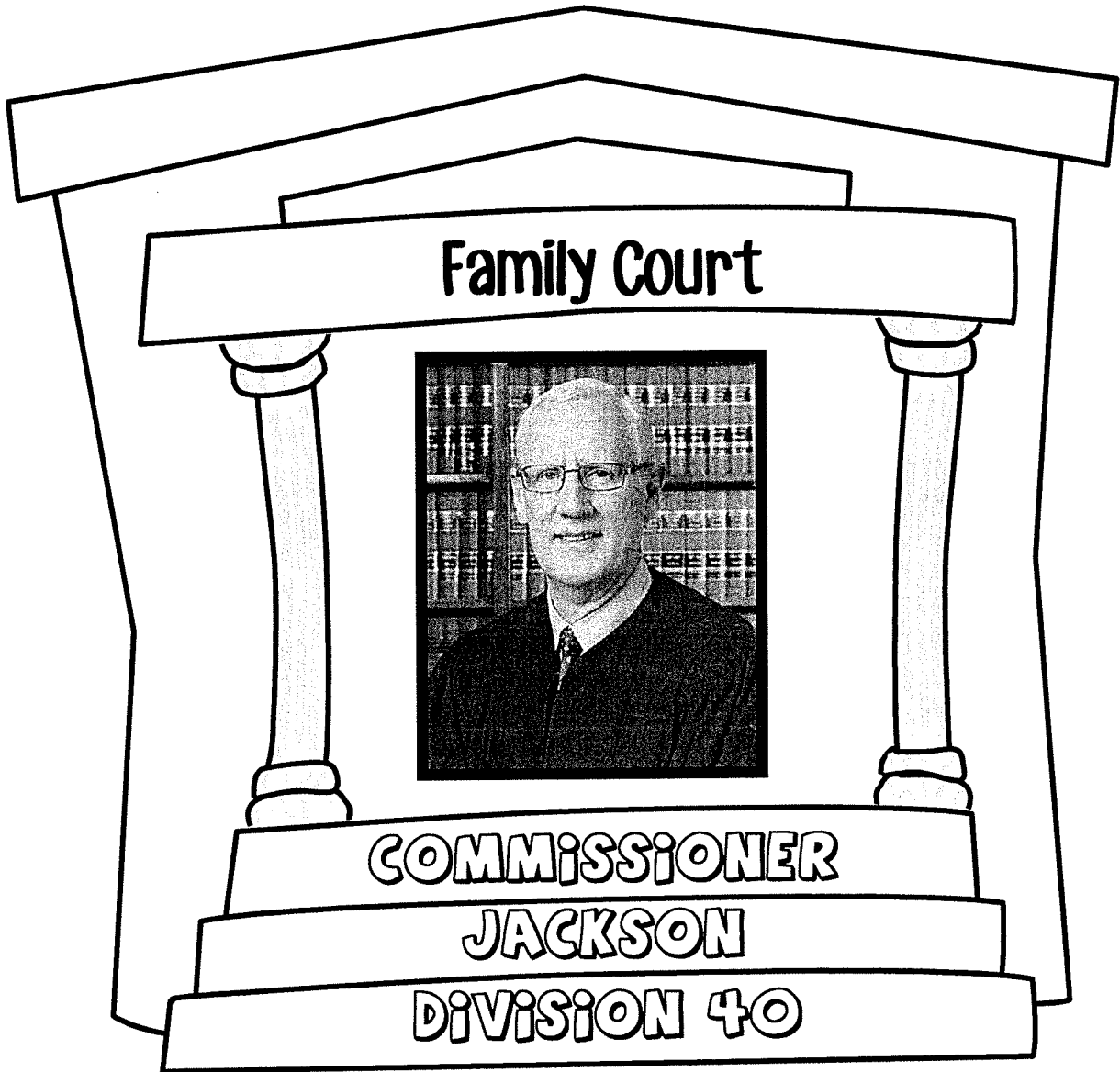
Meet the Judges



This is Judge
Youngs. He has
Division 6.

Division is
another word for
Courtroom.





And this is
Commissioner
Jackson of
Division 40.

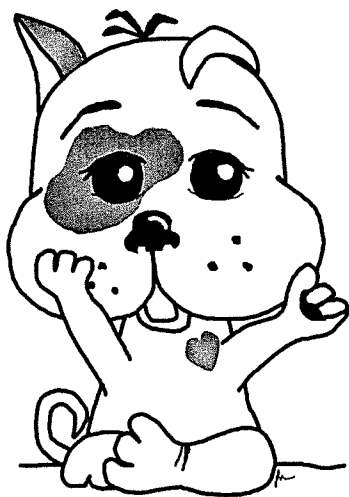
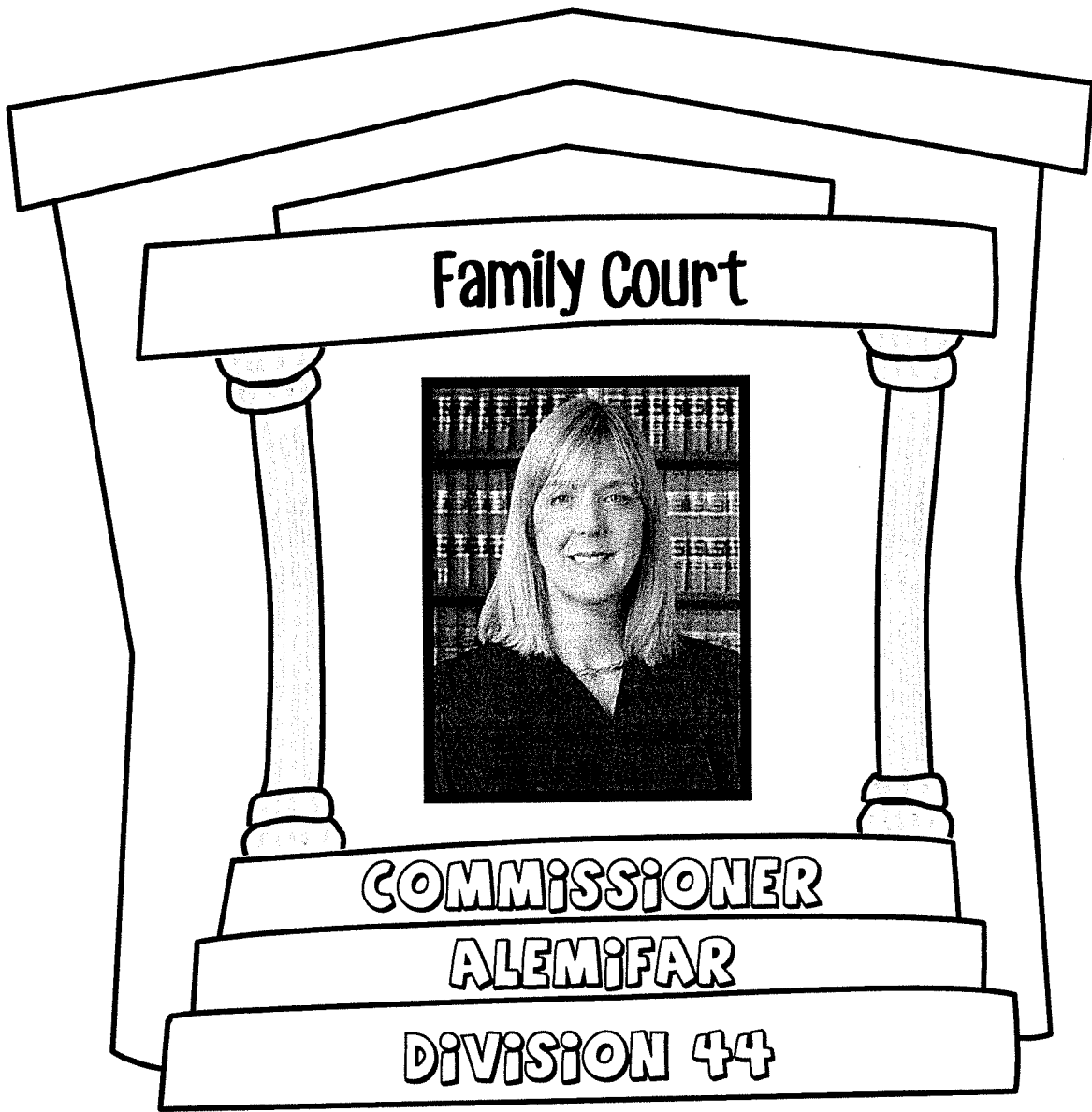
Commissioner
is just another
name
for a Judge.





As you can see,
Commissioner
Peterson has
Division 41.



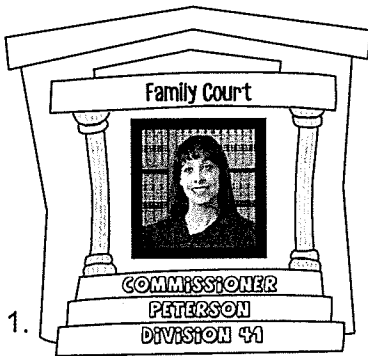


And finally,
Commissioner
Alemifar has
Division 44.

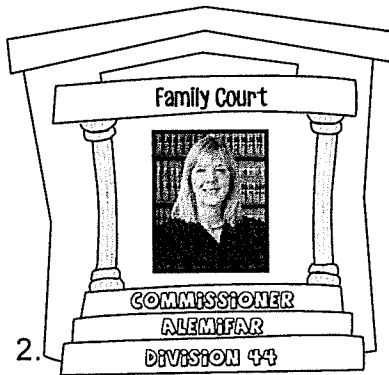


GAME TIME

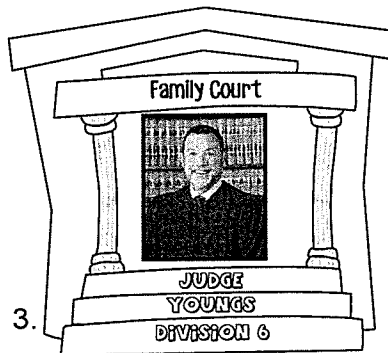
Match the Judges: Draw a line to connect the Judge Or Commissioner to their Division/ Courtroom number.



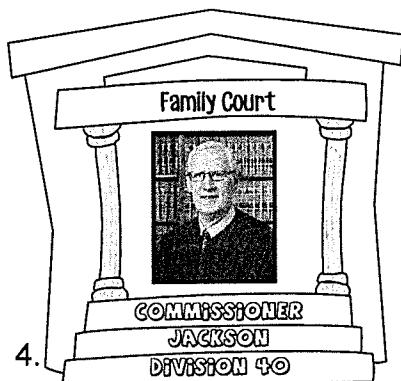
6



40



44

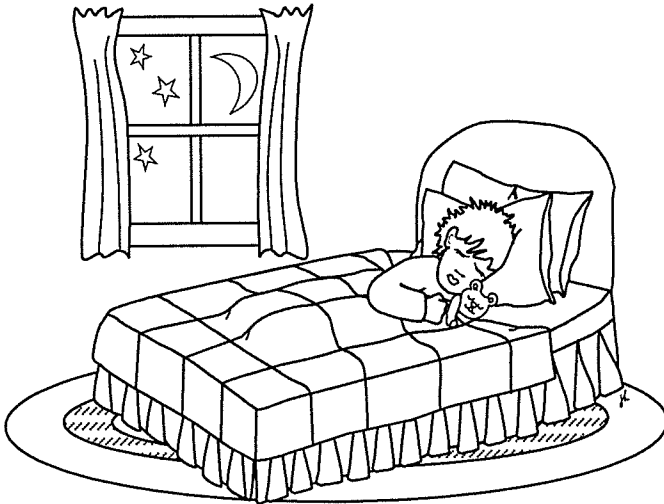


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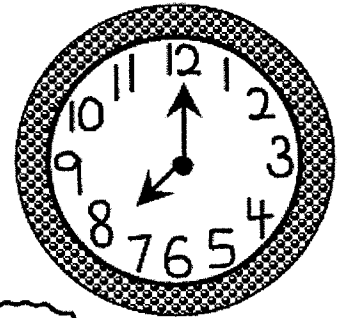


Before Going to Court

Going to Court can sometimes take a long time and be very tiring. The night before your **trial**, it's a good idea to go to bed early and get a good night's sleep.



That morning eat a good breakfast. If your **trial** is in the afternoon be sure to eat a good lunch. Eating a healthy meal will give you plenty of energy and help you to think more clearly.



You can also bring a snack with you in case you get hungry before your **trial** starts or afterwards while you're waiting to go home. You can bring fruit, nuts, crackers or granola bars and something to drink like juice. Make sure to bring healthy snacks that don't contain a lot of sugar.





When getting ready for Court wear clean, comfortable clothes, as if you were going to school.



But don't wear a hat into the Courtroom. It's not respectful.



It's okay to bring something special with you on Court day that makes you feel comfortable, such as a toy, a doll or your favorite book. Just make sure whatever you bring is a quiet something special if you'd like to take it into the Courtroom with you.

What Happens at the Trial?

Before your **trial**, you and your family can hang out in the special Victim Waiting Room. Your **Advocate** will be there to answer any questions you or your parents may have. She can also talk with you and try to help you if you are feeling nervous about testifying. Sometimes the **Prosecutor** or their Assistant will drop by to say hello and then come by later to tell you when it's time to go to the Courtroom.

When it's your turn to **testify**, your **Advocate** will walk with you and your parents to the Courtroom. Sometimes your parents can come into the Courtroom with you. But if they are **Witnesses** too, the **Judge** may have them wait in the big waiting room just outside the Courtroom until you are finished **testifying**. But your **Advocate** will be able to go into the Courtroom with you.

When the **trial** starts, the **Judge**, or sometimes their assistant, will ask you to take an **oath** to tell the truth, then you get to sit in the special **Witness** chair. First, the **Prosecutor** will ask you questions about what happened to you (don't forget the Rules for Witnesses on pages 4 and 5). To make sure they have the right person, the **Prosecutor** will ask that you point out, or describe what they are wearing, the person who hurt you, touched you in a bad way or took something that belonged to you. That is the only time you have to look at this person. But keep remembering that the **Juvenile** cannot speak to you or hurt you in any way. Also remember that you have done nothing wrong. When the **Prosecutor** is finished, it's the **Defense Attorney's** turn to ask you some questions. Sometimes the **Judge** will have a question or two for you after that. When everyone is finished asking you questions, you will be "excused" and you can leave the Courtroom. If there are other **Witnesses**, they'll take their turn after you.

Can I Go Home Now?

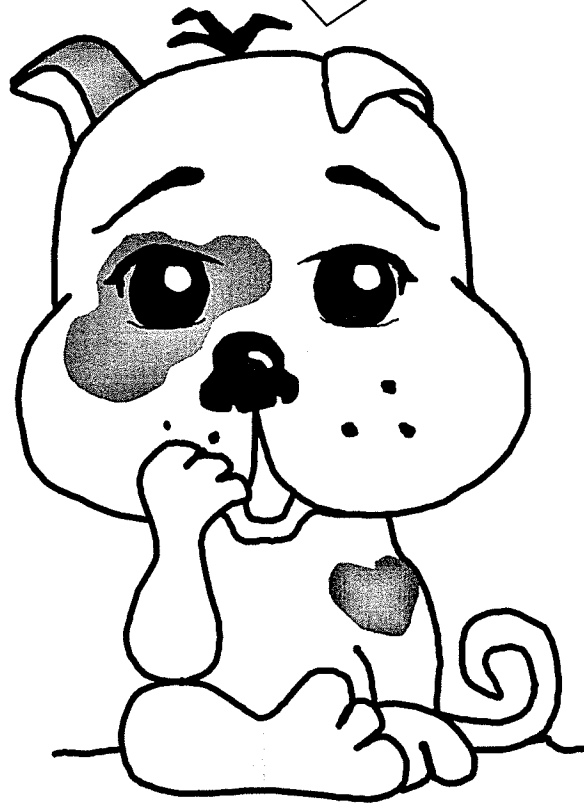
After you have **testified** and you've been excused you might not be able to go home right away. There may be other **Witnesses** who need to **testify**. Sometimes the next **Witness** may be your mother or father or your brother or sister. The **Prosecutor** usually asks all the **Witnesses** to stay at the Courthouse until everyone has taken their turn. You can return to the Victim Waiting Room and play with the toys and games or watch videos till everyone is finished. The **Prosecutor** or their assistant will let you know as soon as you and your family can go home.

This is so Hard!

Coming to Court can be hard. People may ask you questions that make you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or afraid. You might be related to the **Juvenile** or you've known them for a long time and you don't want to get them in trouble. Maybe you're afraid the **Juvenile** will be mad at you or even hurt you or your family. Sometimes kids are afraid the people they tell will think they're bad. But it's important to remember: **YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG**. The people who work at Court know that. They work with lots of kids who have had bad or scary or embarrassing things happen to them so they understand how hard your job is. They work for the Court because they want to help kids who have been hurt or scared.

If you feel uncomfortable when you're **testifying** in Court just remember that what you have to say is very important. **YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT**. Coming to Court and telling the truth about what happened to you is very brave and it will help the **Judge** do their job, which is to decide if the **Juvenile** broke a law and if they did what should happen to them.

Pssst. Let me tell you a secret:
Lots of people feel scared when they come to Court. Even grown-ups. Doing new things can make you feel afraid and talking about what happened can make you feel embarrassed.
But everyone in the whole world has had something embarrassing happen to them. Just keep remembering:
**YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG
AND YOU ARE NOT IN TROUBLE.**



GAME TIME

Have you had this happen to you? You practice something over and over and after a while it gets easier to do? Here are some exercises to help you feel less nervous if you come to Court to be a Witness. Practice them till you feel comfortable doing them. Then on Court day, it will be easy to use these little "tricks" to help you relax if you start to feel nervous.


Relaxation Exercise 1: Close your eyes and take a slow, deep breath IN. Hold it for a count of 5 and slowly let it OUT. Slow breath IN (count 1-2-3-4-5), slow breath OUT. Repeat several times.





Relaxation Exercise 2: This one is easy. Just count to 10 slowly in your head, then start over again. Or, if you're good at counting, count as high as you can go. Counting can distract you from your nervous feelings and help to clear your mind when something makes you nervous like going to the dentist or taking a test or testifying in Court.





I do these exercises when I get nervous, like when I have to go to the vet. Keep practicing them till they become easier to do, especially when you are in stressful situations.

Here's something else you can try to help you relax...

You can distract yourself by thinking about something fun you can do when Court Day is over, just like these kids...



For fun I like
climbing the tree
in my backyard.



What do you
like to do
for fun?

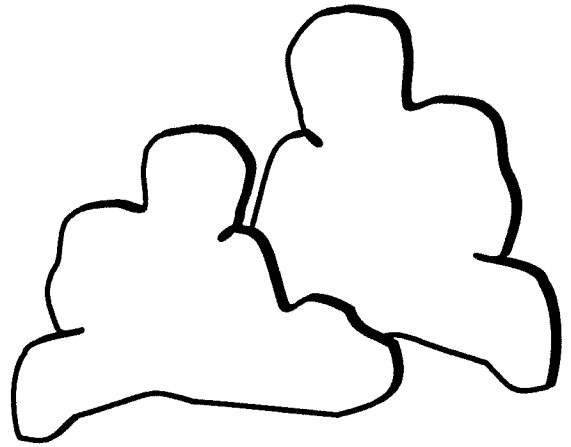


I like to
make
treats for
my family.





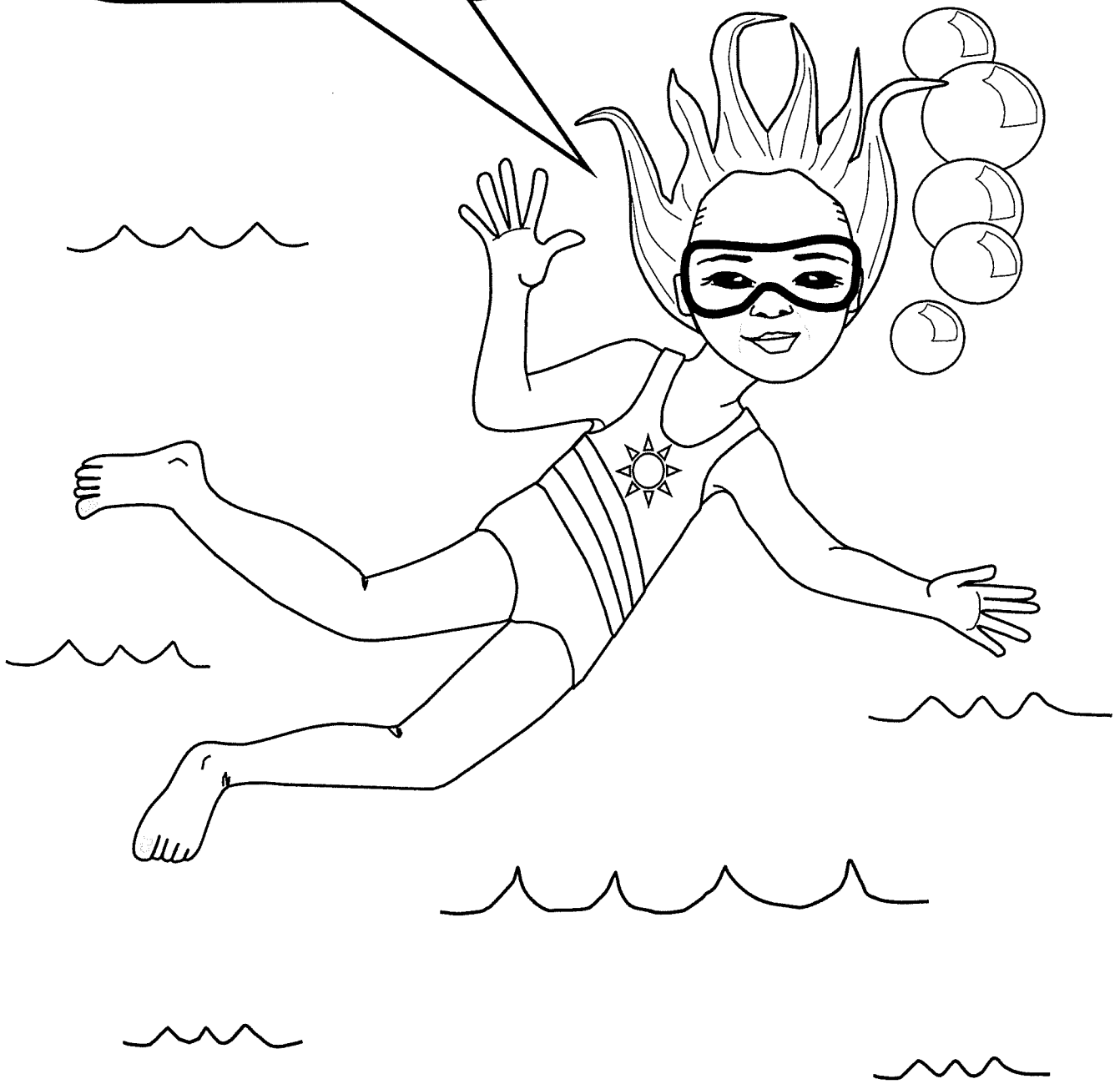
I like playing
catch with my
best friend.



I like having
my ears
scratched.



i like
to swim.





I LIKE
PLAYING
BASEBALL



GAME TIME

What fun thing are you going to do when Court day is over? Draw a picture of yourself doing something you love to do. Are you playing sports? Reading a book? Playing a video game? Skateboarding? Watching a movie?



What Happens Next?

After all the **Witnesses** have testified and all the **evidence** has been presented, the **Judge** now has a very big job to do: to sort through all that **evidence**, to look at all the pieces of the puzzle, and decide if there are enough pieces to be able to see the whole picture of what happened. If there are enough pieces to clearly show what happened, the **Judge** may decide the **Juvenile** is guilty of breaking a **law**. If the **Juvenile** is found guilty, then comes the **disposition** part of the trial where the people who work at the Court decide what will happen to the **Juvenile**. During the **disposition**, the **Judge** will ask the **Probation Officer** what kind of help, like special counseling, the **Juvenile** needs so they will not hurt any other children or break a **law** again. The **Judge** may also order that the **Juvenile** cannot be near you or talk to you for a while. If the **Juvenile** is someone in your family the **Judge** could order them not to be around you without an adult present until they finish treatment or until the counselor thinks you will be safe.

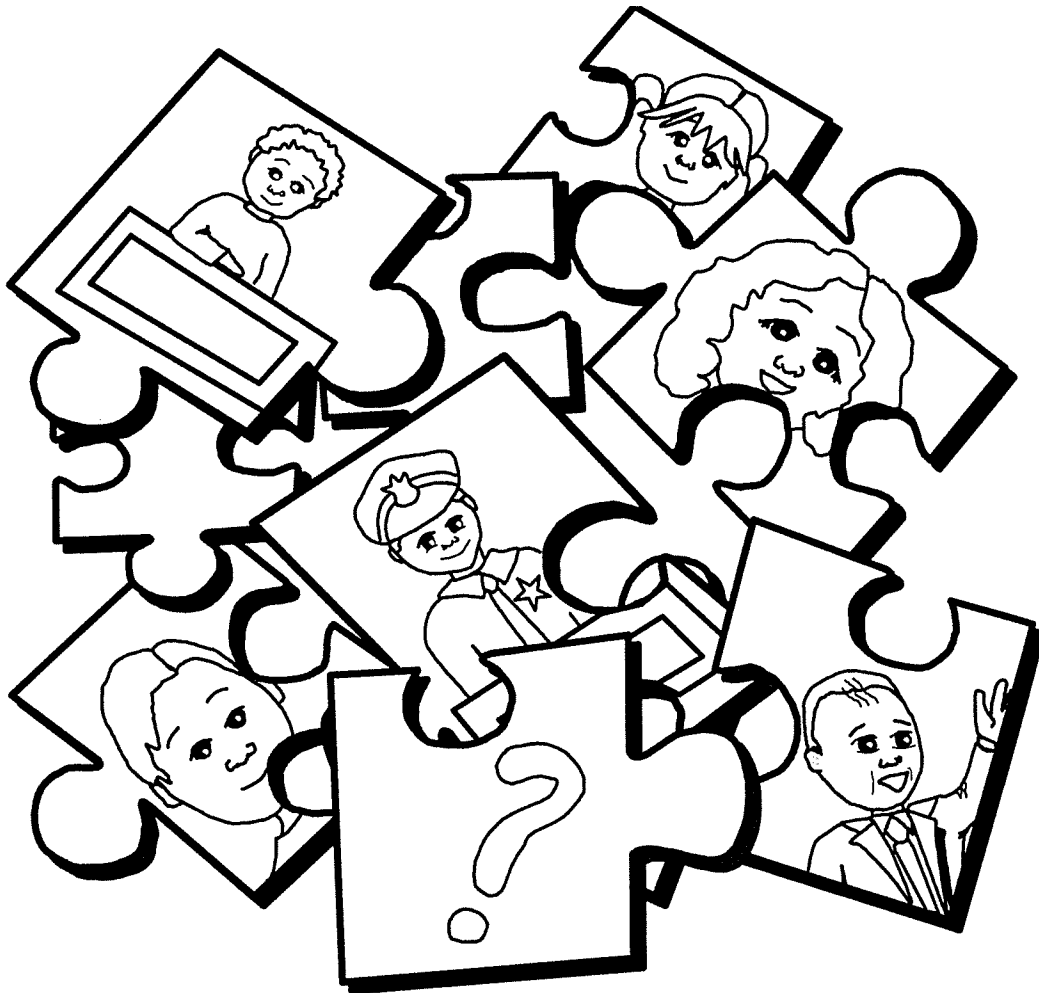
In Missouri, the Court believes kids are still growing, changing and learning. They believe most **Juveniles** can change their bad behavior if they really try, if they get the help they need to make changes and they have people to watch over them to make sure they do what they are supposed to do to make those changes so they don't make the same mistakes. Sometimes they can get the help they need while living at home. But sometimes their problems are too bad and the people in charge of these things think they need to go away to a sleep away place for a while, called a group home or a residential placement, to get the help they need. This is not because you told what happened. This is because of the choices the **Juvenile** made, or they can't get the right kind of help while at home, or they need extra help every day, or the **Judge** might think the **Juvenile** needs a secure place to stay while they are getting help. Another reason could be the **Juvenile** is someone in your family who usually lives at your house but now cannot stay there until their treatment is finished and the **Judge** feels it is safe for them to be around you again. But if the **Juvenile** must go away for a little while it is not your fault.

If the **Juvenile** in your case is related to you and they had to leave to live somewhere else, remember this: It is not your fault. You did nothing wrong. Telling what happened to you is the right thing to do. No one has the right to hurt you, not even someone in your family.



This is very important to remember:

If there are not enough pieces of the puzzle, or **evidence**, to show what happened, the **Judge** may find the **Juvenile** not guilty of breaking a law. If the **Juvenile** is found not guilty, and this is important to remember, it does not mean the **Judge** does not believe you. It means there just weren't enough pieces of the puzzle available, or enough **evidence**, to help the **Judge** see the whole picture of what happened.



Before a **Judge** can find a person guilty they must be absolutely sure they know what happened, that a **law** was broken and it was the **Juvenile** who broke that **law**. That's a **law** **Judges** must follow. But whether the **Judge** finds the **Juvenile** guilty or not guilty, to stand up and tell what happened to you is very brave and nothing can change that.



And After It's Over:

After the trial is over, you may feel happy, or you may feel sad or confused. Some kids say they feel bad because they feel like they "snitched" and got someone in trouble. If the **Juvenile** who hurt you is related to you, a brother or sister, cousin or uncle for example, you may be very confused by your feelings. You might be angry at them for hurting you and afraid to be around them, but you could also still love them and miss seeing them. You could also feel very hurt and sad that they treated you like they did. Maybe you feel guilty because even though people tell you it's not your fault, you sometimes think it is because you didn't make the bad stuff stop. Or maybe you think if you just had not told anyone what happened, it wouldn't have created so many problems for everyone. And sometimes you feel so many different things at the same time, so confused, that you can't even think. You just want all the feelings to stop.

Believe it or not, feeling all kinds of different feelings is normal, especially when you're in confusing, stressful situations, but it's important to talk to someone to help you through hard times in your life. Reach out to your parents, grandparents, a teacher, school counselor or tell your Advocate. Talking helps you sort out these feelings and can make you feel less alone. Talking doesn't always make these mixed up feelings magically go away, but sharing them with someone can make them seem less heavy to carry around.



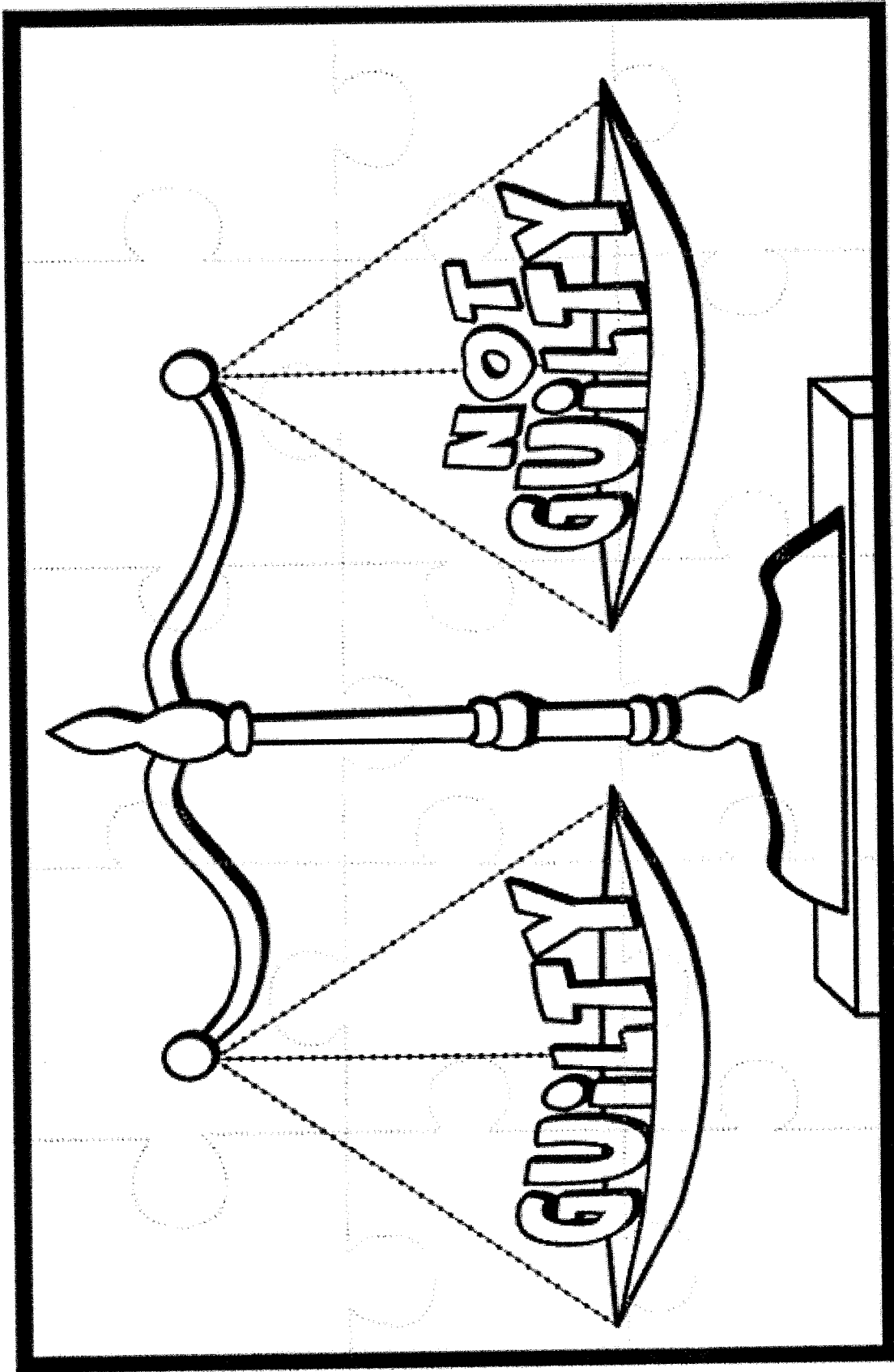
One of the most important messages to remember from this book is this: You have done nothing wrong (Are you tired of hearing that yet? Well, it's true!). It is very brave to come to Court and tell the truth. No matter what happens, you should feel very proud of yourself. Everyone at the Courthouse has an important job to do and if you must come to Court you'll be doing yours. After it's all over, be sure to give yourself a hand!



GAME TIME

Create your own puzzle by cutting around all the lines in the picture on the next page. To make it stronger, first glue the picture onto a piece of lightweight cardboard before cutting out the individual pieces. Can you see that if some of the pieces of the puzzle are missing you might not be able to see what the picture is supposed to be? That's like a trial. If a Judge can't see the whole picture of what happened then they cannot decide that a Juvenile is guilty of breaking a law.





Questions?

Most kids who come to Court have lots of questions. Here are a few questions other kids have asked:

Can my Mom and Dad come into the Courtroom with me?

Yes, unless they are **Witnesses** too and are going to **testify** during the trial. Only one **Witness** can be in the Courtroom at a time. But your parents can sit right outside the Courtroom in the waiting area until you have finished **testifying**. If they will not be **Witnesses**, they can be in the Courtroom with you when you **testify**.

How many times do I have to tell what happened?

It's very hard to talk about scary or embarrassing things. Even adults feel that way. But it's important for people to understand what happened. Maybe you first told your Mom or Dad, your Grandmother or a teacher. Then you may have talked to a police officer, a doctor or a Social Worker at the hospital and later to someone at the Child Protection Center. You and your parents may also be asked to come to a special meeting called a **Deposition** (remember from page 11?). Then you will need to tell what happened if there is a trial. That's a lot of talking! But just keep remembering how important it is to tell what happened to you and that you have done nothing wrong.

What if I get so nervous or scared I can't even talk or what if I cry?

Some people are afraid they will freeze up or even cry when they have to go to Court. However, most kids get through it just fine. But if you're worried, know that the **Judge** will let you take a break to talk to your parents or to your **Advocate** if you need to. And remember: Practicing your relaxation exercises can help you feel less nervous in new situations.

What if I have to go to the bathroom?

Be sure to go before going into the Courtroom but if you have to go again, don't be afraid to speak up and tell someone that you need to take a break. Your **Advocate** will show you where the restrooms are.

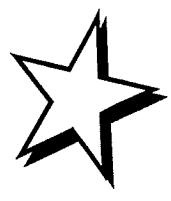
Will the person who hurt me be in the Courtroom?

The **Juvenile** will be in the Courtroom but they are not allowed to talk to you or touch you. If it makes you nervous seeing the **Juvenile** there, focus on someone else. Look at your parents or if they are waiting outside the Courtroom, look at the **Prosecutor** or your **Advocate**. But the **Prosecutor** will ask you to point out the person who hurt you, and then you don't have to look at them again. They just want to be sure it's the right person.





YOU DID IT!



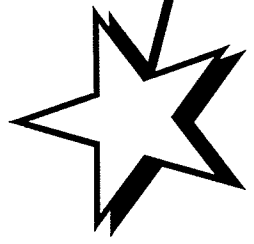
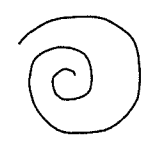
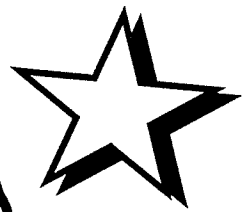
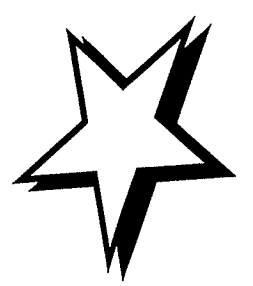
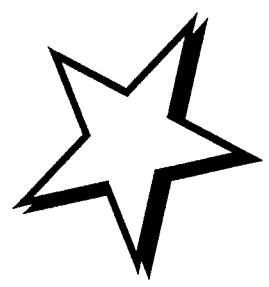
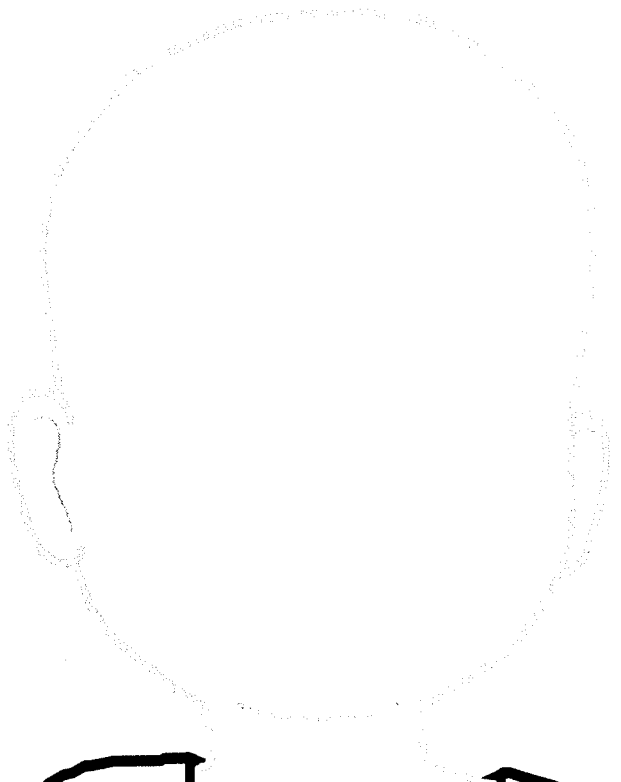
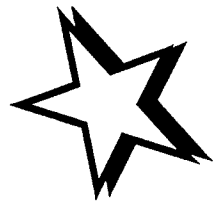
YOU'RE A



STAR WITNESS



Can you complete this face to make it look like you? What color are your eyes? What color is your hair? Is it short or long? Straight or curly? Are you happy or sad? What color is your shirt?

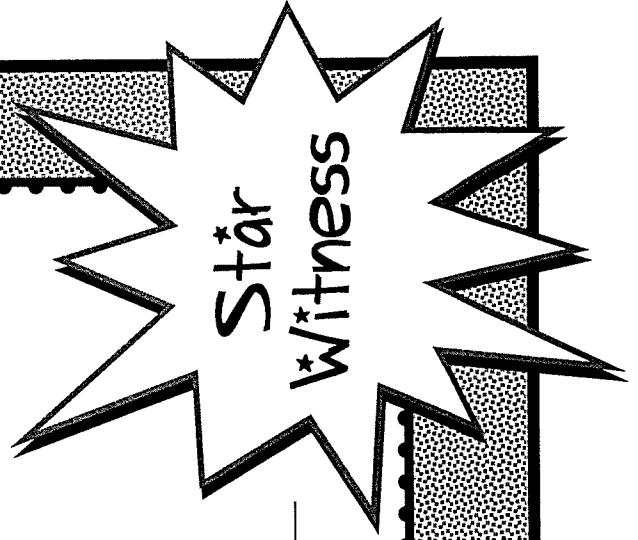


This certifies that

is a Star Witness
for Jackson County Family Court

Signed by your Advocate

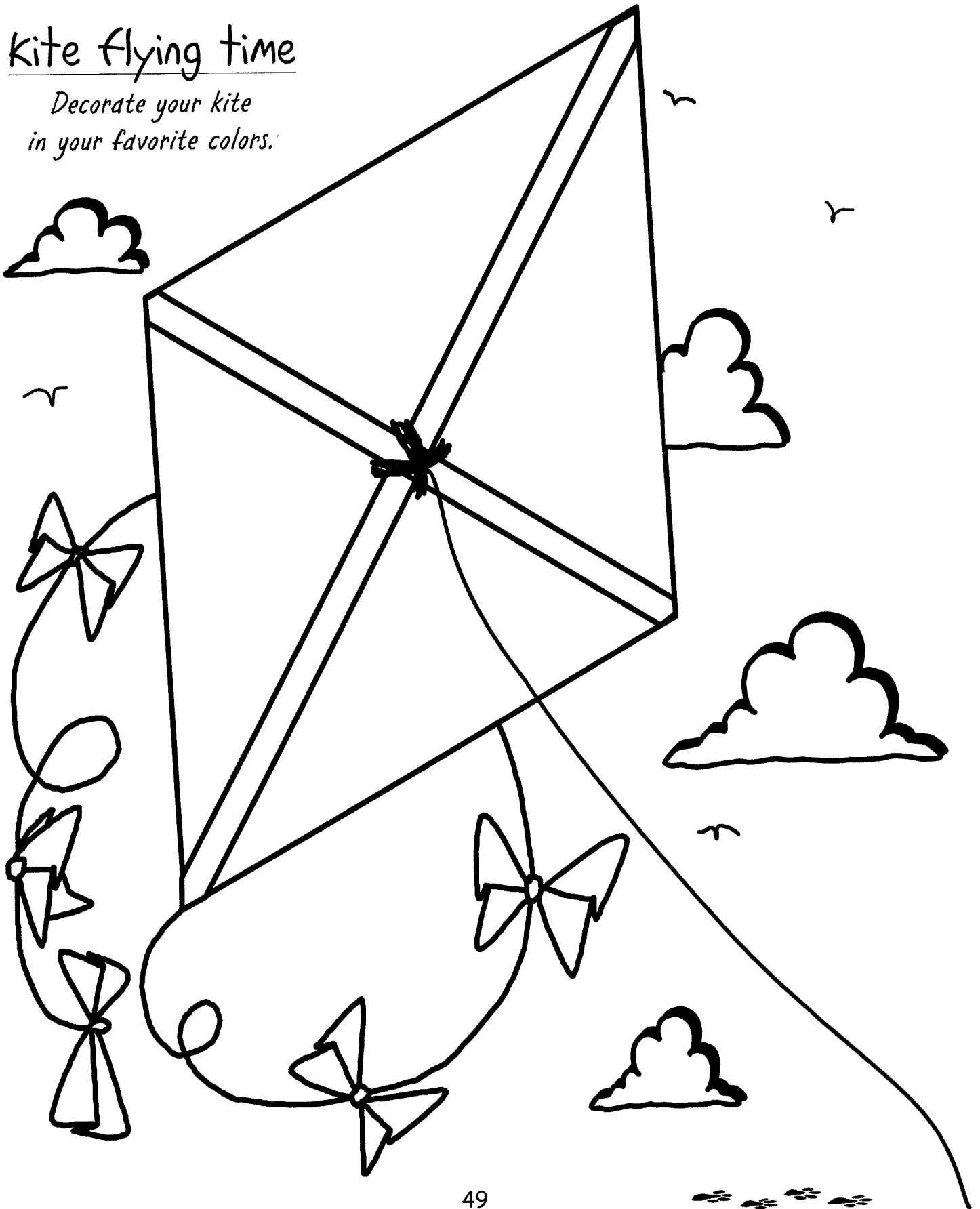
_____ Date



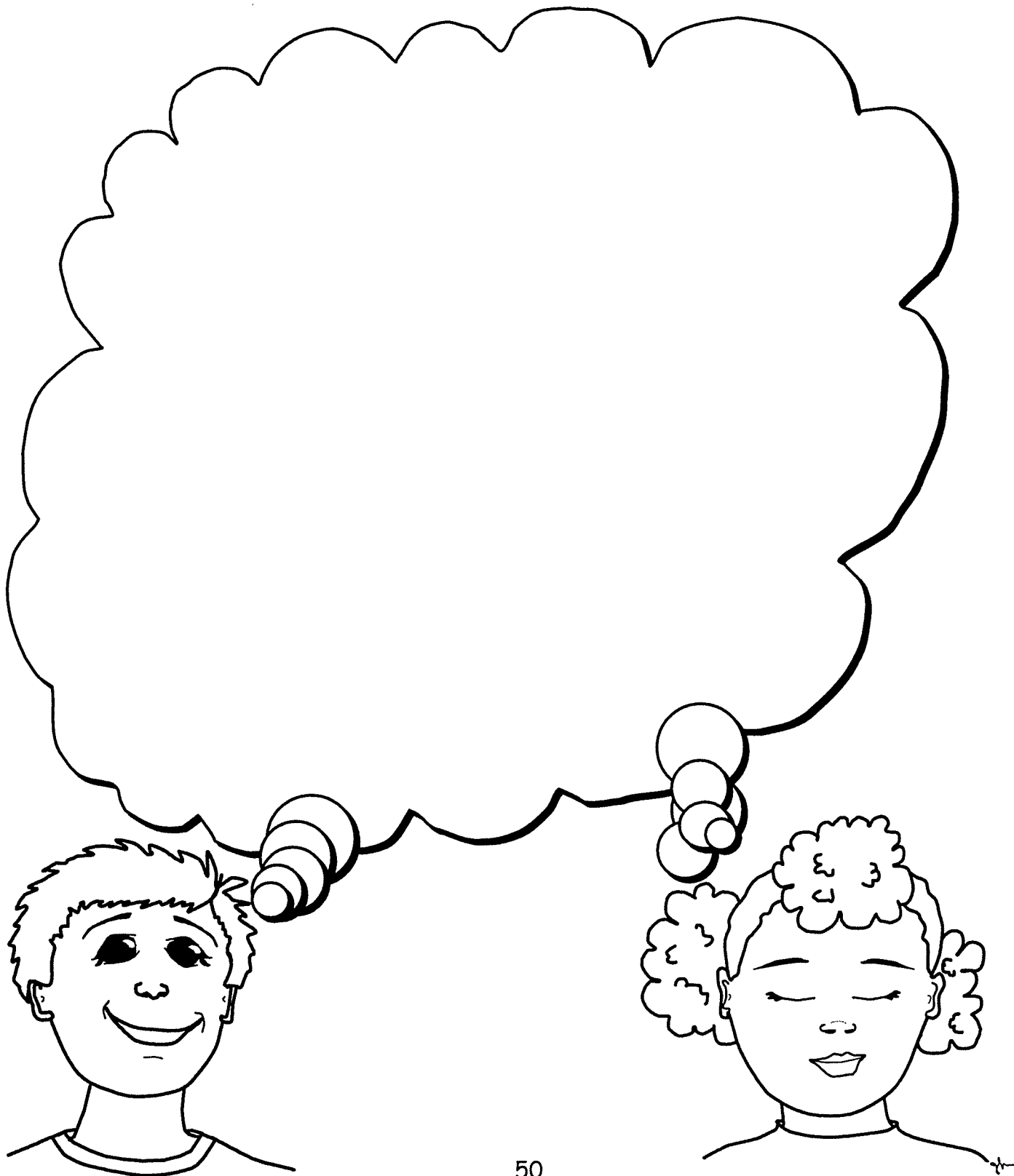
MORE FUN THINGS TO DO

kite flying time

*Decorate your kite
in your favorite colors.*

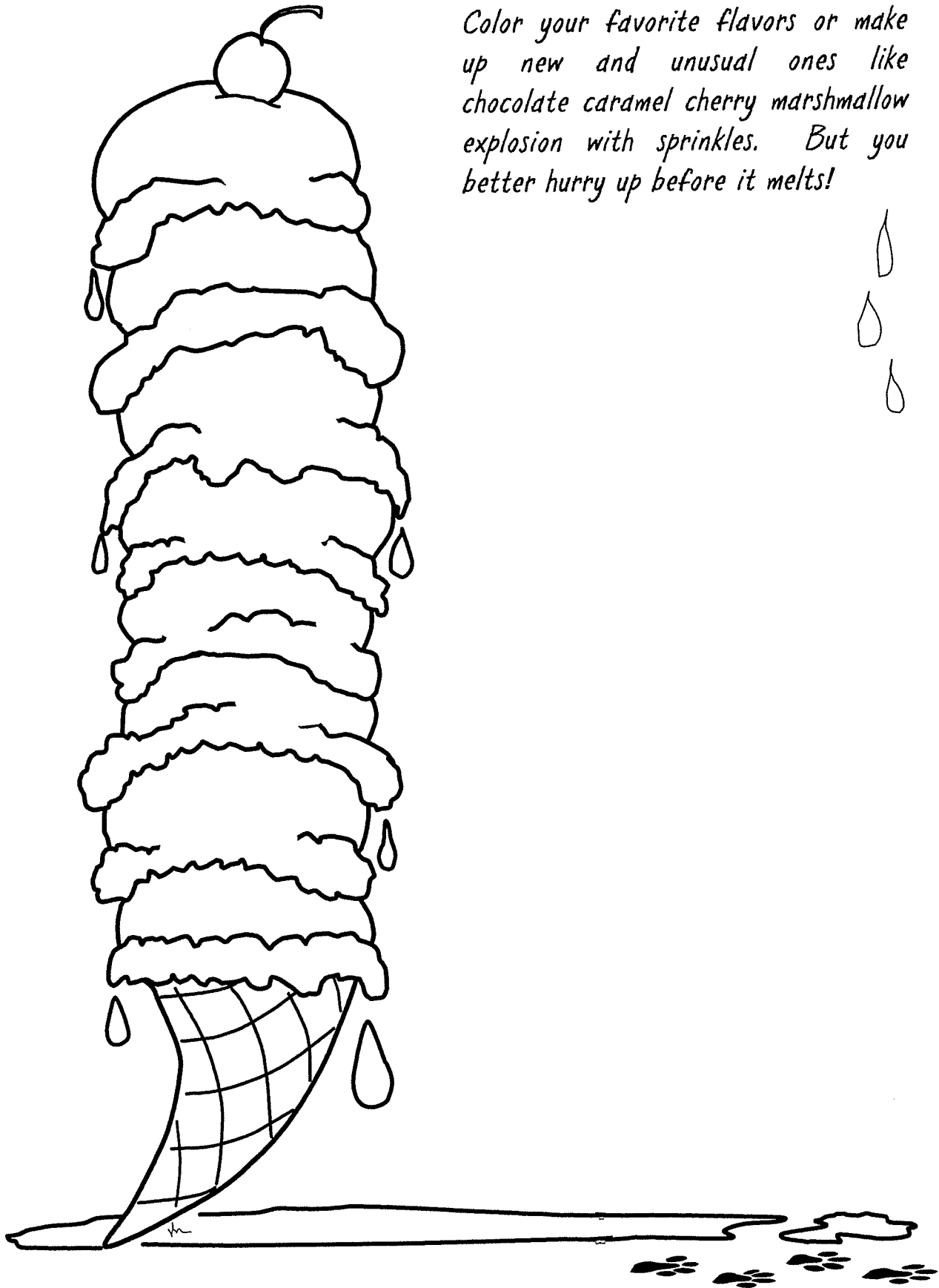


Your imagination can help you to relax and feel less nervous. Let your imagination go and see where it takes you: Maybe to your favorite place like Worlds of Fun? Maybe to the Zoo, a park to play baseball, or to your grandparents' house? In this thought bubble draw a picture of your favorite place.



Ice Cream Time

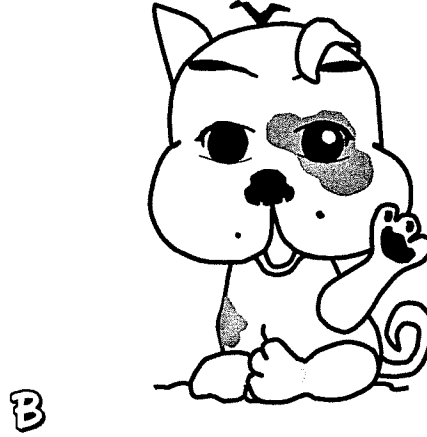
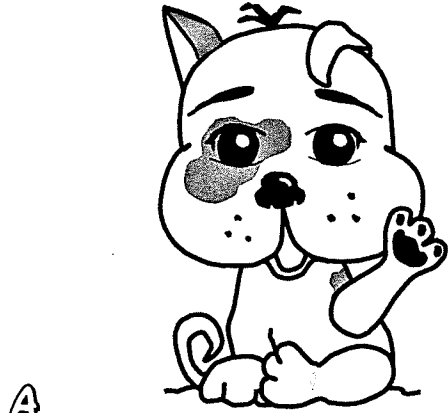
Color your favorite flavors or make up new and unusual ones like chocolate caramel cherry marshmallow explosion with sprinkles. But you better hurry up before it melts!



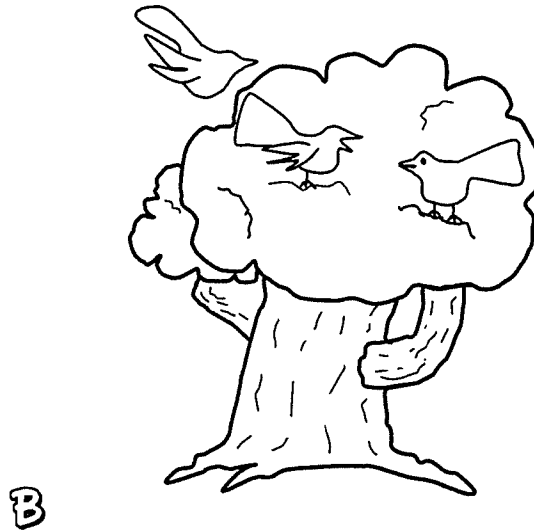
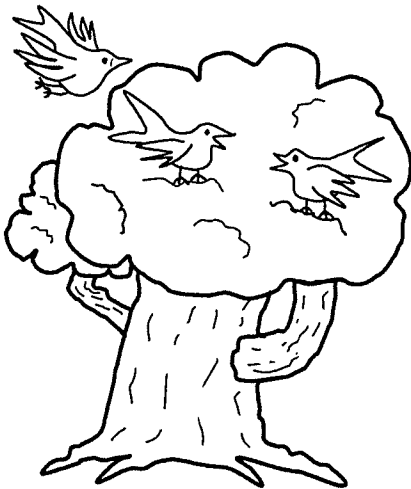
What's Different?

Circle the objects in Picture B that are different in Picture A.

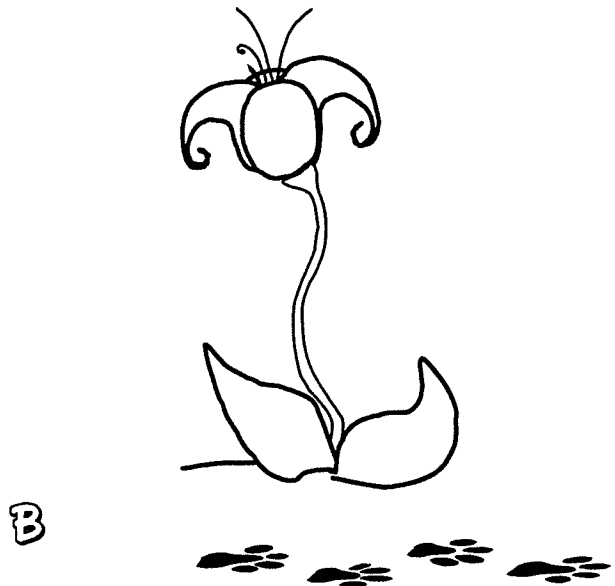
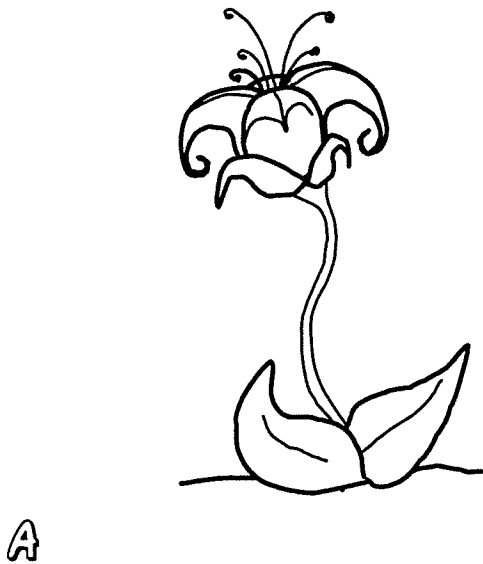
1.



2.



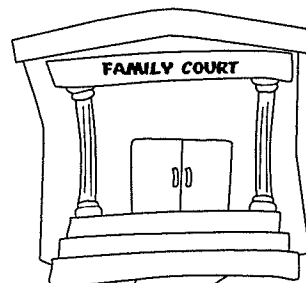
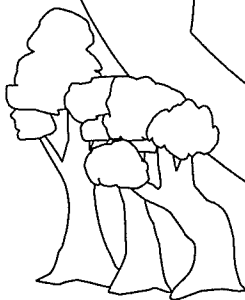
3.



Help Ruff Find Family Court

Can you help me
find the Courthouse
before I'm late?

Can you help Ruff find his way to Family Court?
Draw a line down the path to the Courthouse
without crossing any lines.



ANSWER SHEET

Match the Judge to the Courtroom: 1. 41 2. 44 3. 6 4. 40

Truth or Lie answers: 1. Lie 2. Truth 3. Lie 4. Truth

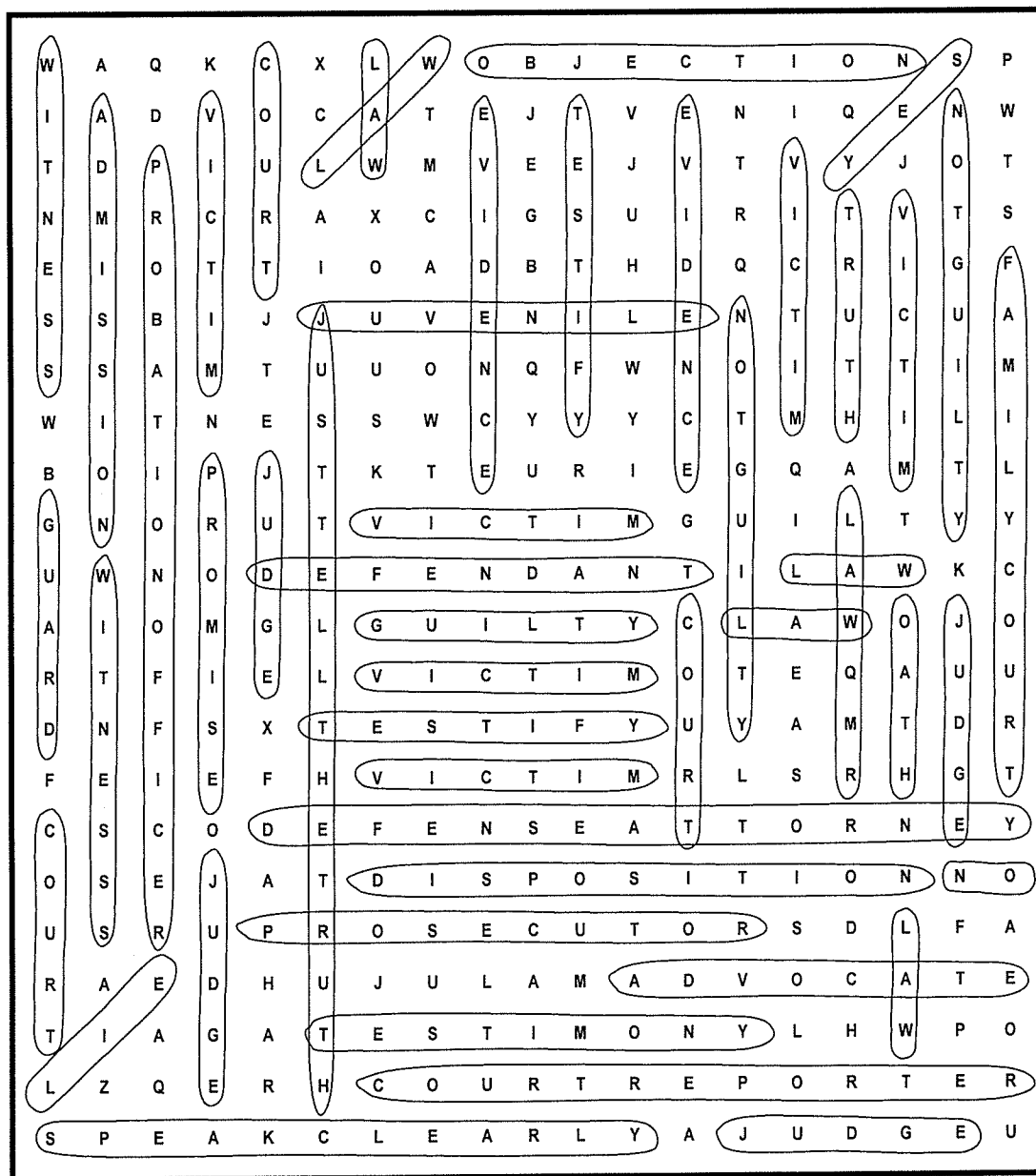
Fill in the Blanks answers: 1. women 2. men

Word Scrambler answers:

- 1) Judge 2) Witness 3) Job 4) Ruff 5) Advocate 6) Attorney 7) Truth 8) Lie
 9) Defendant 10) Evidence 11) Oath 12) Victim 13) Testimony 14) Law 15) Prosecutor

Job Match Game answers: A) 5 B) 4 C) 1 D) 7 E) 6 F) 3 G) 2

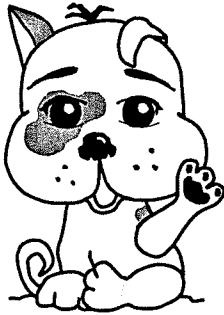
Word Search answers:



What's Different? answers:

1.

A

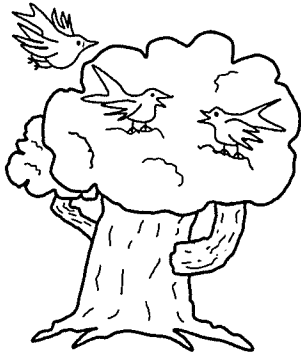


B

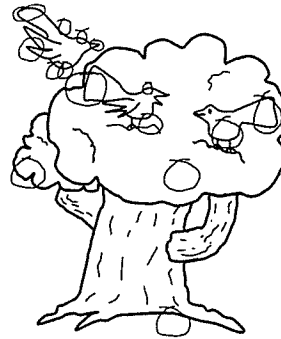


2.

A

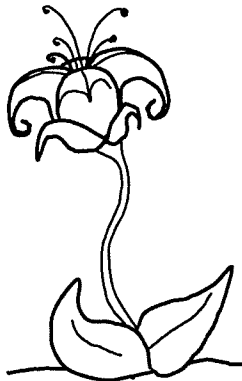


B



3.

A



B



Match the Judge/ Commissioner to their Divisions/ Courtrooms answers:

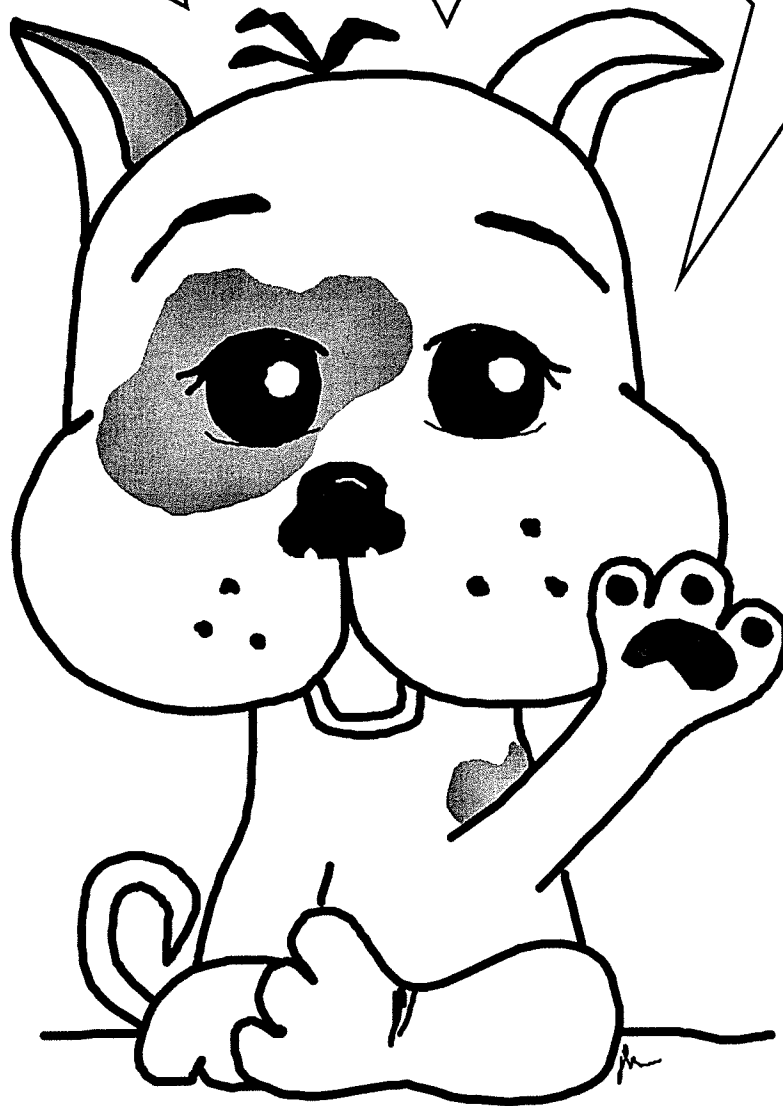
1) 14 2) 40 3) 44 4) 41



We're at the end
of our adventure.
I hope you had fun
learning all about
Court and what it
means to be a
Witness.

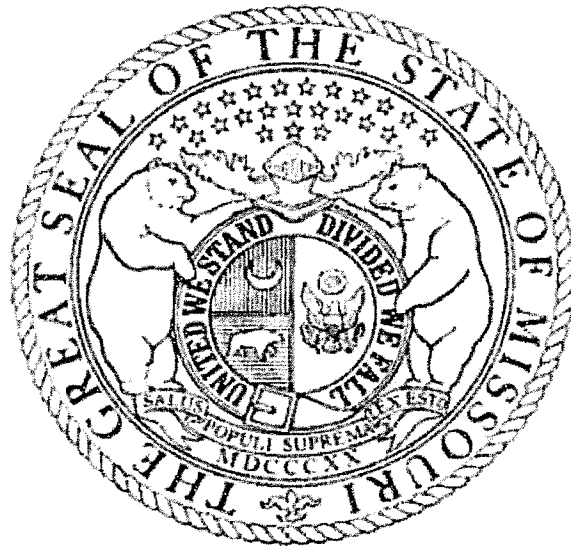
If you have
more questions,
be sure to ask your
Advocate. Remember,
she's there to help you
and your family.

It's been very nice
working with you.
If you must go to
Court, I know you're
going to be a great
Witness.
See you there!



THE END





This book was created just for you by

Victim Services

Jackson County Missouri Family Court

625 E 26th Street

Kansas City, MO 64108

816-435-4818 816-435-4812

Written and illustrated by Janet Holden, Victim Specialist

Jackson County Family Court Resource Services

Please submit questions, comments and suggestions to jholden@courts.mo.gov.