

## Out After Curfew

The Crime: The defendant was required by his parents to be home by 8:00 p.m. every night, unless he called and got permission to stay out later. On the night of June 1st, the defendant returned home at 8:30 p.m., smelling of pizza.

Lawyer's Goal: Convince the class that the defendant was out after curfew having pizza with friends, and broke the rules by not being home by 8:00 and not calling when the defendant knew they'd be late.

The Testimony: June 1st was a Friday night. I was over at my friend Jill's house. We were playing videogames and we lost track of time a little bit. At 7:45 Jill realized that it was almost eight and said, "You should go home soon!" So I said goodbye to Jill and started walking. I would have been home on time but there was construction being done on the road between our houses so I had to take a different route. I got lost and it took me until 8:30 to get home. I only smell like pizza because I walked by the pizza shop on the way home. I didn't go in!

Other facts:

- Jill's parents don't remember seeing the defendant at their house past six o'clock, but were busy with other things.
- The cell phone records show that the defendant made a call to another friend, Greg, at 7:45.
- The next day, there was no construction in the neighborhood, but there has been a lot of fast "surface repair" construction being done in the neighborhood lately.

## The Music Pirate

**The Crime:** On June 1st, Claire's iPod disappeared from her backpack during gym class. She claims that the defendant stole it because theirs didn't work well.

**Lawyer's Goal:** Prove that the defendant had the opportunity and the motivation to take the iPod.

**The Testimony:** Claire is a really good friend - I would never steal her iPod! The iPod in question is mine, I got it for my birthday last year. Claire got hers last month, she got the same color as me because she always wants to be like me. She also put most of the same songs on it. Claire says that I took it during gym class but I didn't have a chance! I was playing basketball on the other side of the gym the whole time. Besides, why would I want to steal an iPod? I have my own. Yeah, it gives me some trouble sometimes, but I'm very fond of it.

**Other facts:**

- The defendant took a water break during gym class. This took him/her nearby everyone's backpacks, but no one saw them take anything.
- The defendant has been heard to complain that their iPod never works ever since they dropped it and they wish they had a new one.
- The iPod in question looks shiny and new, except for a big scuff mark on it. The scuff mark looks like what might happen if you dropped an iPod.

## Using Strawberries As a Deadly Weapon

The Crime: On June 1st, Jeremy had to go to the hospital because he ate strawberries during lunch. He claims that the defendant snuck strawberries into his salad to get back at Jeremy for not inviting the defendant to his birthday party.

Lawyer's Goal: Prove that the defendant had the motive and the opportunity to put strawberries in Jeremy's salad.

The Testimony: I want to start off by saying I would never hurt anybody. Yeah, sometimes I play around, but I don't want anyone to get *hurt*. Especially not Jeremy. Jeremy and I are friends, we sit next to each other at lunch every day. I wasn't mad at Jeremy for not inviting me to his party - I know that his mom doesn't like me very much. That's not Jeremy's fault. The strawberry thing was just an accident - he must have not seen that they were in his salad. He seemed distracted that day, talking about his party nonstop. I bet he didn't even notice them. Anyway, I didn't even know he was allergic to strawberries in the first place.

Other facts:

- Jeremy usually gets a special lunch with nothing he is allergic to. That day, there was a special tray set aside in the lunch line for Jeremy, which he usually got. When they checked back afterwards, the tray had been taken.

## Cheating on a Test

The Crime: Defendants A and B were in 5th period science class together. They were taking a math exam on June 1st. When the teacher graded the tests, she realized that both A and B had the exact same answers to all the questions. The correct answers being the same was unsurprising, but two wrong questions were the same as well: first, they both said that 6 squared was 30 and second, they both said that  $160/5$  was 40. On this basis, the teacher believes someone cheated.

Lawyers' Goal: Prove that one or both of the defendants cheated.

Testimony A: I can't believe that anyone would accuse \*me\* of cheating! I don't need to cheat, I know everything on these tests anyway. I only missed those two questions because I was in such a rush to go to the bathroom. If anyone cheated, it was B - and I certainly didn't help them! In fact, I'm pretty sure B did cheat. I heard him saying before class that he thought he was going to bomb the test. How could he have gotten all but two answers right? He must have cheated off me.

Testimony B: I can't believe this is happening. I didn't cheat, I just studied really hard! I thought I was going to do bad, yeah, but I always think I'm going to do badly. You can ask anyone - earlier that day we had a baseball game in gym class, and I said, "I'm going to strike out" but I hit a triple. My mom says I have low self-esteem. I didn't expect to get such a good grade, but I didn't cheat. I did that once and I got in so much trouble, I would never do it again. Anyway, I learned that it was wrong. I think A must have cheated - before class he was talking about how he'd spend the last week trying to beat his new videogame. How did he have time to study if he was playing videogames?

Other facts:

- B was caught cheating a year ago but has not had any problems since.
- A went to the bathroom halfway through his test. His route brought him past B's desk. No one noticed him looking at B's test.
- B is an average student. A generally gets high marks in his classes, including math.

## Stolen Election

The Crime: Angel Elementary School's 6th grade class was having an election for class president. Only two people were running - defendant A and defendant B. The day after the election, the teacher came in early to count the results, only to discover that the shoebox with the students' votes was missing.

Lawyer's Goal: Determine who stole the election results.

Testimony A: I ran for President of the class because I truly believe that I can make school a better experience for all of us. I want to be a real voice for the student body on issues that matter to us, and to make change - what? Okay, fine, fine, I'll tell you why I didn't do it. I never had a chance to! The election happened at the end of the day, and then I had soccer practice for two hours. I was outside the whole time - you can ask my coaches. And then I went home. When would I have stolen the results? I don't think anybody did. Maybe the teacher just lost them. But I do think it's a little funny that B came to school wearing her plaid jacket the next day. I saw her leave it in the classroom. I wonder if she came back to get it?

Testimony B: I think it's outrageous that B stole the election results. I was totally winning - everyone knows I am way more popular than A, and these things are just popularity contests. Why would I steal the results if I was going to win? Anyway, I stayed after school that day to work on the yearbook, and I worked on it the whole time, except I had to go to the bathroom once. But my friend Jane came with me, so she can tell you, I didn't take them. I didn't even know the room was open. Anyway, when I was getting into my mom's car after yearbook, I saw A coming out of the building. Seems a little suspicious to me.

Other Facts:

- the teacher left the room unlocked overnight
- A always walks home after school, while B got picked up by his/her parents
- the room where the yearbook club meets is two doors down from the room where the results were kept overnight

## Key to the Mystery

The Crime: The Doe family had planned to go to the beach on June 1st. After they'd packed everything in their car, Mr. Doe realized he couldn't find his car keys, which he thought he'd left on the table. They looked everywhere, with no success, and had to cancel the trip. The next day, the keys showed up in Mr. Doe's pocket. He suspects that one of his two children stole the keys because they didn't want to go to the beach.

Lawyer's Goal: Prove that one of the defendants stole the keys.

Testimony A: I was really excited to go the beach the other day. I haven't been to the ocean in ages, and I love to surf. I mean, I was a little worried that I wouldn't be able to finish my history project on time, but I was planning to work really hard on it when we got back. As it was, I got to spend all day working on it, but believe me, I would rather have been at the beach. I bet B took the keys. She hates going to the beach.

Testimony B: I'm not going to lie, I didn't want to go to the beach. I have very sensitive skin, and too much sun makes me turn all red - yes, even if I'm wearing sunscreen. However, I wouldn't have stolen my dad's keys! What kind of child would do that? Well, maybe A would - he told me that he was going to get an A on his history project, and I don't know he could have if he'd spent Sunday at the beach. Anyway, I ended up going to my friend Lauren's birthday party. I had totally forgotten about it but when she called me to ask where I was, I realized I could go. Isn't that lucky?

Other facts:

- A was seen in the kitchen shortly before the keys went missing, but he claims he was just getting a glass of soda.
- B was seen by the closet shortly before the keys were found in Mr. Doe's coat, but she claims she was just looking for a note she'd left in the pocket of her coat.
- B had a present already picked out and wrapped for Lauren's birthday party.
- A has never been late with a school project before.