



## **Judge Juliette**

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### **Teacher's Guide**

#### **Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions:**

1. If you suddenly got permission to get a pet, which pet would you choose? Why?
2. If Judge Juliette lived in your neighborhood, what case would you bring to her courtroom to settle? For example, is it fair that you have the same bedtime as your younger brother? Or is it fair that your Mom is making you pay for a vase that you broke when it was an accident? Or if you had the idea to make and sell cookies, but your friend helped with the baking and selling, should the profits be split evenly, or should you get more of the money because it was your idea? What do you think Judge Juliette would say about your case?
3. At the end of the book, Judge Juliette recuses herself, because judges cannot be in charge of cases involving their own family members. Do you think this is a good rule? Why or why not?
4. Write a story about two kids who have a disagreement and bring their problem to Judge Juliette to resolve. Include details about what each kid tells Judge Juliette and how Judge Juliette rules on the case.

### **Research Project ideas:**

1. Some trials have only a judge (this is called a bench trial), some have both a judge and a jury (this is called a jury trial). Research the difference between these two types of trials. What are the pros and cons of each type of trial?
2. Pick an actual trial that took place in the past, and read about the trial. What evidence did the prosecution present? What evidence did the defense present? What was the verdict of the trial? Write a summary of the trial. Then, based on your research, write whether you agree with the verdict and why.
3. In the United States, we have a federal court system with three levels: district courts, circuit courts, and the Supreme Court. Research the process by which cases move from the lower courts up to the Supreme Court. Then write about the general process, or write about how one specific case moved from district court to circuit court and up to the Supreme Court.
4. Many people believe the court systems in our country are unfair in their treatment of people of different races and ethnicities. Research this issue and write a report about your findings. Do you agree that the court system is biased against certain racial or ethnic groups? If so, how can we change it?

### **Hold a mock trial in your classroom!**

There are a lot of resources available for holding a mock trial. Here are a few:

<https://government.mrdonn.org/mocktrials.html>

<https://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/10dlessonplanguide.asp>

<https://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/1610/Guide-to-Conducting-Mock-Trials>

<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/teacherresources/mock-trial/>