

Youth Court- Mock Trial 2013 / Judge Waters Field Trip

September 13, 2013

Mitchell County Courthouse

Background information: Several years ago, Judge Waters invited our students to participate in a mock trial using a fairy tale as vehicle for reinforcing due process & the responsibility of jury duty. We asked if we could visit the courthouse again this year & recreate a mock trial. Judge Waters agreed & we are excited that our students will be able to learn about the judicial system in such a hands-on, fun manner. Fifth grade students have been selected & assigned to play the roles of defendant, attorneys, bailiff, and witnesses in a play. Additional students were selected to sit as jurors and decide the fate of the defendant. Judge Waters will also speak with students about our judicial system.

Standards & elements:

ELACC5RL2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

ELACC5RL6: Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

ELACC5RI6: Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.

ELACC5RF4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

- b. Read on-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.
- c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

ELACC5W1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

- a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.
- b. Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.
- c. Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., consequently, specifically).

SS5CG1: The student will explain how a citizen's rights are protected under the U.S. Constitution.

- a. Explain the responsibilities of a citizen (jury duty)
- b. Explain the freedoms granted by the Bill of Rights (amendments 5&6)
- c. Explain the concept of due process of law

Instructional Activities:

Pretrip: Teachers will review the protections for citizens during a trial using key vocabulary & discussion using materials from the Mock trial teacher's manual. Students selected for roles will practice fluency & expression before the mock trial.

During Trip: Students having roles will present the case as court officers/ witnesses. Other fifth grade students will serve as jurors & deliberate after the presentation. They will make a decision regarding guilt or innocence. Remaining students will serve as the audience & listen to witnesses to form their own opinion. Judge Waters will discuss the case & the American judicial system with students.

After Trip: Students will participate in class discussions regarding the court system & the protection of citizen's rights. Students will also write an opinion piece stating how they would have voted if they were members of the jury. Selected responses will be posted in the 5th grade hallway.