



Create a Reading Class Act

The acting of drama in the classroom provides a stage where all can shine, even the weakest reader. Encourage the students to memorize their lines. Guide them in using their voices to create the courtroom atmosphere.

The following play can provide lots of fun and at the same time great reading motivation. Months later the students will be heard arguing “The Case of My Favorite Book.”

It can be presented at chapel, Parent-Teacher meeting, and Reading Class. The entire class should participate. The teacher may adapt the characters names to those of the participants, and the grade level to the one performing.

THE CASE OF MY FAVORITE BOOK



Characters: Court Clerk
Judge Booker
Lawyers
Defendants
Narrator

Narrator: The children of grade 5 wanted to share their love for books with the whole schools, so during Book Week they sent out their message by way of: “The Case of My Favorite Book.” The place is an imaginary courtroom. The characters include Judge Booker, jurors, lawyers, defendants, and a court clerk. I am your narrator.

AFTER ALL THE JURORS LAWYERS, AND DEFENDANTS ARE SEATED, THE COURT CLERK USHERS IN THE JUDGE.

Court Clerk: All rise! Hear ye! Hear ye! This court will come to order. Today we will hear the case of Grade 5 East End School. Judge Booker presiding. Here comes the judge!

Narrator: **JUDGE BOOKER ENTERS, SITS, AND ASKS THE PEOPLE TO SIT, AND THEN ADDRESSES THE COURT.**

Judge: Good morning! Today we are about to try to most serious book case.

Lawyer 4: I object, your honor!

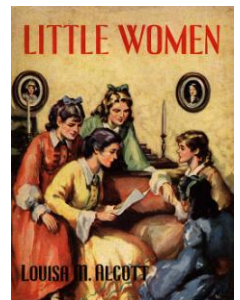
Judge: To what? I haven’t said anything yet!



- Lawyer 4: You said we are going to try a “bookcase” your honor. We are not trying a bookcase. We are going to try “books.”
- Judge: Objection overruled! We are trying a most serious case that deals with books. Today we will decide which is the best book ever written.
- Narrator: This brought shouts from all over the courtroom.
- Judge: (angrily) SILENCE! Or I’ll have all of you removed from the courtroom. Now, will the first lawyer proceed!
- Lawyer 1: Thank you your honor. I would like to call my client Kerry to the stand.
- Court Clerk: Kerry, do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
- Defendant 1: I do.
- Judge: Proceed.
- Lawyer 1: Kerry, will you please tell us what you were doing last night at around eight in the evening?
- Defendant 1: I was reading.
- Lawyer 1: Ah, but what were you reading?
- Defendant 1: I was reading The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain.
- Lawyer 1: I see. Can you tell us a little about the plot?
- Defendant 1: It’s about a boy who lived a hundred years ago and what happened when he and a runaway slave named Jim traveled down the Mississippi River.
- Lawyer 1: Can you tell me a little more about the characters?
- Defendant 1: Of course. The important characters are Huck, Jim, and Tom. The three of them met many people in the course of their adventure.
- Lawyer 1: Who would you say is the main character?
- Defendant 1: No two ways about it. Huck.
- Lawyer 1: And how would you describe this Huckleberry Finn?
- Defendant 1: Well, he’s not older than I am, and he doesn’t always follow the rules. Just like me!



- Narrator: AT THIS, THE CROWD IN THE COURTROOM GIGGLES AND AMES COMMENTS.
- Judge: Silence please! Or I'll find you in contempt of court.
- Lawyer 1: And now—for the important question—which book do you think is the best book that's ever been written?
- Defendant 1: When I finished The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn last night I said to myself, "This is the best book I've ever read;" so I guess it's the best book that's ever been written.
- Narrator: THE CROWD IN THE COURTROOM GOES WILD AND BEGINS TO SHOUT DISAGREEMNT.
- Judge: Silence! Silence! One more outburst like this and I'll clear the courtroom. Now I'd like to hear from the next lawyer.
- Lawyer 2: Thank you, your honor. I think you'll find the testimony of Marisa most helpful in settling this case.
- Narrator: THE DEFENDANT GOES TO THE STAND.
- Court Clerk: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
- Defendant 2: I do.
- Judge: Proceed with questioning.
- Lawyer 2: I understand that something very important happened to you last weekend, Marisa.
- Defendant 2: Very!
- Lawyer 2: Tell us about it.
- Defendant 2: I finished reading Little Women by Louisa May Alcott.
- Lawyer 2: I see. And do you feel that this is the best book you've ever read?
- Lawyer 1: Objection, your honor. The prosecution is now attempting to lead the witness.
- Judge: Objection sustained. (To Lawyer 2) Please refrain from leading the witness.
- Lawyer 2: I am sorry, Judge Booker. (To Defendant 2) Would you please tell us about the plot and setting of Little Women?





- Defendant 2: It takes place in a small New England town during the time of the Civil War. The main characters are four sisters: Jo, Beth, Amy, and Meg.
- Lawyer 2: And what do you think of this book?
- Defendant 2: I think it is an excellent book because it shows some of the problems of growing up. And it's about making the best of what we have.
- Lawyer 2: And last weekend when you finished reading the book, do you remember what you felt?
- Defendant 2: Yes, I was sure that Little Women is the best book that's ever written.
- Judge: Thank you, Marisa. Your testimony has been most helpful. But we have many other witnesses to hear from.
- Narrator: THE 3RD DEFENDANT GOES TO THE STAND, IS SWORN IN BY THE COURT CLERK, AND IS ADDRESSED BY HER LAWYER.
- Lawyer 3: Could you please tell the court why you've been brought here?
- Defendant 3: For reading a history book.
- Judge: A history book! What history book? Do I know the book?
- Defendant 3: I don't know, your honor, but the name is Great Negroes Past and Present, and that is the best book in the world. Russell Adams made it seem so alive.
- Lawyer 3: Russell Adams? Was he a character in the book?
- Defendant 3: Oh no! He wrote the book. He told about such African-Americans as George Washington Carver—the savior of Southern Agriculture; Martin Luther King, Civil Rights Crusader; Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks, great writers of poetry; and Booker T. Washington, the great educator. Their lives can be such an inspiration to all of us. That's why I know my book is the best book ever.
- Judge: Thank you, Dwayne. That was very interesting. But we must hear more testimony. Could we have the next witness, please?
- Lawyer 4: Thank you, your honor. I call Vanessa to the stand.
- Narrator: VANESSA COMES TO THE STAND AND AFATER BEING SWORN IN, IS ADDRESSED BY THE LAWYER.
- Lawyer 4: Vanessa, you have a better book than those we've heard today?



- Lawyer 1: Objection! Your honor, my legal colleague here is putting words in the witness' mouth.
- Judge: (Sternly) Sustained! Please rephrase your question.
- Lawyer 4: (Apologetically) My apologies, your honor. I will. Vanessa, do you have a book that you feel is better than those you heard about today?
- Defendant 4: I most certainly do! My book, Outer Space, edited by Philip Clark and friends, is the most wonderful book ever written. It tells about the moon, space, rockets, and astronauts.
- Lawyer 4: How does that make it the best book?
- Defendant 4: You see, when I grow up, I will like to be an astronaut, explore space, and maybe even walk on the moon. My book is telling me about a lot of things that will help me. For me, it is really the best book in the whole world.
- Judge: We have heard the testimony. The jury must now make its decision. And jury, I charge you to decide which of the defendants is correct. Which book heard about today is the best book ever written.

