**Justice Education Society’s Resources & Mock Trials about the three little pigs**

**By Elaine Jaltema, grade 5/6 teacher in Burnaby and President of myPITA**

Last Spring, myPITA began a partnership with the Justice Education Society. Teams of myPITA members began reviewing the JES resources to revise and repackage them so that teachers can use them easily to address the big ideas, competencies, and content of the redesigned curriculum. Watch for updates about this project on the myPITA website.

The Justice Society of B.C. provides an excellent free orientation to the court system for classes. For a small fee, classes may also conduct a mock trial in a courtroom. The Society offers a selection of scripted and non-scripted trials to choose from. This year before beginning our own unscripted trials, we conducted two trials scripted by the Justice Society of B.C. Madame Evilyn was tried for the exploitation and unlawful confinement of Cinderella and Dorothy was tried for theft of the ruby slippers and the second degree murder of the Witch of the West. Both of those scripts are highly entertaining and well-crafted with many surprises. I have shortened and revised the scripts slightly to make it a little easier for my young students to keep track of all the evidence. They are posted in the drama section of the myPITA website, under resources.

Every year, my students conduct several mock trials as a way of learning about the legal system and developing critical thinking and oral language skills. I especially like to have the kids wrestle with moral dilemmas and to question bias. For example, we commonly regard Jack as a hero but shouldn’t we question his theft from the Giant? With each trial, we tackle the issue of using better strategies to solve problems in peaceful ways. Some of the trials we have conducted are:

* The Pied Piper is charged with kidnapping
* Jack is charged with theft from the Giant
* The Third Billy Goat is charged with assault and attempted murder of the Troll
* Rumplestiltskin and the Queen argue for custody of the child
* The three pigs are charged with squatting on land they don’t own and building without a permit
* The monkey is on trial for manslaughter (Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears)

Two students serve as counsel for each side and witnesses offer highly creative and entertaining evidence. They carefully listen to each other’s evidence and find ways to challenge or corroborate it. With no prompting from me they produce exhibits such as hand-drawn “photographs” and contracts. With each trial, they become more adept at questioning evidence and arguing their positions.

Marvin Miller has written two excellent paperback books called You Be The Jury. Each book gives a three page case along with pictures of three exhibits. Students have to pay careful attention to the testimony and the evidence to figure out who is telling the truth.

As part of the process of understanding the importance of keeping our minds open to new evidence and new perspectives, I read two hilarious and surprising picture books to the class: ***That is Not a Good Idea*** by Mo Williams and ***My Lucky Day*** by Keiko Kasza. We also watched the you tube clip: ***The Selective Attention Test*** by Simons and Chabris. Try it and you will be amazed! As an adult you might even go on to read the fascinating book called ***The Invisible Gorilla and Other Ways Our Intuition Deceives Us***.

Below is the version of a familiar tale that I wrote in order to introduce a moral question and to illustrate some of the roles of government. Following the story, you will see two trials that one of my students wrote based on this story.

When the mother pig grew tired of feeding and cleaning up after her three grown sons, she told them to go out and find their own place to live. The first pig went to farm land owned by Mr. Dinglehopper. He had recently sold all his grain but there was still some straw left on the field. Knowing that Farmer Dinglehopper had gone to Florida for the winter and that he would not need the land again for six months, the first pig decided to secretly pile the straw up to make himself a house. Neighbours of the farm noticed this activity and called the City’s engineering department. The City sent its inspector, Justin Wolf, out to investigate. When he was knocking on the door, he was overcome by hay fever and he let out an enormous sneeze which blew down the house. The pig was charged with trespassing on Mr. Dinglehopper’s land and building without proper permits, creating a house that was not safe to live in.

The second pig went to land that had been cleared by a forest company. The land was owned by the Province and was part of the agricultural land reserve. The government was advertising the land for sale for farming. Knowing that nobody had bought the land yet, the second pig figured there would be no harm in his living on the vacant land. He gathered the branches left behind by the logging company and built himself a simple house. When the building inspector noticed smoke, he went to investigate and found the little house with smoke coming from the chimney. Afraid that the house would start a fire, he banged forcefully on the door which caused the house to fall apart. The pig was charged with trespassing (or squatting) and building without permits.

Both pigs claim that they have no other place to live and that there are not enough homeless shelters in the City. They also claim that they cannot afford to buy or rent a home because they can’t get a good job since they don’t have enough education. Their family couldn’t afford college. They think the government should give universities and trade schools more money so that it becomes cheaper to get a good education.

The third pig got a loan from the bank and bought property from a farmer who was tired of farming. However, the pig didn’t want to farm. Instead, he built a strong brick house with plans to build an apartment complex on the property to help with the city’s problem of homelessness. The government has ordered him to tear down his house because the land is only supposed to be used for farming. The pig refuses, saying that there will be enough food in the city as soon as the government finds a farmer for the cleared forest. Instead, he says that the City needs more homes for people.

Chester Pigglehopper v. the City of Mooreborough

Written by Gabrielle McGowan, grade 5, Burnaby, B.C. June 2016

J=Judge

P=Plaintiff’s counsel

C=Chester Pigglehopper

D= Defence counsel

J: Chester Pigglehopper is trying to stop the city of Mooreborough from destroying his house. Plaintiff, you may call your first witness.

P: I would like to call Mr. Pigglehopper to the stand. (Pig steps up to the witness stand)

P: What do you have to say in this matter?

C: The city of Mooreborough has been demolishing affordable rentals for new and expensive high rises, for some time now. This has caused many people to become homeless. Mooreborough only has one homeless shelter which is forcing people, good people, to live on the streets. I find this an important issue and want to help. I got a loan from the bank and bought land from a retired farmer. I built myself a good, strong, house. My brother, Johnny Pigglehopper, is an architect and together we designed an apartment complex to help with the homeless problem. It was all going great until I got a note on my door saying, “We regret to inform you that the city of Mooreborough will be demolishing your house because it is built on farmland that isn‛t permitted to have residents on.” Can you believe it? Kicking me out of my own home. I bought that land. It‛s mine.

P: Thank you, Mr. Pigglehopper, that will be all. J: Would you like to cross examine the witness?

D: Yes, your honor. Were you not aware that this was farmland? C: I was aware.

D: So why did you ignore the fact that the property was for agricultural purposes only? C: Look, there are lots of farms in Mooreborough. I think we could make do without one farm. Plus, isn‛t homelessness a big issue as well?

D: But the land **was** for farming?

C: Yes (looks annoyed) but I own the land. I can do what I please. D: Did you apply for rezoning?

C: No.

D: So you can‛t build houses because it‛s farmland. Simple as that. That will be all, your honour.

J: Any questions, Plaintiff? P: No, your honour.

J: Defence council, you may call your first witness. D: Can Sean Bishop come to the stand?

(Man steps up to the witness stand)

D: What do you have to say in this matter?

S: Mooreborough profits from farmland. That area Mr. Pigglehopper owns makes us hundreds of dollars. Even though it burns me to say this, Mooreborough is broke. We need all the land we can get. That is why we have to tear down buildings for farmland. We don‛t have enough money to buy another homeless shelter. That is also why we need to make the most of what farmland we **do** have. So while Mr. Pigglehopper thinks he is helping the issue, he is actually making things worse.

D: Thank you Mr. Bishop. That will be all.

J: Would you like to cross examine the witness?

P: Yes, your honour. So the city **has** been forcing people on to the streets?

S: Yes.

P: And the city hasn‛t done **anything** about this problem? S: We are broke!

P: But Mr. Bishop instead of using the land for agricultural purposes, the city has been building expensive high rises.

S: We need more money. Those towers will make our town rich!

P: True, but if this was the initial plan why would we need this **one** farmland? Wouldn‛t the city have built high rises there too?

S: Not necessarily. We don‛t think too hard for the long term. Stay in the now.

P: But if you were going to build housing on the lot, you would‛ve had to apply for rezoning. S: Yes.

P: So if you were going to rezone anyway, I see no harm in putting housing there because that would happen eventually. Mr. Pigglehopper was just trying to help the city‛s homeless. No further questions, your honour.

J: Any questions Defence council?

D: Yes, your honour. Was Mr. Pigglehopper‛s land rezoned yet? S: No.

D: That will be all, your honour.

J: Plaintiff, you may call your second witness. P: Can Fredrick Crey come to the stand? (Man walks up to witness stand)

P: What do you have to say in this matter?

F: I was the one who sold the land to Chester Pigglehopper. Fine boy. Reminds me of myself. I had put an ad in the paper saying that I was sellin‛ two acres of land for anyone willing to buy it. I have it right here. (presents exhibit A) I was surprised when I got a phone call saying that someone wanted to take up my offer. I met up with Chester and sold him the land. When I sold the property I did not say it was farmland. I assumed he knew. Chester musta thought that the land could be used for anything. I checked up on him a couple weeks later to see if everything was going well. Chester had already taken down my house and was building a nice sturdy brick house.

P: So you‛re saying the house was where your old house was? F: Yes.

P: Why didn‛t the city threaten to tear down your house? F: The location was never a problem.

P: Has the city ever threatened to demolish your house?

F: The city **did** have plans to build high rises eventually but I had plans to be retired when that happens.

P: Thank you. That will be all, your honour.

J: Would you like to cross examine the witness?

D: Yes, your honour. Can you state exactly what the advertisement says?

F: Sure. LAND FOR SALE. BUY CHEAP TWO ACRE FARMLAND CALL: 604-899-5555.

D: Did you just say two acre **farmland**?

F: Ummm…

D: No further questions, your honour. J: Questions, Plaintiff?

P: No, your honour.

J: Defence council, you may call your last witness. D: Can Morgan Lynch come forward?

(Woman walks to witness stand)

D: What do you have to say in this matter?

M: I have been working at Mooreborough Savings Bank for five years. During that time the bank has given hundreds of loans. One of those loans was to Chester Bacon Pigglehopper. I was the one who gave him that money. But the thing is, he asked for a loan to buy **farmland**. You see, Chester Pigglehopper has no job yet. He used to live with his mother until she kicked him out along with his two brothers, Johnny and Owen. I assumed he was on his way to becoming a farmer. He had said that he had been employed by the city to become an agriculturalist. Many citizens of Mooreborough are farmers. I was very proud of Chester. A couple of weeks later there was an article in the paper stating that Mr.

Pigglehopper wasn‛t doing his job and the city had just lost a week‛s supply of food. Instead Mr. Pigglehopper was going to build houses and sell them at a reduced price. If that happens the city will lose hundreds of dollars. Mooreborough is already broke.

D: Thank you Ms. Lynch.

J: Would you like to cross examine the witness? P: No, your honour.

J: Now the jury must decide whether Chester Bacon Pigglehopper should keep his house or not.

The City of Mooreborough vs. Owen Pigglehopper

Written by Gabrielle McGowan, grade 5, Burnaby, June 2016

J=Judge, C=Crown Counsel, W= Wolf, D=Defence Counsel

J: The city of Mooreborough is suing Owen Pigglehopper for squatting on city property. Crown council, you may call your first witness.

C: Can Justin B. Wolf come to the stand?

(Wolf walks to witness stand)

C: What do you have to say in this matter?

W: I am the city’s house inspector. I’ve been doing this job for ten years now. A couple ofweeks ago I got a call from the city, asking me to investigate a house supposedly made of straw. After I dealt with that problem I noticed smoke coming from the forest. I was worried some homeless person had broken the fire ban rule and built a fire. I decided to check it out. As I followed the direction of the smoke, I realized that the fire must have been built on part of the agricultural land reserve. Now I was really ticked. That part of the forest was cleared for farmland. No one was allowed to enter. As I wandered into the clearing I saw a house made out of sticks and leftover branches the logging company left behind. That was one of the most unstable structures I had ever seen. Then I noticed the smoke coming from the chimney. I was so worried that the house would start a fire that I ran towards the structure and banged on the door. I guess the house was so unstable and dangerous that I knocked the whole thing down. I noticed some movement underneath the pile of sticks. All in a sudden, a blur of pink attacked me. As I fell to the ground I managed to push the attacker off of me. When I stood up I realized that the creature that jumped on me was a pig. He yelled at me. He said something like: “ Look at what you did! My poor house.” The pig was later arrested for squatting on city property.

C: Thank you Mr.Wolf. That will be all.

J: Would you like to cross examine the witness?

D: Yes, your honour. You clearly stated that the house was unstable, yes?

W: Correct.

D: Did it ever cross your mind that someone could be inside the house?

W: Yes.

D: Did you ever think that banging on this **unstable** house could endanger the life of anyone inside as well as your own?

W: I was just worried that the forest would catch on fire!

D: Please answer the question.

W: Yes but by then it was too late.

D: One more thing. Did you have any right to be on the agricultural land reserve?

W: Excuse me?

D: You said that no one is allowed to walk on the clearing but you clearly entered that area of land. You were supposed to be investigating a house made of straw but instead you were trespassing on city property. What right do you have to be walking on that area of land? You didn’t know there was a house there. I say you’re as guilty of trespassing as Mr. Owen Pigglehopper.

W: Hey!

D: That will be all, your honour.

J: Any more questions Crown council?

C: Yes, your honour. You were just doing the right thing, correct? Trying to stop a fire before it consumed the whole forest?

W: Yes.

C: That will be all, your honour.

J: Defence council, you may call your first witness.

D: Can Owen Pigglehopper come to the stand?

(Pig steps up to witness stand)

D: What do you have to say in this matter?

O: I had a rough childhood. Ever since my father left, my mother had to support her three children all on her own. We never had enough money. Sometimes we had to go to the foodbank. There was no chance for my brothers and I to go to university. I couldn’t pursue my dreams of becoming a teacher. Three months ago my mother kicked me and my two brothers out. Because we were uneducated it was impossible to get a good job. I had been living on the streets. Then I saw a sign one day saying the city had just cleared a section of the forest and was selling it as farmland. Seeing that the land was unsold I figured I could sleep there for a couple of nights without being caught. When I entered the property I saw a small shelter made out of sticks. Making sure no one was living there, I decided I could sleep there for the night. Over the days I improved my house. I ate there, slept there, and cooked there. I got a job promotion carrying a smoke machine around town. One day I was in my house when the smoke machine accidentally turned on. Not knowing how to turn it off, I put it to my chimney so my house wouldn’t fill up with smoke. A couple of minutes later I heard someone scream “ I GOT YA NOW!” and out of nowhere my roof falls right on top of my head. Frightened, I jumped out of an opening in my roof. I was surprised when I crashed into something furry. When I turned around I saw my home. It had collapsed into a large pile of sticks. “What happened to my poor house?” I asked the creature behind me. All he did was glare at me. Later that day I was arrested. If the country made going to school cheaper, none of us would be in this mess in the first place.

D: Thank you Owen. That will be all.

J: Would you like to cross examine the witness?

C: Yes, your honour. Did you know the land was not permitted to have residents?

O: I-I guess. There was a sign saying City Property. Agricultural land only.

C: So, why did you enter?

O: I was cold and it was going to rain soon.

C: But doesn’t Mooreborough have a homeless shelter?

O: Yes, but it’s pretty full.

C: No further questions, your honour.

J: Crown council, you may call your next witness.

C: Can Isaac Abbott come to the stand

(Man walks to witness stand)

C: What do you have to say in this matter?

I: I have been working as a detective for the RCMP for two years. I was given this case a couple of weeks ago. I drove to the scene of the crime on Wednesday. The first thing I saw was a huge sign saying CITY PROPERTY. NO TRESPASSING. AGRICULTURAL LAND ONLY.

C: Did you say **no trespassing**?

I: That’s right. Anyway, when I entered the crime scene I saw a huge pile of sticks in the middle of the property. There were hoofprints all over the branches. We ran some tests at the lab and they matched Owen’s. I went to investigate and see what was inside. I saw a mattress, some plates, and a jar of water.

C: Did you see a smoke machine?

I: No.

C: No further questions, your honour.

J: Would you like to cross examine the witness?

D: Yes, your honour. Were there any signs of a fire?

I: Ummmm… no?

D: If there was a fire inside the house and a pile of sticks and branches fell on it, wouldn’t the house catch on fire?

I: I guess.

D: Then why weren’t there any signs of a fire?

I: We don’t know EVERYTHING.

D: No further questions, your honour.

J: Defence council, you may call your last witness.

D: Can Kailly Augustine come to the stand?

(Woman walks up to witness stand)

D: What do you have to say in this matter?

K: I had bought the land from the city a few days ago. I am a camp director and I planned on doing a survival unit. I brought the campers to my property and we built a shelter out of sticks. As I was walking home I bumped into my old friend, Owen. I found

out about how he couldn’t have a good job because of his lack of education. I felt bad for him. I told Owen that I knew a place he could sleep for the night.

D: So Owen had all the right to be on the land?

K: Yes.

D: No more questions, your honour.

J: Would you like to cross examine the witness?

C: Yes, your honour. You said that you bought the land a couple of days ago, correct?

K: Mmm Hmm.

C: But this crime happened a couple of weeks ago.

K: It did?

C: Yes. Does that mean you were on the property with your kids building the shelter before you bought the property?

K: You have no proof!

C: Also, the detective from the RCMP didn’t see any other fingerprints on the shelter.

K: We were wearing… gloves.

C: No further questions, your honour.

J: Now the jury must decide if Owen Pigglehopper is guilty.