



Shere Khan On Trial

Introduction

Objective:

Students will become active participants in the process of justice by conducting a mock trial of Shere Khan's violation of the jungle's "Water Truce Law" and determine his innocence or guilt.

Academic Content Standards:

- ❖ National Standards for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards: X. Civic Ideals and Practices
 - *Students understand that civic ideals and practices of citizenship is critical to full participation in society and is a central purpose of the social studies.*
 - *Students confront such questions as: What is civic participation and how can I be involved? How has the meaning of citizenship evolved? What is the balance between rights and responsibilities? What is the role of the citizen in the community and nation? Etc.*
- ❖ National Standards for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards: VI. Power, Authority and Governance
 - *Students understand the historical development of structures of power, authority and governance and their evolving functions in contemporary U.S. society and other parts of the world that is essential for developing civic competence.*
 - *Students confront questions such as: What is power? What form does it take? Who holds it? How is it gained, used and justified? What is legitimate authority? Etc.*
- ❖ Ohio Academic Content Standards for Social Studies: Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities
 - *Students use knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in order to examine and evaluate civic ideals and to participate in community life and the American democratic system.*
 - *Benchmark: A and B (4th Grade)*
 - *Benchmark: B (5th Grade)*
 - *Benchmark: B (6th Grade)*
- ❖ Ohio Academic Content Standards for Social Studies: Government
 - *Students use knowledge of purposes, structures and processes of political systems at the local, state, national and international levels in order to understand that people create systems of government as structures of power and authority to provide order, maintain stability and promote the general welfare.*
 - *Benchmark: A and B (4th & 5th Grades)*
 - *Benchmark: A, C (6th Grade)*

Getting Started

Materials:

- A copy of the Miranda Rights
- A witness chair
- Table for the prosecuting and defense attorneys
- Chairs for jurors

Vocabulary:

- Arrest
- Guilty
- Innocent
- Miranda Rights
- Sentence
- Prosecution

- Defense

Lesson

Orientation Activity:

Teacher will ask for a student volunteer to act out the role of Shere Khan. The teacher will proceed to explain that when a person, or animal in this case, is accused of a crime he or she is formally arrested. Several students will role play the arrest procedure by taking Shere Khan into custody and reading him his *Miranda Rights*, a list of rights that an accused criminal receives during the process of an arrest. Also, the teacher will discuss with the students the process that occurs after the accused is arrested. This is a good time to invite a police officer in as a guest speaker to discuss the arrest process.

Learning Activity:

Students will volunteer or will receive assignments for role play. The roles include:

- Shere Khan
- The Presiding Judge
- The District Attorney
- The Public Defender
- Twelve jurors
- A Bailiff
- Witnesses: Mowgli, Raksha, Father Wolf, and any other witness the defense or prosecution deems necessary

Students, as a class, will build a case against, or in defense of Shere Khan. The teacher will write on the board a list of facts, pro and con, that serve as evidence for legal argument to decide if Shere Khan as innocent or guilty. A witness list is then created with the order of appearance. The teacher will discuss with the class, the angles the prosecution and defense will take during the trial. Students in role play for the Prosecuting Attorney and the Public Defender are given time to prep and prepare for trial. The “prosecution” will give opening statements and call up witnesses, followed by the “defense.” Both sides are given opportunity to recall witnesses to clarify their testimony.

After the case is played out and all witnesses called, the teacher will ask the students who are playing the role of jurors to convene and then come back with a verdict of guilty or innocent. The jury decision must be unanimous or else the jury is considered to be a “hung jury.” Students will also decide the punishment of Shere Khan, if he has been determined guilty of murder.

Evaluation and Follow-Up

Assessment Tools and Methods:

- Students will write a paragraph describing his or her reaction to the verdict. Student explanations will include his or her opinion of the verdict and the sentence of the accused, if one is issued. Individually, students also will describe alternative verdicts to that decided by the jurors of the case.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

Language Arts: Teacher reads books or newspaper articles about court cases or verdicts that have been handed down and discusses with the students their opinions about the cases.

Science: The class conducts another mock trial on scientific topics such as cloning or environmental poisoning to further explore the judicial process and how it is used in other subject areas.