

Access to Justice: Class in the Courtroom
Webb County Court-at-Law II
Judge Victor Villarreal

Guerita Locks versus Three Bears: A civil mock trial script
appropriate for 3rd-5th grade students

Charges: bullying, cyberbullying, slander, mental anguish, conspiracy

Participants in Trial

Presiding Judge	Judge Victor Villarreal
Plaintiff: Guerita Locks	INSERT
Defendant: Papi Bear	INSERT
Defendant: Mami Bear	INSERT
Defendant: Bebe Bear	INSERT
Witness: Little Red Riding Hoodie	INSERT
Witness: Ranger Third Little Pig	INSERT
Attorney for Plaintiff	INSERT
Attorney for Defendant	INSERT
Bailiff	INSERT

Props

Two-sided Open House and For Sale Signs, Welcome Mat (*To be left on the table*)

Broken Chair (*To be left in jury's line of vision*)

Bag of Gummy Bears (*To be removed from judge's sight*)

SCENE

12 student jurors are seated in the jury box in Webb County Court-at-Law II.

Junior court officers are seated or stand at appropriate stations.

Students comprising the Court of Public Opinion sit on benches with their teachers.

BAILIFF: All rise.

(Judge enters and sits at his bench.)

BAILIFF: Webb County Court-at-Law II of the State of Texas is now in session.
Judge Victor Villarreal presiding.

(Judge names each school represented and asks its students and teachers to stand and be recognized. They are likely to remain standing until asked to be seated, so be sure to ask them to sit.)

JUDGE: Welcome to Webb County Court-at-Law II. Please be seated. Today we have some very special guests, students from (INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL).
Would the students and their teachers please stand and be recognized?

(APPLAUSE)

JUDGE: Please be seated.

(Judge introduces elected and appointed officials and sponsors who are present. He introduces others throughout the trial as they arrive.)

JUDGE: We have three honor guests who also are sponsors of our mock trial: Senator Judith Zaffirini, Webb County Commissioner John Galo, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Anna Galo. *(Don't introduce these three again as honor guests or as sponsors.)*

(Introduce only honor guests and sponsors who are present.)

JUDGE: Other honor guests with us today are (INSERT).

Other sponsors who join us are (INSERT).

We also acknowledge the assistance and inspiration of (INSERT).

Bailiff!

BAILIFF: The case of Guerita Locks versus the Three Bears is now ready for trial.

(Judge calls the plaintiff and her attorney, the defendants and their attorney, the plaintiff's witness, and the defendants' witness. As they are called, they enter from

the door opposite the judge's bench, stand before him to be sworn-in, and then sit at their assigned places as the next group is introduced and sworn-in.)

JUDGE: The plaintiff is Guerita Locks and her attorney is (NAME).

(The plaintiff and her attorney walk in together, with the attorney leading. They stand before the judge so the plaintiff can be sworn-in, and then they take their seats at the plaintiff's table.)

(Guerita should try to be as likeable as possible—sweet, cute, adorable!)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

PLAINTIFF: I do.

(Plaintiff and attorney sit at the plaintiff's table.)

JUDGE: The defendants, Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear, (Pronounce Beh-beh) are represented by their attorney, (NAME).

(Defendants and attorney walk in together, led by the attorney. They stand before the judge so the three defendants can be sworn in, and then they take their seats at the defense table.)

(Bears should try to be as likeable, cute, and cuddly as possible (also adorable!) and should make bear sounds throughout the mock trial.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right paws. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

DEFENDANTS: *(Making bear sounds)* I do.

(Defendants and their attorney sit at the defense table.)

JUDGE: Another witness for the plaintiff is Little Red Riding Hoodie.

(Witness walks in. She stands before the judge to be sworn-in, and then sits at assigned place.)

(Red should be cute and prissy throughout.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

WITNESS: I do.

(Witness sits at assigned seat in front of judge's bench, facing the courtroom.)

JUDGE: The witness for the defense is Forest Ranger Third Little Piggy.

(Witness walks in. He stands before the judge to be sworn-in, and then sits at assigned place.)

(Third Pig, the smart pig brother, should dress like Smokey the Bear. He should make pig sounds throughout the mock trial.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hoof. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

WITNESS: *(Making pig sounds)* I do.

(Witness sits at assigned seat in front of judge's bench, facing the courtroom.)

JUDGE: I understand the charges against the three bears are bullying, cyberbullying, slander, mental anguish, and conspiracy. Is everyone ready to proceed?

ATTORNEYS: Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Will the bailiff please swear-in the jury?

(After the 12 jurors are chosen, the bailiff needs to tell them what they will do during the trial and how they will answer during their swearing-in. If they don't stand, raise their right hands, or respond, the bailiff needs to prompt them.)

(Bailiff should give the deputy bailiff an opportunity to read lines, if he or she is willing and able.)

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: Will the jurors please stand and raise your right hands?

(Jurors stand and raise their right hands.)

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: Do you solemnly swear that you will listen to all the testimony today and decide the issues fairly?

JURORS: I do.

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: Do you swear that you will not discuss this case with anyone until after you have reached a verdict?

JURORS: I do.

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: You may be seated.

(Jurors are seated.)

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff have an opening statement?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the plaintiff will show that Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear are big and bad, not cute and cuddly. Son bien gachos y mentirosos. *(Pronounced in Spanish, sohn, bee-en, gah-chos, ee, mehn-tee-roh-sos)* They are guilty of bullying, which means deliberately hurting, threatening, or scaring someone; guilty of cyberbullying, which means bullying through the Internet; guilty of mental anguish, which means making someone feel really bad, nervous, or depressed; guilty of slander, which means lying about someone and hurting his or her reputation; and guilty of conspiracy, which means several persons getting together and plotting to hurt someone.

All your lives you've heard bear-faced lies about Guerita Locks's visit to the home of the three bears. Today you are going to hear the other side of the story—hers!

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, when you hear the evidence, you most certainly will agree the three bears are guilty of bullying, guilty of cyberbullying, guilty of mental anguish, guilty of slander, and guilty of conspiracy. ¡Mándenlos al bote! *(Pronounced in Spanish, mahn-dehn-lohs, ahl, boh-teh)* Throw them in the can!

Thank you.

JUDGE: Counsel for the defense?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor. We will show that these lovable, huggable bears are innocent of all charges. *(Pointing to bears)* ¡Miren no mas que chulos! *(Pronounced in Spanish, mee-rehn, noh, mas, que, choo-los)* See how sweet and innocent they are? *(Bears act sweet and cute.)*

These soft, snuggly teddy bears are being attacked and dragged through the courts by this huerquita guerita chifladita. *(Pronounced in Spanish, wehr-kee-tah, weh-ree-tah, chee-flah-dee-tah)* That spoiled blonde brat is the guilty one who....

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Only the jury can decide who is guilty, and Guerita Locks is not on trial here. Besides, Counselor is insulting her.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

The jury will disregard those insults.

(Addressing attorney for defense) Please continue.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: You will hear that this adorable family, whom all fairy tale readers adore, did absolutely nothing to hurt Guerita. She came to court loaded for bear and wants to punish them for complaining about her bad behavior.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, any bear-faced lies you hear today are told by Guerita, not about her. I'm confident you soon will see that Papi, Mami, and Bebe Bear are innocent of all allegations.

Thank you.

JUDGE: The plaintiff may call its first witness.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Thank you, Your Honor.

We call Guerita Locks.

(Plaintiff takes the witness stand.)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: State your name for the record, please.

GUERITA: *(Acting cute and sweet)* My name is Gold Dee Locks, but my mother calls me Princesita and Chulita. *(Pronounced in Spanish, preen-sehs-ee-tah, choo-lee-tah)* Everybody else calls me Guerita.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Where do you live?

GUERITA: I live in SherWoodie Forest with my mom and huelita. (*Pronounced in Spanish, weh-lee-tah*) We're walking distance from Robin Hoodie and his Merry Men and across the road from Little Red Riding Hoodie.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Tell us a little about yourself—what do you do every day?

GUERITA: I'm a student. When I grow up, I want to sell houses, so I'm studying to be a realtor.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you ever visit the home of the three bears?

GUERITA: Just once.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Tell us about that.

GUERITA: One Sunday afternoon I went to the Open House of the darling cottage where Snow Green lived with her Seven Chaparritos (*Pronounced in Spanish, chah-pah-rree-tohs*). They're selling it because they moved into a palace with her Prince Mango.

Snow Green is an environmentalist. She served her famous Aguas Frescas and Taquitos de Tripitas Fritas (*Pronounced in Spanish, tree-pee-tahs, free-tahs*)—from farm animals raised free-range and with no cruelty, of course. Tripitas are called "chitterlings" in English. They're actually animal intestines. Yum!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Now that's a fun fact.

GUERITA: Yes. On my way home I passed by another cute casita (*Pronounced in Spanish, cah-see-tah*) that had "For Sale" and "Open House" signs in front. Most visitors want to buy a house. Some go just for botanas y no mas a fisgar. (*Pronounced in Spanish, boh-tah-nahs, ee, noh, mahs, ah, fees-gahr*) My English-only friends would call it "snooping around."

Anyway, I walked up to the bears's front door, which was wide open, and stood on a big "Welcome" mat. Then I knocked and rang the doorbell, but no one answered.

At SherWoodie Forest, whenever the front door is open, you just walk in without knocking or ringing the doorbell. To me, the sign, the mat, and the open door screamed, (*Cupping her mouth and calling out*) “Come on in, and make yourself at home!” So I did.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: (*Holding up two-sided signs that say “Open House” and “For Sale” so the judge, jury, and audience can see them*) Are these the signs you saw at the bears’s home before you entered?

GUERITA: Yes, sir/ma’am.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Would you read them, please?

GUERITA: (*Pointing at each*) “Open House.” “For Sale.”

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: (*Places signs on plaintiff’s table, then holds up mat that says “Welcome” so that the judge, jury, and audience can see it.*) Is this the mat you saw before you entered?

GUERITA: Yes, sir/ma’am.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Would you read it, please?

GUERITA: “Welcome.”

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: (*Places mat on plaintiff’s table*)

Did you know who lived there or who was hosting the Open House?

GUERITA: No, Sir/Ma’am! If I had, I would have run by, sign, mat, and opened door or not!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Why is that?

GUERITA: Everybody’s afraid of the Big Bad Wolf and the Big Bad Bears! Everybody knows their favorite food is cute little girls like Little Red Riding Hoodie. I would have been afraid they might want to eat me!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Guerita is imagining or guessing the bears’s behavior and character. Besides, no evidence has been introduced that they would want to eat her.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that statement.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Then what happened?

GUERITA: I saw three bowls of my favorite lunch, Caldo de Res. (*Pronounced in Spanish, cahl-doh, deh, res*) Since snacks were served at Snow Green's and other Open Houses, I guessed the caldo was for Open House visitors.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you eat the caldo?

GUERITA: The big bowl of soup was (*Waving to cool her tongue*) too hot, and the medium one was too cold, (*Shivering*) but the little one was just right. (*makes "OK" sign*) It warmed my pansita. (*Rubbing her belly*) ¡Que rico! (*Pronounced in Spanish, pahn-see-tah; que rree-coh*)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Then what did you do?

GUERITA: I sat on the closest chair, but it was too big. The next one was even bigger, but the third one was just right (*makes OK sign*)—or so I thought. As soon as I sat on it, I crashed to the floor, even though I didn't bear down on it or anything! I fell on my colita. (*Pronounced in Spanish, coh-lee-tah*) Then I saw how old and beat-up it was. Of course it broke!

I was so upset, I started llore, llore, llore. (*Pronounced in Spanish, yoh-reh*) Then I got hipo (*Pronounced in Spanish, ee-poh*) (*Hiccups*) and couldn't stop hiccupping. (*Hiccups*) To make it worse, I started burping the Caldo de Res. (*Burps, hiccups, and strikes her chest*) It had a ton of garlic.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you leave at that time?

GUERITA: I couldn't! I felt dizzy, and I thought, "¡Dios mío! ¡Voy a vomitar!" (*Pronounced in Spanish, dee-owhs, mee-ohw, voy, ah, voh-mee-tahr*) I felt like throwing-up. Then I saw the three beds.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you lie down right away?

GUERITA: As soon as I could.

The first bed was too hard—like my *huelita*'s *tabla de planchar* (*Pronounced in Spanish, tah-blah de plahn-char*), where she irons my clothes. The second one was too soft—*toda squishy, como Jello*. (*Pronounced in Spanish, toh-dah, squish-ee, coh-moh*) But the third one was just right. (*makes OK sign*) I lay down, *y me quede súpita*. (*Pronounced in Spanish, ee, meh, que-deh, soo-pee-tah*) ¡Toda Snoring Beauty!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Then what happened?

GUERITA: You know the *dicho*: (*Pronounced in Spanish, dee-choh*) *Camarón que se duerme, se lo lleva lo corriente*. (*Pronounced in Spanish, cawh-mah-rohn, que, se, dwehr-meh, seh, loh, yeh-vah, la cohrr-ee-en-teh*) That means if a shrimp falls asleep, it gets carried away with the tide!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Well, that's another fun fact! Then what happened?

GUERITA: Next thing I knew, Ranger Third Little Pig was poking me, handcuffing me, and carrying me away to the Youth Village. That's a scary little jail for children 17 or younger. I tried to explain that I was there for the Open House, but he wouldn't listen. And the Three Bears were there, growling he should arrest me.

The little one tried to bite my thigh, but I shooed him away.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: How did you feel when he did that?

GUERITA: Scared to death! I asked the bears for a *cucharita de azucar* (*Pronounced in Spanish, koo-cha-ree-tah, deh, ah-zoo-cahr*) for my *susto*. (*Pronounced in Spanish, sus-toh*) But they wouldn't give me the sugar or even water so I could calm down.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Had you done anything wrong?

No, Sir/Ma'am. I was a polite guest and even took off my shoes and walked in bare-foot so as not to dirty their floors. They treated me like a crook. That's no way to treat your visitors—or to sell a house! Obviously, they never learned good manners at (INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL REPRESENTED), like I did.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Were the bears there too?

GUERITA: Yes. Apparently they had bear-ly arrived.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did the bears apologize after they realized you were visiting their Open House?

GUERITA: Apologize? They went all grizzly on me! Acted like bar-bear-ics! Like they wanted to murder me with their bear hands.

All three went into Bear Attack Mode! They started bullying and slandering me—calling me a burglar, a vandal, and a thief to my face. Talk about bear-ing false witness!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did Ranger Pig help you?

GUERITA: No way! They made him handcuff me, like a criminal. Later they cyberbullied me online and posted their lies and even a photo of me asleep on Bebe Bear's bed. They made everyone think I was dangerous. As if I would hurt a baby!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: How did you and your family and friends react to all that?

GUERITA: My parents cried, but they love me and believed my side of the story. Most of my friends stopped talking to me because their parents said they couldn't be friends with a criminal.

It was un-bear-able. I cried every day and got very depressed. I couldn't sleep at night and thought about dropping out of school. Talk about mental anguish! *Muy triste. (Pronounced in Spanish, moo-ee, trees-teh)*

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you drop out of school?

GUERITA: No. I had to just grin and bear it.

My parents told me I would have my day in court, and the truth would come out. But my teachers at (INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL REPRESENTED) supported me and made anyone who bullied me stop and go to anti-bullying class. I think they deserve a round of applause for that. *(Guerita applauds—hoping the audience applauds too.)*

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: So why did you file this civil lawsuit against the bears?

GUERITA: Instead of welcoming a well-meaning guest and feeling bad about their food making me sick, they put me under false arrest. Then they conspired to bully, cyberbully, and slander me. They caused me great mental anguish. I spent \$5,000 in mental health counseling.

(Getting upset) I'm sorry. Bear with me.

(Sniffing, but more composed) Believe me, these three are more like Godzillas than Winnie-the Poohs or Paddington Bears. When I saw another Open House sign in front of their home a few weeks ago, I wondered if that was another conspiracy to get Little Red Riding Hoodie or someone else to enter and then harass her with false charges—or even eat her!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! There is no evidence about false charges or the bears wanting to eat anyone.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

The jury will disregard that statement.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Pass the witness.

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

(Addressing Guerita) How many Open Houses have you attended?

GUERITA: Maybe six.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Have you ever gone into an Open House when the owners weren't there?

GUERITA: Yes.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How many?

GUERITA: Maybe six.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you saying the owners of a home for sale in an Open House have never been there when you visited?

GUERITA: Never.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Was a realtor present at the bears's Open House?

GUERITA: No.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So why did you enter?

GUERITA: As I said earlier, the signs said, "Open House" and "For Sale." The doormat said, "Welcome." And the door was opened. So I entered, wouldn't you?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! The witness is being argumentative.

JUDGE: (*Addressing Guerita*) Guerita, only lawyers can ask questions in court, not witnesses.

(*Addressing defense attorney*) However, she's a little girl, Counselor, and she asked a fair question. Objection overruled. (*Bangs gavel*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did anyone invite you to eat the Caldo de Res?

GUERITA: No. Just like no one invited me to eat the botanas (*Pronounced in Spanish, boh-tah-nahs*) at Snow Green's.

In my mind, I thought I saw an unwritten sign that said, "Eat me!"

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Well, don't believe everything you think!

Have you ever seen this chair before? (*Holding up Bebe Bear's broken chair; showing it around the courtroom while Guerita speaks*)

GUERITA: Yes, sir/ma'am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Was it broken when you first saw it?

GUERITA: No, sir/ma'am. It broke when I sat on it. I should have known better because it looked all tembeleque. (*Pronounced in Spanish, tehm-beh-leh-que*). I

offered to pay Bebe Bear \$15 for it, but Papi Bear wouldn't let him take it. He bear-ed his teeth at my offer.

Then Bebe Bear went around telling everyone Dumbo sat on it, as if I were a great, big, fat elephant! (*Upset*) He even said I had a cara de elefante. (*Pronounced in Spanish, cah-rah, de, el-eh-fahn-teh*)

(Attorney places chair where it can be seen by all, but doesn't block view of witness.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Who invited you to take a siesta on Bebe Bear's bed?

GUERITA: No one—but I didn't feel well and didn't think the owners would mind.

I never thought they'd go so bear-crazy on me, since their soup made me sick.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! ¡This child is chiquita, pero picosa! ¡Bien larga! (*Pronounced in Spanish, chee-kee-tah, peh-roh, pee-koh-sah; bee-en, lahr-gah*) She continues to be non-responsive by not answering my questions.

JUDGE: (*Addressing the witness*) Guerita, please simply answer the questions. Let's move on.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So why did you file this lawsuit against this fairytale family?

GUERITA: Because their side of the fairytale has been told for years and years. No one's ever heard my side. Now it's my turn to talk.

Telling the other side of a fairy tale is sometimes called a "fractured fairy tale." That's what the judge and jury are hearing today.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Aggressively*) Haven't you, in fact, been charged by the bears with trespassing, breaking and entering, and property damage?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Those charges are not before this court, and the defense lawyer knows better than to bring them up.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

The jury will disregard that statement too.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Isn't it true that you feel mental anguish because you feel so guilty about what you did?

GUERITA: No. I suffer from the bears's persecution. So far, I've spent more than \$5,000 in counseling to feel better.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: But you admit you entered the bears's home, ate their Caldo de Res, broke Bebe Bear's little chair, and slept on Bebe's little bed?

GUERITA: Yes, sir/ma'am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Pass the witness.

JUDGE: You may step down.

(Witness returns to her seat at plaintiff's table.)

JUDGE: The plaintiff may call your next witness.

PROSECUTOR: The plaintiff calls Little Red Riding Hoodie.

(Witness takes the stand.)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: State your name, please.

RED: Little Red Riding Hoodie. My friends call me Red.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What is your relationship with Guerita?

RED: We're BFFs and neighbors--comadritas. *(Pronounced in Spanish, koh-mah-dree-tahs)* We call each other, "Manita," like "Hermanita," *(Pronounced in Spanish, ehr-mahn-ee-tah)*. That means "little sister."

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: And what is your relationship with Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear?

RED: Well, I always hide when I see them in the forest. I've seen them partying with the Big Bad Wolf and the Three Little Chupacabras. *(Pronounced in Spanish, chew-pah-cah-brahs)*

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Why do you hide from them?

RED: Because they chase me.

One time the Big Bad Wolf tried to trick me into thinking he was my grandmother. He would have eaten me, but, thank God, the Huntsman saved me!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Why do they chase you?

RED: To eat me, of course! They're all the same, and they all look alike—big, bad wolves; big, bad pigs; and big, bad bears: They see me or someone like Guerita, and they think, “¡Merienda!” (*Pronounced in Spanish, meh-ree-en-dah*) Or ¡Taquitos de Niña! (*Pronounced in Spanish, tah-kee-tohs, deh, knee-nee-ah*)

That's scary stuff!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! The witness certainly cannot prove that all wolves or pigs or bears—or all members of any group, even chupacabras, for that matter—all look alike, are all big and bad, and no one can tell them apart. That is discrimination. And it would create bias among the jury. Nor is there evidence they all would want to eat her or anybody else.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that statement, and the witness will not make general statements about groups.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Do you think the three bears tricked Guerita into their home so they could catch her and eat her?

RED: Of course I do!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! That is speculation. There is no evidence to that effect! The jury should consider only facts, not what she thinks or guesses.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that statement too.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Have you ever visited the Bear home?

RED: I was actually out enjoying the Laredo Parade of Homes when I saw their Open House sign. Then I saw Guerita being led away by Ranger Third Little Pig.

He was taking her to SherWoodie Youth Village.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Has Guerita acted differently since then?

RED: Totally! She has a real cross to bear because of their un-bear-able lies. Because of her mental anguish, she cries all the time, especially when the bears gang up on her and call her names and insult her on the Internet. Even worse, most of our friends aren't allowed to hang out with her anymore.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Why are you so loyal to her?

RED: First, I've known her since we were babies. So I can bear witness that she is honest, kind, and sweet. She would never do anything wrong.

Second, we're both lucky. I got away from the Big Bad Wolf, and she got away from the Big Bad Bears.

Frankly, I think she messed-up their plan to eat her. They're furious and frustrated, and now they have their bear claws out to ruin her. (*Gesturing with clawed hands*)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Thank you. No further questions.

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

Hoodie, you say you hide from the wolves and the bears because they chase you?

RED: Yes, ma'am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Which wolves and bears chase you—the big ones, the little ones; the old ones, the young ones?

RED: All of them. As far as I'm concerned, they're all big and bad.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Even the boy bears and the girl bears?

RED: Well, I can't tell the boy bears and wolves from the girl bears and wolves. They all look alike. So, yes!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! The witness is making more unfair, general statements about every member of a group. That, again, is discrimination and an attempt to prejudice the jury.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The witness and the jury are instructed to remember that every member of a group must be respected as an individual.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Do you think boy bears chase you because of the way you're dressed?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Counselor is badgering the witness.

JUDGE. Sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that statement.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Do you think girl bears might chase you because they want to be friends?

RED: They don't look or act very friendly. They're growling and snorting, and they're drooling—with their babas all over their chins, like they're chasing a delicious dinner that's getting away—me!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Do you expect us to believe that Mami Bear, Papi Bear, and Bebe Bear would even think about eating you or Guerita?

RED: Absolutely! ¡Son marranos golosos! (*Pronounced in Spanish, sohn, mah-rrah-nohs, goh-loh-sos*) Greedy pigs!

They especially like little girls.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Would you have gone into the bears's home without permission?

RED: Not if I knew they lived there!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: But if you didn't know who lived there, would you go in without permission?

RED: If I saw “Open House” and “For Sale” signs, a “Welcome” mat, and free food? Sure!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How would you know it wasn’t the wolf trying to trick you into going into his home so he could eat you?

RED: *(Acting superior)* Hmmph! The Big Bad Wolf can’t read or write. Besides, he lives in a wolf den, not a house.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: No more questions for this witness.

JUDGE: You may step down.

(Witness returns to designated seat.)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: The plaintiff rests, Your Honor.

JUDGE: The defense may call its first witness.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: The defense calls Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear.

(Witnesses walk to the witness stand, making bear sounds. They continue to make bear sounds throughout and act playful and lovable when appropriate.)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! The rules of the court require one witness to be called at a time, not three!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I beg for an exception, Your Honor! Bebe Bear has been bear-ated by Guerita. Mami Bear wants to protect her cub. And Papi Bear hasn’t been feeling well. I promised them that they could testify together.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Your Honor, this is a witness stand, not a bear cave!

JUDGE: There’s a baby involved, Counselor. I’ll allow it. Objection overruled
(Bangs gavel)

(Three bears sit at witness stand.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honor.

(Addressing bears) State your names, please.

(Bears raise their right paws as they state their names.)

PAPI: I'm Papi Bear.

MAMI: Mami Bear.

BEBE: Bebe Bear.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What do you do for a living?

PAPI: We sell our homemade honey, gummy bears so we can enjoy more than the bear necessities. They're made of straw-bear-ies, blue-bear-ies, cran-bear-ies, and lots of other sweet bear-ies. In fact, we brought a little bag of our gummy bears for you and the jury, Judge! *(Holding up the bag of gummy bears so the judge, jury, and audience can see)*

PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! They've already violated courtroom rules by testifying together, and now this clearly corrupt and chueco *(Pronounced in Spanish, chweh-koh)* bear is trying to bribe the judge and jury. That kind of corruption should not be tolerated in this courtroom.

JUDGE: Sustained! *(Bangs gavel)*

Mr. Bear, bribery is against the law. Please get that bag out of my sight.

PAPI: Sorry, Your Honor. *(Sneakily trying to show it to the jury again, nodding his head, thumbs up)* I thought all politicians liked "mordidas." *(Pronounced in Spanish, mohr-dee-dahs)*

JUDGE: *(Bangs gavel)* You are out of order, sir.

(Addressing defense attorney) Counselor, control your client. One more disrespectful statement, and he will be found in contempt of court. *(Bangs gavel)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I apologize, Your Honor.

How long were you gone?

MAMI: Minutes! We bears are very fast. We can run up to 37 miles per hour. We also have super-padre *(Pronounced in Spanish, pah-dreh)* smell and vision, so we know right away if fruits are ripe. You can read about us in "Wikipedia."

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: That's a fun fact I'm glad to know. Where do you live?

PAPI: In a cottage on the edge of SherWoodie Forest, near Huelita Wolf's den.

MAMI: We tried to sell it and move into a nicer home, but Guerita and Hoodie have brought a lot of pressure to bear on us and scared away all buyers.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why weren't you home when Guerita visited your Open House?

MAMI: We're hard-working honey bears, not hibernating or dancing bears. We were out picking bear-ies for our gummy bears.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why wasn't your realtor there?

PAPI: You mean our former realtor. We fired him.

If he had shown up when he was supposed to, we wouldn't have this mess on our paws. *(All three holding out hands, palms up)*

BEBE: We should sue him!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How did you find out Guerita visited your home?

PAPI: When we returned, the evidence of her crimes hit us smack in our furry faces. We walked into the kitchen and were horrified. ¡Nos aguitamos!
(Pronounced in Spanish, nohs, ah-wee-tah-mohs)

BEBE: Papi and Mami both said, "Someone's been eating my Caldo de Res and left their dirty spoons full of babas *(Pronounced in Spanish, bah-bahs)* here."

Then I said, "Someone ate my caldo, and it's all gone!"

Then we went into the living room, and they both said, "Someone's been sitting on my chair!", and I said, "Someone's been sitting on my chair and broken it all to pieces." And I started crying.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: *(Holding up broken chair)* Is this that chair?

THREE BEARS: *(Nodding their heads, speaking over each other, as defense attorney shows broken chair to the jury and audience)* Yes! ¡Sí! Uh-huh! Yep! What a mess! Pos, wow! *(Pronounced in Spanish, pohs, wow!)*

BEBE: I thought Dumbo had sat on it and squashed it! *(Smirking, laughing)*
Actually, she did! *(Pointing at Guerita)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then what happened?

BEBE: They took me to bed, and both of them said, “Someone’s been sleeping on my bed,” and I said, “Someone’s been sleeping on my bed too, and she’s still here!”

I started tiemble-tiemble, *(Pronounced in Spanish, tee-em-blee)* thinking it was La Llorona, *(Pronounced in Spanish, Lah, Yoh-roh-nah)* who came to take me away.

MAMI: I gave Bebe a cucharita de azucar para el susto. *(Pronounced in Spanish, koo-chah-ree-tah, deh, ah-zoo-kahr, pah-rah, el soos-toh)*

Guerita later asked for some, but I wasn’t about to reward that snotty little brat for her bad behavior.

PAPI: But then we saw our Forest Ranger, Third Little Pig, was there too.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What did you do?

PAPI: I wanted to shake her, give her a good susto, *(Pronounced in Spanish, soos-toh)* and call her parents.

MAMI: But I said, “No, let’s not take the law into our own paws. Ranger Third Little Pig will handle everything.”

BEBE: I wanted to bite her nice, fat, juicy leg, but Mami Bear stopped me.

MAMI: *(After putting her paw over Babe’s mouth)* So we let the ranger handle it.

PAPI: We left her there, roncando *(Pronounced in Spanish, rohn-kahn-doh)* like a great, big, fat, shaggy bear. Not very pretty-girlie!

PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! The witnesses again are insulting my witness.

JUDGE: Objection sustained (*Bangs gavel*)

Mr. Bear, I warned you twice. I am now holding you in contempt of court, and you are ordered to pay \$500.

(Bears act shocked and upset)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Being sorry isn't enough, Counselor. You need to prepare your clients to be respectful at all times, especially to children.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: We'll do better, Your Honor.

What happened next?

MAMI: The ranger took her away.

PAPI: When she passed by, we smelled her bad breath. Mami Bear puts lots of garlic in our soup.

BEBE: I said, "¡Pooooo-cheeee! Halitosis!" (*Pronounced in English, hal-ee-toe-sis*) That means "bad breath."

And that nasty *guera-de-botella* (*Pronounced in Spanish, weh-rah, deh, boh-teh-yah*) answered, "To quote Willy Nelson, "Bad breath is better than no breath at all!"

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! That is irrelevant and immaterial, not to mention insulting.

JUDGE: Sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard all statements about Guerita's bad breath. Although I have to agree with Willy, bad breath is better than no breath at all!

BEBE: We told everyone we could the bear facts about what she did. Oh, and that she had really bad breath! (*Mami Bear covers his mouth again.*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Is there anything else you would like to say?

PAPI: Yes. That little thief caused us a lot of pain. It's hard not to bear a grudge about her dragging us to court like this.

MAMI: She's ridiculous!

BEBE: When this is all over, I'm going to bite her! (*Mami Bear covers his mouth again.*)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor!

(*Pointing to Guerita*) These bears keep insulting this sweet little girl. They are badgering and bullying her, even though she's not on the stand.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

And the bears get one final warning. One more rude or disrespectful statement, and someone's going to jail.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Shaking his/her head*) On that note, I'll pass the witness.

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

Bebe Bear, why did you want to, quote, "bite her big, fat, juicy leg"?

(*Papi Bear and Mami Bear look and act mortified throughout the questioning.*)

BEBE: (*Animated*) She looked delicious! I like pierna de niña and patitas de niña. (*Pronounced in Spanish, pee-ehr-nah, deh, knee-nee-ah; pah-tee-tahs, deh knee-nee-ah*) Little girl tootsies are perfect for marranitos-in-a-blanket. (*Pronounced in Spanish, mah-rrah-knee-tohs*) And I love piggies-in-a-blanket! Mmmm-hmmm!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: (*Addressing Bebe*) Have you ever eaten anyone?

BEBE: No. I've just had little licks and love bites.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Irrelevant and immaterial!

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

Get back to the allegations at hand, Counselor.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

Why did you place “Open House” and “For Sale” signs and a “Welcome” mat outside the front entrance to your home?

PAPI: So it would look inviting.

MAMI: After all, we were trying to sell it!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF (*Addressing Bebe Bear*): Bebe, if you saw those signs and that welcome mat in front of a house with your bear-y own eyes, and the door was open, would you walk in?

BEBE: Sure, if I could read, I would! Especially if I smelled Caldo de Res!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What can you tell us about the chair that was broken?

PAPI: We bought it five years ago at La Pulga. (*Pronounced in Spanish, pool-gah*) That’s the flea market.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: For how much?

MAMI: \$1.50.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: \$1.50 for a chair? What shape was it in?

MAMI: It was all beat-up and needed to be fixed. Papi Bear didn’t have any glue, so he put tape on it. Like Yogi Bear says, “He’s smarter than your average bear!”

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: So the chair was old and broken when you bought it?

PAPI: (*Sheepishly*) Yes...but I put tape on it!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Ah-ha!

Moving on: Bebe, did you or your Mami or your Papi ever disparage Guerita to your friends or online?

BEBE: What’s “disparage”?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: That means “say bad things about her.”

BEBE: Sure! We told them about all the bad things she did, and we warned everyone to stay away from that golosa grosera (*Pronounced in Spanish, goh-loh-sah, groh-seh-rah*) because she would greedily and rudely eat their food and break their chairs.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you get together to plan what to say and to whom?

BEBE: Yes, indeed-y! We decided to use the Internet, especially Facebook and Twitter, and go to as many places as possible, and tell as many people as we could about the bad things Guerita did. That's not slander. That's the truth.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: So you and your dad and mom had a plan to tell everyone Guerita was a trespasser, a vandal, and a thief?

BEBE: Exactly! (*Smug. Papi and Mami Bear look mortified.*)

No more questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: You may step down.

The defense may call its next witness.

(Witness returns to the defense table.)

ATTY FOR THE DEFENSE: The defense calls Forest Ranger Third Little Pig.

(Witness takes the stand, dressed like Smokey the Bear—hat and all.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: State your name, please.

PIG: I am Forest Ranger Third Little Pig of the SherWoodie Forest Department.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How long have you been a forest ranger?

PIG: Since Big Bad Wolf blew down the homes of my brothers. The jury found him not guilty, so I decided to become a forest ranger to stop crimes like that in our wonderful forest. It's home to countless fairytale personalities.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why did you go to the Bear home?

PIG: I was on my way to Snow Green's Open House, when I saw this one, so I went in. When I got to the bedroom, I saw Guerita sound asleep, zonko!

Then the three bears got there and said she had stolen their food, broken Bebe's chair, trespassed onto their property, and broken and entered into their home.

ATTY FOR DEENSE: Then what did you do?

PIG: They insisted, so I arrested her.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! There are no charges against Guerita in this lawsuit. That is irrelevant and immaterial.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

The jury will disregard that statement.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Please continue, Ranger Third Little Pig.

PIG: When I heard she broke into their home like Big Bad Wolf broke into mine, I wanted to put her away. Lack of respect for people's homes is des-pig-able!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: In your professional opinion, did Guerita....

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Again, Guerita is not on trial here, nor are any allegations against her before this court.

JUDGE: Again, you are correct. Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you aware of any crimes the three bears have committed against Guerita?

PIG: None.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you. No more questions for this witness.

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Indeed, Your Honor.

Ranger Pig, are bullying, cyberbullying, and slandering against the law in this community?

PIG: Yes.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Do you know if the three bears bullied, cyberbullied, or slandered Guerita?

PIG: Well, it is my understanding that they simply reported her actions to everyone they could. It must be em-bear-assing to her, but I don't think that's a crime.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! The witness is editorializing and being non-responsive.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

(Addressing Third Little Pig) Ranger Pig, please simply answer the questions.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: To repeat, Ranger: Do you know if the three bears bullied, cyberbullied, or slandered Guerita?

PIG: Well, I guess it depends on your point of view.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: I'll assume that's a "yes." *(Pig shrugs)*

Ranger, what does "Open House" mean under the law?

PIG: That the house is open to the public.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What does "Welcome" mean under the law?

PIG: That's an invitation to enter and feel welcomed.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: If you went to a home and saw "Open House" and "For Sale" signs and a "Welcome" mat at the front door, would you go in?

PIG: Sure!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Are you aware that Guerita went into the Bear home only after reading that sign and seeing that mat?

PIG: Yes—but no one was home, and no one said, "Come on in, Guerita!"
(Motioning widely with his arm)

And no one invited her to eat their Caldo de Res or break Bebe's chair or sleep on his bed. ¡Les comió el mandado! *(Pronounced in Spanish, less, coh-mee-o, el, mahn-dah-doh)* She ate all their groceries!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: But it was an Open House, right?

PIG: Right:

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: And visitors at open houses usually eat the food that is served and sit on the available chairs, right?

WITNESS: Right.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Were the bears home when you entered their home?

PIG: No.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: No? Then why did you enter?

PIG: *(Sheepishly)* It was an Open House, and the door was open.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Exactly! And you entered their home, even though they weren't there, because you saw their "Open House" and "For Sale" signs and their welcome mat—and the door was opened?

PIG: *(Looking like he got caught in a lie)* Yes.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did they accuse you of trespassing or breaking and entering?

PIG: No.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Why not?

PIG: I guess because I arrested her, so they saw me as a friend, not as an enemy. In fact, they gave me a big bear group hug.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Do rangers usually arrest people?

PIG: Yes. My colega, Smokey the Bear, and I always arrest those who start forest fires. Mostly, though, we visit the schools and tell the children, "Only you can protect forest fires!" *(Imitating Smokey the bear; pointing his finger at the audience when he says "you")*

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: If you like to arrest people, why did you become a forest ranger, instead of a police officer?

PIG: Lots of bad kids rudely and disrespectfully call police officers “pigs.” I didn’t want to be bullied about “a pig being a pig.” And I certainly didn’t want to be called “Pig-Pig.” So I became a forest ranger instead. Children love forest rangers!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you eat any of the Caldo de Res?

PIG: No.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Why not?

PIG: I hate Caldo de Res. My favorite is Caldo de Lobo Feroz. (*Pronounced in Spanish, loh-boh, feh-roz*) Big Bad Wolf Soup! Yum!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: If, after entering, you had seen a bowl of Caldo de Lobo on the table, would you have eaten it?

PIG: Sure!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Because you would have assumed it was there for the Open House guests?

PIG: Yes.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: (*Looking pleased*) Thank you. No more questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: You are excused.

(Witness returns to designated seat.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: We have no more witnesses, Your Honor. The defense rests.

JUDGE: Very well. We will now hear closing arguments. Is the plaintiff ready?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, our evidence clearly proves Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear conspired to bully, cyberbully, and slander this sweet, innocent student and future realtor, Guerita Locks. They bear mauled her, badmouthing her in person and online, causing her great mental anguish.

Bebe Bear was the worst of the three. And his parents didn't even punish him. They defended him, and, in fact, they even joined him. Responsible parents should stop bullies and punish them—not defend and join them.

Guerita couldn't sleep. She lost her friends. And she got depressed—all because these three bears made her life un-bear-able. She spent more than \$5,000 in counseling, and the bears should pay for those damages.

You heard Bebe Bear admit the three had a plan for doing this. And you saw Mami Bear cover his mouth with her paw repeatedly for talking too much. Why? Because the little cub innocently told the truth about their conspiring to em-bear-ass Guerita by telling bear-faced lies about her.

What's more, Ranger Third Little Pig's testimony was the vetún en el pastel—the icing on the cake.

(Pointing to first to Ranger Pig, and then to Guerita) This pig and this child both read the "Open House" sign, both saw the welcome mat, and both entered the bear home. The double standard with which the bears treated him and Guerita proves their actions are hog-wash and full of baloney.

Why would the three bears consider Guerita a thief, a vandal, and an intruder, but consider Ranger Pig a visitor, a friend, and an ally—when they both acted exactly the same way? If she committed a crime, didn't he? What's more, the pig admitted he would have eaten the soup if it had been Big Bad Wolf Soup!

Frankly, that is bear-y, bear-y suspicious. The evidence is clear: Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear are guilty of bullying, guilty of cyberbullying, guilty of slander, and guilty of mental anguish, and guilty of conspiracy,

Thank you.

JUDGE: Counsel for the defense?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honor.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the three bears are innocent of all claims. Under no circumstances would these three bear-y lovable, huggable teddy bears tell lies or be mean to Guerita or to any other little girls, for that matter.

They didn't bully, cyberbully, or slander her. And they certainly didn't conspire to do so. All they did was tell the truth about her to anyone who would listen. They used the Internet so they could reach even more people. They simply laid bare the facts about her. And the truth is the ultimate defense.

They had to warn everyone they could about this chifladita chocantita (*Pronounced in Spanish, chee-flah-dee-tah, cho-kahn-tee-tah*) who disrespected their home, their property, and them. They couldn't bear the responsibility of this sangronsita (*Pronounced in Spanish, sahn-gron-see-tah*) victimizing anyone else.

Guerita is an "exaggerator"! Admittedly, she suffered mental anguish, but only because she felt so guilty. She got caught sleeping on Bebe Bear's bed after breaking Bebe's chair and eating Bebe's Caldo de Res. She admitted it. You heard her yourselves. All they did was tell people about it.

Accordingly, it is only proper that you find Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear innocent of all claims. Thank you.

JUDGE: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the evidence in this case. Now it is up to you to decide if Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear are guilty of any or all of these claims. Please use your 10 minutes to consider all the evidence you heard. Bailiff, please escort the jury to the jury room to consider the verdict.

All rise for the jury. (*Everyone in the courtroom rises as the jury leaves.*)

(*Bailiff leads the jury to the jury room to vote on the verdict. An attorney should be with them in the jury room to answer any questions. Upon arriving at a consensus, they return to the courtroom to announce the verdict.*)

(*During the 10 minutes allowed for the jury to deliberate, the judge convenes other students in the Court of Public Opinion, asking them the same questions the jury will answer. If there is time afterward, he invites students to ask him questions.*)

Please be seated.

After we hear the verdict and the trial is adjourned, our elected officials and honor guests will be invited to join the groups of students who will be photographed with the cast at the bench.

First, however, it is my pleasure to convene the students as a Court of Public Opinion. *(Bangs gavel)*

The purpose of our Court of Public Opinion is to ask how you, the public, represented by students here today, feel about whether the three bears are liable or not liable to Guerita, which means they are guilty or not guilty of each allegation.

So I will ask you the same questions that the jury will answer. We will have a voice vote. If I can't tell how the majority feels, then we will have a standing vote.

Are you ready?

First, remember that "bullying" means deliberately hurting, threatening, or scaring someone.

If you agree that the three bears did bully Guerita Locks, say, "Yes!" *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, "No!" *(Pause)*

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn't clear from voice vote, ask for the "yes" voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the "no" voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. At least one staff member should count the students on each side of the aisle, and then they should add their results for the grand total. The judge should announce the outcome.)

Second, "cyberbullying" means bullying through the Internet.

If you agree that the three bears did cyberbully Guerita Locks, say, "Yes!" *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, "No!" *(Pause)*

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn't clear from voice vote, ask for the "yes" voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the "no" voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. At least one staff member should count the students on each side of the aisle, and then they should add their results for the grand total. The judge should announce the outcome.)

Third, “slander” means lying about someone and hurting her reputation.

If you agree that the three bears did slander Guerita Locks, say, “Yes!” *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, “No!” *(Pause)*

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn’t clear from voice vote, ask for the “yes” voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the “no” voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. At least one staff member should count the students on each side of the aisle, and then they should add their results for the grand total. The judge should announce the outcome.)

Fourth, “mental anguish” means making someone feel really bad, nervous, or depressed.

If you agree that the three bears did cause Guerita Locks mental anguish, say, “Yes!” *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, “No!” *(Pause)*

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn’t clear from voice vote, ask for the “yes” voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the “no” voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. At least one staff member should count the students on each side of the aisle, and then they should add their results for the grand total. The judge should announce the outcome.)

Fifth, “conspiracy” means several persons plotting to hurt someone.

If you agree that the three bears did conspire against Guerita Locks, say, “Yes!” *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, “No!” *(Pause)*

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn’t clear from voice vote, ask for the “yes” voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the “no” voters

to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. At least one staff member should count the students on each side of the aisle, and then they should add their results for the grand total. The judge should announce the outcome.)

Finally, if you agree that the bears should pay any money to Guerita for damages, say, “Yes!” (Pause)

If you disagree, say, “No!” (Pause)

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. (Bangs gavel)

(If outcome isn’t clear from voice vote, ask for the “yes” voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the “no” voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. At least one staff member should count the students on each side of the aisle, and then they should add their results for the grand total. The judge should announce the outcome.)

So this Court of Public Opinion finds that the three bears are guilty of _____

claims, namely, _____; and

not guilty of _____ claims, namely, _____.

A related finding is that the bears should pay \$_____ in damages to Guerita Locks.

Now let’s see what the 12 jurors find.

(If jurors haven’t returned, engage in Q&A, as follows.)

While we wait for them, we have time for a question or two. Who has a question?

(Q&A with students. Be sure to repeat each student’s question before answering it. Keep answers short to allow more students to ask questions.)

(A staff member should hand the judge a note that the jurors have reached a verdict.)

(Bailiff enters. If necessary, he/she interrupts proceedings.)

BAILIFF: Your Honor, the jury has reached a verdict.

JUDGE: All rise for the jury. *(Everyone in the courtroom rises as the jury returns to jury box.)*

(Jurors enter and return to the jury box.)

JUDGE: Ms./Mr. Foreperson, have you reached a verdict?

JURY FOREPERSON: Yes, Your Honor, we have.

JUDGE: The defendants and their attorney will please rise.

MS./MR. FOREPERSON: We, the jury, find the defendants, Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear, did ____ did not ____ commit bullying, did ____ did not ____ commit cyberbullying, did ____ did not ____ commit slander, did ____ did not ____ conspiracy, and did ____ did not ____ cause mental anguish.

We also find that the bears should pay \$_____ in damages to Guerita.

(IF NOT GUILTY:)

JUDGE: The jury has spoken, and the defendants have been found not guilty. Papi Bear, however, is required to pay the \$500 he was fined when found in contempt of court.

(Addressing defendants and attorney) You may be seated.

Thank you, boys and girls, for listening carefully and making this important decision.

(IF GUILTY:)

JUDGE: The jury has spoken, and the defendants have been found guilty.

Papi Bear, Mami Bear, and Bebe Bear, I order you each to perform _____ hours of community service. Your task will be to establish a Reformed Bullies Program, showing bullies of all ages how to treat others kindly and respectfully, both in person and online. You will take them to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Laredo to talk about the evils of bullying and how to be kind to one another. Please report significant progress monthly to this court or be held in contempt of court.

I also order you to pay \$_____ in damages to Guerita Locks, in addition to the \$500 you have already been fined for contempt of court. That's a total of \$_____.

(Plaintiff and defendants react appropriately, based on the jury's verdict. Judge may make an appropriate statement to the defendants, especially if they are found guilty. If they are found guilty of one charge, but not of another, the judge must respond accordingly.)

JUDGE: *(Addressing defendants and attorney)* You may be seated.

JUDGE: Boys and girls, thank you and your teachers for being with us today. We hope you have enjoyed this mock trial as much as you have learned from it.

(Judge introduces director, cast members, and author, and they stand to be recognized.)

We are grateful to the director of the mock trial, (INSERT NAME).

I know you enjoyed the outstanding performances of (INSERT CHARACTERS AND THE NAMES OF ACTORS WHO PORTRAYED THEM.).

JUDGE: And we are grateful to the author of both the mock trial script and your handbook, Senator Judith Zaffirini.

JUDGE: Guerita Locks, the three bears, and the cast are available to take pictures with you. Our elected officials and honor guests also are invited to join us.

Boys and girls, we hope you enjoyed seeing justice in action in today's Access to Justice: Class in the Courtroom. You saw for yourselves the importance of obeying the law and what can happen when you do not obey the law. Please come back to visit your Webb County Court-at-Law II, and tell your family and friends they are welcomed too.

This court is adjourned. *(Bangs gavel)*

(Judge rises and joins cast, students, and elected officials for photos.)

CAUSE NUMBER 2018-08427-L2

GUERITA LOCKS	§	IN COUNTY COURT-AT-
	§	LAW II
VERSUS	§	
	§	
PAPI, MAMI, BEBE BEAR	§	WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFINITIONS

Bullying means deliberately hurting, threatening, or scaring someone.

Cyberbullying means bullying through the Internet.

Slander means lying about someone and hurting her reputation.

Mental anguish means making someone feel really bad, nervous, or depressed.

Conspiracy means several persons plotting to hurt someone.

VERDICT

We, the jury, find the defendants, the three bears, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **bullying**.

We, the jury, find the defendants, the three bears, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **cyberbullying**.

We, the jury, find the defendants, the three bears, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **slander**.

We, the jury, find the defendants, the three bears, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **mental anguish**.

We, the jury, find the defendants, the three bears, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **conspiracy**.

We, the jury, find the defendants, the three bears, should pay \$ _____ in damages to Guerita.

SIGNED on the (INSERT DATE) day of (INSERT MONTH, YEAR).

FOREPERSON