

Includes a
student quiz
AND a 7 page
drama script!



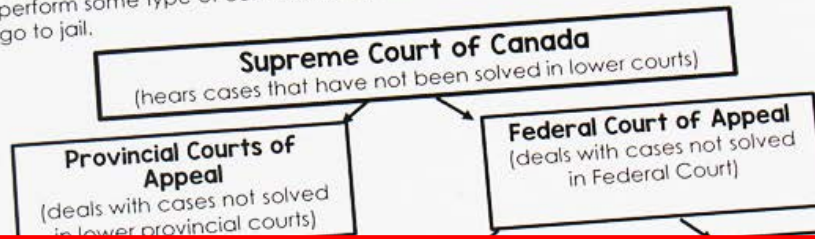
Canadian Government Court System



Supreme Court of Canada

The Canadian **justice system** is made up of judges and courts. Many people work together to make sure that the laws of the country have been followed, and to decide whether a person who has been accused of a crime is innocent or guilty. If a person is found guilty of a crime, he/she may have to:

- pay a fine.
- perform some type of community service.
- go to jail.



Student Texts

Canada's Criminal Justice System

Laws in Canada are made by federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Everyone in the country, no matter how rich or poor, is expected to obey these laws. These laws help keep everyone safe. When someone chooses to break a law in Canada, we have courts to help decide what to do about the situation.



Supreme

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- pay a fine.
- perform some type of community service.
- go to jail.

Supreme Court of Canada

(hears cases that have not been solved in lower courts)

Provincial Courts of Appeal

(deals with cases not solved in lower provincial courts)

Provincial Courts of Appeal

(deals with cases not solved in lower provincial courts)

Provincial/Territorial Superior Courts

(review decisions of provincial courts)

Provincial Courts

(Most cases are heard at this level of our courts)

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Canadian Courts and Trials



When police decide that someone has broken the law, they will "charge" the person with a crime. There will then be a "trial" where judges and juries listen to evidence about the crime, and decide whether the person is guilty or innocent.

If the crime is very serious, the person will stay in jail until the trial. If it is less serious, he or she may be allowed to go home to wait for the trial to begin. Usually a family member will have to post a bond, which means they give the court a certain amount of money to promise that the accused person will show up for the trial. If the person shows up, the family member gets their money back. If the person does not show up, the family member forfeits (does not get back) the money.

There are 2 very important features of the Canadian criminal justice system:

1. An accused person is considered to be innocent until proven guilty.
2. Guilt must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. This means that the person's guilt must be proven so strong that a reasonable person has no choice but to decide that the defendant really did commit the crime.


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Clear, Simple Text

Courtroom Participants

When a person is thought to have committed a crime, he or she may have to go to court where a judge or jury will listen to evidence about the crime and will also decide if they feel the defendant is guilty or innocent. There will be many people in the courtroom, each with a different responsibility.

Person	Responsibility
Judge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listens to cases in a court of law• Makes decisions about whether to allow certain evidence• Decides how to punish the defendant if he/she is found to be guilty
Accused (Defendant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person charged with committing a crime
Defence Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawyer who defends an accused person on trial
Crown Attorney (Prosecutor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represents the government• Brings forward believable evidence of a crime
Court Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps the judge by keeping track of trial exhibits• Administers oaths• Announces the beginning or end of the court session
Court Reporter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writes down every word that anyone says during a trial
Court Security Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handles an accused person who is in custody• Helps keep the courtroom safe for everyone
Sheriff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for the jury• Pays, guards, and makes sure the jury has a quiet, safe place to discuss the evidence and make a decision about guilt or innocence.
Bailiff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps the sheriff
Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes an oath (promise to tell the truth about what he/she knows about the crime)• If a witness lies in court (perjury), he/she can go to jail for up to 14 years
Jury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A group of 12 Canadian citizens chosen by the lawyers• Listen to trial• Consider evidence• Follows the judge's instructions about the law• Leave the courtroom together to go to a quiet place to decide if they think the evidence proves whether the defendant is innocent or guilty

Student Quiz

Canadian Justice System Quiz

Name: _____

/16

/10

1. Draw lines to match each word with the correct meaning.

verdict

Supreme Court

oath

judge

juror Federal

court

prosecutor

defendant

evidence

security Officer

lawyer who tries to prove a defendant is guilty

a promise to tell the truth in court

person in charge of a trial

hears cases about the laws of Canada

person who helps decide if a defendant is guilty

person accused of a crime

hears federal and provincial cases not decided by lower courts

person who helps keep a courtroom safe

decision made by a judge or jury about guilt

proof

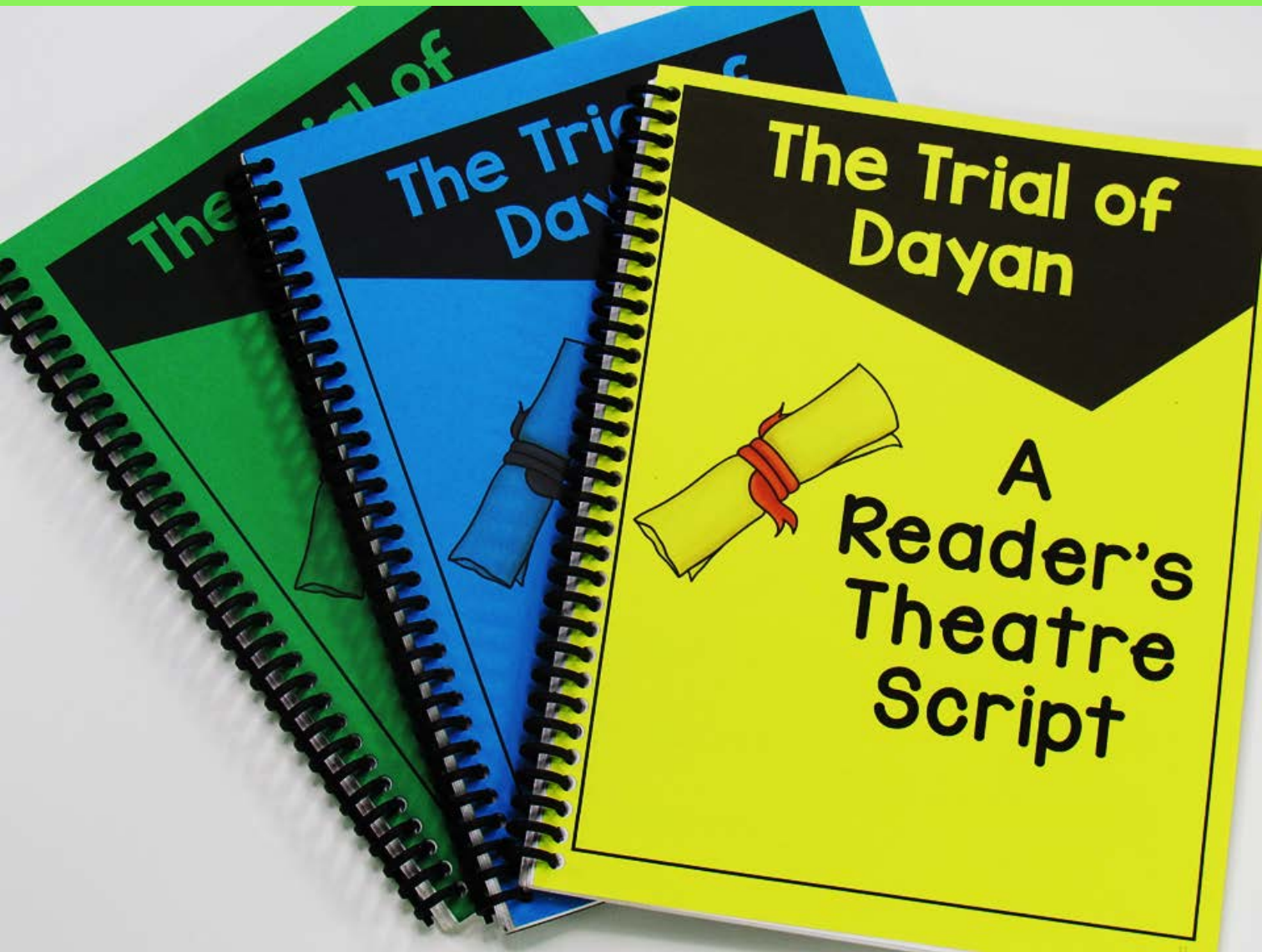
2. If a judge or jury decides that a defendant is guilty of a crime, list three possible punishments that may be given:

/3

a) _____

by the government. In
do you think is

7 Page Drama Script



Non-Speaking Characters Serve as Jury!

The Trial of

The Trial of Dayan: Teacher Notes

This script is meant for a justice system, and the play centers on a character charged with a crime. **Dayan is not portrayed, as Dayan based on the expectations in:**

- Dramatic Arts
- Reading (readir
- Writing (feature
- Social Studies (C
- Media Literacy classroom web:
- Art/Technology

Cast

- Court Clerk
- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Defense Lawye
- Witnesses for th
- Witness for the
- Defendant: Dc
- Jury: 12 studen



The Trial of Dayan

Court Clerk: All rise for the Honorable Judge.

(Judge walks in and takes the stand.)

Court Clerk: Please be seated, who is charged with the crime?

Judge: Will the prosecutor please state the charges?

Prosecutor: Thank you for asking. The defendant, Mr. Taft, is charged with the crime of stealing evidence from the court.

(Mr. Taft goes to the witness stand.)

Court Clerk: Do you present any evidence?

Mr. Taft: I do.

Prosecutor: Thank you for your evidence. The evidence is not admissible.

Mr. Taft: No, I haven't. I have cameras in the courtroom.

Prosecutor: Have you seen the evidence?

Mr. Taft: No, I had heard from my friend, Mr. Smith, that the shoe store was closed.

Prosecutor: Mr. Taft, do you wish to present any further evidence?

Mr. Taft: Yes, he came in the store about 11:00, and browsed through the video game section. He was with another alien, who chatted excitedly throughout their visit.

Prosecutor: Did you see or hear anything that made you think that the defendant was intending to damage your property?

Mr. Taft: No, but I left the store shortly after he did, to make a deposit at bank that's around the corner from my store. As I turned the corner, I saw the accused take what appeared to be a can of blue spray paint from his pocket, and then he started spraying the side of my building.

Prosecutor: What happened next?

Mr. Taft: I quickly called the police on my cell phone, and used the video feature on my phone to tape the accused while I waited for the police to arrive.

Prosecutor: Thank you, Mr. Taft. There will be no further questions. Judge and Jurors, please let the record show that I have submitted the video from Mr. Taft's cell phone as evidence for the court, should it be required.

Judge: Defense, your witness.

Defense: Thank you, Judge. Mr. Taft, as you may be aware, Dayan comes from the planet Pandora. Are you also aware that aliens from this planet believe that the colour blue brings good luck, and that most buildings there have colourful designs to bring this good luck inside?

Mr. Taft: No, I didn't know that.

Prosecutor: We have no further questions for the witness.

Court Clerk: Mr. Taft, you may step down from the stand. Thank you for your service to the court.

(Mr. Taft steps down from the stand and exits the stage.)

The "Jury" Decides the Verdict!