

Additional Activity

Criminal
Trials: Actors
and Steps

Scenario

Anthony lives in front of a large park. Everyday, he goes jogging in the park. Anthony noticed that a bike has been locked to a park bench for the past two months. He takes a closer look at the bike. It's almost new and is the bike of his dreams.

A few weeks later, Anthony sees that the bike is still locked to the bench. He tells himself that the owner must not want it anymore.

Later that night, he decides to break the lock and takes off with the bike. After all, he tells himself, the owner isn't using it anymore. Mr. Roberts, another jogger, was in the park that night and saw everything. He immediately called the police and gave them an accurate description of Anthony.

An hour later, the bike was in Anthony's back yard, and the story of the bike had spread throughout the neighbourhood. It turned out that the bike belonged to Louis, a neighbour who had been bedridden for two months, suffering from mononucleosis.

The police arrested Anthony and accused him of theft. Anthony told the whole story to his lawyer. Tomorrow is his trial.

Name: _____

Group: _____

Questions (5 points)

1. Who is taking the court case against Anthony?

2. In a criminal case, the burden of proof is not the same as in a civil case. The judge must be convinced _____ that Anthony committed the crime before finding him guilty.

3. Does Anthony have to testify at his trial?

4. Mr. Roberts told several neighbours what he saw. Can all of them testify against Anthony by telling the court what Mr. Roberts told them?

5. Anthony would like to testify at his trial and tell the judge he was not in town on the night the bike was stolen. He wants to invent an alibi to avoid being found guilty. If you were his lawyer, would you encourage him to do this? Give reasons for your answer.
