



They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime

By Thomas A. Jacobs

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Teens often hear about other teens who get into trouble with the law. But they're seldom asked what they think should happen next and why. A unique introduction to the juvenile justice system, *They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime* invites teens to preside over a variety of real-life cases.

They meet Adam, who makes a threat in school; Erica, who assaults another student and uses marijuana; and more young people who commit crimes and are caught. Like a judge, readers learn each teen's background, the relevant facts, and the sentencing options available. After deciding on a sentence, they find out what really happened—and where each offender is today.

Along the way, readers learn Judge Jacobs' concerns about each case, reflect on probing questions, and discover that they can't jump to conclusions. Teens (and teachers) who want more can find role-playing ideas and scenarios related to the stories available as free downloads here on the Free Spirit Web site.

Thought-provoking and eye-opening, this book is for all teens who want to know more about the juvenile justice system and the laws that pertain to them and their peers.

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They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime By Thomas A. Jacobs Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #193001 in Books
- Brand: Free Spirit Publishing
- Published on: 2003-08-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .40" w x 6.00" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up—Written by a juvenile court judge, this book details 21 cases ranging from truancy to auto theft. Following a description of events leading up to and including the crime itself, readers are given background about the individual, sentencing options, and questions to consider before sentencing, and then asked to make a decision about the case. Jacobs then explains his decision, asks for responses to it, and tells what later happened to the individual. Each case also includes a letter written by the teenager to Judge Jacobs. With the proliferation of courtroom shows on television, this book gives young people a more realistic look at the legal system designed for them. The author's compassion for those who appeared before him will also be eye-opening for many young people. "There may be an occasional detour, but more often than not, they get back on track. It's inspiring to see." That, above all, will teach young people an important lesson. An unusual and thought-provoking treatment.

Lynn Evarts, Sauk Prairie High School, Prairie du Sac, WI

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-12. A former juvenile court judge offers a compelling "behind the bench" look at juvenile crime and justice. In each of the 21 real-life cases of teen crime, Jacobs describes the background of the offender and the circumstances of the offense. He then presents several sentencing options, leaving it up to the reader to decide what punishment is appropriate by offering a series of questions to consider before imposing a sentence. Jacobs also includes the judge's decision in each case, and he asks readers to compare and contrast their decision to the judge's. Through the encouraged role-playing, students will gain a better understanding of the intricacies of the system. An excellent introduction to how juvenile justice works, this will be a great resource for classroom and group discussions. *Ed Sullivan*

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Review

"A refreshing and completely unique resource."—Youthworker

"Unusual and thought-provoking . . . with the proliferation of courtroom shows on television, this book gives young people a more realistic look at the legal system designed for them."—School Library Journal

"An excellent introduction of how juvenile justice works...great resource for classroom and group discussions."—Booklist

"Very relevant...will strike a chord with adolescent readers."—Children's Literature

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bobbie Flores:

The reserve with title They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime contains a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This kind of book exist new understanding the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you with new era of the glowbal growth. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

Mark Miller:

Exactly why? Because this They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have got such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Phyllis Ramirez:

This They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime is great guide for you because the content and that is full of information for you who else always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it facts accurately using great manage word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime in your hand like having the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no e-book that offer you world with ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt that will?

Lena Stubbs:

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make you really feel more interested to read.

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