

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

Alejandro versus the Beast, aka the Prince: A criminal mock trial script
appropriate for 4th-5th grade students

Charges: impersonation, kidnapping, fraud

Participants in Trial

Presiding Judge	Judge Victor Villarreal
Star Witness: Alejandro	INSERT
Defendant: Beast, aka Prince	INSERT
Witness: O. Tró Sángron	INSERT
Witness: Bell or Bela, aka Beauty	INSERT
Witness: Enchantress	INSERT
Prosecutor (male or female)	INSERT
Attorney for Defendant (female)	INSERT
Bailiff	INSERT

Props

Photo or cutout of beast (*to be left on display*)
Magic mirror (*to be left on the table*)
Rose (*to be carried by Enchantress at all times*)
Rose lollipops (*for Sangron and for defense attorney to show*)

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 are seated 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: Please be seated. Welcome to Webb County Court-at-Law II.

(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.)

Today we have some very special guests, students and teachers from (INSERT) School. Would you 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 are joined by X honor guests who are sponsors of our mock trial, (INSERT). *(Don't introduce these three again as honor guests or as sponsors.)*

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

Other honor guests with us today are (INSERT).

Sponsors who join us are (INSERT).

We also acknowledge the assistance and inspiration of former United States Appellate Judge Ed Prado, now United States Ambassador to Argentina; and (INSERT).

Bailiff! *(Bangs gavel)*

BAILIFF: The case of Alejandro versus the Beast, also known as the Prince, is now ready for trial.

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(Judge calls the prosecutor and his/her star witness, the defendant and his attorney, the prosecution's witness, and the defendant's other witnesses. 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 before the next individual or group is introduced and sworn-in.)

JUDGE: The prosecutor is (INSERT), and his/her star witness is Alejandro.

(Alejandro walks in, acting arrogant/conceited/obnoxious at all times, led by the prosecutor. They stand before the judge so he can be sworn-in, and then they take their seats at the prosecution table.)

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?

ALEJANDRO: I do.

(Alejandro and the prosecutor sit at the prosecution table.)

JUDGE: The defendant, the beast, also known as the prince, is represented by his attorney, (INSERT).

(Defendant walks in, being charming/approachable/humble/likeable at all times, led by his attorney. They stand before the judge so he can be sworn in, and then they take their seats at the defense table.)

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?

Beast: I do.

(The prince and his attorney sit at the defense table.)

JUDGE: The witness for the prosecution is O. Tróy Sángron. *(Pronounced in English—O. Tróy, Sán-grawhn. Rhymes with Man-brawn)*

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

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JUDGE: Please raise your right hand, Mr. Sángron. (*Pronounced in English—
Sán-grawhn. Rhymes with Man-brawn*)

Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
so help you God?

WITNESSES: I do.

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

JUDGE: The witnesses for the defense are Bell, also known as Bela and Beauty,
and the enchantress.

(*Witnesses walk in. They stand before the judge to be sworn-in together, and then
at their assigned places.*)

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

WITNESSES: I do.

(*Witnesses sit at assigned seats in front of judge's bench, facing the courtroom.*)

JUDGE: I understand the charges against the beast, also known as the prince, are
impersonation, kidnapping, and fraud. Is everyone ready to proceed?

ATTORNEYS: Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Will the bailiff or deputy 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 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.

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.

Your Honor, the jurors have been sworn-in and are ready to begin.

(Jurors are seated.)

JUDGE: Does the prosecution have an opening statement?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the prosecution will show that the prince is guilty of impersonation, which is defined as pretending to be someone else to trick others and gain an advantage; guilty of kidnapping, defined as taking a person away by force and/or keeping that person in a controlled space; and guilty of fraud, which means deliberately fooling someone to get an unfair or unlawful advantage.

We will show that last winter this obviously handsome but also equally obviously stuck-up prince impersonated a beast, just to get sympathy. He was so pitifully horrible he made Frankenstein and Spongebob SquarePants look pretty. Then he brutally kidnapped and tricked Beauty, also known as Bell and Bela, hiding her from her movie-star-handsome husband-to-be, Alejandro. ¡La hizo tonta!

(Pronounced in Spanish, lah, ee-zoh, tohn-tah) He made a fool of her!

Ladies and gentleman of the jury, you must find this tricky-dickey defendant guilty of impersonation, guilty of kidnapping, and guilty of fraud. Thank you.

JUDGE: Does the attorney for the defendant have an opening statement?

ATTY FOR BEAST: Yes, Your Honor. The defense will show that the prince is no beast and has been charged wrongfully on all counts. To begin with, he didn't impersonate a beast; why would he? The enchantress turned him into one. Second, he didn't kidnap Bela; she chose to stay with him. Third, he didn't trick anyone; he

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changed and became lovable and huggable because he learned a lesson, although the hard way.

Finally, Bela had zero interest in Alejandro—zilch, zero, (*Pronounced in Spanish, zeh-roh*) nada! (*Pronounced in Spanish, nah-dah*) Largely because he treated her like a chavita bonita buena-pa-nada. (*Pronounced in Spanish, chah-vee-tah, boh-knee-tah, bwen-ah, pah, nah-dah*) A good-for-nothing cutie pie.

We ask the jury to find him not guilty of all charges.

(*Sweetly*) Give this mock trial a happy ending, and let Beauty and her prince live happily ever after. Thank you.

JUDGE: The prosecution may call its first witness.

PROSECUTOR: Thank you, Your Honor. The prosecution calls our star witness, God's gift to the ladies, Alejandro.

(*Alejandro takes the witness stand.*)

PROSECUTOR: Please state your full name.

ALEJANDRO: My name is Master Alejandro Boccá Grandé, (*pronounced in English—Bow-kah Grawn-day*) but my friends call me Guapo, (*Pronounced in Spanish, wah-poh*) my mother calls me Hermoso, (*Pronounced in Spanish, ehr-moh-soh*) and my huelita (*Pronounced in Spanish, weh-lee-tah*) calls me Precioso. (*Pronounced in Spanish, preh-see-oh-soh*) In English, they just call me “Gorgeous.”

PROSECUTOR: How should we address you in court?

ALEJANDRO: At my home, Number 1 Casa de los Ricos, Laredo....

PROSECUTOR: I'm sorry, I meant, what should I call you?

ALEJANDRO: Oh! On my cell, 956....

PROSECUTOR: No, no, no! I mean, what name shall I use for you?

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ALEJANDRO: Oh! Well, I like to be called Master, but you may call me Alejandro.

PROSECUTOR: (*Slightly annoyed*) Very well, Alejandro. Why did you file charges against the beast, also known as the prince?

ALEJANDRO: Well, you can see he got all dressed up to come to court and impress the ladies in the jury. ¡Todo chulo! But when I met him, he was ready for the spookiest Halloween. He was impersonating the most horrendous beast! An enormous, filthy monster—¡sucio, feo, apestoso! (*Pronounced in Spanish, soo-see-oh, feh-oh, ah-pes-toh-soh*) He made Stinky Cheese Man smell sweet.

(*Miming touching his beard*) He even drooled, and the hairs on his chin stuck together because of his babas. (*Pronounced in Spanish, bah-bahs*) (Shudders)

PROSECUTOR: How did that affect you?

ALEJANDRO: The day I planned to marry my Beauty, he kidnapped her, hiding her from me and keeping her to himself, locked-up in his castle. Knowing she liked to waste time reading, he gave her his library. Also knowing she had an unladylike interest in starting her own business, he used his money to open a restaurant for her. He tricked her to get an unfair and unlawful advantage. That's fraud.

PROSECUTOR: Did his plan work?

ALEJANDRO: Unbelievably well. He got the Bell, and I got the No-Bel Prize. She developed "Stockholm Syndrome." That's a mental illness in which the prisoner falls in love with the prison guard.

PROSECUTOR: Wow! That definition is a fun fact. "Stockholm Syndrome!" I'll bet that's new to most everybody in this courtroom.

Then what happened?

ALEJANDRO: She started feeling sorry for him. Truly incredibly, she chose him over me. I mean, look at me: If I do say so myself, the most gorgeous, best-dressed—not to mention the richest—man in town. Yet she made me feel unworthy, and I'm thinking of suing her, too, for mental anguish.

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DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY: Objection, Your Honor! That is irrelevant. No lawsuit has been filed against Beauty.

JUDGE: That is correct. The only defendant before us is the prince, and only charges filed against him will be considered today.

The objection is sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard any reference to suing Beauty.

PROSECUTOR: How did the beast make such a beautiful girl fall in love with him?

ALEJANDRO: ¡Haciendole la barba! (*Pronounced in Spanish, ah-see-en-doh-leh, lah bahr-bah*) Bribing her! And bribery is against the law!

PROSECUTOR: No more questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine the witness?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

Did you say your first name is "Master"?

ALEJANDRO: (*Acting snooty*) No. My first name is Alejandro. "Master" is my title—like Mister or Mrs. My family has a lot of employees who jump to obey my every command, so they call me "Master."

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Master? I see. And you said your middle and last names are Bocca and Grande? (*Pronounced in English—Bow-kah and Grawn-day*)

ALEJANDRO: Yes.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you of Mexican descent?

ALEJANDRO: (*Defensively*) Obviously.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So you know that your name, in Spanish, is boca grande—big mouth? (*Pronounced in Spanish, boc-cah, grawn-deh*)

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honor! The defense is badgering the witness.

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ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I'm simply translating his name, Your Honor. Any Spanish-speaker knows "Boca Grande" in Spanish is "Big Mouth" in English.

JUDGE: Overruled—but be respectful, Counselor. (*Bangs gavel*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: My apologies.

Mr. Boca Grande, how could you possibly think (*Flirtatiously*) this very handsome prince would impersonate a beast? (*Boca Grande pronounced in Spanish from now on.*)

ALEJANDRO: (*Showing off*) Beats me! I, for one, cannot imagine trading-in my perfect face and tanned, beautiful buff bod to look like a wild and wooly monster covered in babas (*Pronounced in Spanish, bah-bahs*)—but she did! Drool and all! ¡Que asco! (*Pronounced in Spanish, que, ahs-koh*) Gross!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did anyone ever tell you an enchantress turned the prince into a beast, just as she has turned other princes into frogs?

ALEJANDRO: (*Incredulous*) Yes, but sounds like "puro wato" (*Pronounced in Spanish, pooh-roh, wah-toh*) to me. I didn't believe it.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And did Bela herself tell you she wasn't kidnapped, that she stayed with the beast and later with the prince because she wanted to?

ALEJANDRO: (*Increasingly incredulous*) Yes, but, no lo creo. (*Pronounced in Spanish, noh, loh, creh-oh*) Don't believe that for a minute, either.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And did she tell you she fell in love with the beast for many reasons, including his support of her personal goals?

ALEJANDRO: (*Exasperated*) Yes, but no me digas (*Pronounced in Spanish, noh, meh, dee-gahs*) you believe it? I didn't believe it.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why didn't you believe it?

ALEJANDRO: Her personal interests are ridiculous. They include reading and opening her own business. ¡Nombre! ¡Está loca! (*Pronounced in Spanish, nohm-*

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breh, ehs-tah loh-kah) She's a girl, not a guy, for goodness sake! ¡Está chisquiada!
(Pronounced in Spanish, cheese-kee-ah-dah) That's just crazy!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How do you and the beast—or the prince—differ in your attitude toward Bell's goals?

ALEJANDRO: *(Acting macho)* I would demand her to live like a princess. I would keep her busy making herself beautiful, attending balls, and enjoying tea and cookies with other princesses.

I would treat her like a delicate little lady, let her sit at my feet with my dogs, and allow her to massage my feet lovingly every night. *(Places foot on top front of witness stand and massages it himself.)*

JUDGE: Sir, please remove your foot immediately. This is a witness stand, not your footstool.

ALEJANDRO: *(Removing foot; sarcastically)* Well, if you're going to act like my mother, you should at least wear lipstick!

JUDGE: *(Bangs gavel)* You are out of order, sir. One more rude action or comment, and I will hold you in contempt of court and fine you \$500. Now, please continue—respectfully and honoring the decorum of this court.

ALEJANDRO: *(Straightening himself out)* To continue, I would not allow Bell to tire her delicate little brain. The beast treated her like a man—like an equal. That's wrong, just wrong.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What, specifically, did he do that is so wrong?

ALEJANDRO: *(Scoffing)* He allowed Bell to read—and even gave her permission to write her own books. He allowed her to work—and even to open her own Mexican food restaurant in her own name—her own Taco Bell! ¡Estupido!
(Pronounced in Spanish, es-too-pee-doh) Stooo-pid!

Besides, any woman who reads is asking for trouble. It's a dangerous pastime. It can lead to thinking. Then what? She'll want to be the next president of the United States! She'll need expensive psychiatric care to get well.

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ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Don't you realize Bell is an independent, intelligent woman who has no interest in men who don't support her love for reading or her interest in business?

ALEJANDRO: (*Incredulous; slowly*) Madam, I have no clue what you're talking about. No ma'am. That little bell only rings for me!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: By the way, Alejandro, do you think it is acceptable for men to read and to start their own businesses, but not acceptable for women?

ALEJANDRO: Absolutely!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why?

ALEJANDRO: (*Slowly, gesturing to indicate "small, delicate"*) Women have small, delicate brains. Reading, writing, and thinking can make them sick. If they can do that, what will they want next? Math and science? Forget it.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Do you have any proof of that?

ALEJANDRO: Yes! Just look at Bell. To quote one of my favorite songs, ever since she started hanging out with the beast, "that girl is strange, no question dazed and distracted, can't you tell? Never part of any crowd 'cause her head's up on some cloud." (*Quoting "Belle" lyrics, but, if possible, singing them*)

My mama taught me early girls are made of sugar and spice and everything nice. They have no business reading or running a business. My mama wouldn't lie.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Shaking his/her head*) Wow! Just wow! In what century were you born? Haven't you heard of equal rights?

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honor! Counselor continues to badger the witness!

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that statement.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Despite Bell telling you she fell in love with the beast and chose to stay with him, you still blame the beast?

ALEJANDRO: Indeed, I do.

Once a beast, always a beast. If she fell in love with him, then I will make sure he remains a beast forever!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I have nothing further for this so-called “Master” Big Mouth—I mean, Boca Grande!

JUDGE: You may step down.

(*Witness returns to his designated seat.*)

JUDGE: The prosecution may call its next witness.

PROSECUTOR: The prosecution calls Mr. O. Tró Sángron. (*Pronounced in English—O. Tróy Sán-grawhn.*)

(*Witness takes the stand.*)

PROSECUTOR: State your name, please.

SANGRON: O. Tró Sángron. (*Pronounced in English—O. Tróy Sán-grawhn.*)

PROSECUTOR: What is your relationship with Alejandro?

SANGRON: We are bros—BFFs, carnales! (*Pronounced in Spanish, kahr-nah-les*) He asked me to be his best man when he married Beauty.

PROSECUTOR: Do you know the beast and/or the prince?

SANGRON: Both.

PROSECUTOR: Tell us how you know them.

SANGRON: When Alejandro told us the beast had kidnapped Bell, a group of us went to rescue her. The door was opened, but she wasn’t there. Then we snuck into the room where she was supposed to be kept a prisoner.

PROSECUTOR: Did you see the beast?

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SANGRON: Yes. We looked through the kitchen window and saw him making a ton of red rose lollipops.

PROSECUTOR: Then what did you do?

SANGRON: When he left, we stole a bunch of cases. We had to throw some out because some of his wet pelos (*Pronounced in Spanish, peh-lohs*) had fallen on them. Who wants hair on candy? Yuk!

(*Holding a small bouquet of red rose lollipops*) In fact, Judge, I brought some clean ones for you and the jury. They're delicious!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! The witness is trying to bribe the jury.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

(*Addressing Sángron*) Bribery is against the law, sir. Now please get those candy roses out of my sight.

SANGRON: I'm sorry, Your Honor. I thought all politicians expected a little sugar on the side, and, besides, we gave the prosecutor a case.

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honor! We did not accept the candy, and we do not accept bribes.

JUDGE: (*Addressing prosecutor*) Counselor, this is your witness. You should have set him straight before you called him up. Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

(*Addressing Sángron*) You are out of order, sir, and you are warned. Try that again, and you will be held in contempt of court.

(*Sángron shrugs it off.*)

PROSECUTOR: Did you ever see Bell?

SANGRON: Two days later, when we regrouped and went back to try again, they were dancing cheek-to-cheek to Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling."

(*Preferably singing title*) Disgusting!

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Later Bell told Alejandro she had found her equal—a partner in life who supported her career goals, and she would be marrying the beast instead of him. Talk about ¡topa! (*Pronounced in Spanish, toh-pah*) Dumb!

PROSECUTOR: Do you think the beast committed fraud?

SANGRON: For sure! He kidnapped Bell and then tricked her into feeling sorry for him and falling in love with him. As soon as she did—he turned himself back into a prince!

He also let her read and work, but never told her what could happen if she did.

PROSECUTOR: What could happen?

SANGRON: Her brain could shrivel up, she could lose her eyesight, and she could be arrested for impersonating a man. Another example of stooo-pidity! ¡*Mensa!*! (*Pronounced in Spanish, mehn-sah*)

PROSECUTOR: (*Shaking his head*) No more questions. Pass the witness.

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

Sir, you said that Alejandro asked you to be his best man. Did he ever ask Beauty to marry him?

SANGRON: No. Why should he? All he should have to do is click his fingers and point. (*Clicking his fingers and pointing at Beauty as Alejandro does the same*)

Any woman, especially one from such a poor family, should fall at his feet, even in this fractured fairy tale. Beauty should be thrilled, honored, and downright lucky to marry a handsome millionaire like Alejandro.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What is your opinion of Bell?

SANGRON: She is one weird cookie. To quote Alejandro's favorite song, "Look, there she goes. The girl is so peculiar. I wonder if she's felling well. With a dreamy, far-off look, and her nose stuck in a book, what a puzzle to the rest of us is Belle." (*Quoting "Belle" lyrics, but, if possible, singing them*)

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It's her father's fault, though. If he hadn't kept her from learning to read, she never would have wanted to get educated or open her own business. She would have been perfectly happy to marry one of us *rich, elegant beefcakes* like Alejandro.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Asking Sangron, but facing audience*) Do you think Alejandro and Bell would have been happy together?

SANGRON: "En boca cerrada, no entran moscas." In case you don't understand my Spanish, that means, "Keep your mouth shut, and keep the flies out." No comment!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! The witness is being non-responsive and not answering my question.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The witness is directed to answer the question.

SANGRON: Well, Judge, my mother taught me, "No hay mal que por bien no venga." or "Nothing bad happens without something good coming from it."

Frankly, I think Alejandro's lucky the beast kidnapped Bell and won her heart. If he committed fraud or impersonation, big deal—who cares? I have no problem with a beast of a woman like her spending the rest of her life with "her equal."

Maybe those two bookworms deserve each other. Alejandro, on the other hand, deserves a beautiful bimbo, or, even better, a bimbette—that's a young bimbo. (*Smirking, chuckling*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Shaking his head*) Has anyone ever called you an ignoramus? (*Pronounced in English, ig-nor-ā-mus*) In case you don't understand my English, that means, "ignorant"!

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honor!

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

Be warned, Counselor. If you continue to pepper the witness with personal attacks, I will hold you in contempt of court and fine you \$500.

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ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I'm sorry, Your Honor. I am simply flabbergasted by such outlandish, antiquated ideas. I feel a need to stand-up for Beauty and the women he insults.

(Addressing Sángron) One last question: Could you please repeat your name?

SANGRON: O. Tró Sángron. (*Pronounced in English—O. Tróy Sán-grohn.*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you also of Mexican descent?

SANGRON: (*Proudly*) Yes.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Well, then, could you please pronounce your name in Spanish?

SANGRON: (*Sheepishly*) Otro Sangrón. (*Pronounced in Spanish, o-tro sahn-grohn*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Ladies and gentlemen, we have just heard from Otro Sangrón! Just another stuck-up friend of Master Boca Grande. Indeed. No more questions.

(*Prosecutor covers his face with his hand, lowers it, and shakes his head from side to side.*)

JUDGE: You may step down. The prosecution may call its next witness.

(*Witness returns to his designated seat.*)

PROSECUTOR: No more witnesses, Your Honor. The prosecution rests.

JUDGE: The defense may call its first witness.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honor. The defense calls the prince.

(*Prince takes the witness stand.*)

State your full name, please.

PRINCE: (*Acting likable, approachable, humble throughout—Chema! NOT acting like royalty*) My full name is Joaquín, José María del Barrio, Gonzalez, (INSERT

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NAME OF NAMESAKE OF SCHOOL REPRESENTED) San Isidro, Martinez, Peña, Villarreal. (Pronounced in Spanish.)

My mother's maiden name is "Villarreal." In Spanish, we always place our mother's name last to show respect.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: That's a handy fun fact, Your Highness. It's also quite a name, certainly befitting of royalty.

So your mother's last name is "Villarreal"?

PRINCE: It is.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Gesturing politely toward judge*) As in Judge Victor Villarreal?

PRINCE: Yes.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you related to Judge Villarreal?

PRINCE: Not that I know of, and I even checked on ancestry.com.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So there are no kings or princes in the judge's family?

PRINCE: (*Smiling*) No, but especially at times like this, I wish there were judges in mine!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: You said your first and middle names were Joaquín, José María del Barrio. What do your friends call you?

PRINCE: Chema.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I think I'll just call you "Prince."

PRINCE: I really prefer Chema, but whatever you like is fine with me. Beauty and I don't use royal titles.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you at any time impersonate a beast?

PRINCE: No, ma'am! No way! The enchantress changed me into a beast.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why?

PRINCE: (*Answering apologetically and shamefully.*) Well, I am ashamed to say, she was disguised as a beggar and asked for a room and hot meal at my castle in exchange for a perfect rose from my garden. I rudely and coldly declined. She saw me for what I was—chiflado, chocante, pedante (*Pronounced in Spanish, chee-flah-doh, choc-anht-eh, peh-dahn-teh*)—that is, spoiled, conceited, arrogant. She wisely turned me into a beast so I could be as ugly outside as I was inside.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Is this what you looked like?

(*Attorney shows photo of Beast, moving it to ensure the judge, jury, and audience see it. Photo should look like the mask Alejandro will wear at the end of the mock trial.*)

PRINCE: That's a flattering photo. I was actually even uglier than that. The prosecutor is right: I was so ugly I made Frankenstein and SpongeBob SquarePants look good and Mr. Stinky Cheese Man smell good. I drooled so much sometimes my babas (*Pronounced in Spanish, bah-bahs*) fell to my chest or my lap. And my pants got (*pause*), well, you know, it was embarrassing! My hands were always sticky from wiping myself. (*Wiping his mouth-jaw area*) Some days I couldn't stand myself.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Placing the photo on table or on an easel where it can continue to be seen*) Did the enchantress turn you into a beast for the rest of your life?

PRINCE: Not exactly. She left me one perfect red rose. She said that if someone didn't fall in love with me by the time the last petal fell from it, I would be a beast forever. I had no hope....

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How did you look and act when you met Beauty?

PRINCE: Like that beast. (*Hanging his head in shame; pointing at the photo*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then what happened?

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PRINCE: Actually, first I met her father, whom I had imprisoned in my castle for stealing a rose for her from my garden. Beauty found out and begged me to let him go and imprison her instead, so I agreed.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So you admit that you kidnapped her?

PRINCE: Certainly not. She volunteered to stay. After I fell in love with her, I told her she was free to leave. I never expected her to come back.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What made you fall in love with Beauty?

PRINCE: Well, also quoting Alejandro's song, she was "different from the rest of us," "nothing like the rest of us." At first I thought she was rather odd—"a beauty, but a funny girl." (*Quoting "Belle" lyrics, but, if possible, singing them*)

When I saw how much she loved to read, I gave her my library. I believe women have the same right as men to be educated.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you trick her into feeling sorry for you and falling in love with you?

PRINCE: No. It happened slowly. She realized I supported her idea for opening a restaurant with her name on it—a Taco Bell. We also loved reading together in the library. She said Alejandro liked only books with pictures in them and owned only two books—coloring books—and three comic books.

Over time, we developed an equal partnership.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Can you give us an example?

PRINCE: Yes. She wanted to differentiate her Taco Bell with homemade desserts. Because she loved roses, I developed a recipe for rose lollipops. She gives them away to children and sells them to adults. We split profits, 50-50.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Picking-up rose lollipops and showing them again*) Are those the same rose lollipops Sangrón showed earlier?

PRINCE: Yes. I didn't know he had stolen any. I would have given him some, free. And, by the way, I always wear a hairnet, gloves, and an apron in the kitchen.

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I do everything possible to ensure cleanliness and meet Laredo's public health standards. If there were any hairs on his lollipops, they must have been his.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: When did you realize you loved Beauty?

PRINCE: One night we were dancing after dinner, and I saw she was so unhappy without her father, I told her to go home. She did, and I thought I'd never see her again. My heart broke.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: You were still a beast at that time?

PRINCE: Yes, ma'am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And you loved her?

PRINCE: (*Looking at Bell lovingly, longingly*) Madly.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then why did you let her go?

PRINCE: Her happiness was more important to me than mine was—even if that meant I had to spend the rest of my life as a beast.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: No more questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Does the prosecution wish to cross-examine?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor.

Beast—

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! The prince no longer looks like a beast and should be called respectfully by his full name or title.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

Please be respectful, Counselor.

PROSECUTOR: Prince, do you really expect the jury to believe this fractured fairy tale that an enchantress turned you into a beast and then she turned you back into a prince when Beauty fell in love with you?

PRINCE: Yes.

PROSECUTOR: Why would anyone believe that?

PRINCE: Because it's the truth.

PROSECUTOR: Why didn't she turn you into a frog instead? There are lots of ranas (*Pronounced in Spanish, rah-nahs*) in Laredo. We even have a barrio named for them—Canta Ranas! (*Pronounced in Spanish, kahn-tah, rah-nahs*) Singing frogs!

PRINCE: I guess because frogs are cute. Children often keep them as pets, and princesses sometimes kiss them, hoping they'll turn into princes. So that would have been too easy.

The enchantress wanted me to look as ugly as I acted—ten times uglier than the chupacabra! (*Pronounced in Spanish, chew-pah-cah-brah*) She taught me a lesson, and I am grateful.

Actually, I was lucky. She initially turned my friend, Prince Mango, into a cucaracho (*Pronounced in Spanish, koo-kah-rah-choh*) before she felt sorry for him and turned him into a frog instead. He learned his lesson too, and she changed him back into a prince. He said he'd never step on a cockroach again.

PROSECUTOR: Just answer my questions, please.

Do you admit you kidnapped Beauty's father, and she stayed with you in exchange for your releasing him?

PRINCE: I imprisoned an old man for theft, which, as prince, I had the authority to do. I now know that was mean and uncalled for, and I have apologized to him. Nevertheless, when his gorgeous daughter volunteered to take his place, of course, I accepted. (*Smiling*) Most men would have!

PROSECUTOR: Didn't you trick Beauty by buying her expensive gifts?

PRINCE: I never bought a single gift for her. I gave her things that meant a lot to me—like my library, and my magic mirror that the enchantress gave me. I also braided her hair, and she braided by back and chest, and we sang and danced

endlessly. Those are priceless and meaningful gifts, not expensive and meaningless ones.

PROSECUTOR: No store-bought gifts? What woman falls in love with a man who doesn't buy her gifts?

(Beauty, the enchantress, and the attorney(s) raise their hands.)

PRINCE: Real women, with real standards and real intelligence and feelings.

PROSECUTOR: Well, then, how did you make Beauty fall in love with you?

PRINCE: I didn't make her. It happened before either of us realized it. She realized I respected her as an equal who had the same rights as men. She saw that the men and women in my castle had equal opportunities and got equal pay for equal work.

PROSECUTOR: Did you always feel that way?

PRINCE: No. When I became a beast, only my very most faithful staff stayed by my side. I learned to treat them equally, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, or disabilities. Actually, those are the criteria defined by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

PROSECUTOR: Well, that's another fun fact, though I don't know what it has to do with falling in love.

Pass the witness.

JUDGE: You may step down, Prince.

PRINCE: Thank you, Your Honor.

(Witness returns to his assigned seat.)

JUDGE: Please call your next witness.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: The defense calls the enchantress.

(Enchantress takes the witness stand, holding a red rose.)

State your name, please.

ENCHANTRESS: My name is Angelita de la Rosa, but most people call me “the enchantress.”

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And in English that means...?

ENCHANTRESS: (*Holding up her rose*) Angel of the Rose.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: That’s certainly much better than Boca Grande or Big Mouth!

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honor! Counselor is badgering my witness, who isn’t even on the stand.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

(*Addressing both attorneys*) Both of you—such continued sarcasm will not be tolerated in this courtroom. Please be respectful.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor. It won’t happen again, but, geez, what high-priced scriptwriter comes up with these names? (*Shaking his head.*)

Madam Enchantress, Why did you turn the prince into the beast?

ENCHANTRESS: Because, as he admitted, he was chocante, chiflado, sangrón, y pedante (*Pronounced in Spanish, choc-anht-eh, chee-flah-doh, sahn-grohn, ee, peh-dahn-teh* —your basic spoiled rich guy who thought he was better than everybody. He used his millions to pamper himself with fancy cars and private jets and trips around the world. He never spent a dime to support education or to feed the hungry. He wouldn’t even give a poor old woman a meal and a room for one night—not even in exchange for a perfect rose.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So what did you do?

ENCHANTRESS: I turned him into a monstro, peludo y baboso, (*Pronounced in Spanish, mohn-stroh, peh-loo-doh, ee, bah-boh-soh*) and I gave that hairy, drooling monster a beautiful rose. I told him the rose would drop petals. If he couldn’t find someone to love him in spite of his monstrous face and body, by the time the last petal dropped, he would be a beast forever.

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ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Pointing at rose the enchantress is holding*) Is this that rose?

ENCHANTRESS: It's one like it.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Madam Enchantress, why did you bring this rose today?

ENCHANTRESS: Well, when you subpoenaed me to be here today, I looked into my enchanted crystal ball and saw someone who reminded me of the prince before I turned him into a beast, and I'm thinking of teaching him the same lesson.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Is that person here in Laredo?

ENCHANTRESS: Certainly. He happens to be right here—Alejandro!

PROSECUTOR: Objection on the grounds of character evidence, Your Honor! The enchantress is assuming that Alejandro is of bad character like the beast.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

Let's move on.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Madame Enchantress, did you give the prince anything else?

ENCHANTRESS: Yes, a magic mirror so he could shave all that hair and also see what was going on throughout the land. That way he could see everything he was missing.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: That's quite a punishment.

ENCHANTRESS: He deserved it. ¡Quien le manda! (*Pronounced in Spanish, kee-ehn, leh, mahndah*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Holding up the magic mirror*) Is this that magic mirror?

ENCHANTRESS: Or one like it.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you turn the beast back into the prince?

ENCHANTRESS: (*Sweetly, pleased with herself.*) I did.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why?

ENCHANTRESS: Because he changed completely after he fell in love with Beauty. He became generous, thoughtful, selfless—all the good qualities you see in (*Extending hand and arm toward prince*) this good, giving, charming prince today.

When he placed her happiness before his and even gave her his magic mirror, he showed me he was worthy.

She fell in love with the beauty of his spirit, the sweetness of his soul, in spite of his terribly frightening, even wet and sticky, exterior. When Beauty came back to him and kissed his (*shudders*) repulsive, gooey, blubbery lips, she broke his spell, just as the last rose petal fell.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Were you surprised?

ENCHANTRESS: Frankly, yes, but, then, to quote the same song, it seemed “certain as the sun, rising in the east, tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme, (*Extending her hand and arm toward Beauty and the prince*) Beauty and the Beast.” (*Quoting “Beauty and the Beast” lyrics, or, if possible, singing them*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Reacting emotionally*) No more questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Madam Enchantress, before you continue, I must implore you please not to turn anyone into a beast in this courtroom.

ENCHANTRESS: Only because you asked so sweetly and politely and said “please,” Judge, I will, to borrow your lingo, (*Makes “air quotes for “be respectful*) be respectful. But just because I’m not doing it now, doesn’t mean I won’t do it later!

(*Prosecutor looks too shocked to speak. Alejandro looks terrified.*)

JUDGE: Does the prosecution wish to cross-examine this witness?

PROSECUTOR: (*Shakes his head almost violently!*) No, no, no, Your Honor! I don’t want to risk her turning me into a beast! Please excuse her from this courtroom—quickly!

JUDGE: You may step down.

ENCHANTRESS: Your Honor, am I excused? While I'm in Laredo I want to look for good boys and girls to reward and for bad boys and girls to...well, you know!

JUDGE: You are excused and may leave the courtroom.

(Witness leaves the way she entered. As she passes Alejandro, she points her two fingers to her eyes and then to his. He almost passes out, patting his heart with one hand and fanning himself with the other.)

JUDGE: The defense may call its next witness.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: The defense calls Beauty, also known as Bell and Bela.

(Bell takes witness stand.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: State your full name, please.

BEAUTY: *(Acting sweet, likable, approachable, throughout)* María Isabela Montemayor. Most people call me Bell or Bela.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Everyone also calls you Beauty, right?

BEAUTY: I prefer Bela. *(Shakes her head. Smiles shyly, sweetly.)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Bela, did you ever consider marrying Alejandro?

BEAUTY: I don't want to be mean, but, no. I wanted to marry someone kind and gentle and creative, like my father, who is an inventor. The only thing Alejandro and my father had in common at first is that they both kept telling me to get my nose out of my book and not to worry my pretty little head about learning to read and write or go to school.

My father finally gave up and taught me how to read. Thank God!

Now he takes credit for my education and is proud that I'm making more money at my Taco Bell than he ever did.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did the beast kidnap you and steal you away from Alejandro?

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BEAUTY: Absolutely not. I volunteered to stay with him if he would let my father go. It had nothing to do with Alejandro. Frankly, between a lifetime with Alejandro or with the beast—I chose the beast!

(Alejandro and Sángron act shocked and insulted. The prince reacts lovingly and blows a kiss to Beauty.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you fall in love with the repulsive, drooling beast or with this handsome, charming prince?

BEAUTY: Actually, I fell in love with a prince of a man who looked like a beast. He was so beautiful inside that how he looked on the outside didn't matter to me. Unlike the men I knew, he respected women and supported my love of reading and interest in education and business.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: When did you realize you loved him?

BEAUTY: When he set me free to return to my family, he gave me his magic mirror so I could see anything going on anywhere.

The more I used my mirror to check on him, the lonelier, sadder, and weaker he looked—and the more I missed him. Before I knew it, I was in love.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What happened when you returned to the beast?

BEAUTY: It was almost too late. He seemed to be on his deathbed. Right before my eyes, as I thought he was dying in my loving arms, tears ran down my cheeks. I leaned over and gave him a small kiss, and the beast was transformed into this gorgeous prince! ¡Que mango! (*Pronounced in Spanish, keh, mahng-goh*) He now looks as fabulous outside as he is inside. (*Looking adoringly at the prince*). I had no idea....

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I have no more questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Does the prosecution wish to cross-examine?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor!

Miss Bell, are you telling us that you never loved Alejandro?

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BEAUTY: Yes, sir. He may be nice to look at on the outside, but true beauty is found in a person's character, not in his looks.

PROSECUTOR: Why would a poor girl like you, the daughter of an unemployed inventor whom many people consider mentally ill, not jump at the chance to marry a young, handsome multi-millionaire like Alejandro?

BEAUTY: Because some things are more important than looks and money.

PROSECUTOR: (*Incredulously*) Like what?

BEAUTY: Like love, like family, like education.

PROSECUTOR: And surely you could have enjoyed those with Alejandro?

BEAUTY: No, sir. I didn't love him, he didn't like my family, and he hated my interest in reading and in education.

PROSECUTOR: Did the beast, or the prince disguised as a beast, commit fraud by tricking you into loving him, instead of Alejandro?

BEAUTY: No, sir. With all due respect, the prince could not have stolen my love from Alejandro, because Alejandro never had my love in the first place.

PROSECUTOR: How could you possible choose a despicable, hairy monster over Alejandro?

BEAUTY: I admit, at first I was scared to death of the beast. But as I witnessed his changing ways, his evolution as a caring and giving person, I fell in love with his inner spirit, in spite of his exterior.

PROSECUTOR: Did you expect the beast to change physically?

BEAUTY: It never, ever, crossed my mind. I didn't think he had a choice, since the enchantress was in control, and I didn't know about the rose.

PROSECUTOR: No more questions.

JUDGE: You may step down.

(*Witness returns to her designated seat.*)

JUDGE: Does the defense have other witnesses?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: No, Your Honor. The defense rests.

JUDGE: We will now hear closing arguments. Is the prosecution ready?

PROSECUTOR: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury (*holding up photo or cutout of beast*), this is the beast who stole the heart of Alejandro's bride-to-be.

(*Pointing at prince*) Don't be fooled by this fake Prince Charming who impersonated a beast to inspire sympathy and love. He kidnapped Beauty, forcing her to stay with him. Then he showered her with gifts, granted her foolish, man-ish dreams, and tricked her into falling in love with him. That's fraud, clear and simple.

You've heard the evidence, and now you must find the beast, also known as the prince, guilty of impersonation, guilty of kidnapping, and guilty of fraud. When you do, then a proper punishment would be to make him live the rest of his days looking like the horribly disgusting, drooling beast he pretended to be.

Thank you.

JUDGE: Thank you. Attorney for the defense?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the prince you see today is not the beast he was last year. It is true that he grew-up spoiled, self-centered, and arrogant, even being cruel to old ladies. But the enchantress punished him for his bad behavior, making him as ugly outside as he used to be inside. He didn't impersonate a beast; she turned him into one.

You heard Beauty say she chose to stay with the beast, that he did not kidnap her. Then he fell in love with her and became a new man—loving, caring, giving. He changed so much he captured beautiful Bela's heart. Indeed, he changed so much the enchantress changed him back to be as beautiful outside as he now is inside.

At no time did the beast trick Beauty into loving him instead of Alejandro. In fact, you saw for yourself how spoiled, conceited, and arrogant Alejandro is. Why would Bela—or any other woman, for that matter—love such a man, especially

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such a chauvinist who believes girls have teeny-weeny brains and shouldn't read or be educated or start a business? Actually, the enchantress is a smart, working woman. He's lucky she didn't turn him into a beast!

The prince has suffered enough for his old ways and is practicing new ways. You have the power to give this unfair mock trial a fairy tale ending. Find Prince Chema not guilty. Let him and his beautiful princess, Bela, live happily ever after as equal business partners who will promote equal opportunity and literacy for all.

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 the beast, also known as the prince, is guilty of any or all of these charges. Please use your 10 minutes to consider all of the evidence you heard. When you have reached a decision, you will inform this court.

Bailiff or deputy bailiff, please escort the jury to the jury room to consider the verdict.

All rise for the jury.

(Everyone rises. Bailiff and deputy bailiff lead 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)*

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The purpose of our Court of Public Opinion is to ask how you, the public, represented by students here today, feel about whether the beast, also known as the prince, is guilty or not guilty.

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 “impersonation” means pretending to be someone else to trick others and again an advantage. If you agree that the prince is guilty of impersonating a beast to win Beauty’s love, and, therefore, enjoy a personal benefit and gain, 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. Announce results.*)

Second, “kidnapping” means taking someone away by force and/or keeping that person in a controlled space. If you agree that the beast is guilty of kidnapping, 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. Announce results.*)

Third, “fraud” means deliberately fooling someone to get an unfair or unlawful advantage. If you agree that the beast, also known as prince, is guilty of fraud by fooling Beauty to get an unfair or unlawful advantage over Alejandro, 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. Announce results.*)

So this Court of Public Opinion finds that the beast, also known as the prince, is

guilty of _____ charges, namely, _____;

and not guilty of _____ charges, namely, _____.

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.*)

(*Staff hands the judge a note that the jury has reached a verdict. Bailiff and deputy bailiff enter. If necessary, they interrupt proceedings. There should be no delay.*)

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

JUDGE: All rise for the jury.

(*Everyone rises. Jurors enter and return to the jury box.*)

JUDGE: Please be seated.

(*Everyone sits.*)

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

JURY FOREPERSON: Yes, Your Honor, we have.

JUDGE: The defendant and his attorney will please rise.

(*Prince and attorney rise.*)

FOREPERSON: We find the defendant, the beast, also known as the prince, not guilty ____ guilty ____ of the crime of impersonation, not guilty ____ guilty ____ of the crime of kidnapping, and not guilty ____ guilty ____ of the crime of fraud.

(*Star witness and defendant react appropriately, based on the jury's verdict. Judge may make an appropriate statement to the defendant, especially if he is found guilty. If he is found guilty of one charge, but not of another, the judge must respond accordingly.*)

(*IF NOT GUILTY:*)

JUDGE: The jury has spoken, and the defendant has been found not guilty. The defendant and his attorney may be seated.

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

(*There's a commotion at the entrance to the courtroom, facing the judge's bench. As the enchantress enters, Alejandro and the prosecutor duck under the prosecution table. Everyone reacts and interacts appropriately.*)

ENCHANTRESS: Bravo! Excellent, ¡mis amiguitos! I'm sorry, Judge Villarreal, to make a scene in your courtroom, but justice must prevail. Of course, the prince is not guilty! I could have told you that without wasting the taxpayers' money on a trial. Alejandro, however, must be punished for his obnoxious behavior. How dare he bring false charges against Prince Chema, who learned his lesson so humbly and beautifully?

(*Holding up the rose; showing it to the audience*) This new rose is for the new beast. He must find someone—and certainly not Beauty—to love him before the

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last rose petal falls in no more than five years. If he doesn't, he will live forever as a beast!

(Not seeing Alejandro at the prosecution table) Alejandro, where are you? I command you to show yourself, Beast!

(Alejandro emerges, wearing a beast mask and paws.)

ENCHANTRESS: *(Handing him the rose)* Alejandro, it's time you change your ways too, just like the prince did. If you do, the new you can find someone to fall in love with you before the last petal falls from this rose. If not, you will remain a beast for the rest of your life. Good Luck!

(Alejandro sobs. The prosecutor tries to console him, but he is frantic.)

JUDGE: Oh, my! Bailiff, please call a doctor to see the new Beast.

The Criminal Mock Trial of Alejandro versus the Beast, also known as the Prince, is adjourned. *(Bangs gavel)*

(IF GUILTY:)

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

Prince, I sentence you to _____ hours of community service at the Laredo Public Library. Your day job will be to work with girls and boys at (INSERT NAMES OF SCHOOLS REPRESENTED) to be sure they are reading at age appropriate levels and are educating themselves to the highest level possible. Then at night you will work with students of all ages to ensure they have equal opportunities to higher education so they can prepare themselves to get better jobs or start their own businesses and provide a better future for their families.

The defendant and his attorney may be seated.

(There's a commotion at the entrance to the courtroom, facing the judge's bench. As the enchantress enters, Alejandro and the prosecutor duck under the prosecution table. Everyone reacts and interacts appropriately.)

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ENCHANTRESS: Guilty? Guilty? What do you mean, guilty? It is Alejandro who is guilty, not the prince. I'm sorry, Judge Villarreal, to make a scene in your courtroom, but justice must prevail. The prince is not guilty, but you and the jury have chosen to punish him. I, however, must punish Alejandro for his obnoxious behavior. How dare he bring false charges against Prince Chema, who learned his lesson so humbly and beautifully?

(*Holding up the rose; showing it to the audience*) This new rose is for the new beast. He must find someone—and certainly not Beauty—to love him before the last rose petal falls in exactly five years. If he doesn't, he will live forever as a beast!

(*Not seeing Alejandro at the prosecution table*) Alejandro, where are you? I command you to show yourself, Beast!

(*Alejandro emerges, wearing a beast mask and paws.*)

ENCHANTRESS: (*Handing him the rose*) Alejandro, it's time you change your ways too, just like the prince did. If you do, the new you can find someone to fall in love with you before the last petal falls from this rose. If not, you will remain a beast for the rest of your life. Good Luck!

(*Alejandro sobs. The prosecutor tries to console him, but he is frantic.*)

JUDGE: Oh, my! Bailiff, please call a doctor to see the new beast.

The Criminal Mock Trial of Alejandro versus the Beast, also known as the Prince, is adjourned. (*Bangs gavel*)

JUDGE: Meanwhile, boys and girls, while we get medical help for the new beast, we must get back to the business at hand. Thank you and your teachers for being with us today.

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

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We are especially grateful to the very talented person who directed the mock trial, (INSERT).

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

And we also are grateful to the author of our mock trial script and of your handbook, Senator Judith Zaffirini.

JUDGE: The prince, Beauty, Alejandro, the enchantress, and all the cast will be available to take photos with you. Our elected officials and honor guests are invited to join us at the bench for these photos.

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 the consequence of violating it.

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 2018-0427-L2

Alejandro	§	IN COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW II
VERSUS	§	
The Beast, aka the Prince	§	WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFINITIONS:

Impersonation means pretending to be someone else to trick others and gain an advantage.

Kidnapping means taking a person away by force and/or keeping that person in a controlled space.

Fraud means deliberately fooling someone to get an unfair or unlawful advantage.

VERDICT

We, the jury, find the defendant, the Beast, aka the Prince, guilty ____ or not guilty ____ of the offense of **impersonation**.

We, the jury, find the defendant, the Beast, aka the Prince, guilty ____ or not guilty ____ of the offense of **kidnapping**.

We, the jury, find the defendant, the Beast, aka the Prince, guilty ____ or not guilty ____ of the offense of **fraud**.

SIGNED on the _____ day of _____, 2018.

FOREPERSON