

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

**Queenie versus Snow Green: A civil mock trial script
appropriate for 6th-7th grade students**

Claims: Fraud, mental anguish, personal injury

Participants in Trial

Presiding Judge	Judge Victor Villarreal
Plaintiff: Queenie	INSERT
Defendant: Snow Green	INSERT
Witness: Wicky Wizard	INSERT
Witness: Prince Erarana	INSERT
Attorney for Plaintiff	INSERT
Attorney for Defendant	INSERT
Beck N. Call	INSERT
Bailiff	INSERT

Props

Music: regal music and trumpet for Queenie; theme from “The People’s Court” for entrances by other witnesses

Rose petals in basket (*To be carried by Beck N. Call*)

Faux fur throw (*To be carried by Beck N. Call, then carried/used by Queenie*)

Rock crystal sugar pops labeled “Wizard Pops” (*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 OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: All rise.

(Judge enters and sits at his bench.)

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

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

(Judge names each school and university represented (perhaps 2-4) 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 from (INSERT). Would you please stand and be recognized? (APPLAUSE) *(Repeat as necessary)*

Please be seated. *(Repeat as necessary)*

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

JUDGE: Three sponsors who also are honor guests are Senator Judith Zaffirini, Webb County Commissioner John Galo, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Anna Galo. *(Don't introduce them again as sponsors or honor guests.)*

Other honor guests are (INSERT).

Other sponsors joining us today are (INSERT).

We also acknowledge the inspiration of U.S. Ambassador Ed Prado, formerly a judge of the federal court of appeals, and the assistance of Webb County's Patty Tijerina San Miguel.

Bailiff!

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: The case of Queenie versus Snow Green is now ready for trial.

(Judge calls the plaintiff and her attorney, the defendant and her attorney, the plaintiff's witness, and the defendant's 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 witnesses are introduced and sworn-in.)

JUDGE: The plaintiff is Queenie, and her attorney is (INSERT).

(While judge is looking through his papers, royal trumpet music sounds as Queenie walks in to "Music for Ceremonial Occasion Royal Fanfare & National Anthem, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAJniMeESOU&feature=youtu.be>, acting regal and superior throughout, but funny and always likable, followed by her attorney. She is preceded by Beck N. Call, who is acting humble and frantic; walking backward, facing her; and dropping rose petals before her as she walks. When they reach the area in front of the jury, the judge looks up and notices.)

JUDGE: *(Bangs gavel.)*

Stop the entry! Stop that music!

(Everyone stops. Trumpet stops, and music fades. Beck N. Call stops in his tracks, but remains stooped and frantic.)

(To plaintiff's attorney) Counselor, who is this? What is this? Why the music? And why is this young man walking backward and dropping rose petals in the courtroom aisle?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Allow me to introduce Beck N. Call, Your Honor. He literally is at Her Majesty's beck and call. You see, Queenie is royalty. Trumpets must announce her entry. And because she is at a higher social level and better than we are, she cannot step where mere mortals step or sit.

No one may turn his or her back on the queen, which is why Beck N. Call is walking backward, bending over, and I'm walking behind her. JUDGE: And what, exactly, is this young man doing?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Beck N. Call drops perfumed rose petals wherever the queen intends to step and places a mink drape wherever she intends to sit. *(Beck continues to stand backward and hunched, nervously looking at Queenie and attorney for direction, but raises mink drape and rose petals so all can see.)*

QUEENIE: He's my agachado! *(Pronounced in Spanish, ah-gah-chah-doh)*

JUDGE: With all due apologies to the queen, this is America. In this courtroom everyone is equal. We all walk on the same floor and sit on the same chairs. There is no such thing as an “agachado.”

(Addressing Call) Mr. Call, you are dismissed from these proceedings, though you may stay and watch. You can take your trumpet and rose petals with you. (Beck N. Call reacts nervously, looking at Queenie and attorney for direction, but obeying judge.)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Your Honor, may Beck N. Call at least sit by the plaintiff, in case she needs her smelling salts or some assistance?

JUDGE: *(Shaking his head)* Very well, but he cannot be at her beck and call or wait on her in any way during this trial.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Thank you, Your Honor. *(Shows Beck N. Call what to do, but he continues to walk backward, hunched over, carrying rose petals; Queenie is aghast, but funny.)*

JUDGE: Mr. Call, please stand tall, face forward, and walk freely. In this court and in this country, we are all equals. *(Queenie acts insulted.)*

(Beck N. Call continues to act nervous and remains stooped before sitting at the plaintiff’s table. Queenie grabs the fur throw from him and carries it over her left arm. The plaintiff and attorney continue their entrance. They stand before the judge so the plaintiff can be sworn-in, and then they take their seats at the plaintiff’s table. She drapes the fur over her chair before sitting.)

JUDGE: *(Addressing Queenie)* 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?

QUEENIE: Hmmph! If I must.

(Plaintiff and attorney sit at the plaintiff’s table. Beck N. Call takes the farthest chair from Queenie. He remains humble, cowering, until the very end.)

(Theme music from “The People’s Court” plays as witnesses enter, but volume is lowered for judge’s introduction and swearing-in of witnesses.)

JUDGE: The defendant, Snow Green, is represented by her attorney, (INSERT).

(Defendant walks in to the theme music from “The People’s Court,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0F-IHwgC-Q>), acting sweet, friendly, humble, and engaging as she is led by her attorney. They stand before the judge so the defendant can be sworn in, and then they take their seats at the defense table. Music fades for swearing-in.)

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?

GREEN: I do.

(Defendant and her attorney sit at the defense table.)

JUDGE: Another witness for the plaintiff is Wickety Wizard.

(Witness walks in to the theme music from “The People’s Court,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0F-IHwgC-Q>), acting funny, likable, engaging, and cool throughout. He should have claw-ish hands, or perhaps long green fingernails. He stands before the judge to be sworn-in, and then sits at assigned place. Music fades for swearing-in.)

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

WICKETY: *(Showing his clawed hand with long polished finger nails)* I do.

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

JUDGE: The witness for the defense is Prince Erarana. *(Pronounced in English: Air-ah-rah-nah)*

(Witness walks in to the theme music from “The People’s Court,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0F-IHwgC-Q>), being cute, friendly, sweet, engaging, and funny throughout. He stands before the judge to be sworn-in, and then sits at assigned place.)

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?

PRINCE: I do.

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

JUDGE: I understand the charges against Snow Green are fraud, mental anguish, and personal injury. 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 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 sit.)

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff have an opening statement?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor. The evidence will show that Snow Green not only committed fraud, which is defined as deliberately tricking someone to get an unfair advantage, but is herself a fraud. ¡Pura chapusera! *(Pronounced in Spanish, poo-rah, cha-poo-seh-rah)* She fraudulently proclaimed herself the new, improved, and younger “fairest of them all.” How? By deliberately tricking the magic mirror and her glamorous stepmother, Queenie, to get an unfair advantage. That's fraud.

Snow Green caused Queenie intense mental anguish, meaning she made her feel really bad, nervous, and depressed. ¡Pobrecita! (*Pronounced in Spanish, poh-preh-see-tah*) And she caused her personal injury, meaning she hurt her body, mind, and emotions. In other words, “la aguitó.” (*Pronounced in Spanish, lah, ah-wee-toh*)

When you hear the facts, I am sure you will find Snow Green guilty of fraud, guilty of mental anguish, and guilty of personal injury. Thank you.

JUDGE: Counsel for the defense?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you can just forget the little sideshow just put on by the plaintiff’s attorney. Our evidence will show that Snow Green is innocent of all claims. She is the victim in this family feud, not the perpetrator! Her stepmother’s false and unfair accusations are based on jealousy, nothing more and nothing less. ¡Vieja celosa! (*Pronounced in Spanish, vee-eh-hah, seh-loh-sah*)

La Queenie se cree buena. Era bonita—pero ¡ya no! (*Pronounced in Spanish, seh, creh-eh, bweh-nah. Eh-rah, boh-knee-tah—peh-roh, yah, noh!*) To be blunt, she no longer is the beauty she used to be. Snow Green doesn’t need trickery to be the “fairest of them all.” And she did absolutely nothing to hurt her stepmother or to make her suffer in any way. When you hear her side, I am confident you will find Snow Green innocent of all claims.

Thank you.

JUDGE: The plaintiff may call its first witness.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Thank you, Your Honor.

We call the lady who truly is, was, and will be, the fairest of them all, our beautiful, beloved Queenie!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! The plaintiff is editorializing. What’s more, no information about who is the fairest of them all has been entered into the record.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. Counselor, you are not a witness in this case. You cannot offer testimony or your opinion. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that improper introduction.

(Plaintiff takes the witness stand, acting uppity and arrogant, but funny, likable, and engaging throughout—not mean and angry. She takes her fur with her and arranges it on the witness chair before she sits. She’s careful not to touch her surroundings.)

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

QUEENIE: My name is Her Royal Majesty, Queenie of the Fairy Tale Kingdom of Suspended Reality. But all my life I’ve been called *(Grandly)* “the fairest of them all.”

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Why do they call you that instead of by your name?

QUEENIE: My parents said I was perfectly gorgeous from the minute I was born—perfect in every way. In fact, they considered naming me *(Majestically, but exaggerated)* “Perfecta.” *(Pronounced in Spanish, pehr-fek-tah)* The fairest of them all!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: A blessed baby, indeed! And, as you grew up, did they continue to call you “the fairest of them all”?

QUEENIE: *(Humorously insulted and conceited)* Well, of course! Why would you even ask such a stupid question, young man/woman? No seas topo, topo *(or topa, topa, if attorney is female)*. *(Pronounced in Spanish, toh-poh)* *(Attorney acts embarrassed.)*

How much am I paying you per hour?

Every prince in every kingdom wanted to woe and to wed me, and every princess wanted to look like me. ¡Me hacían ojo! *(Pronounced in Spanish, meh, ah-see-ahn, owh-ho)* As you can imagine, everyone had to touch me wherever I went.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Excuse me, but what does “ojo” *(Pronounced in Spanish, owh-ho)* that mean?

QUEENIE: Good grief! You don’t know? Are you a defective Mexican? It’s a Mexican tradition.

JUDGE: The witness is directed to be respectful. Your attorney is not objecting only because she is representing you. But disrespect will not be tolerated in this courtroom. *(Bangs gavel)*

Please continue.

QUEENIE: “Ojo” is a belief that if someone admires you and doesn’t touch you, you’ll get sick from “mal de ojo” *(Pronounced in Spanish, mahl, deh, owh-ho)* or “evil eye.” Some people call it “el ojo gacho.” *(Pronounced in Spanish, el, owh-ho, gah-cho)* The evil eye.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Well, that’s a fun fact.

What did Snow Green do to change all that?

QUEENIE: ¡Enseñó la oreja! *(Pronounced in Spanish, En-sen-yo, lah, o-reh-hah)* She showed her true colors—Snow Greeeen with jealousy—when she bewitched my mirror. Before, whenever I asked, “Mirror, mirror, on the wall. Who is the fairest of them all?” it answered, “Thou, O Queen, art the fairest of all.”

But then that wicked little witch bewitched my mirror, defrauding it and me.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What proof do you have that Snow Green defrauded you and the mirror?

QUEENIE: When I asked it, “Mirror, mirror, on the wall. Who is the fairest of them all?” it answered, “You, my queen, are fair; it is true. But Snow Green is even fairer than you.”

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, your honor. That’s hearsay. Besides, what the mirror said cannot be attributed to Snow Green.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

Counsel will ask only questions regarding statements that were made by witnesses.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Please continue, Your Majesty.

QUEENIE: I knew Greenie was to blame for this puro wato. *(Pronounced in Spanish, poo-roh, wah-toh)* That hogwash!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: How did that affect you emotionally?

QUEENIE: She threw me into a tizzie. Instead of admiring my perfect beauty in my hand mirror, I was afraid to even peek at it.

Instead of sleeping until noon, I couldn't sleep at all.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Is that how she caused you mental anguish?

QUEENIE: (*Melodramatically absurd*) Absolutely! Every day I was *miedosa, asustada, y nerviosa*. (*Pronounced in Spanish, myeh-doh-sah, ah-sus-tah-dah, ee, ner-vee-oh-sah*) I was afraid of everything, nervous, depressed, and traumatized about the rest of my day.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Can you give us an example of how you suffered?

QUEENIE: One day when I was applying my Pimple-Be-Gone lotion on my acne, I saw a *ranita rara* (*Pronounced in Spanish, rrah-knee-tah, rrah-ra*), a handsome frog that said, “*Bésame, bésame mucho, como si fuera esta noche la última vez* (*Pronounced in Spanish, beh-sa-meh, moo-choh, koh-moh, see, vweh-rah, ehs-tah, noh-che, lah, ool-tee-mah, vehz—preferably singing it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTxcrjBGves>*), and I'll turn into your Prince Darling and give you all my riches!”

(*Miming the action and results*) A year ago, I would have kissed him, taken his money, and kept his palace. Instead, I squashed him with my mirror. I had frog *tripas* (*Pronounced in Spanish, tree-pahs*) all over my dresser. Frog guts galore! All because he had seen my festering facial sores. That's how Snow Green caused my self-esteem to drop to zero.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Uh-huh! Actually, you have defined “mental anguish” perfectly.

Now tell the judge and jury how that weak and wimpy huerquita (*Pronounced in Spanish, wehr-kee-tah*), that brat, caused you personal injury.

QUEENIE: Well, she caused my spirit to rot. And, of course, my rotten interior soon showed itself on my rotten exterior. (*Touching her zits*)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Precisely, how?

QUEENIE: (*Touching appropriate places on her face and hair*) I mean, look at me! I am a walking personal injury—my dimples turned to pimples, pimples in my wrinkles, canas (*Pronounced in Spanish, cah-nahs*) I can't dye. Why, I have zits, bumps, and ronchas in places I can't even show you!

(*Smugly, coyly*) Although I would have been proud to show you before. (*Turning vicious momentarily*) All because of her. (*Pointing to Snow Green*)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Zits and splotches and ronchas—oh, my! (*Mimicking Dorothy's rhythm, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HrfbV16-FQ>*) All on your previously perfect complexion! No wonder you were so depressed!

QUEENIE: (*Looking at the jury, but pointing at Snow Green, seeking sympathy*) She's to blame. In olden times, I would have commanded her head be brought to me in a silver basket. Today, in spite of this so-called modern system of justice, (*Pointing at jury*) I command the jury to find her guilty.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! We live in a democracy, not a monarchy. Queenie cannot order the jury or anyone else to do anything. In this courtroom, her command no vale ni chicle ni dos cacahuates. (*Pronounced in Spanish, noh, yah-leh, knee, chee-kleh, knee, dos, cah-cah-wah-tes*) It's worthless.

JUDGE: Sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard and not be intimidated by that command.

(*To attorney for plaintiff*) Counselor, control your client.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

(*Addressing Queenie*) What else did Snow Green do to you?

QUEENIE: When I visited her, she didn't have any of my favorite foods. So she fed me hers, instead—nasty, tasteless, boring organic hierbitas, atolitos, and toniquitos (*Pronounced in Spanish, yehr-bee-tahs, ah-toh-lee-tos, toh-knee-kee-tos*) from her enchanted garden.

(*Making faces of repulsion*) Why would she think I wanted those herbs, puddings, and tonics? I'm no vegetarian. She served me only fresh, organically grown, toxic-free foodstuff and didn't even have a refrigerator, much less a freezer. How can you trust anyone who doesn't have a freezer? Hmmph!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: How did that hurt you?

QUEENIE: All that healthy food must have ruined my looks!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What about the mirror?

QUEENIE: *(Changing her voice for the quote, mocking content)* Well, I asked Snow Green for something to clean my magic mirror with. She gave me a—quote—*(Making air quotes)* “bubble-free liquid without chlorine, made with biodegradable ingredients that are septic-safe”—unquote. She explained that meant I could flush it down the toilet without hurting the environment. As if I cared! How do you like that for another fun fact?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Did you ever do anything to anger Snow Green at any time or to cause her to treat you like this?

QUEENIE: No! She just wanted to be “the fairest of them all” and was jealous that I was. She’s the Grinch who stole Gorgeousness.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What damages do you seek from Snow Green in court?

QUEENIE: Her castle and \$5 million. She lives outdoors and doesn’t care about being a princess, so she can afford it. Why, she doesn’t even have her own *(Gesturing toward Beck)* agachado, *(Pronounced in Spanish, ah-gah-chah-doh)* stooping at her beck ‘n’ call, like my faithful flunky there. *(Pointing affectionately at Beck N. Call, who acts embarrassed)* And she walks and sits where *(Disgusted)* anyone, even animals, walk and sit. Disgusting! *(Smiling, faking sweetness)* Of course, for her, that’s OK!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: *(Exasperated)* No further questions. Pass the witness.

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

(Speaking to Queenie) How shall I address you?

QUEENIE: I prefer “the fairest of them all,” but you may call me “Your Majesty” or “Your Royal Highness.” If you insist on using your typical rude, crass, vata *(or*

“vato” if attorney is male) (Pronounced in Spanish, vah-tah) informality—
“Queenie.”

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: “Queenie” it is. I am, after all, just another vata (or
“vato” if attorney is male).

To begin with, Queenie, do you believe it is important to be as beautiful on the
inside and as on the outside?

QUEENIE: I don’t know about the inside, since I can’t see it, but the outside sure
counts.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Do you know what “psychosomatic” means?

QUEENIE: “Psycho-que-que”? (Pronounced in Spanish, keh-keh)

(As if commanding) Such babble! You may explain yourself.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: “Psychosomatic” means a physical illness caused or
aggravated, that is, made worse, by emotional stress, nervousness, and anxiety.

QUEENIE: Well, that’s a fun fact.

Yes! That’s exactly what Snow Green did to me. She psycho-que-qued me! She
caused me personal injury. My face went from perfection to imperfection because
she bewitched my mirror, my brilliant mind, and my beautiful body.

Psycho....Whatever that word is, is exactly what she did to me.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: “Psy-cho-so-ma-tic.”

You said that Snow Green fed you and gave you cleaning liquid for your magic
mirror. Why didn’t Beck N. Call get it for you?

QUEENIE: I went to see her alone where she was staying with those seven
vertically challenged schnoozes. She didn’t recognize me.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: You said Snow Green didn’t have your favorite foods, so
she served you hers. What are your favorite foods?

QUEENIE: (Smiling) Many, many fine delicacies—the best in the land. I love
ancas de rana (Pronounced in Spanish, ahn-cas de rah-nah), lenguita (Pronounced

in Spanish, len-gwee-tah) wrapped in bacon, and, my favorites, patitas de puerco, *(Pronounced in Spanish, pah-tee-tas de pwehr-koh)* y ojos de pulpo con jalapeño! *(Pronounced in Spanish, ee, o-hos, deh, pool-poh, kohn, hah-lah-peh-knee-owh)*

(Addressing jury) For you English-only jurors, that's frog legs, bacon-wrapped tongue, and pig's feet with octopus eyes. Scrumptious gourmet delicacies!

(Coyly) By the way, I would have loved to eat *(Gesturing cutely toward Erarana)* that frog prince's legs. I'll bet they would have been juicy and delicious! *(Laughs; Erarana reacts nervously, protecting his legs, and Snow Green reacts indignantly.)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And weren't you impressed that in your land of plenty, Snow Green chose to become an environmentalist and live off the land, eating organic food and using environmentally friendly products?

QUEENIE: Listen here, Missy *(or "Buster," if attorney is male)*: I don't have a clue what you're talking about.

(Imperially, dismissively) Next question?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Didn't you go see her disguised as an old hag after you discovered your huntsman hadn't killed her, as you ordered him to?

QUEENIE: I refuse to answer on the grounds that I don't want to, and I don't have to. *(Attorney looks at judge with hands out, imploringly.)*

JUDGE: Queenie, unless the Court directs you otherwise, you must answer all questions. Please answer the question.

QUEENIE: Alright, alright, alright. *(Imitating Matthew McConaughey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dvi8P-lhJmE>)* I did go in disguise. You'll have to ask the huntsman what happened in the woods.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And didn't you visit her to give her poisoned candy so she would die and so you could become "the fairest of them all" again?

ATTY FOR QUEENIE: Objection, Your Honor! Counsel is badgering the witness.

JUDGE: This is cross-examination, Counselor. The question is fair. Objection overruled. *(Bangs gavel)*

(Addressing Queenie) Queenie, again, please answer the question. And remember you are under oath. It's perjury—a crime—to lie in court.

QUEENIE: *(Trapped)* I...I...I...I don't remember why I went.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Hmmph!

Well, if you can't remember why you visited Snow Green, how can you remember details about what she served you and that she allegedly defrauded you and caused you mental anguish and personal injury?

QUEENIE: *(Imperially)* Because it is my royal right to remember what I want to. My word is law, and in my kingdom, nobody better question it. ¡En mi palacio, yo hago siempre lo que quiero, y mi palabra es la ley! *(Pronounced in Spanish, preferably singing lyrics from "El Rey" with exaggeration; En, mee, pah-lah-see-o, yo, ah-goh, see-ehm-preh, loh, keh, kee-eh-roh, ee, mee pah-lah-brah, es, lah, lay. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZBHetgXKb4>)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: For the record, Queenie. We are in Webb County Court-at-Law II. Here the rule of law prevails, not the whims or commands of a queen.

QUEENIE: Hmmph! What a pity! Sounds like a backward peasant society to me.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: When did your looks change?

QUEENIE: Starting about three years ago.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And when did you go see Snow Green?

QUEENIE: About two years ago.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So if your looks changed about a year before you went to see her, how can you blame her?

QUEENIE: *(Trapped)* Well, uh, I, uh, she, uh, este, como se dice....*(Pronounced in Spanish, ehs-teh, koh-moh, she, dee-seh)*

(Defiantly) I don't have to explain myself, you insolent wretch!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I won't even bother to object, Your Honor. The witness' obnoxious regal behavior speaks for itself.

No more questions.

JUDGE: You may step down.

(Witness returns to her seat at plaintiff's table, taking her fur with her and fixing it on her chair at the plaintiff's table before she sits. She looks at Beck N. Call for help, but he exaggerates his ignoring her.)

JUDGE: The plaintiff may call your next witness.

PROSECUTOR: The plaintiff calls Wickety Wizard.

(Witness takes the stand, acting evil, but in a likable, charming way.)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: State your name, please.

WICKETY: *(Acting cool, engaging, likable)* Wickety Wizard, also known as “El Brujo” or “El Brujito.” *(Pronounced in Spanish, ehl, broo-hoh; broo-hee-toh)* You can call me Wickety.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Please tell the judge and the jury what you know about what Snow Green did to Queenie.

WICKETY: Snow Green bewitched, bothered, and bewildered Queenie and her magic mirror. She defrauded and tricked them into believing that she, not Queenie, was “the fairest of them all.” And in the process she caused poor Queenie great mental anguish and personal injury. As you said earlier, ¡Pobrecita! *(Pronounced in Spanish, poh-breh-see-tah)*

The once beautiful, regal Queenie disappeared and was replaced by a nervous ninny who was so espantosa *(Pronounced in Spanish, es-pan-toh-sa)* and asquerosa *(Pronounced in Spanish, ehs-pahn-toh-sah, as-que-roh-sa)*, she scared even the vampires, buzzards, and snakes in my wizard's cave. Downright scary and repulsive! Hissss! *(Makes nasty, hissing sound while clawing)*

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: And in your best judgment and testimony under oath, Snow Green was responsible for all this?

WICKETY: Without a doubt! She is an immature, imperfect imposter, pretending to be “the fairest of them all.” I'd like to cast another spell on her!

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What evidence is there that Queenie should be the “fairest of them all” and not Snow Green?

WICKETY: Allow me to paraphrase what Elsa said about her in a rap battle:

(Rapping to music from the rap battle between Elsa (“Frozen”) and Snow White. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcrQvoCzs80>)

Why’s it mean of Snow Green to step on Queenie?

She’s “an aimless airhead with a Vitamin D deficiency.”

She’s “got no skills ‘cuz” she’s “focused on (her) looks”

And let’s get into what was up with her and those seven shnooks? (Hi, Ho)....”

(Perhaps Queenie or the attorney could say, “Hi, Ho.”)

She’s “a bashful twerp” with a “squeaky, meek demeanor....”

“And who eats” candy (that) “a stranger gives (you)? (Duh)” *(Perhaps Queenie or the attorney could said “Duh.”)*

“And who needs a man to save an kiss (you)?....”

You don’t need to lie or play any games.

We see your true colors despite your lame name.

Nobody’s face looks that perfect and clean,

Maybe she’s lying; maybe it’s Maybeline.

You see, that’s what she does, judge,

She works all the right angles.

If you see through her filters, you’ll slam down your gavel.

She should “step aside and hide, go find a cottage to clean”

She’s “one ditzy princess” and no match for a real queen.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Well said! No further questions.

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

Wickety, what is your profession?

WICKETY: I am a wizard, 24/7, and the namesake of the song, “Un brujito-ja, una brujito-ja, se comía las uñas de los pies, ja, ja! Se comía-ja, se comía-ja, se comía las uñas de los pies, ja-ja. Bru-jo, bru-jo, bru-ja-ja. Bru-jo, bru-jo, bru-ja-ja.”
(Paraphrasing “Una Vieja-ja-ja”; pronounced in Spanish, oon-broo-hee-toh-hah, oon, broo-hee-toh-hah, seh, koh-mee-ya, lahs, oo-knee-ahs, deh, lohs, pee-ehs, hah, hah. Seh, koh-mee-ya-hah, seh, koh-mee-yah-ja, seh, koh-mee-ya, lahs, oon-ee-ahs, deh, lohs, pee-ehs-ja-ja. Broo-hoh, broo-hoh, broo-hah-hah, broo-hoh, broo-hoh, broo-hah-hah.)

It’s a cute song about my eating toenails, which, I admit, I enjoy—especially children’s! So delicate and crunchy! *(Kissing his fingertips and blowing the kiss in the air)* Yum!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: *(Repulsed)* Pass the green bucket. I think I’m going to vomit!

JUDGE: *(Also repulsed)* Let’s move on—quickly, please.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And what was your role in the interaction between Queenie and Snow Green?

WICKETY: Queenie bought some of my special rock crystal sugar pops as a “gift” for Snow Green. *(Cackling maliciously)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: You sold Queenie poisoned sugar pops for Snow Green?

WICKETY: Well, I sold her two. One was clean, so Queenie could eat it.

(Addressing judge and holding a sugar pop up high so judge, jurors, and audience can see it) In fact, Judge, I brought some of my homemade Wizard Pops—clean and unpoisoned, of course—so you and the jury could trythem!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Wickety is trying to bribe—or perhaps even cast a spell over--the judge and jury. *(Wickety reacts sinisterly.)*

JUDGE: Sustained! (*Bangs gavel*)

(*Addressing Wickety*) Bribery is against the law, Wickety. One more attempt, and I will hold you in contempt of court. And don't even *think* of casting any spells in this courtroom. (*Wickety continues to try to tempt jurors with a sugar pop,, and then puts it out of the judge's sight.*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honor.

(*Addressing Wickety*) What about the other pop you sold to Queenie?

WICKETY: The other pop....Well, you know what they say, "One person's candy is another person's poison." (*Laughing and cackling more maliciously and loudly*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So you were an accomplice in the attempted murder of Snow Green?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Queenie has not been charged with attempted murder, and no evidence of poisoned candy has been entered into the record.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that statement.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you ever advise Queenie how to handle Snow Green?

WICKETY: Never! I simply sell my wares and don't tell anyone how to use them. Soy brujo, no matón. (*Pronounced in Spanish, Soy, broo-hoh, noh, mah-ton*) As you would say in English, I'm a wizard, not a killer.

As Mama Wickety Witch used to say, "Poco veneno no mata; nomás ataranta." (*Pronounced in Spanish, poh-koh, veh-neh-noh, noh, mah-tah; noh-mas, ah-tah-rah-tah*) I also believe a little poison doesn't kill; it only stuns." In fact, it may be good for the soul!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why would you want to help Queenie by stunning Snow Green?

WICKETY: Well, I wanted to help Queenie only because she came to console me after Sleeping Beauty got the best of me in a traditional fairy tale.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Shocked*) Sleeping Beauty?

You introduced yourself as Wickety Wizard. Are you, then, in reality, Man-eficent, the “Master of all Evil”—the wizard who caused Sleeping Beauty to prick her finger and sleep for years until her prince awakened her with a kiss?

WICKETY: You got it, bro! (*or “Sis,” if attorney is female*) (*Beaming, smug; trying to fist bump, but attorney ignores him*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So why did you change your name?

WICKETY: I reinvented myself after Sleeping Beauty woke-up and foiled me in traditional fairy tale land. Now I live in twisted fairy tale land and focus on the international sales of high-end spellcraft—cositas malditas. (*Pronounced in Spanish, coh-see-tahs mahl-dee-tahs*) I specialize in hard-to-find animal body parts like colitas de lagartijos (*Pronounced in Spanish, coh-lee-tas, deh, lah-gar-tee-hos*) and alas de murciélagos (*Pronounced in Spanish, ah-las, deh, moor-see-el-ah-gohs*). You might know them as lizard tails and bat wings. I have lots of customers here on the border.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I see. What do you have against Snow Green?

WICKETY: I hate her being such a holier-than-thou vegetarian who won’t even eat fajitas or chicharrones! (*Pronounced in Spanish, fah-hee-tahs, chee-cha-rrohnehs*) I mean, I love animals too—they’re delicious! If God didn’t want us to eat animals, why are so many of them made out of beef?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Shaking his head*) What evidence do you have that Snow Green caused Queenie to suffer fraud, mental anguish, and personal injury?

WICKETY: Queenie and her attorney told me! That’s good enough for me.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Certainly not good enough for the jury, I hope. No more questions for this witness.

JUDGE: You may step down.

(*Witness returns to designated seat, acting cool; perhaps whispering a rap and moving his arms in rhythm, as does Queenie.*)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: The plaintiff rests, Your Honor.

JUDGE: The defense may call its first witness.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: The defense calls Snow Green.

(Witness takes the witness stand, always acting charming, sweet, likable, engaging, and funny when appropriate—never too serious.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Please state your name.

GREEN: *(Acting sweet, engaging, likable throughout—not regal)* Snow Green.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you a princess?

GREEN: Officially, yes, but I don't use the title. Please just call me "Snow Green."

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you related to Snow White?

GREEN: No, sir/ma'am. She lives in traditional fairy tale land with Sleeping Beauty, and I live in fractured or twisted fairy tale land with Snoring Beauty.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What's the difference?

GREEN: In my land, we always hear the other side of the story. It's a Vice Versa or Twisted Production, so to speak. *(Laughing)* A series of unlikely stories—like this one!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why do they call you Snow Green?

GREEN: My mother, may she rest in peace, said my complexion was white as the purest snow. My father, may he rest in peace, added "Green" because he inspired me to be an environmentalist and promote living green. He liked to call me, "mi verdesita" *(Pronounced in Spanish, mee, vehr-deh-see-tah)* or "my greenie."

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What is your relationship to Queenie?

GREEN: After my mother died, my father married Queenie because he felt I needed a mother. A few months later, he died, and my stepmother took charge of everything, including me.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So your father was a king?

GREEN: Yes, but he never used the title either. He was a man of the people. ¡Pura raza! (*Pronounced in Spanish, pooh-rah, rah-zah*) Queenie, however, suddenly took on the airs of his royalty, titles and all. Everyone called her (*Exaggerating*) “La ruca mandona” (*Pronounced in Spanish, lah, roo-kah, mahn-doh-nah*) or “the bossy old bag.”

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How did your father die?

GREEN: He got sick after eating some gummy apples Queenie gave him. After hearing Wickety Wizard’s testimony, I’m convinced they were poisoned.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Queenie is not on trial, and no charges have been filed against her.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that statement.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you bewitch Queenie and her magic mirror or trick either in any way?

GREEN: Of course not! I had never even seen her magic mirror until she brought it to my cottage and wanted to clean it. (*Incredulous*) Then she complained because I gave her nutritious, delicious food and environmentally friendly cleaning products.

(*Cutely*) What’s wrong with trying to improve her quality of life while protecting our planet? Duh!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you do anything at all to cause her mental anguish or personal injury?

GREEN: Never!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why did you leave her castle?

GREEN: I didn’t. Her huntsman took me away. Queenie ordered him to kill me, but I started llore-llore. (*Pronounced in Spanish, yoh-ree*) My tears touched his heart, so he left me in the woods instead.

She told him to take her my heart out as proof of my death. He took her a pig's heart instead. I certainly hope he didn't kill one of the Three Little Pigs.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then what did you do?

GREEN: After walking and walking, I came upon a cute, but very dirty, little cottage where seven sweet little men lived. They took me in, in exchange for my cooking and cleaning for them.

I was very happy there—happier than in the castle. So I stayed.

In fact, I whistled while I worked and typically sang, (*Quoting some, or preferably, singing all of the following lyrics, if possible*) “Just whistle while you work/And cheerfully together we can tidy up the place/So hum a merry tune/It won't take long when there's a song to help you set the pace./And as you sweep the room/Imagine that the broom/Is someone that you love/And soon you'll find you're dancing to the tune./When hearts are high the time will fly./So whistle while you work.” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIwa9sPFT5I>)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Lovely. How did Queenie get there?

GREEN: Apparently her magic mirror had GPS and Google Maps.

One day when I was alone, she arrived, so well disguised I didn't recognize her.

We each ate some of her absolutely delicious sugar pops I thought they were organic and pesticide-free. Little did I know: Her pops were clean. Mine were poisoned—dulces venenosos. (*Pronounced in Spanish, owh-sohs, veh-neh-noh-sohs*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then what happened?

GREEN: I swooned and lay dead to the world in a glass coffin until (*Exchanging adoring gestures and looks with prince*) my frog-prince awakened me with his slimy little kiss. When we realized what had happened, together we decided to seek justice for Queenie. We didn't want her to hurt anyone else.

Before we could take action, she filed this lawsuit against me, and here I am—your defendant. I place myself humbly and hopefully at the mercy of the court.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Again, no charges have been filed against the queen. Even if there were, they shouldn't be mentioned here, as there are no facts in evidence.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

The jury will disregard that statement too.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: My apologies, Your Honor.

Snow Green, perhaps you don't use the title, but, officially, you are a princess. Do you live like one, now that you're married to a prince?

GREEN: *(Laughing)* Oh, no! Never! I spend most of my time outdoors with my beloved husband and the seven little guys. We established an educational environmental program and encourage the families in the kingdom to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to conserve water, including by turning it off while brushing our teeth; and to avoid using products that hurt the ozone layer that protects our earth from the sun. Equally important, we show them by example how to eat healthy and grow their own fruits and vegetables.

Those are all things everyone in this courtroom should do. How's that for a fun fact?

Some of us are vegetarians, and a few love animals so much, they won't even eat animal crackers! Of course, we still shop at Walmart, Target, and H-E-B!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What else do you do?

GREEN: We also promote education in general and a bilingual, bicultural community. We want all children to go to college and to grow up speaking at least English and Spanish. Since we live on the border, there is no excuse not to. As Arturo Graf said, "Quien habla dos idiomas puede decir que tiene dos almas." *(Pronounced in Spanish, kee-ehn, ah-blah, dohs, ee-dee-oh-mas, pweh-deh, deh-seer, keh, tee-ehn-eh, dos, ahl-mahs)* A bilingual person really does have two souls.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: *(Seemingly in awe)* Snow Green, you are as refreshing as you are ravishing, as inspiring as you are impressive.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor! Counsel is trying to prejudice the jury. What's more, I think he's/she's under her spell!

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

(*Addressing attorney for defense*) No need for sidebar comments, Counselor. It is what it is. The jury will weigh the credibility of the witnesses and disregard your compliments, heartfelt as they were.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

(*Addressing Snow Green*) Queenie is seeking damages from you. She's asking that you give her your castle and pay her \$5 million. How do you respond to that?

SNOW GREEN: Well, I certainly didn't damage her in any way, so I certainly don't owe her any damages. Besides, the castle and the money belong to the people of the kingdom. They are the ones who would suffer if damages were awarded. My husband and I don't claim it for ourselves.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I have no more questions for this lovely, modest, and humble princess.

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

Snow Green, what did you do to cause the magic mirror to call you "the fairest of them all"?

GREEN: Nothing! I didn't even know the magic mirror existed, nor do I even want a title like that. As far as I'm concerned, my stepmother can have it.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Do you agree she deserves it?

GREEN: Well, clearly, she once was hermosa, magnífica, espléndida (*Pronounced in Spanish, ehr-moh-sah, mahg-knee-fee-kah, ehs-plen-dee-dah,*)! No one needed a magic mirror to see she was so splendidly beautiful and magnificent. And underneath those disgusting zits and ronchas, she still is. (*Queenie touches her zits and ronchas.*)

But somehow she got bitter. Una maldita (*Pronounced in Spanish, oo-nah, mahl-dee-tah*). She was jealous of everything and everybody, including me. Now she's not fair at all, much less "the fairest of them all."

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Does that make you happy?

GREEN: No, way! I wish her no ill. In fact, I wish her peace and harmony, health and happiness, and love and joy. If my wishes came true, perhaps her internal spirit could return her to a beautiful state.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: (*Suspiciously*) Such beautiful words! Did your attorney coach you to say that?

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

JUDGE: Sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The jury will disregard that question, and the witness does not have to answer it.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: What secret beauty potions or magic beauty tricks do you use to try to make yourself "the fairest of them all"?

GREEN: I don't give a whit about being "the fairest of them all." None, nada, zero. (*Pronounced in Spanish, nah-dah, zeh-roh*)

And I don't have any beauty secrets or tricks. In fact, I usually don't even wear makeup. I can tell you, however, that I eat healthy and exercise regularly. We grow our own fruits and vegetables, eat lots of grains, and limit our sugar and fat intake. And we sure don't smoke or abuse alcohol or drugs.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Do you expect us to believe that your rosy cheeks, glowing skin, and shiny hair are all natural?

GREEN: (*Smiling modestly*) Thank you for the compliments. Yes, they are. I also brush my hair 100 strokes every night before I go to bed.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Is it your testimony that you are totally innocent of defrauding Queenie and her magic mirror and of causing her mental anguish and personal injury?

GREEN: It is. I have thought and thought about it since I was subpoenaed and ordered to come to this court. I cannot think of a single thing that I have said or done—or even thought—that could have caused my stepmother any mental anguish or personal injury. If I had, I would apologize and try to make it right.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: (*Looking exasperated*) No further questions for this very well coached witness, 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 Prince Erarana. (*Pronounced in English: Air-ah-rah-nah*)

(*Witness takes the stand; acting humble, but funny, charming, and likable throughout, making gestures like a frog—and, if possible, a cockroach. He should say “Ribbit” wherever it seems natural—not necessarily following the script exactly in this regard.*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: State your full name, please.

WITNESS: Maximilio, Epignacio Emiliano, Juan Jesús de María, Gonzalez, Jalisco, Paniagua Erarana. (*All pronounced in Spanish*) Ribbit.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Erarana? (*Pronounced in Spanish, ehr-ah-rrah-nah*)

PRINCE: Yes, sir/ma’am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Era-rana, as in, “was a frog”?

PRINCE: Yes, sir/ma’am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you a prince?

PRINCE: Yes, sir/ma’am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Shall I call you “Prince”?

PRINCE: No, sir/ma’am. I do not use the title.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And you are known as Prince Mango or, rather, as Prince Hunk?

PRINCE: I was in my younger days, not now. Some of my friends call me “Chuy,” but I prefer “Erarana.” (*Pronounced in Spanish*)

It reminds me of where I’ve been and where I want to go. Ribbit.

In fact, it is not my father’s or my mother’s name. I went to court and added it legally, simply as a reminder.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: As a reminder? Were you once a frog?

PRINCE: Yes, sir/ma’am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: But before that, you were you a prince?

PRINCE: Yes, sir/ma’am. And also a cucaracho. (*Pronounced in Spanish, koo-kah-rah-choh*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: A cockroach? What happened?

PRINCE: Well, I was a spoiled, obnoxious, rich brat of a prince, disrespecting and bullying children, sometimes even mistreating animals, and always abusing our environment. Ribbit.

One day I was at my worst: chocante, chiflado, arrogante (*Pronounced in Spanish, choh-kahn-teh, chee-flah-doh, ah-rro-gahn-teh*).

An enchantress appeared, ¡y me chotió, pero super padre! (*Pronounced in Spanish, jee, meh, cho-tee-oh, peh-roh, soo-per, pah-dreh*) She really put me in my place.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What did she say or do?

She said, “Te portas como un cucaracho. (*Pronounced in Spanish, teh, pohr-tahs, koh-moh, oon, koo-kah-rah-cho*) So since you act like one, I’m turning you into a cockroach.” She waved her wand, and, before I knew it, (*Holding up his thumb*) I was no longer than my thumb, had three sets of legs, four wings, and a waxy back. Ribbit.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: All those legs and wings? Repulsive! Is that what a cockroach looks like up close?

PRINCE: Yes. That's a not-so-fun fact most people don't know.

Then she tossed me into a nest with other cockroaches, most of whom were princes too. I bawled like a baby and begged her not to leave me there. I swore I would change if she gave me a chance.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did she?

Yes, thank God! She turned me into a frog instead. I remember feeling guilty about those I left behind and saying, "¡Hay te wacho, cucaracho!" (*Pronounced in Spanish, ai, teh, wah-choh, koo-kah-rah-choh*) That's like saying, "See you later, alligator!" I felt so bad for them and thought, "I'll never step on a cockroach again." I sure don't want to step on a fellow prince! Ribbit.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then what happened?

PRINCE: The enchantress said I would live as a frog until a beautiful princess kissed me.

For years I wandered throughout Laredo. I even went to Canta Ranas, a local barrio that means, "Singing Frogs." My goal was to find a princess who would kiss me.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How hard did you try?

PRINCE: Pretty hard. One day I was by the pool at Laredo College. Lots of princesses were there, so cool, so smart!

I went up to one and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a handsome, rich, prince, and we will live together happily ever after!" Ribbit.

She laughed and said, "I don't want to marry you and live happily ever after, but you can come live with me in my dorm. All the princesses I know want a career, so they won't kiss you either. But we would love to have a talking frog entertain us between classes."

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then what happened?

PRINCE: I hopped across town to Texas A&M International University and found more beautiful princesses there. I went up to one and made the same offer. She acted insulted, but tucked me in her backpack.

I was hoping for a goodnight kiss. But then I heard her call her boyfriend and say, “Come over. I’m cooking frog legs for supper.”

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Oh, my! How’d you get away?

PRINCE: I squeezed-out and hopped away, hecha maquina! (*Pronounced in Spanish, eh-cha, mah-kee-nah*) Fast as possible! Ribbit.

I went to the monte (*Pronounced in Spanish, mohn-teh*) around Lake Casa Blanca. (*Sweetly, compassionately; contrite*) I spent my time doing lots of good little deeds for cockroaches and other little animals—giving them rides on my back across puddles and the narrow part of the lake. Several times I even lay gently on little eggs to keep them warm while their mama birds took a break. Frankly, I was happy—happier than I had been as a rich, spoiled prince.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Please continue.

PRINCE: One day I came across the most exquisite beauty I had ever seen—sound asleep in a glass box decorated in gold. Ribbit.

I wondered, “Could this be my princess?” So I squeezed my wet, slimy little body into the box through a crack in a bottom corner and just sat there and stared and stared at her—so serene, so sublime. ¡Hermosa! (*Pronounced in Spanish, ehr-moh-sah*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you kiss her?

PRINCE: No, sir/ma’am. I didn’t want to kiss her without her permission. That would be bullying or sexual harassment.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Then what happened?

PRINCE: When 24 hours passed, and she hadn’t moved a muscle, I thought, “Uh-oh! ¿Que onda? (*Pronounced in Spanish, keh, ohn-dah*) What’s up with that? No one could sleep that long. Ribbit.

Then I thought, maybe she is under the enchantress' spell, too, and maybe she needs a kiss to wake up. So I hopped up quietly to her face and gave her the smallest, slightest, sweetest, polite-est, teeniest-tiniest little kiss that I could.

(Acting startled) Her eyes opened!

I looked at her. She looked at my carita de rana *(Pronounced in Spanish, kah-ree-tah, deh, rah-nah)*, my little frog face. And she kissed me! ¡A todo dar!

(Pronounced in Spanish, ah, toh-doh, dahr) Great!

Just like that, *(Clicking his fingers)* I turned into a prince! It was love at first sight—for both of us!

We crawled out of the glass coffin and went to find her seven little friends. Then we all moved back to my palace, where everyone welcomed us with open arms.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you suffer any after-effects of having been a cockroach or a frog?

ERARANA: *(Mischievously)* Yeah....I can't stop saying, "Ribbit!" or eating flies like a frog. And, just like a cockroach, I love eating garbage and waste. I actually think they're delicious!

(Everyone acts disgusted, including the judge)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: *(Shudders)* Flies and garbage and waste—oh, my! *(Mimicking Dorothy's rhythm, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HrfbV16-FQ>)*

Gross! ¡Que asco! *(Pronounced in Spanish, keh, ahs-koh)*

Back to business: And what are you doing now?

PRINCE: Snow Green and I got married, and we are living happily ever. Ribbit.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Erarana. You're a lucky man. No more questions.

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

Prince Erarana, do you really expect us to believe this fractured fairy tale?

PRINCE: Why would I lie? I couldn't possibly make that up. No soy Pinocchio.
(Pronounced in Spanish, noh, soy, pee-nok-ee-oh) No, sir/ma'am!

Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. And sometimes the other side of the story is better than the original. Ribbit.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Do you rule alone, or is Snow Green your partner?

PRINCE: We're partners, but we serve, not rule.

Snow Green and I are proud to live in a democracy. We believe justice will prevail and that the jury will find her "not guilty" of all accusations.

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

(Attorney for defense rises, but sits because the judge is quicker with his ruling.)

JUDGE: Objection overruled. *(Bangs gavel)*

You asked the question, Counselor. Don't object simply because you don't like the answer.

Do you have anything more to say, Prince Erarana? *(Pronounced in Spanish)*

PRINCE: Yes, Your Honor. Having learned more about the situation today, Snow Green and I will file charges against Queenie and Wickety Wizard for attempting to murder her with poisoned gummy bears and her father with poisoned gummy apples. Ribbit.

(Queenie, Wickety, and Snow Green react appropriately.)

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: Objection, Your Honor!

JUDGE: Sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

Although I must take responsibility for that. I unintentionally opened the door for that comment. The jury will disregard it.

PRINCE: My apologies, Your Honor. I meant no harm or disrespect. Ribbit.

ATTY FOR PLAINTIFF: No further questions! *(Angrily)*

Thanks, Your Honor. (*Sarcastically*)

JUDGE: You may step down.

(*Witness returns to designated seat.*)

The defense may call its next witness.

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, did you ever expect to hear such outlandish testimony? Cockroaches? Frogs? An enchantress? A prince and princess who live like us common folks? Really?

Don't fall for such trickery. Son mentiras. ¡Puras mentiras! (*Pronounced in Spanish, sohn, mehn-tee-rahs; poo-rahs mehn-tee-rahs*) All lies!

Snow "Green" wears green, not because she is an environmentalist, but because she is greeeen with envy of her stepmother.

The evidence clearly, very clearly, showed that Snow Green committed fraud by tricking the magic mirror into believing that she was "the fairest of them all." She defrauded the true owner of that title, her stepmother, causing her severe mental anguish and horrific personal injury.

Wickety Wizard was outsmarted by Sleeping Beauty, another queen's stepdaughter. Do not let history repeat itself. Do not let Snow Green get away with her sins against her stepmother, the queen—the woman her own father chose to marry.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, it is your duty to find that Snow Green committed fraud and caused mental anguish and personal injury to the truly "fairest of them all," Her Royal Majesty, Queenie of the Fairy Tale Kingdom of Suspended Reality. And you should make her give Queenie her castle and pay her \$5 million in damages.

Thank you.

JUDGE: Counsel for the defense?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honor.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,

The plaintiff showed not one iota of evidence against Snow Green. Queenie clearly lives in a fearsome fairy tale in which jealousy wins over virtue, poisoned apples and gummy bears are the fruits and candies of choice, and ugliness trumps beauty.

In their world, might is right, the law is lifeless, and bullying is a way of life. Don't let that be the case here.

No fraud was committed. No mental anguish or personal injury was caused.

Queenie acted ugly and eventually became ugly. Now she is as ugly outside as she is inside. How she looks is her own fault, and she cannot blame Snow Green.

Snow Green and Erarana, by comparison, are beautiful inside and out. Together the defendant and the plaintiff have proven, respectively, that beauty is as beauty does and ugly is as ugly does.

(Pointing at Snow Green) Esta hermosura es inocente. *(Pronounced in Spanish, ehs-tah, ehr-moh-soo-rah, ehs, ee-noh-sehn-teh).* An innocent beauty, indeed.

I implore you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, to find Snow Green did not commit fraud, did not cause mental anguish, did not commit personal injury, and should not pay Queenie anything. You have the power to let her and Erarana *(Prince and Snow Green interact appropriately.)* live happily ever after. They will devote themselves to providing a better environment and a better future through education for you, your children, and grandchildren.

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 Snow Green is liable for 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 rises as the jury leaves.)*

(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 the rest of the students as a Court of Public Opinion. If there is time, 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 Snow Green is liable for the plaintiff's claims.

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 "fraud" means deliberately tricking someone to get an unfair advantage. If you agree that Snow Green did injure Queenie by committing fraud, 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, “mental anguish” means making someone feel really bad, nervous, and depressed. If you agree that Snow Green did cause Queenie 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. Announce results.)

Third, “personal injury” means hurting someone physically or mentally. If you agree that Snow Green did cause Queenie personal injury, 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.)

Finally, if you agree Snow Green should pay Queenie monetary 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. Announce results.)

So this Court of Public Opinion finds that (INSERT) is liable for _____ claims, namely, _____; and not liable for _____ claims, 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.) (Bailiff enters.)

(Staff hands the judge a note indicating the jury has reached a verdict.)

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

JUDGE: The court has been informed that the jury has reached a verdict. All rise for the jury. *(Everyone 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 defendant and her attorney will please rise.

JURY FOREPERSON: We find the defendant, Snow Green, did _____ did not _____ commit fraud, did _____ did not _____ cause mental anguish, and did _____ did not _____ cause personal injury.

We also find that the defendant, Snow Green should pay Queenie \$ _____ in damages.

(IF NOT GUILTY:)

JUDGE: The jury has spoken, and the defendant has been found not liable for claims against her. *(Bangs gavel)*

(Addressing Snow Green 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 defendant has been found liable. (*Bangs gavel*)

Snow Green, I order you to _____ hours of community service. You will be assigned to the Rio Grande International Study Center, where you will devote yourself to teaching boys and girls how to protect the environment. Your priority will be to call attention to the importance of our beloved Rio Grande and to stop persons from dumping sewage in it.

You also are ordered to pay Queenie \$ _____ in damages. (*Bangs gavel*)

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

(Addressing Snow Green and attorney) You may be seated.

QUEENIE: *(Rising to address judge, with her hands on her hips)* Now can I have my Beck N. Call back, to create a path of rose petals for my royal departure?

JUDGE: Beck N. Call may work for you if he wants, Queenie, but he will not drop rose petals or walk stooped and backward in this courtroom.

BECK: *(Asking nobody in particular)* If I want? If I want? What does he mean, "if I want?"

(Standing and addressing judge) Your Honor, may I be heard?

JUDGE: You may.

BECK: *(Incredulous, but hopeful)* Are you saying I have a right to work where I want, and I don't have to be at Queenie's beck and call?

JUDGE: Unless you signed a contract (*Beck shakes his head and hands—no!*), you are free to leave Queenie and work wherever you want.

BECK: Cool! I'm outta here! ¡Hasta la vista, reyna! *(Pronounced in Spanish, ahs-tah, lah, veehs-tah, ray-nah)*

(Turning his back on her dramatically) And here's what I think of your rose petals.
(Dumps rose petals on plaintiff's table)

Thank you, Your Honor. And, by the way, my name is *not* Beck N. Call. It is
(Bows with a flourish, hat in hand) Meme Muñeco!

(Improvising a happy dance and pump fisting) Freedom!

JUDGE: Bailiff, please find Mr. Muñeco a place to sit while we conclude these proceedings. *(Bailiff or deputy bailiff places a chair by witnesses.)*

(Addressing Beck) After that, Mr. Muñeco, you are free to do as you wish, but please continue your celebration outside this courtroom. *(Bangs gavel)*

(Beck happy dances toward chair and sits on the chair the bailiff places next to other witnesses. He hugs Erarana before sitting down and dramatically and deliberately flashes his back on Queenie again, who reacts appropriately.)

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.)

JUDGE: We are especially grateful to the director of the mock trial, (INSERT).

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

And we are grateful to the person who wrote the mock trial script and your handbook, Senator Judith Zaffirini.

Queenie, Snow Green, and all the cast will be available to take pictures with you. The elected officials who are here 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 in action, and tell your friends and family members 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

QUEENIE	§	IN COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW
	§	II
VERSUS	§	
	§	
SNOW GREEN	§	WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFINITIONS

Fraud means tricking someone to gain an unfair or unlawful advantage.

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

Personal injury means hurting someone physically.

VERDICT

We, the jury, find the defendant, Snow Green, did _____ or did not _____ commit **fraud**.

We, the jury, find the defendant, Snow Green, did _____ or did not _____ cause Queenie **mental anguish**.

We, the jury, find the defendant, Snow Green, did _____ or did not _____ cause Queenie **personal injury**.

We, the jury, find the defendant, Snow Green, should pay Queenie \$_____ (or nothing).

SIGNED on the _____ day of _____, 2018.

FOREPERSON