**Court Case: Citizen Accused of Stealing and Ox**

Each person in your group needs to read one of the parts.

~**Judge ~Witness 1 ~Witness 2 ~Citizen**

**Look up any words that you do not know/understand:**

**\*\**Italicized* words are actions and NOT to be read by whomever is reading that part\*\***

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| **Judge** | We are here today to determine if this citizen is guilty of theft. An ox was found in his possession—an ox that may belong to his neighbor, a nobleman. Are there any witnesses to prove that the ox belongs to the nobleman? |
| **Witness 1** | *Stands and speaks confidently --* Yes, judge. I know the ox belongs to the nobleman. It has his mark on it, and I saw the ox on the nobleman’s property the night before it disappeared. There is no doubt that the ox in question belongs to the nobleman. |
| **Judge** | *Looks around the room –* Are there any witnesses to speak for the citizen who is accused of stealing this ox? |
| **Witness 2** | *Jumps to his feet and speaks forcefully –* Judge, the citizen told me that he didn’t steal the ox. He bought it from a stranger who was passing through the city. He had no idea that the ox was stolen and really belongs to his neighbor. |
| **Judge** | *Frowns –* Did you actually see the citizen purchase the ox from this stranger? |
| **Witness 2** | *Looks at the floor and speaks hesitantly –* No, but I’m sure the citizen wouldn’t lie. |
| **Judge** | *Speaks harshly –* Citizen, do you have any witnesses to this purchase? |
| **Citizen** | *Slowly rises to his feet and speaks sincerely –* No, judge, I don’t, but everyone in the city knows that I am an honest person. |
| **Judge** | *Looks at the audience –* Ladies and gentlemen of the Assembly, it is time for you to decide this case. You must decide whether the nobleman’s ox was stolen and, if so, whether he shall receive compensation. You must also decide whether the citizen is guilty, and what punishment he shall receive if he is. In making decision, consider these laws in the Code of Hammurabi that you have before you:1. If a person stole an ox or a sheep or an ass or a pig or a boat, and if it belonged to a church or to the state, that person shall make thirtyfold restitution (give them 30 times the worth in return); if it belonged to a private citizen, that person shall make tenfold restitution. If the thief cannot pay, he shall be put to death.
2. If a person claimed that suspected stolen property found in his possession was sold to him by someone else, that person must produce witnesses to the sale. The person who claimed the property was stolen from him must also produce witnesses that support that claim. If the person in whose possession the stolen property was found cannot produce witnesses to the sale of the property, that person shall be put to death.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard the evidence and have read the laws. Now you must judge the case. |

**Answer the questions on your handout. Your answers should NOT be identical to what your group has written, as there may be some disagreement.**

**Court Case: Dispute Between Nobleman and Doctor over Patient’s Death**

Each person in your group needs to read one of the parts.

~**Judge 1 ~Judge 2 ~Brother of Patient ~Doctor**

**Look up any words that you do not know/understand:**

**\*\**Italicized* words are actions and NOT to be read by whomever is reading that part\*\***

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| **Judge 1** | Our next case involves a dispute between this doctor and this man, the brother of a patient who died while under the doctor’s care. |
| **Judge 2** | Please tell the Assembly why you have a complaint against this doctor. |
| **Brother** | *Stands and speaks loudly and confidently –* As many of you know, my brother was a respected nobleman. A month ago, he began complaining about a pain in his right side. *Holds his hand on the right side of his abdomen.* |
| **Judge 2** | Did he go immediately to the doctor? |
| **Brother** | *Speaks hesitantly* – No, he waited a few days. Finally, he couldn’t stand the pain and went to visit this doctor. |
| **Judge 2** | And what happened when he saw the doctor? |
| **Brother** | Well, the doctor told him that he would have an operation to remove a growth that was causing him the pain. |
| **Judge 2** | Was the operation a success? |
| **Brother** | *Looks furiously at the doctor. Speaks angrily.* – Thank you very much. I am so sorry for your loss. *Speaks softly and looks at the doctor –* Doctor, please tell the court your side of this dispute. |
| **Doctor** | Certainly. When the patient came to me, his condition was almost beyond hope. *Shakes his head sadly. –* His only chance to live was for me to operate and remove the growth in his abdomen. |
| **Judge 2** | *Raises his hand slightly to interrupt the doctor –* But didn’t the patient die during the operation? |
| **Doctor** | *Sighs –* Yes. However, if he had come to me earlier, the growth may have been smaller, and the operation may have been successful. |
| **Judge 1** | *Looks at the audience –* Enough evidence has been heard for the Assembly to reach a decision. Members of the Assembly, you must decide whether it is appropriate to punish the doctor and, if so, what that punishment shall be. In making your decisions, consider these laws from the Code of Hammurabi that you have before you:1. If the doctor makes a large incision with an operating knife and cures the nobleman’s disease, or if he opens a tumor over the nobleman’s eye with an operating knife and save the eye, he shall receive 10 shekels of silver.
2. If a doctor makes a large incision with an operating knife and cures a commoner’s disease, or if he opens a tumor over the commoner’s eye with an operating knife and save the eye, he shall receive 5 shekels of silver.
3. If a doctor makes a large incision with an operating knife and kills a nobleman or commoner, or opens a tumor with the operating knife and cuts out the eye of a nobleman or commoner, the doctor’s hands shall be cut off.
4. If a doctor makes a large incision with an operating knife and kills a slave, the doctor shall buy another slave for the slave owner.
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**Answer the questions on your handout. Your answers should NOT be identical to what your group has written, as there may be some disagreement.**

**Court Case: Dispute Between Nobleman and Slave Involved in a Brawl**

Each person in your group needs to read one of the parts.

~**Judge 1 ~Judge 2 ~Nobleman ~Slave**

**Look up any words that you do not know/understand:**

**\*\**Italicized* words are actions and NOT to be read by whomever is reading that part\*\***

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| **Judge 1** | *Speaks with contempt –* Our next case involves a brawl between this nobleman and this slave. You must decide the punishments for both participants in this shameful display of violence. |
| **Judge 2** | I would like to begin by questioning the nobleman. Please tell the Assembly what happened. |
| **Nobleman** | *Rises lazily to his feet. Speaks scornfully –* The slave threw garbage out his front door, and it het me as I walked by. I was so angry I hit him in the face and blinded him. |
| **Judge 2** | Did you do any other damage? |
| **Nobleman** | *Smiles as if pleased with himself –* Well, when the salve lunged at me, I grabbed his arm and broke it. |
| **Judge 2** | To what class you belong? |
| **Nobleman** | *Speaks proudly –* I am a nobleman |
| **Judge 2** | I would like to question the slave. What happened when the nobleman attacked you? |
| **Slave** | *Kneels. Keeps his eyes on the floor while speaking.* – When the nobleman rushed at me, I slapped him the face to protect myself. |
| **Judge 2** | *Looks shocked –* And to what class to you belong? |
| **Slave** | *Whispers –* I am a slave |
| **Judge 1** | *Looks at the audience* – Enough evidence has been heard fro the Assembly to give a decision. Members of the Assembly, you must decide the punishment for the nobleman and the slave. In making your decision, consider these laws from the Code of Hammurabi that you have before you:1. If a nobleman has broken the bone or destroyed the eye of a nobleman’s slave, he shall pay the other nobleman one half of the slave’s value.
2. If a nobleman has knocked out another nobleman’s tooth, his own tooth shall be knocked out.
3. If a nobleman has knocked out the tooth of a commoner, he shall pay the commoner one third of a mina of silver.
4. If a nobleman slaps another nobleman, he shall pay that nobleman one mina of silver.
5. If a slave slaps a nobleman, the slave shall have his ear cut off.
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| **Judge 2** | Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard the evidence and have read the laws. You must now judge the case. |

**Answer the questions on your handout. Your answers should NOT be identical to what your group has written, as there may be some disagreement.**