Bradford College – PAPA Tour Trial

JUDGE OPENING STATEMENT

Esteemed guests, you have been asked to be a part of our jury for the case of Elizabeth and Victoria (surname) stealing a loaf of bread, 26th October1894.

The definition of stealing is, the taking of another person's property with the intent of depriving that person of the use of their property.

I urge you to listen carefully to all the evidence provided.

At the end of this trail, you will be asked for a verdict, guilty or not. You will decide by raising your hand, I will take a majority vote, if you are unable to decide...

I have to remind you, as the law stands if found guilty the alleged criminals will be sentenced to hanging. Do you understand your responsibility...?

Prosecution you may begin.

Prosecution Calls First Witness – Shopkeeper

1. What state were the girls in at the time of the crime?
   1. Looked like they needed a good wash.
2. Did you communicate with the girls?
   1. Yes, I did. I asked them if they needed any help, and they grabbed the bread and ran.
3. Did you see the girls steal the bread?
   1. No, but I saw the girls run out with the bread in their hands.

“No further questions please wait there”

Defence questions – Shopkeeper

1. What were you doing when the bread was stolen?
   1. I was dealing with another customer that needed help.
2. Did you physically see the bread get stolen?

“Objection: witness already stated she didn’t see the bread being stolen.”

“Judge: Overruled, please answer the question”

* 1. No, but as I said before. I saw the two girls running in the distance with the bread in the hands of the eldest.

1. Do you have no compassion for these girls, who allegedly stole the bread?
   1. No, as this isn’t the first incident involving these girls. Especially the eldest.

“No further questions your honour”

Prosecution calls second witness – Arresting Officer

1. How were you alerted to this incident?
   1. I was patrolling my usual route and was flagged by the shopkeeper to chase the two juvenile delinquents.
2. How did the girls react when you arrested them?
   1. Upon catching up with the suspects, I was able to detain Victoria. Once Victoria was secured, her sister Elizabeth returned to try to rescue her sister. At this point I was able to detain and arrest them both for theft.

“No further questions please wait there”

Defence Questions – Arresting Officer

1. When you caught up with the girls, did you notice any bread upon their person?
   1. It would appear they had discarded the evidence by the time I reached them both.
2. What reason then did you have for arresting these two young girls?
   1. I had been told by the shopkeeper that they had stolen. Not what they had stolen. At that time, my priority was to detain and question them both.
3. During questioning, did either of the girls confess to the theft of the bread?

“Objection: we have it on record that the girls have confessed, why is this line of questioning relevant?”

“Judge: Sustained, please rephrase the question”

1. Were you able to find evidence that proves the girls stole this loaf of bread?
   1. Yes, after apprehending the girls I sent another constable to search the area. He was able to find the loaf and the handkerchief which the girls admitted was their mothers.

“No further questions your honour”

Girls Mother’s Statement

I would like it noted that the only thing my daughters are guilty of is having a heart. They didn’t do this act out of malice but out of hunger and love. We are too poor to afford food these days and they wanted to look after me.

Defence calls Defendants – Girls Questioning

1. Your mother stated that you committed this crime on behalf of herself due to her ill health. How long has your mother been unwell?
   1. Rose – “for as long as I can remember”
2. If you’d had the money, would you have still stolen the bread?
   1. Sophie – “No sir! If we’d had the money we simply wouldn’t be here.”
3. So, you don’t steal for the thrill and you’re not teaching your younger sister these terrible behaviours?
   1. Sophie – “No Sir! I would never put my sister in so much danger unless we was desperate.” Rose – “which we are! We’re starving!”

“No further questions please wait there”

Prosecution- Girls Questioning

1. “Where were you on the 26th of October 1894?”
   1. Rose - “we went to the shop because we were hungry”
2. “How many times have you committed theft in the past?”
   1. Sophie - “only once as my family had no food and we were starving your honour”
3. “Did you steal the bread?”
   1. Sophie - “Yes I stole the bread, but I only did it because I was desperate. It had nothing to do with my sister, please don’t hurt her she’s only 7 and she only did it cause I told her to, she doesn’t know any better!”

“No further questions your honour”

Judgment

This is the end of the trial, now I will ask the jury for your verdict, guilty or not guilty.

Please raise your hand for guilty…

(Count hands up)

Please raise your hand for not guilty…

(Count hands up)

(If not guilty) – Elizabeth and Victoria Smith you have been found not guilty by a jury of your peers. You are free to leave.

(If guilty) – Elizabeth and Victoria Smith you have been found guilty by a jury of your peers. I hereby sentence you to death by hanging. May god have mercy on your souls.