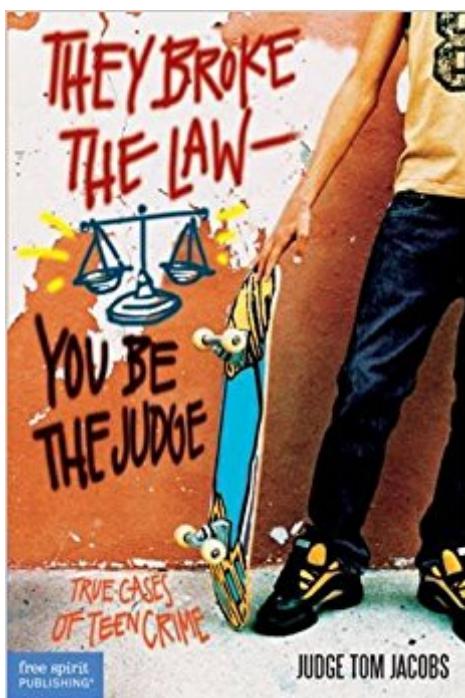


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# They Broke The Law—You Be The Judge: True Cases Of Teen Crime



## **Synopsis**

Teens often hear about other teens who get into trouble with the law. But they're seldom asked what they think should happen next and why. A unique introduction to the juvenile justice system, *They Broke the Law* • You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime invites teens to preside over a variety of real-life cases. They meet Adam, who makes a threat in school; Erica, who assaults another student and uses marijuana; and more young people who commit crimes and are caught. Like a judge, readers learn each teen's background, the relevant facts, and the sentencing options available. After deciding on a sentence, they find out what really happened—and where each offender is today. Along the way, readers learn Judge Jacobs' concerns about each case, reflect on probing questions, and discover that they can't jump to conclusions. Teens (and teachers) who want more can find role-playing ideas and scenarios related to the stories available as free downloads here on the Free Spirit Web site. Thought-provoking and eye-opening, this book is for all teens who want to know more about the juvenile justice system and the laws that pertain to them and their peers.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 224 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #198,334 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Violence #20 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Law & Crime

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 7 Up-Written by a juvenile court judge, this book details 21 cases ranging from truancy to auto theft. Following a description of events leading up to and including the crime itself, readers are given background about the individual, sentencing options, and questions to consider before sentencing, and then asked to make a decision about the case. Jacobs then explains his decision,

asks for responses to it, and tells what later happened to the individual. Each case also includes a letter written by the teenager to Judge Jacobs. With the proliferation of courtroom shows on television, this book gives young people a more realistic look at the legal system designed for them. The author's compassion for those who appeared before him will also be eye-opening for many young people. "There may be an occasional detour, but more often than not, they get back on track. It's inspiring to see-." That, above all, will teach young people an important lesson. An unusual and thought-provoking treatment.Lynn Evarts, Sauk Prairie High School, Prairie du Sac, WI  
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Gr. 7-12. A former juvenile court judge offers a compelling "behind the bench" look at juvenile crime and justice. In each of the 21 real-life cases of teen crime, Jacobs describes the background of the offender and the circumstances of the offense. He then presents several sentencing options, leaving it up to the reader to decide what punishment is appropriate by offering a series of questions to consider before imposing a sentence. Jacobs also includes the judge's decision in each case, and he asks readers to compare and contrast their decision to the judge's. Through the encouraged role-playing, students will gain a better understanding of the intricacies of the system. An excellent introduction to how juvenile justice works, this will be a great resource for classroom and group discussions. Ed Sullivan  
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I saw a sample of this and bought the book for use in my middle school G/T classroom. We were doing a unit on how the court system works. I particularly appreciate the way the book lets you get inside the head of the judge, to see how he tries to balance the law, the safety and well-being of society, and what is best for the teen long-term. There are ten case studies included, but I only really had time for about three or four during the quarter-long class. Even so, it really made my students think about the reasons for mandatory minimum sentences but also for giving the judge some discretion on sentencing.

Not very well written (grammar, etc.) but the content is pretty good. I used it with alternative education teens to generate discussion and thought and it served the purpose quite well.

Good Book just not my type to read. I read it because I had to for a school assignment. Check it out if you are interested in learning judicial terms and teenage crimes.

A very interesting and thought provoking book. A great tool to use in teaching ethics and the workings of the legal justice system.

Great for my students! I'm always looking for compelling non-fiction for my freshmen to read and analyze. These stories really get them thinking, because they're true.

Love this book. have used it with 5-8th graders. Highly engaging and eye opening for this age group. I like to read beginning - have them decide what they would do in the case and then read what was actually done for the cases. Highly recommend!!!!

I am a high school counselor for students with learning disabilities. I use this book in my classroom along with free role play scenarios. My students love it. They are engaged and excited about the lessons. I am worried about what I'm gonna do when I finish the book. Judge Jacobs, we want more books like this one!

I bought this for a class of high school students. It really holds their attention as I read it, present the options and have them explain why they chose the option they did, and then compare it to what actually happened.

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