**GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS** – SKIT (with speaking parts)

For Law Day, here's a short, skits version of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," focusing on the legal aspects of the story. There are 8 characters listed below. Have students volunteer to play these roles or call on people.

Explain to the students that this is a CIVIL BENCH trial, not a criminal jury trial. The judge will be the decision maker of this trial.

**Characters**:

* **Narrator**
* **Goldilocks**
* [**Papa Bear**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=Papa+Bear&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQIChAB&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3)
* [**Mama Bear**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=Mama+Bear&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQICRAB&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3)
* [**Baby Bear**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=Babe+Bear&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQIDRAB&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3)
* [**Judge**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=Judge&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQIDBAB&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3)
* [**Prosecutor**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=Prosecutor&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQICBAB&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3)
* [**Defense Attorney**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=Defense+Attorney&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQIBxAB&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3)

**Explain the roles:**

* + **Prosecution:** Represents the Three Bears, arguing for Goldilocks' guilt.
	+ **Defense Attorney:** Represents Goldilocks, arguing for her innocence or mitigating circumstances.
	+ **Judge:** Presides over the trial, ensuring order and making rulings.
	+ **Witnesses/Party to the case:** The Three Bears who personally experienced having their home broken into and can testify to what happened to them.

**Pre-Skit Activities:**

* **Read the Story:** Discuss the story with students, focusing on the events and the characters' actions.
* **Vocabulary:** Introduce legal terms like "defendant," "prosecution," "judge," "jury," etc.
* **Legal Concepts:** Discuss the difference between criminal and civil law and a bench trial versus a jury trial.
	+ In criminal law, a finding of "guilty" means the defendant is legally responsible for a crime, potentially leading to imprisonment or fines.
	+ In civil law, the term is "liable," meaning the defendant is responsible for damages or harm caused to another party, typically resulting in monetary compensation.
* BENCH TRIAL vs. JURY TRIAL
	+ In a [bench trial](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&sxsrf=AHTn8zqa9kDXnwmWpKxtmEpUSTUTwqBWKw%3A1744147948609&q=bench+trial&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiYmKa3scmMAxUoM9AFHfxACL8QxccNegQIKhAB&mstk=AUtExfDoKye_psheeEngiaOVS7YzS3M4miiyb1mBlSgMhLEb9ctVUlgiC2tW7AUYqZvP_kl_uZ_77bhQMjL0FCSbu_amSNNNxUeUwWN4DaPG6jn4el8mWx7PO2-9lkv2FXXwV-AzedZq1wEGgS9KUqQMaroL8Est2zwZPLGp_e4SMJXeN907gwg9PMc1QkGGQjH-SIwaGvTzbdvvrFyvB0lq6HL3AGpnpVDU-c1dg93i5qKfd4EhCnfnx5ObOldVQTMKt2vXpuuiYUzsj6v_0qc_48fL&csui=3), a judge decides the facts and the law
	+ In a [jury trial](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&sxsrf=AHTn8zqa9kDXnwmWpKxtmEpUSTUTwqBWKw%3A1744147948609&q=jury+trial&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiYmKa3scmMAxUoM9AFHfxACL8QxccNegQIKhAC&mstk=AUtExfDoKye_psheeEngiaOVS7YzS3M4miiyb1mBlSgMhLEb9ctVUlgiC2tW7AUYqZvP_kl_uZ_77bhQMjL0FCSbu_amSNNNxUeUwWN4DaPG6jn4el8mWx7PO2-9lkv2FXXwV-AzedZq1wEGgS9KUqQMaroL8Est2zwZPLGp_e4SMJXeN907gwg9PMc1QkGGQjH-SIwaGvTzbdvvrFyvB0lq6HL3AGpnpVDU-c1dg93i5qKfd4EhCnfnx5ObOldVQTMKt2vXpuuiYUzsj6v_0qc_48fL&csui=3), a group of 12 citizens (the jury) determines the facts and a judge applies the law.
	+ Bench trials are generally faster and less expensive, while jury trials offer the opportunity for a lay audience to weigh in on the case.

**GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS** – SKIT (with speaking parts)

**The Case:** Goldilocks is accused of breaking and entering, theft, and/or property damage (breaking the chair) after entering the bears' home.

**Setting**: A courtroom. (Use chairs and desks to “set up” the courtroom. Ask the teacher for permission before doing any rearranging.)

**Narrator**: Goldilocks enters the courtroom, looking nervous. Papa, Mama, and Baby Bear are seated, looking concerned. The Judge is on the bench.

**Judge**: Alright, let's get started. This case is about the [trespass](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=trespass&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQILRAB&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3) and [property damage](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JSBI_enUS1143US1145&cs=0&sca_esv=edec2e4b4572a4c0&sxsrf=AHTn8zrRP_c0-uHRZW1O6uvHCbd-o96T2w%3A1744146974494&q=property+damage&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwidtMDmrcmMAxVMGFkFHekkDIAQxccNegQILRAC&mstk=AUtExfDUcf6hpNR2gBmAsgmHiA7cHuO4wkgdCPitmNe1PqYwdDCPmNBbioxhkOHim_Q8ZyfdH6J8qCcWjsfhnlim4YDHu-Uh-DoGn2-jc1xzkekLzT03eTfCQOx_8iV7c96LzLobaqgWG3V-oeuI8_dRGVQOSFbULro_I_YcNGvOLpQ2-xs&csui=3), Goldilocks.

**Prosecutor**: Your Honor, the evidence shows that Goldilocks entered the Bears' home without permission, ate their porridge, sat in their chairs, and slept in their beds, causing them distress and damage.

**Defense Attorney**: Your honor, my client, Goldilocks, was simply exploring. She was looking for a place to rest and eat.

**Goldilocks**: I was just tired and hungry. I didn't mean to cause any trouble.

**Papa Bear**: (Angrily) My porridge was too hot, too cold, and then she ate it all!

**Mama Bear**: (Softly) My chair was too hard, then she broke it!

**Baby Bear**: (Crying) My bed was too soft, and then she slept in it!

**Judge**: Goldilocks, do you have a legal reason for your actions?

**Goldilocks**: Well, I didn't know it was their home. I just saw an open door and I felt tired and hungry.

**Judge**: The Bears' home is private property. You had no right to enter without permission. Goldilocks, your actions have caused the Bears distress and damage. The court finds you liable of trespass and property damage.

**Goldilocks**: (Hangs her head) I understand, your Honor.

**Judge**: The Bears are entitled to compensation for their damages.

**Prosecutor**: Your honor, we are requesting that Goldilocks be ordered to pay for the damage to the chair and the porridge.

**Defense Attorney**: Your honor, my client is willing to apologize to the bears and pay restitution for the damages.

**Judge**: Very well, the court orders Goldilocks to pay for the damages and apologize to the Bears.

(Goldilocks apologizes to the Bears, who reluctantly accept her apology.)

**Judge**: This case is closed.

**GOLDILOCKS DISCUSSION**:

Legal Questions to Explore:

* **Breaking and Entering:** Did Goldilocks enter the bears' home without permission? Was it a crime?
* **Theft:** Did Goldilocks steal the porridge, or was it simply an accident?
* **Property Damage:** Was breaking the chair a crime?
* **Justification:** Could Goldilocks' actions be justified by her hunger or the bears' absence?
* **The Moral of the Story:** What does the story teach us about respecting others' property and privacy?

Post-Trial Activities:

* **Debrief:** Discuss the trial process and the students' roles.
* **Reflection:** Ask students to reflect on the moral of the story and the importance of respecting others' rights.
* **Extension:** Students can write essays or create presentations about the case or the legal concepts they learned.