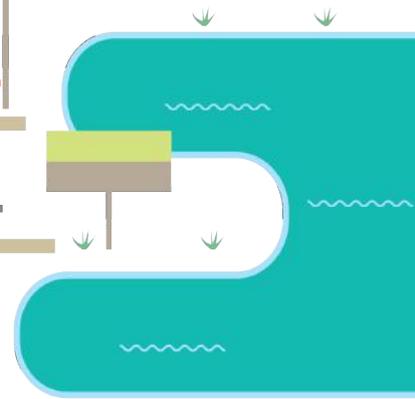
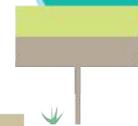
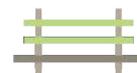
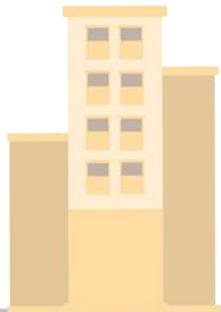
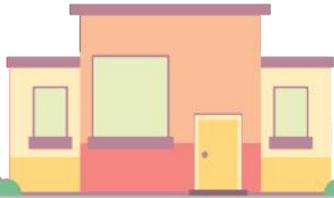


Sara Goes to Court



For all those who need help
To tell their story

Your voice is important
To all of us

This publication is a joint effort of 4 organisations.

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Sara Goes to Court





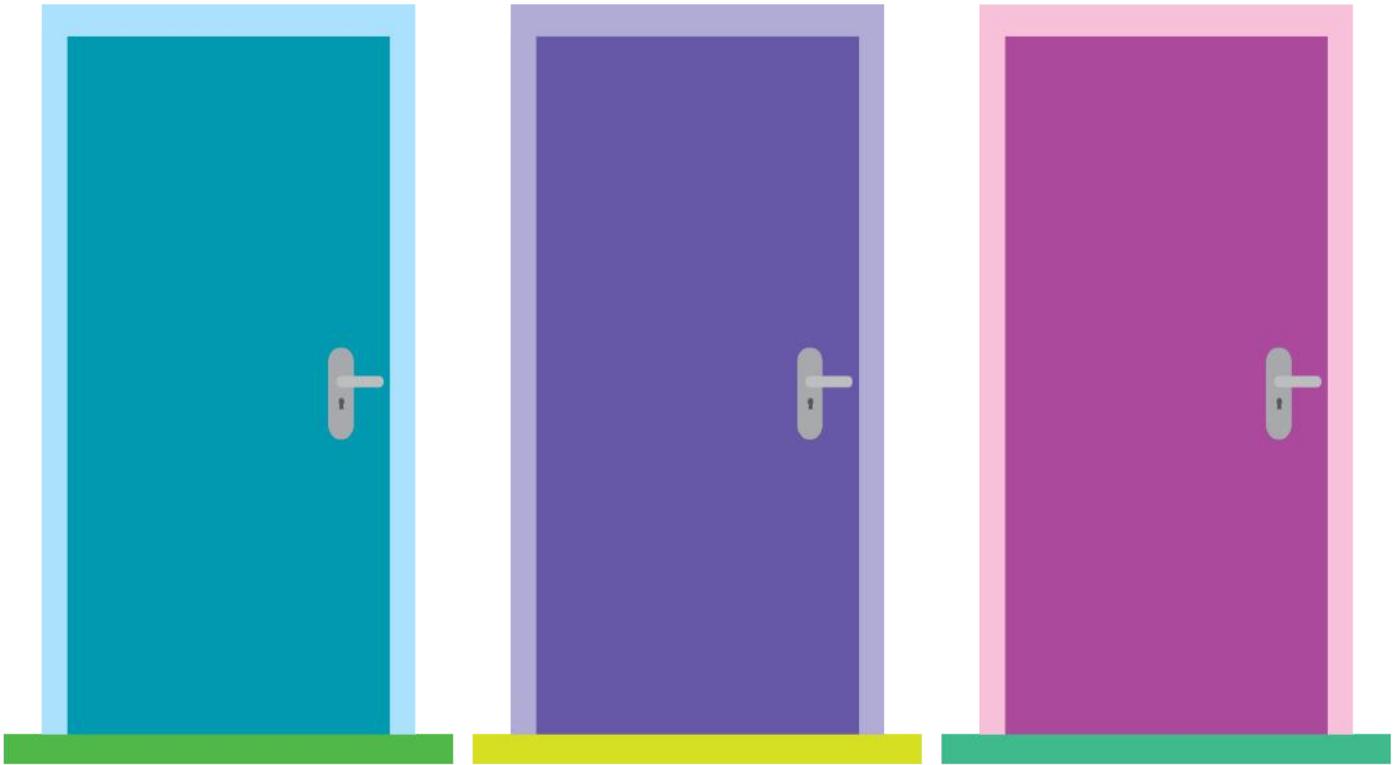
Something terrible happened to Sara. The police were called to look into whether someone broke the law.

Now Sara is going to court so she can tell the Judge what happened. Just like you!



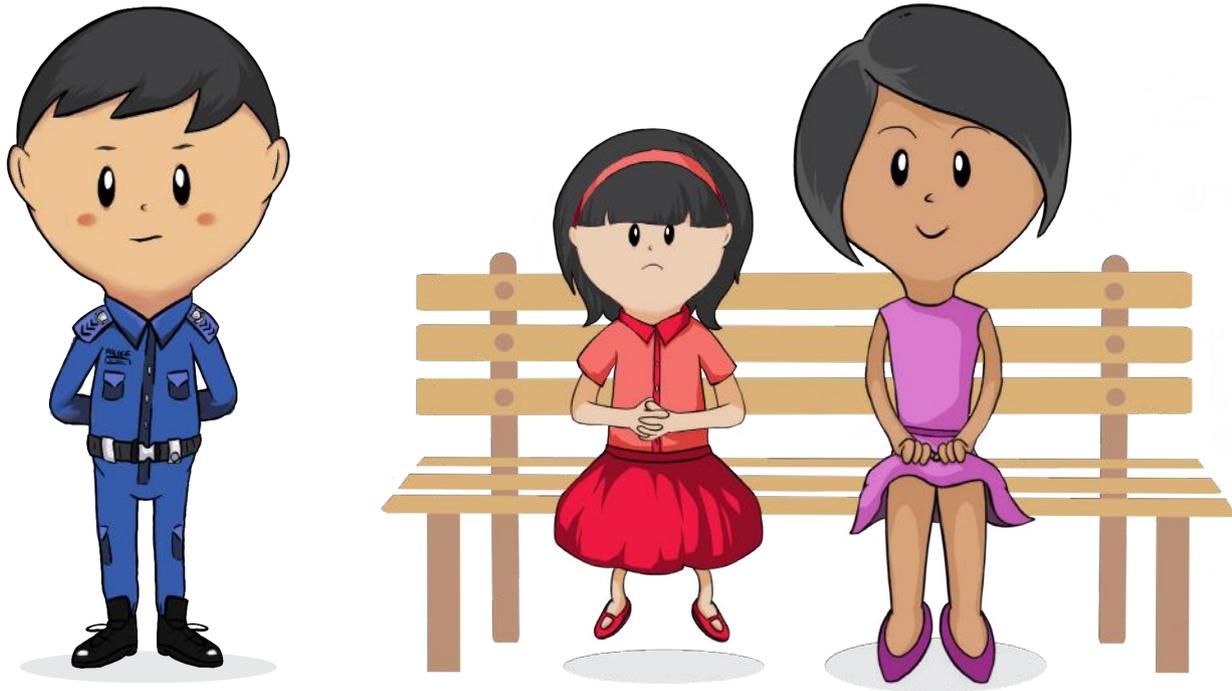
Sara is a bit scared because she has never been to Court before. Can you draw how she may be feeling?

But then Sara remembered there will be many people to help her. These people will keep Sara safe.



A courthouse is a big building with many rooms.

Sara will be going into one of those rooms, where the Judge and some other people will be talking about what happened.



Finally the day arrived when Sara had to go to Court.

When she arrived at the courthouse, she had to wait awhile. She was a bit worried. But the Social Worker, who had been helping her, was sitting next to her while she waited, so she felt better.



When it was Sara's turn to answer questions in Court, someone came to get her.

Sara was brought into the courtroom so the Judge, Prosecutor, and Defence Counsel could ask her questions about what happened.



Sara was a bit scared about seeing the Accused.

But there are a few ways to make her feel better.

She can hold her favourite toy that makes her feel safe.



The Judge can allow her Social Worker to sit near her while she answers questions.



Or, Sara can answer questions from a room right next to the courtroom. This way, she can see everyone in the courtroom through a television.



First, the Judge asked Sara some questions.

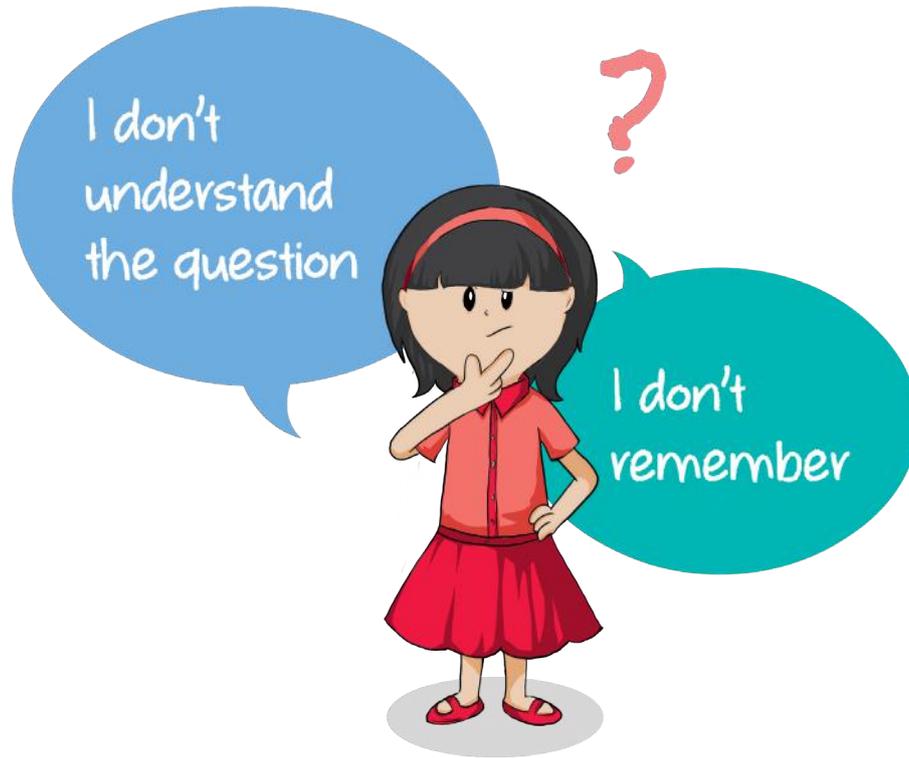
Next, the Prosecutor asked Sara questions.

Then, the Defence Counsel asked Sara questions.



Some questions were easy, like "Sara, how old are you?".

But other questions were harder because Sara had to remember things that happened some time ago. It made Sara sad to talk about these things, but Sara knew it was important that the Judge heard the truth.



So Sara answered the questions by telling the truth. When she did not understand a question, she just said, "I don't understand the question." Then the question was asked in another way so Sara could understand.

If Sara did not remember, she just said, "I don't remember" and that was fine.

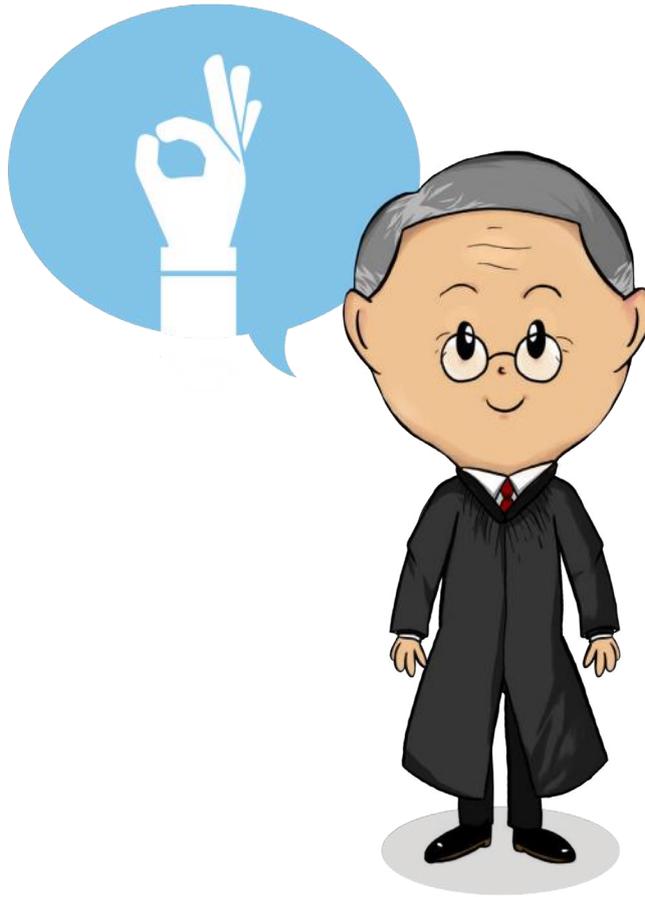


Sara knew that it was important not to guess the answer to a question. She answered a question only when she understood it.



When Sara was answering questions, she needed to use the toilet!

Sara asked the Judge if they could stop so she could use the toilet. So they stopped for a while.

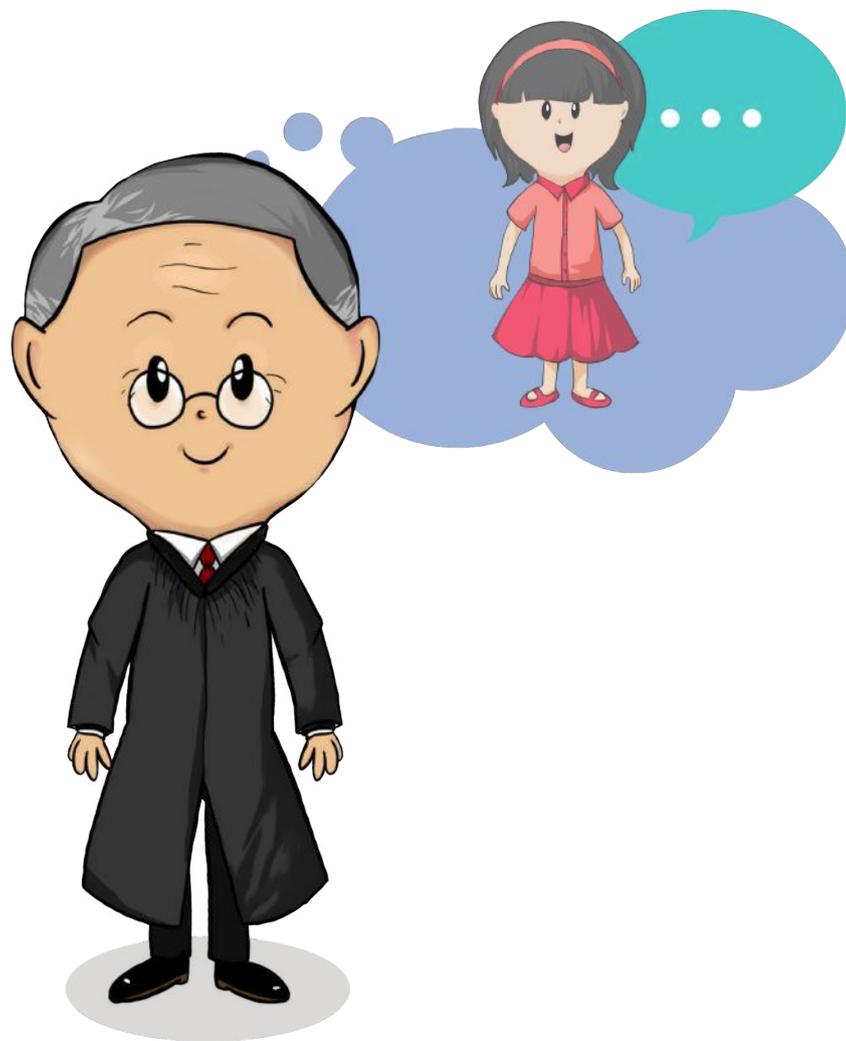


At one point, Sara was tired. She had been answering questions for a long time! So she asked the Judge if she could have a break because she was tired. And it was fine!

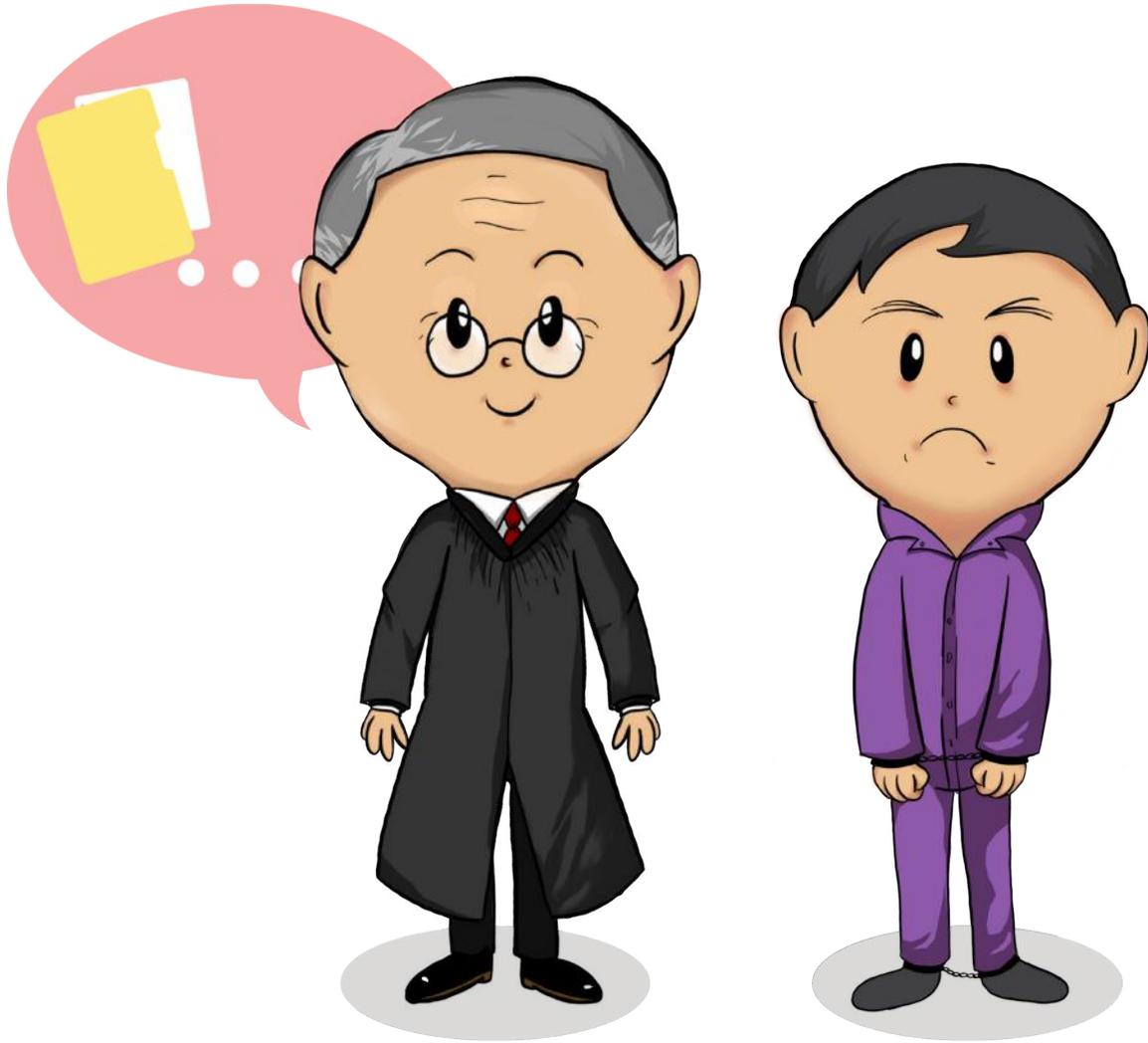
Sara was able to take a break.



And then it was finished! Sara had done a very important job by answering the questions truthfully.



After listening to all the witnesses answer questions, the Judge will think about all the things he had heard in Court.



After thinking for a while, the Judge will decide what should happen to the Accused.



Sara does not know what will happen next, but she knows there are many people who want her to be safe and happy!

What makes you happy? Draw some of those things here.

Information for Caregivers and Social Workers

This book is the joint effort of 4 organisations in Singapore to support all who work with vulnerable witnesses as they navigate the criminal justice process, especially criminal trials.

Further materials are being developed. Check the websites of the partner organisations if you would like to receive these or additional materials when they are available.

Credits

The original book was developed by Hagar International in conjunction with UNICEF, and this book was adapted from that original material with permission from Hagar International.

This work is the product of the joint efforts of many, including the Criminal Justice Club of the NUS Faculty of Law, a student-run organisation that focuses on access to justice.



The characters in this book were drawn by **Jolie Lim**, a student from Pathlight School. She is lively, bright and vivacious and very talented. Many of Jolie's works appear on bags, T-shirts, notebooks and various other items. Her work can be seen and purchased from the Art Faculty at the Enabling Village, or Mustard Tree, a delightful shop at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital.



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The whole journey



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