

NOF Mock Trial
Fact Pattern:
State of Northwood

v.

Alex Jordan

On May 10, 2024, at approximately 3:00 AM, Northwood High School's librarian reported a break-in and theft of the school's prized possession: a first-edition signed copy of *The Wizard of Oz*, valued at approximately \$18,000. The book had been prominently displayed in a secure case for the school's annual literary fair.

The school's janitor, who was performing late-night cleaning duties, reported hearing unusual noises near the library at around 2:45 AM. Upon investigation, the janitor observed a figure wearing a blue jacket and carrying a black backpack leaving the library through a side door. The janitor later identified Alex Jordan, a senior student, as someone resembling the figure seen near the scene of the crime.

The school's security footage corroborates the janitor's statement, showing an individual fitting this description entering the library and quickly exiting with an object consistent with the missing book.

The next day, during a locker search, the book (Exhibit 2b) was found inside Alex's locker. Additionally, breaking and entering tools were discovered in the locker (Exhibit 2b). Alex denies any involvement, claiming he was at a friend's house the night prior and that his locker had been left unlocked, making it accessible to others (Exhibit 2b).

The prosecution has charged the defendant, Alex Jordan, with breaking and entering, as well as theft. The prosecution asserts that Alex Jordan deliberately stole the signed first-edition copy of *The Wizard of Oz* with the intent to sell it for financial gain, specifically to assist with university expenses. Conversely, the defense argues that the investigation was incomplete, failing to consider alternative suspects, and contends that Alex's locker was compromised, undermining the reliability of the evidence and establishing reasonable doubt.

Witness Statements

Prosecution Witness 1- Nico Val

“I’ve been the janitor at Northwood High for over a decade. On the night of May 10, 2024, I was performing my usual late-night cleaning duties when I heard a loud noise coming from the library around 2:45 AM. Curious, I went to investigate and noticed the side door to the library was slightly ajar, which is unusual for that time of night. As I approached, I saw a figure wearing a blue jacket and carrying a black backpack hurriedly leaving through the side door. I couldn’t see their face clearly, but their movements seemed suspicious. Later that morning, I learned that the prized first-edition copy of *The Wizard of Oz* was missing from its display case.

When I reviewed the security footage (Exhibit 1), it confirmed what I witnessed: an individual in a blue jacket entering the library and leaving with what appeared to be the stolen book. Although I can’t say for certain that the person was Alex Jordan, I’ve seen Alex wearing a similar jacket before, and the book was ultimately found in Alex’s locker.

While I didn’t witness Alex taking the book directly, the circumstances strongly suggest involvement. However, I’m aware that some students like to hide items in others’ lockers as a prank, which could complicate things”

Defense Witness 1- Brody Swoon

“I’ve been Alex Jordan’s best friend for years. On the night of May 10, 2024, Alex and I were having a sleepover at Alex’s house. We stayed up late playing Minecraft in the living room until about 1:00 AM. Alex’s house is far from the school—at least a 20-minute drive—and there were no cars available that night because Alex’s parents were out, and they had taken the family car with them.

The next morning, as I was heading to class, I noticed someone wearing a black hoodie near the lockers acting strangely. I didn’t recognize them, but I overheard them mumbling something like, ‘I sure know how to get out of things,’ before they quickly walked away. It stuck with me because it seemed odd, and I was still groggy from staying up so late with Alex.

I don’t believe Alex had anything to do with the theft. We were together the entire night, and Alex didn’t leave the house. Plus, the suspicious person I saw near the lockers makes me think someone else could have planted the book in Alex’s locker.”

Exhibit 1

05/10/2024 02:48:33

LIBRARY



Exhibit 2a



Exhibit 2b

