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**TWO-COLUMN-PROOF**

**BY KATIE BROCKMAN**

There once was a boy named Statement. He wanted to be a lawyer one day. His father had been a lawyer, and his name was Reason. Statement was always asking questions and making comments on how things should be done. His dad would then help him prove that he was correct with a definite reason.

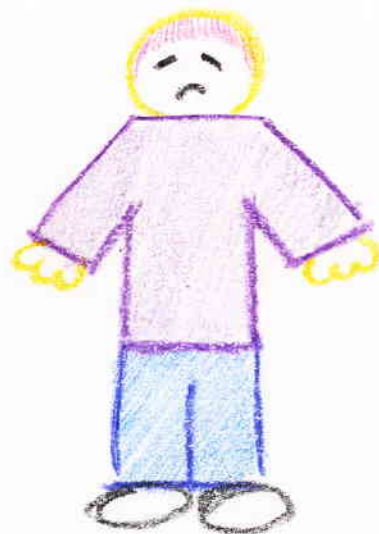


STATEMENT



REASON

One day, a man came to Statement's house to ask a favor of him. He was being accused of a crime, but he swore that he did not commit it. The man's name was Given. That was his nickname, of course, because he was always telling people things, but would not explain them.

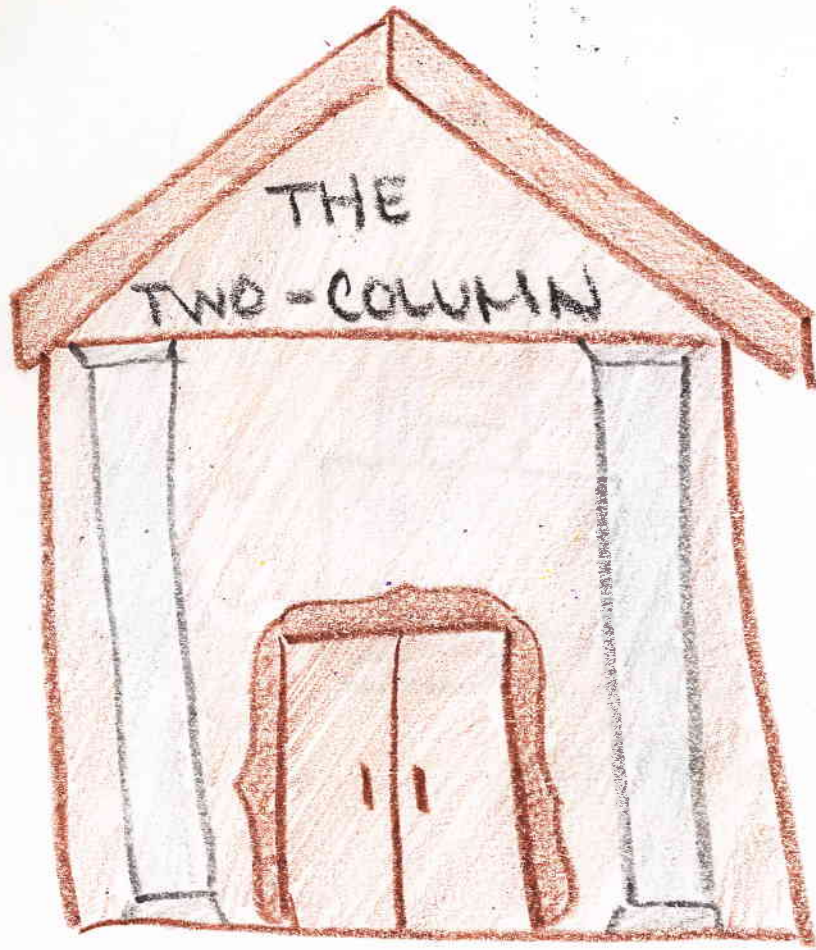


GIVEN

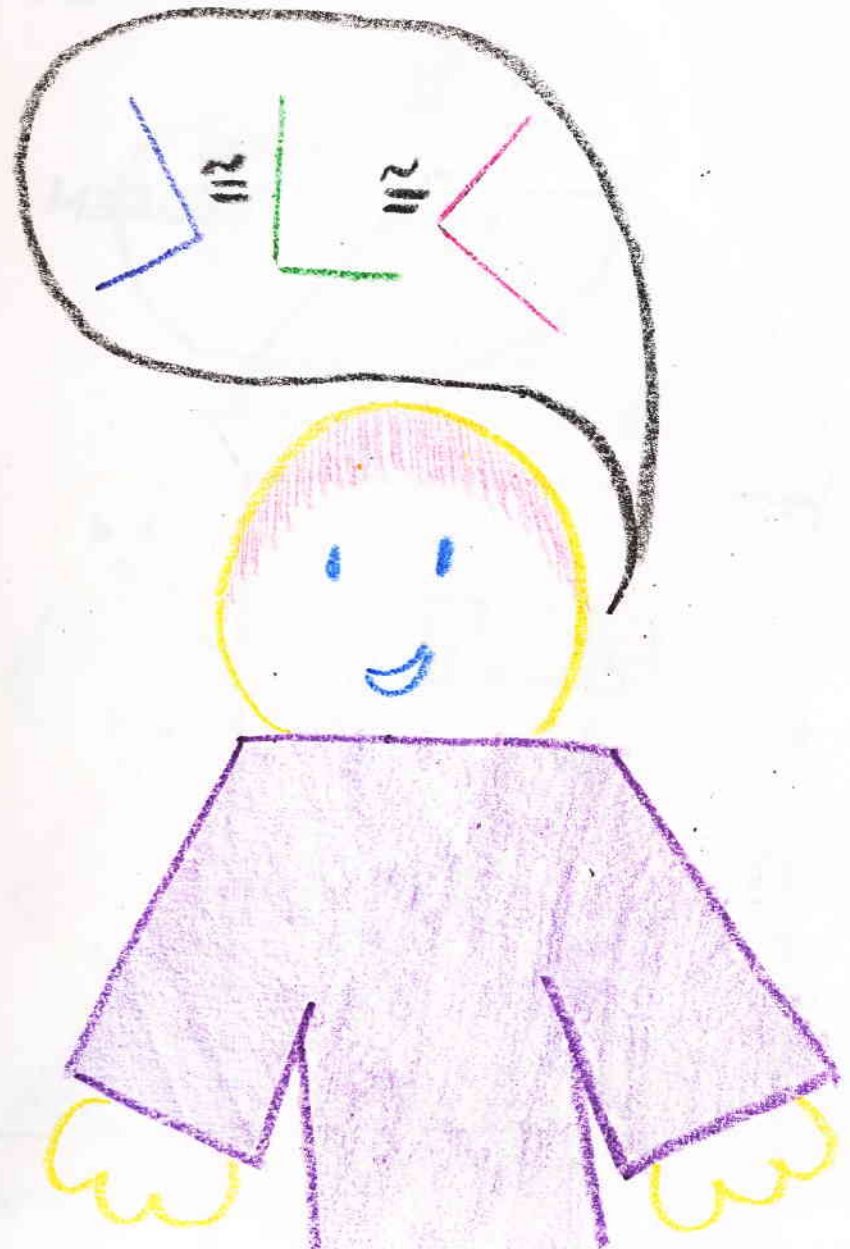
It was Statement's job to prove that Given was innocent. Since it was Statement's very first case, Reason came along to support him.



The trial was to be held at the court where all trials were held - the old Two-Column. Both long and short, simple and complex, and easy and difficult trials were held there. It was called the Two-Column because it was divided into two halves, each one supported by one column.

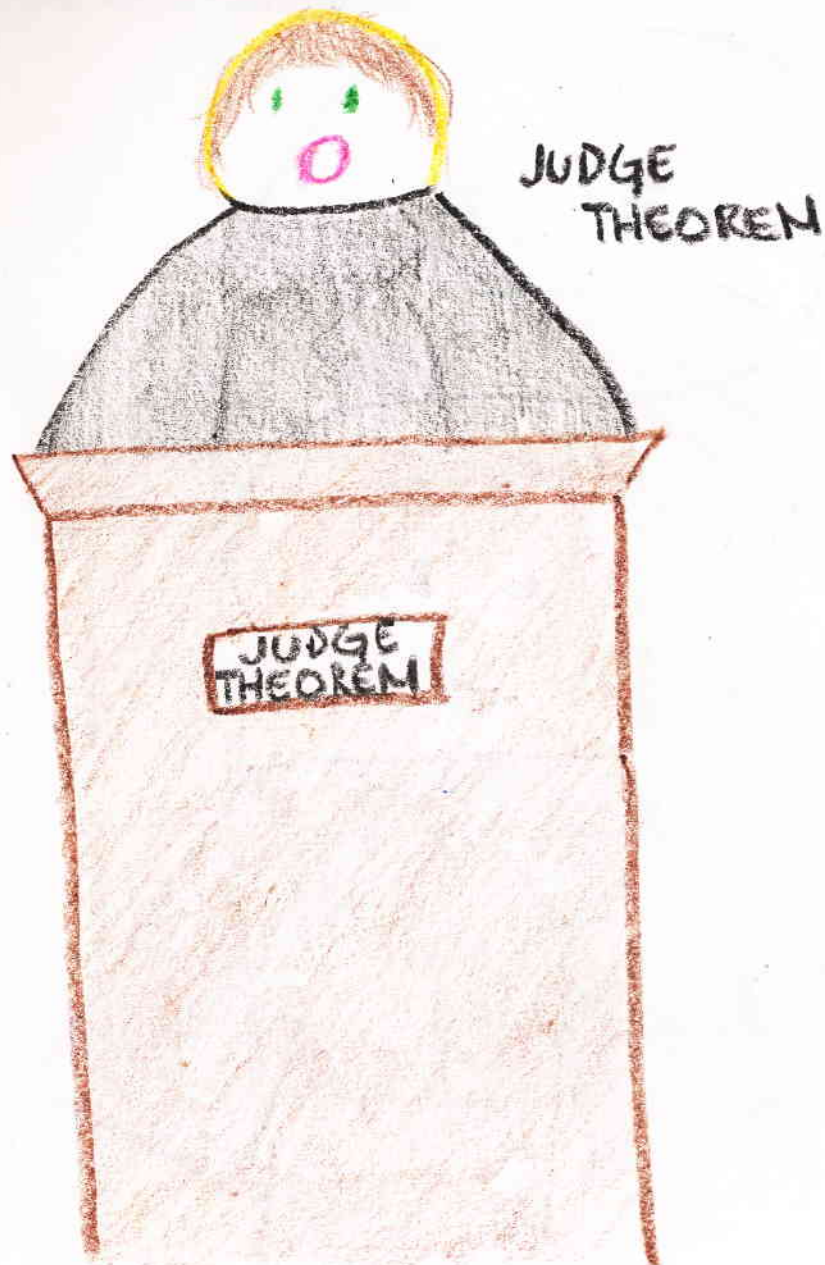


Given was being accused of saying that all right angles are congruent.



"Order in the court!" Judge Theorem yelled to quiet the audience.

Statement thought that he had an idea of how to prove that Given was innocent, but he would need Reason's help.



"The criminal today is being accused of saying the false statement that all right angles are congruent!" Judge Theorem announced.

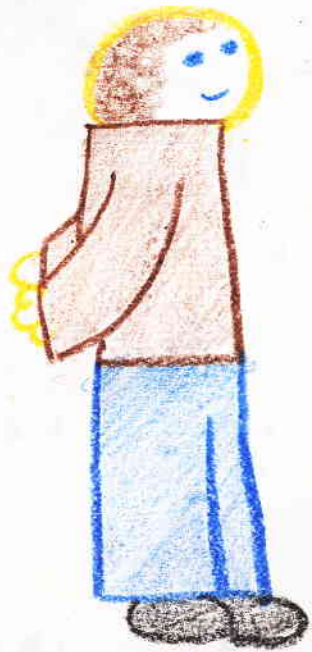
There were boos from the crowd. "Everybody knows that not all right angles are congruent!" a man in the front row yelled. "You're going to jail for this!" another shouted at Given.



But Statement and Reason remained calm and thought about how they were going to prove this case.

"Statement, you may speak," Judge Theorem told him.

"Thank you, Your Honor," Statement replied. "To start out, I completely agree with Given."



There were more boos. "What kind of lawyer are you?" asked the first man from before. "Are you *trying* to send your man to jail?"



"Quiet! Quiet!!" Judge Theorem screamed, slamming his gavel onto the table. "Continue, sir."

"Thank you, Your Honor. As I was saying, today, with the help of my father, Reason, I will prove that Given is innocent. My first statement is that a right angle is ninety degrees, correct?"



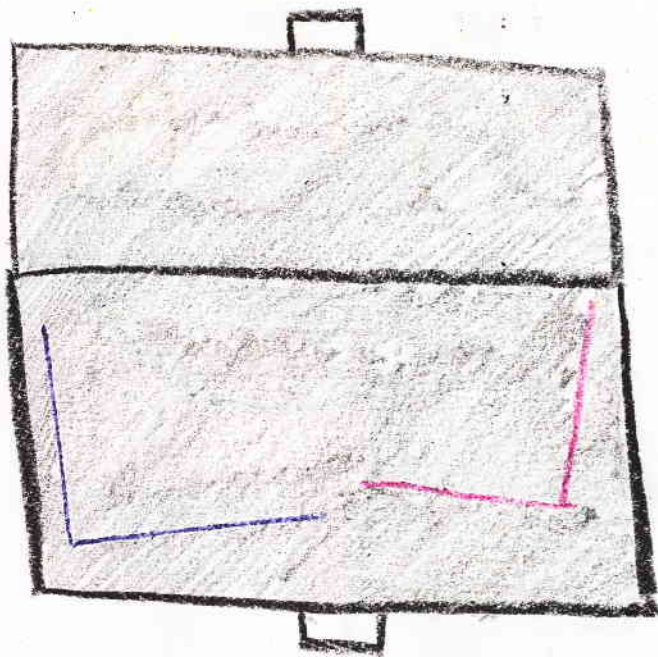
The Judge nodded, along with most members of the audience. "That is the definition of a right angle," Reason chirped in.



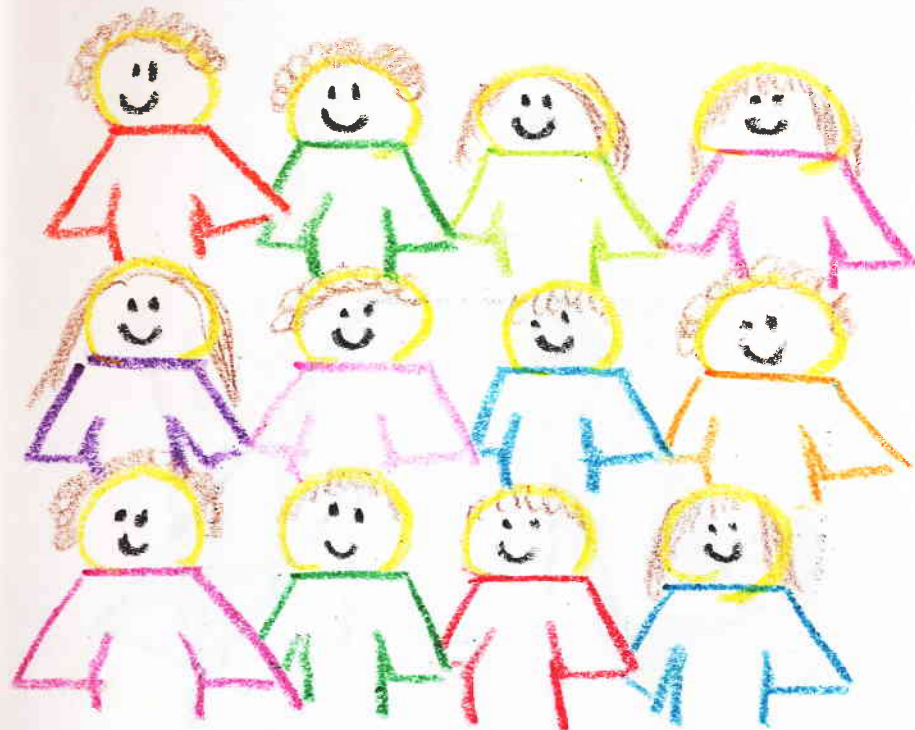
"I have with me two right angles" Statement said, pulling them out of his briefcase. "These are both right angles, because they are both ninety degrees, correct?"

Again, there were nods around the room. "Well, then the angles are congruent," Statement said confidently.

"Because if two angles have the same measure, then they are congruent," Reason added.

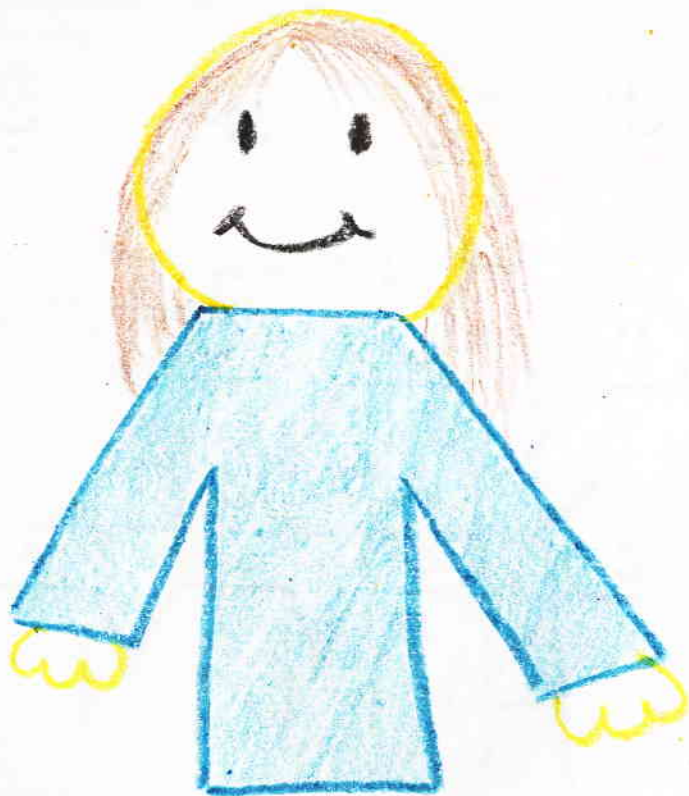


JURY  
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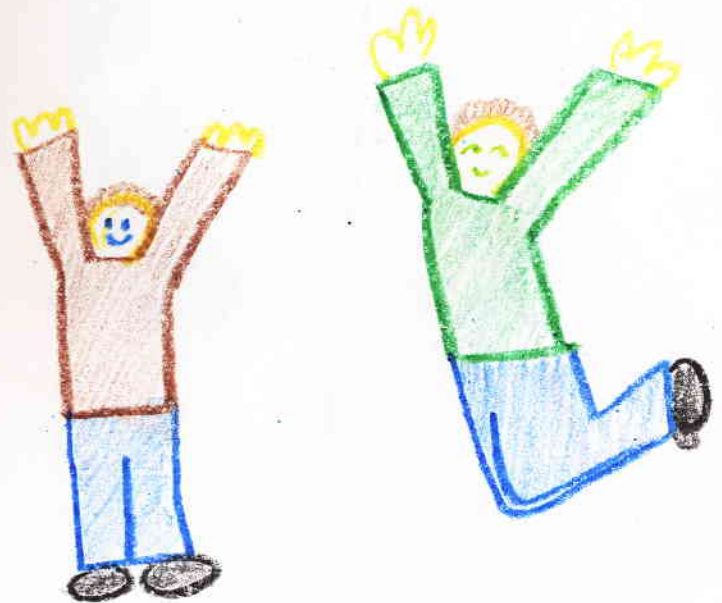
"That seems to make sense to me, Judge Theorem said. "But the jury must decide if Given is innocent or not.

All heads turned to the jury.



"We have come to a decision," one juror finally said.  
There was a moment of silence.  
"We declare the client, Given, proved innocent!"

Statement cheered, along with Reason, Given, and a few  
members of the audience.





STATEMENT      REASON

THE  
END

Because Statement proved so many people wrong at that trial at the Two Column, that case became known as the "Two-Column-Proof".