The Great Paper Caper debater! – a class debate

The Defendant
You are the person accused of the crime (Bear). Use the book to help you explain your reasons for cutting down the trees to make paper airplanes. Make a list.

The Prosecution
You are the team who are accusing defendant (Bear) of the crime. You need to ask him questions to find out where he was, when and why. Write down your questions.

The Defence
You are the team that must defend the defendant (Bear). Come up with a list of reasons why he is innocent of a crime and does not deserve punishment.

The Jury
You are the group that will decide whether the defendant (Bear) is guilty or not guilty. Make a list of reasons he is and isn’t guilty.

The Judge
Your job is to sentence the defendant (Bear). This means you must decide on a suitable punishment or a way for him to make up for what he has done wrong. Make a list of possible punishments and ways he can make up for his crime.
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Name: .................................................. Date: ..................................................

Teacher’s notes

This is a fantastic activity to undertake after reading *The Great Paper Caper* by Oliver Jeffers. It gives children the opportunity to develop their discussion and debate skills.

Explain to the class that they will hold a debate to act out what the woodland characters did when they thought Bear was guilty in *The Great Paper Caper*. Allocate the following roles and provide the role-play cards:

- **The Defendant** - the person who is accused of the crime, in this case, Bear.
- **The Prosecution** - tells Bear what he is guilty of and presents the evidence. Also asks Bear questions.
- **The Defence** – defends Bear by answering the questions so that he is not getting in to trouble.
- **Jury** – listens to both sides and decides whether Bear is guilty or not guilty (verdict).
- **Judge** – depending on the verdict, decides what the punishment will be (the sentence).

Let’s prepare our case and get the court in session!