

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Case File  
#2578

Elizabeth A. Borden vs. Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Forensics criminal investigators have been scouring Case #2578 for weeks and have come up with six pieces of evidence that could determine whether or not this case goes to trial for first degree murder.

Your job, as a forensic investigator, is to any evidence collected. ***Remember that you can only report based on evidence that you collect, so do not use anything that you cannot prove!***

**Background:**

A woman has been accused of murdering two victims. Andrew Borden was discovered in the sitting room, lying on the sofa, with wounds to the face. Abigail Borden was discovered upstairs, in the bedroom, with wounds to the back of the head.

Who murdered both of these people? The number one suspect is Elizabeth A. Borden, their daughter. However, evidence from the crime scene must be processed prior to filing charges.

**Assignment:**

Each of you will follow through the forensics lab processing each piece of evidence and recording the results.

After processing all of your evidence, you will then become the prosecution and write the indictment petitioning whether or not the court should hold a trial for the accused, based solely on the evidence you've processed.

You must NEATLY write your petition directly on the legal documents provided. You must only use black ink. Remember, ALL EVIDENCE IS CONFIDENTIAL. Do not share this information with anyone!

**Connection to *To Kill a Mockingbird*:**

Before a prosecution can even suggest that someone go to trial, a series of evidence MUST be processed. In the case of Tom Robinson, we don't see that process – the novel just jumps right into the trial; however, in the 1930s, the process for collecting evidence would have been a lot more difficult because they would not have had the technology that they can use today. Tom Robinson may not have even gone to trial if someone had gone through and actually provided sound evidence.

**This is due Monday October 5, 2015**

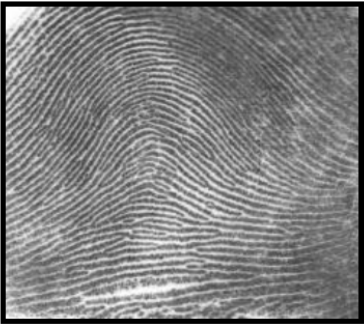
Table 1: Fingerprints

	Thumbprint
Tape your latent print in the box to the right.	
Identify your print pattern as either a loop, arch, or whorl	

Fingerprints were taken from all possible suspects. They are shown below:



Bridget Sullivan, maid



Emma Borden, sister



Elizabeth Borden, sister

Table 2: Phenolphthalein Results

Stains	Color (Pink or not Pink)	Observations (include whether or not sample is blood)
Blood Stain (Positive Control)		
Ketchup (Negative Control)		
Unknown 1 (found at scene)		

Table 3: Toxicology

Sample	Appearance of substance after indicator was added	Presence of Poison/Toxin? (Y/N)
Positive Control		
Negative Control		
Pigeon stomach contents		
Mother’s stomach contents		

Table 4: Trauma/Tool Marks

	Description of Measurements taken	Measurements (cm)
Measurements from victim		
Measurements from tool A		
Measurements from Tool B		
Measurements from Tool C		

Description of Victim’s wounds: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Handwriting/Forgery

Analysis of handwriting: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Results from chromatography analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Witness Statements

In a court of law, witness statements are considered direct evidence, which makes them extremely important to the prosecution and the defense of a case. Below are two witness statements made by people in relation to the crime committed. Please highlight or underline information that you believe crucial in helping this case go to trial.

### **Bridget Sullivan: House maid that was around when the day of the crime. Everyone called her 'Maggie'.**

"Then I laid down in the bed. I heard the City Hall bell ring and I looked at my clock and it was eleven o'clock. I wasn't drowsing or sleeping. In my judgment I think I was there three or four minutes. I don't think I went to sleep at all. I heard no sound; I didn't hear the opening or closing of the screen door. I can hear that from my room if anyone is careless and slams the door. The next thing was that Miss Lizzie hollered, "Maggie, come down!" I said, "What is the matter?" She says, "Come down quick; Father's dead; somebody came in and killed him." This might be ten or fifteen minutes after the clock struck eleven, as far as I can judge."

"When I got downstairs, I saw Miss Lizzie, standing with her back to the screen door. I went to go right in the sitting room and she says, "Oh, Maggie, don't go in. I have got to have a doctor quick. Go over. I have got to have the doctor." I went over to Dr. Bowen's right away, and when I came back, I says, "Miss Lizzie, where was you?" I says, "Didn't I leave the screen door hooked?" She says, "I was out in the back yard and heard a groan, and came in and the screen door was wide open." She says, "Go and get Miss Russell. I can't be alone in the house." So I got a hat and shawl and went. I had not found Dr. Bowen when I went to his house, but I told Mrs. Bowen that Mr. Borden was dead."

"When I got back to the house, after going for Miss Russell, Miss Lizzie was in the kitchen. After I came downstairs, she was on the lounge in the dining room. I did not see any blood on her. Not on her face or hands, or anywhere. As far as I can remember, her hair was in order."

### **Dr. Bowen: Practiced physician and surgeon, first person that Lizzie called for after her father was discovered.**

"On the morning of August 4<sup>th</sup>, I started out on my professional calls, as usual. I came back to my house between eleven and eleven-thirty. Mrs. Bowen was looking for me, and in consequence of what she said, I went to the Borden house, to the side or rear door. The only persons-living persons-in the house were Miss Lizzie and Mrs. Churchill, in the back entry, near the kitchen. I said, "Lizzie, what is the matter?" She replied, "Father has been killed", or "stabbed" – I wouldn't say which it was. I said, "Where is your father?" She answered, "In the sitting room." Nothing else was then said in reference to her father's tenants, or any other subject. I went into the dining room and thence to the sitting room.

"I made no other examination at the time, except to feel his pulse. Miss Lizzie had followed me part way through the dining room, and as I went back to the kitchen I asked her if she had seen anyone. She said, "I have not." Then I asked her, "Where have you been?" She replied "In the barn looking for some iron." She said she was afraid her father had had trouble with the tenants, and she had overheard loud conversation several times recently."

### **Dr. Wood: Physician and chemist; special attention to medical chemistry, to medico-legal cases, involving poisons and bloodstains.**

"The blue skirt has, near the pocket, a brownish smooch, which resembled blood, but a test showed it was not. Another, lower down, proved not to be blood. The waist had not even a suspicion of bloodstain. The white skirt had a small blood spot, six inches from the bottom of the skirt. It was 1/16 inch in diameter: the size of the head of a small pin. The corpuscles, examined under a high-power microscope, averaged 1/3243 of an inch, and it is therefore consistent with its being human blood. Some animals show a similar measurement: the seal, the possum, and one variety of guinea pig."

### **Newspaper Articles, Police Reports**

“Eli Bence, a clerk at S.R. Smith’s drug store...told police that Lizzie visited the store the day before the murder and attempted to purchase prussic acid, a deadly poison.”

“Lizzie was out in the backyard barn “looking for irons” (lead sinkers) for an upcoming fishing excursion. The barn loft where she said she looked revealed no footprints on the dusty floor.”

“Alice Russell, a family friend who stayed with the two Borden sisters in the days following the murders...told grand jurors that she had witnessed Lizzie Borden burning a blue dress in a kitchen fire allegedly because, as Lizzie explained her action, it was covered with ‘old paint.’”

### **Evidence Processed:**

Now that you’ve collected all of your evidence and read the witness statements, write down all of your findings and conclusions here:

#### **Fingerprints:**

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#### **Blood +/-:**

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#### **Poison +/-:**

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#### **Handwriting/Chromatography:**

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#### **Trauma/Weapons Analysis:**

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#### **Witness Statements:**

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(Exhibit processed Evidence here)

CONFIDENTIAL

Against the Peace and Dignity of the State of Massachusetts.

District Attorney 15 Judicial circuit of Massachusetts



