***The following are the witness statements for all 6 witnesses to this crime. You will use the information to complete strategy chart, witness questions, and other parts to the trial.***

**Witness Statement of Karen Miller**

My name is Karen Miller. I am 25 years old and divorced.

I was home on the evening of July 6. Around 7pm, Joyce was playing in the front yard. I asked her to close the front gate and come inside the house, since it was her bath time. As I watched her go to the gate, a black car slowly drove down the block. I think it was a late model Pontiac, but I’m not really sure. Suddenly, the barrel of a rifle or shotgun was pointing from the car window right at Joyce. Before I could say or do anything, there was an explosion, and the car took off quickly.

At that instant, I looked at Joyce and saw her fall to the ground. Horrified, I ran to her and saw blood all over her face and body.

I can’t describe the occupants of the black Pontiac. Still, I think the driver was a young woman.

A red Toyota truck was parked in front of my house that evening. I believe it belonged to a teenager named Oscar who lives across the street.

**Witness Statement of Joel Robertson**

I am Joel Robertson, and I am 21 years old. I have known Thomas for a few years, but we’re not close friends.

On the evening of July 5, I attended a party at Gail Duran’s house. I, and most of the others at the party drank beer for several hours. Around 3:30a.m., a fight broke out. I was not involved in the fight, but I saw Thomas Carter get hit over the head with a beer bottle. I did not know who did it. I and some of the others at the party took Thomas Carter to the hospital for emergency treatment. On the way to the hospital, Carter kept asking who hit him with the bottle. He was really angry. The people in the car suggested several names, including Oscar Hanks.

The next day about 5pm, Thomas Carter came over to my apartment. Carter was still very angry about what had happened the night before. I know from past experience that Evans is the type of guy to carry a grudge. He’s a real hothead. He was always getting into fights with guys at school and in our neighborhood. Carter told me that he thought he knew the guy who split open his scalp. He said he thought they guy was Oscar Hanks. Carter told me, “I’m going to put a scare into that guy that he won’t forget.”

We watched a video for a while and had a soft drink. Carter was really nervous. A little later, Carter started asking me about my gun collection. I am a hunter and collect rifles and shotguns. Carter was especially interested in one of my shotguns. He asked me to show him how to work it. He also asked me how far a shotgun would shoot. I responded that a shotgun would be effective up to about 20 yards. About 6pm, Evans left my apartment.

**Statement of Gail Duran**

My name is Gail Duran. I am 17 years old. I have been dating Thomas Carter for about a year.

On the evening of July 5, I had a party for about 50 friends while my parents were on vacation. During the party a lot of people got drunk on beer. Sometime around 3am, a fight broke out among about a dozen guys. Thomas was hit on the head with a beer bottle. There was blood all over the place. I asked Joel Robertson and some others to take him to the hospital while I tried to get everybody out of the house before the police came.

The next day Thomas called me to say he was all right and would be over to see me later on. Around 6:30pm, Thomas arrived at my place. He was very upset about getting hit the night before. He said he thought he knew who had hit him with the bottle. He said it was Oscar Hanks. Thomas then asked me to go for a ride with him. I agreed to go with him.

Thomas asked me to drive the car as he rode in the backseat. Thomas owns a Pontiac Firebird. He told me he wanted to look for Oscar Hanks. He gave me directions to drive to Fourth Street. While driving down Fourth Street, Tom said, “Hey, that’s his truck. Slow down, Gail.” As I slowed down, I noticed for the first time that Thomas had a shotgun in the back of the car with him.

At this point, I really got scared and began to swerve the car down the street. I had never seen Thomas act this way before. Then there was a loud bang, and Tom yelled to me, “Get us out of here, fast!” I managed to drive out of the neighborhood. I stopped on a quiet street. Thomas got into the driver’s seat and took me home.

On the way home, Thomas told me that the shotgun just went off by itself, but he did not think he had hit anything. I did not actually see the shotgun discharge, but I believe that the swerving motion of the car must have caused Thomas to accidentally pull the trigger. Thomas would never intentionally shoot anyone. He’s always been a sensitive and gentle guy. Sure, he had a few fist-fights when we were in high school, but they didn’t amount to anything. He’s basically a great guy.

**Statement of Thomas Wade Carter**

My name is Thomas Wade Carter, age 18. I have recently graduated from high school. I work at an auto parts store.

I was totally shocked when I was arrested for shooting a little girl. I have never been in serious trouble before. I was suspended from high school once or twice because of problems with other guys, but they always started the fights, not me. The same was true of the bar fight I was arrested for.

Gail Duran is my girlfriend. She and I have been going together for about a year. I went to her party on July 5 and had a good time drinking beer with my friends until I got in a fight with a dozen other guys around 3am. During the fight, I was struck in the back of the head with a beer bottle. Joel Robertson and some other guys at the party took me to the hospital. It took five stitches to close the wound on my scalp.

The next day (July 6), I called Gail and told her I was all right and that I would be dropping by later in the day.

I was angry at Oscar and wanted to pay him back some way. So I decided to take my father’s shotgun and scare him a little.

After picking up the shotgun, I stopped by Joel Robertson’s apartment around 5pm. I knew he was a hunter. I got him to tell me how to work a shotgun so I could make Oscar think I was serious. But I never knew the gun was loaded, and I never meant to hurt him. I just wanted to teach him a lesson.

From Joel’s place, I went over to see Gail. I asked her to go with me for a drive. I had her drive my car while I sat in the back seat looking for Oscar’s house. I knew he lived somewhere on Fourth Street. I also knew he drove a red Toyota truck. Finally, I spotted his truck parked along the street. But the car suddenly lurched, and the next thing I knew the shotgun went off accidently. I panicked. I didn’t know it was loaded! I told Gail to get out fo the neighborhood fast. I did not see anyone in the yard where Joyce Ann Miller was killed and certainly did not aim the shotgun at her. It was an accident.

**Statement made by Lillian Sweet**

My name is Lillian Sweet. I am a retired school principal. I have a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Illinois. I was a history teacher and a school guidance counselor before I became a principal.

I have known Thomas Evans since he was little boy. I’ve lived down the street from the Carter family for almost 20 years, and I was the principal of the high school that Thomas attended.

I did have to suspend him for brawling with other boys once or twice. But kids will be kids. I think Thomas was just following the lead of his friends in those days. As a principal, I was not very seriously concerned about Thomas’ behavior. I knew he’d grow up to be the fine young man he is today.

Thomas has always been a joy to have in the neighborhood. He is kind to old people and children. He helps his mother with grocery shopping. Sometimes he even drives me to my doctor appointments if the weather is bad or he has a free afternoon.

In my opinion, Thomas could never have done what he is accused of doing. He’s a very stable and responsible young man. He’s just not capable of murder.

**Statement made by Lt. Tony Jackson**

See the Police Report in which you have already taken notes on within your portfolio.