

finding out
gave in

got together
hold out

keeping back
put back

thrown out
turned down

Book Summary: *A Civil Action*

Author: Johnathan Harr, Genre: Non-Fiction

After (1) finding out (discovering) that her child had leukemia,¹ Anne Anderson began to notice many other cases of leukemia near her home in Woburn, Massachusetts. It was surprising, because leukemia is a rare disease. Soon, Anne realized that something in the town might have caused the cancer. Eventually, she (2) _____ (gathered) with other families and hired a lawyer.



During a court case, a lawyer gives evidence to defend a certain point of view.

Lawyer Jan Schlichtmann (3) _____ (refused) the case at first, but later he accepted the case. Schlichtmann soon found evidence that the town's water had been contaminated by a chemical called trichloroethylene (TCE). Schlichtmann filed a lawsuit against the companies responsible: Unifirst, W.R. Grace & Co., and Beatrice Foods, Inc. The lawsuit was a long and expensive one, and he had to hire other lawyers to assist him.

Unifirst settled² for a little over a million dollars. The money was immediately (4) _____ (reinvested) into the cases against the other two companies. The case against Beatrice Foods was (5) _____ (dismissed) because of a lack of evidence. Schlichtmann found a former employee of W.R. Grace who knew that the company had dumped dangerous chemicals in the water. Though Schlichtmann wanted a high settlement, a difficult financial situation meant that he couldn't (6) _____ (wait) any longer. He accepted a settlement for \$8 million from W.R. Grace.

Schlichtmann paid the money to the families, (7) _____ (withholding) expenses and fees. Some of the families thought that Schlichtmann charged too much, so he (8) _____ (yielded) and gave away more of the money. Schlichtmann would later lose his house and car and he even lived in his office for a time.