Handling stolen property

Exercise 1
Get into pairs and discuss the following:
a) What do you think the penalties can be for handling stolen goods?
b) What should you do if you suspect you are being offered stolen goods?

Exercise 2
Mark is 15. He bought a digital camera last year, but there were some serious consequences to the purchase...

‘Gary is this kid who lives on my estate. He’s in the year above me at school. He’s quite hard, always getting into punch-ups and stuff, and he’s been in trouble with the police a few times, but he’s always been alright to me. One night last summer I was on my way home after seeing my girlfriend. Gary was hanging around on the estate. He called me over and asked if I was interested in a good deal. We went over to the bus shelter and he pulled a brand new digital camera out of his record-bag. It was well nice and he only wanted twenty quid for it so I said I’d buy it off him. It had blatantly been nicked but who cares, if it wasn’t you that stole the stuff then what does it matter?’

The digital camera that Mark bought from Gary was actually his girlfriend’s. Gary and a mate had taken the camera from her by force while she was on her way home, and then cycled back to the estate. She reported the robbery to the police, and somebody else also witnessed Gary selling the stolen goods to Mark. The witness knew Gary and wished to remain anonymous so they reported what they had seen to Crimestoppers. As a consequence of both the witness’s and Mark’s girlfriend’s actions, Gary, his mate and (much to his surprise) Mark were all arrested. Mark now has a criminal record, and needless to say, his girlfriend dumped him.

Write three short accounts of what happened from the varying viewpoints of:
a) Mark
b) Mark’s girlfriend
c) the witness.
What might they have done differently if they could have? What advice could they offer to other people if they find themselves in a similar situation?