

The Account She Closes Herself

Eight activities

Activity 1: The three lines

List the three lines of Hencha's audit - the brush, the shrug, and the apology itself - and the question that decides collect-or-close. Which line is "the expensive line," and why? Two or three sentences.

Activity 2: The rehearsal ledger

What does Hencha notice about her three weeks of rehearsing apologies? What does she mean that she has been "re-killing" the brush every night? Two or three sentences.

Activity 3: Order the repair

Put these in the story's order, and say why the order matters: (a) the boundary is tested and holds; (b) the shrug; (c) the three-line audit; (d) the one plain naming; (e) the account stops pulling. One sentence on why the order matters.

Activity 4: The account math - a made-up set of numbers

The numbers in this activity are made up for practice. A ruined brush costs 14 dollars to replace. Rehearsing an apology that never comes costs about 20 minutes a day. (a) Over 3 weeks of rehearsals, how many hours does the waiting cost? If babysitting pays 9 dollars an hour, what is the rehearsal's cost in dollars - and how does it compare to the brush? (b) The story says collecting costs the collector. Name one more cost the arithmetic misses, and say whether it points toward collecting or closing. Show your steps.

Activity 5: "Fair."

When Hencha says "I don't lend the good ones anymore," Surah answers, after a silence, "Fair." Why does the clean sentence get further than the rehearsed speech would have? What makes a boundary hold without a lecture? Two or three sentences.

Activity 6: Draw the roll

Draw the canvas brush roll as Chapters 1-2 give it: the twelve pockets, the round, the flat, the small one, and what September did to three of them. Only what the story tells you. Caption it with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Osher's glove - a fictional case

A boy named Osher lends his good baseball glove to a cousin for the summer, and it comes back with the laces cut and a "gloves wear out anyway." Write the one plain naming Osher says, the clean boundary he sets when the next ask comes, and the sign that his account is closed. One sentence each, with names.

Activity 8: Word grid

Find the eight words in the grid. They all go left to right, one per row.

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B R U S H V W F G H
P A I N T W F G H U
A C C O U N T H U P
S H R U G G H U P M
B O R R O W U P M N
R E P A I R P M N O
B O U N D A R Y O R
C L O S E D N O R S
G H U P M N O R S T
H U P M N O R S T D

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The eight words: BRUSH, PAINT, ACCOUNT, SHRUG, BORROW, REPAIR, BOUNDARY, CLOSED. Which word names what Hencha does to the account herself, and which word names the line that cost more than the object?