



Facilitator note: Fictional chesed organizing and a failing slot. Do not ask students to name real classmates who failed a task; keep examples invented. A repeated failure usually describes the shape of the job before it describes the person - in this story's evidence. Swapping the volunteer out and managing the slot weekly are both legitimate options with real costs; the story chooses the third, a question with an exit, and the redesign stands only after the adult coordinator confirms it. The driving belongs to an adult; the teen runs the route, she does not operate it.

Activity 1: Sequence

Order:

- A. Gitti signs for the Thursday main: "Like clockwork."
- B. The second Thursday's tray arrives at eight forty-five.
- C. Zissy asks, "Is the slot wrong?"
- D. The first Thursday, no main dish comes at all - the side alone carries the table.
- E. The coordinator initials the redrawn sheet before any ask is made.
- F. Gitti signs the new roster's route in pen.

Why does the same girl fail the cooking slot and ace the route?

Activity 2: Three ways, three real costs

Zissy lays out three ways: swap her out quietly, manage the slot weekly, ask one question with an exit. All three are legitimate. From the story, write what each one costs and what each one protects. What does asking reveal in this story that the first two never learn?





Activity 3: The shape, not the person

Answer from the story: what exactly failed in the first two Thursdays - the cooking, the hour, the delivery, or Gitti's character? List what Gitti is reliably good at in the story. Then finish this sentence from the evidence: "The slot asked Gitti to be in two places at once, which were ___ and ___."

Activity 4: Roster and route arithmetic

The roster runs 6 weeks, 3 suppers a week, 2 trays a day. How many trays is that? Thursday's route: van leaves the bakery at 5:50, first porch 5:55, second porch 6:03, corner house 6:10. How many minutes is the route? If the main needs the full ten-minute wait at the first porch, and every later leg keeps its own driving time, when does the van reach the corner? The family eats at 6:30 - how much margin is left?

Activity 5: Before and after the question - a contrast from the story

Quote what Thursdays look like before the question (the two failures) and after the redesign (the route). The girl is the same girl. What changed - her effort, her honesty, or the shape of the job? Use one quoted line for each side.

Activity 6: Draw the question

Draw the school-yard moment when Zissy asks, "Is the slot wrong?" Show the observable scene: the open yard, the two girls standing apart with space around them, no crowd, no doorframe blocking the way out. Faces and poses are your choice. Caption the drawing with one line from the story that the moment turns on.





Activity 7: Redraw the sheet - follow-through plan

Design the roster page for the grandmother coming home from surgery: the cooking slots, the GETTING IT THERE column with a named adult driver for each day, the pickup times, the coordinator's confirmation line, and one line of policy for the not-ready tray (who waits, who reports, to whom, by when). Every line must name a person or a time - no "someone should check."

Activity 8: Word grid

Find eight words left to right. Row/column numbering begins at 1.

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

ROSTER, SLOT, MEALS, DRIVER, ASKED, ROUTE, KITCHEN, TRAYS. Which two words name what Zissy changed and what Gitti became part of?





Teacher answer key

1. A, D, B, C, E, F. The cooking slot asked her to be home cooking at an hour she is at work; the route uses the trip that already exists. Same girl, different shape.
2. Swapping out protects the sheet and can be done privately; it costs a reliable pair of hands and answers a question nobody asked. Weekly managing protects the meal and is normal roster practice; it costs a standing reminder and never asks why. Any of the three keeps Thursday fed. Asking costs ten uncomfortable minutes and buys the real explanation, and in this roster that explanation is what keeps the girl in - a different roster, with a different answer to the question, might rightly choose the swap.
3. The hour failed, and then the delivery - never the cooking. Gitti is reliable at what she signs for ("you sign for things and you do them"), and her silence about the bakery shift was a real failure of its own kind, kept private out of embarrassment; once asked with an exit, she tells the whole of it. The slot asked her to be in two places at once: the bakery until past five-thirty, and a kitchen producing a main dish for a six-thirty table.
4. $6 \times 3 \times 2 = 36$ trays. Route: 5:50 to 6:10 = 20 minutes. Full ten-minute wait at the first porch: depart 6:05, second porch 6:13 (8-minute leg), corner 6:20 (7-minute leg). Margin before the 6:30 meal: 10 minutes.
5. Before: "no main dish comes," and "the tray comes at eight forty-five." After: "The family eats at six-thirty, at their own table, at their own hour." Effort and caring were there all along; the shape of the job is what changed.
6. Open. The drawing should show the observable facts of the scene - open yard, two girls, space around them, no audience, nothing blocking the way out. Strong captions quote "Is the slot wrong?" or "You pass the house. Most weeks. At six." Any honest rendering counts.
7. Open. A strong sheet names two cooks and a named adult driver per day, pickup times, the coordinator's initials before any ask, and the policy lines - the coordinator's own rules from the story: the runner waits up to ten minutes at a not-ready porch and reports any late arrival to the organizer the same evening; trouble known by 5:40 means the coordinator drives the route herself, and trouble found later is phoned to her at once. "Someone should check" names no one and checks nothing.
8. ROSTER row 1 columns 1-6; SLOT row 2 columns 3-6; MEALS row 3 columns 2-6; DRIVER row 4 columns 4-9; ASKED row 5 columns 1-5; ROUTE row 6 columns 3-7; KITCHEN row 7 columns 2-8; TRAYS row 8 columns 2-6. Zissy changed the ROSTER (the sheet's shape); Gitti became part of the ROUTE.

