

The Eleven O'Clock Knock

Eight activities

Activity 1: Follow the worry

Trace the worry through Chapter 1: where does it start, where does it end, and who is awake holding it at midnight? What does the story mean by "it just changes rooms"?

Activity 2: The coat and the alarm

Meshulam admits he liked being the calm one ("a good coat to wear"), and later catches himself hoping Tovia fails. Why does the story call the ugly thought "the smoke alarm, not the fire"? What is the fire?

Activity 3: Two ways to hold it

In Chapter 4, refusing the knock does not free Meshulam - he holds the worry through guilt instead. What does he learn from that sleepless night? Why does the machine "work even when he pulls the plug"?

Activity 4: Boundary arithmetic (all numbers made up for practice)

Old system: 3 late reviews a week, 45 minutes each, plus 60 minutes of lying awake after each. New system: 3 after-supper reviews, 20 minutes each, no lost sleep. How many minutes per week does each system cost Meshulam? What does the arithmetic NOT capture? Show your steps.

Activity 5: "I don't mind being rented"

Why does telling Tovia to do the last pass in MESHULAM's voice work? What is the difference between renting a friend's calm and moving the worry onto the friend? Who carries it home in each case?

Activity 6: Draw the windowsill

Draw the last scene: two boys, two cups, the windowsill, ten minutes left. Only what can be seen - no labels for feelings. Caption with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Nechami's hallway - a fictional case

A girl named Nechami has a friend who cries to her in the hallway every single lunch about the same friendship fight, then goes to class cheerful while Nechami sits through afternoon lessons replaying it. Write: the system they accidentally built, the new shape Nechami could propose (when, where, how long), and the kind sentence that opens the conversation. One sentence each, with names.



Activity 8: Word grid

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

The eight words: MESHULAM, TOVIA, KNOCK, WORRY, SLEEP, ELEVEN, CARGO, SUPPER.

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