

The Envelope and the Notebook

Eight activities

Activity 1: Who does memory protect?

The story says memory "protects the collector and exposes the payer." In your own words, why is that true even when everyone is honest? What changes when the record lives on paper instead of in someone's head? Two or three sentences.

Activity 2: The four lines

List the four rules on the index card, and explain the fifth line - "the notebook protects the payer first." Why does that ordering matter for how the grade receives the system? Short answers.

Activity 3: Order the repair

Put these in the story's order, and say why the order matters: (a) the index card; (b) the pitch to the advisor; (c) the fifteen-dollar test; (d) the kitchen-table count of the old envelope; (e) the weekly total on the board. One sentence on why the order matters.

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

The numbers in this activity are made up for practice. A trip costs 25 a boy, 40 boys, so the fund targets 1,000. Suppose informal tracking loses or double-counts about 2% of payments through honest misremembering, and a receipt system loses about 0%. (a) How many dollars does 2% of 1,000 represent, and how many boys' full payments does that equal? (b) The venue deposit is 200 and non-refundable. Suppose that on deposit day the fund comes up 20 short because two boys had not yet paid their installment. What are the two honest ways to cover the gap, and what does each one cost someone? Show your steps.

Activity 5: "A net that's only ever going to catch honest people."

Matisyahu tells Yeshaya the system is a net that will only ever catch honest people. What does he mean? Why is that "what it's FOR"? Two or three sentences.

Activity 6: Draw the notebook

Draw the treasurer's notebook as Chapters 3-8 give it: the receipt lines, the handover page, the index card. Only what the story tells you. Caption it with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Huvi's team - a fictional case

A boy named Huvi collects the dues for his baseball team's equipment fund, and the payments have always been "remembered." Write the sentence he says to the team to introduce receipts without calling anyone dishonest, the one rule he writes on his own index card, and the moment the system proves itself by protecting a payer. 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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R E C E I P T F G H
E N V E L O P E H U
C O U N T F G H U P
T R E A S U R E R M
T R U S T H U P M N
F U N D H U P M N O
B A L A N C E N O R
P R O O F M 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: RECEIPT, ENVELOPE, COUNT, TREASURER, TRUST, FUND, BALANCE, PROOF.
Which word names what every payment deserves, and which word names what the old system ran on instead of paper?