

The Long Column

Eight activities

Activity 1: Eleven opinions

Riva collects eleven opinions and ends further from a decision. From Chapters 2 and 3, explain why collecting votes fails for this kind of choice. What makes a decision "only yours to make," and what still belongs to parents or teachers?

Activity 2: The eight cells

Draw Riva's paper structure from Chapter 4: the two sides, the cost-and-gain columns, the middle line that splits short from long - eight cells in all - and the small corner note. What does each dimension catch that a plain pros-and-cons list would miss?

Activity 3: Short and long

From the story, what goes in the SHORT boxes and what goes in the LONG boxes? Why are the short boxes "a fair fight" while the long boxes decide it? What does Riva notice about her own pencil before she notices the answer?

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

A summer job pays 900. A program costs 400 and runs the same weeks. A girl also earns 250 tutoring in the same year, either way. What does choosing the program cost her, in money, all-in? If the program cost 1300 instead, what changes - and which of Riva's written conditions does that touch? Show your steps.

Activity 5: Decision or mood?

Her neighbor says moods don't have conditions and decisions do. Using Riva's Chapter 6 lines, explain what the "what would change my mind" list does that a pros-and-cons list alone cannot. Why does a decision with conditions "look the same at midnight as at noon"?

Activity 6: Draw the scale

Draw Riva at the kitchen table holding one letter in each hand "like a scale." Only what can be seen - no labels for feelings. Caption with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Henka's Elul - a made-up case

A teen named Henka is offered a paid helper job at a sewing studio for Elul, and in the same week, her school announces a three-week head-start course in the subject she struggles with - same weeks, course has a fee. Build her paper (both sides, short and long): use the facts the prompt gives, and mark anything you add as your own guess - possibilities and unknowns go in the boxes AS possibilities and unknowns, not as certainties. Write her conditions line, and let her decide either way. With names.

Activity 8: Word grid

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

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

PLAN, COST, GAIN, LONG, SIDE, MIND, JOB, LIST. Which word names what separates a decision from a mood, and which word names the column that decides Riva's choice?