

The Morning After That Hasn't Happened

Eight activities

Activity 1: The board's blind spot

Sheindel's problem is that "the board lists everything they THOUGHT of. It cannot list what they haven't." In your own words, why can't a checklist protect against this - and what does the premortem use instead of a checklist? Two or three sentences.

Activity 2: The two rules

State the premortem's two rules as the story gives them. Why does "it already happened" change what people say? Why is the skippable item the most important one? Short answers.

Activity 3: Order the repair

Put these in the story's order, and say why the order matters: (a) the checkpoint drill and the practiced short-count sentence; (b) the failure rehearsal; (c) the van breaks down; (d) three holes get names and fixes; (e) the page for next year's chairs. One sentence on why the order matters.

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

The numbers in this activity are made up for practice. 211 girls walk 10 miles. Without a sweep, the fastest finish in about 2 hours and the slowest in about 4, with the last mile walked alone by about 3 girls. Water drunk averages 1 cup per girl at each station she passes. (a) With stations at miles 3, 6, and 8, how many cups should the committee plan for, plus a 10% margin? (b) A marshal counts her grade at 4 checkpoints. If each count takes 2 minutes and the 4 grades report to 1 master counter, who handles the reports one at a time, how long after the last girl passes a checkpoint can the committee KNOW everyone is accounted for? Show your steps.

Activity 5: "The cards taught us how to catch. Different skill."

The premortem never imagined the van, yet the committee handled it in minutes. In your own words, what is the difference between catching and the catch - and why is rehearsing the first worth more than guessing the second? Two or three sentences.

Activity 6: Draw the far fork

Draw the far fork as Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 give it: the route, the wrong turn, the signs, and the marshal. Only what the story tells you. Caption it with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Mindel's production - a fictional case

A girl named Mindel is chairing her school's production scenery crew, with everything on schedule and two weeks to go. Write the sentence she uses to open her crew's failure rehearsal, the one skippable item her crew most needs to say, and the rule she makes about how holes are received. 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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W A L K E R S F G H
P L A N V W F G H U
F L O P W F G H U P
S W E E P G H U P M
S T A T I O N P M N
M I L E S U P M N O
R O U T E P M N O R
H E A D C O U N T 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: WALKERS, PLAN, FLOP, SWEEP, STATION, MILES, ROUTE, HEADCOUNT. Which word names the imaginary event the committee interviews, and which word names the job invented so nobody walks alone?