

The Notice on the Maple

Eight activities

Activity 1: Sequence

Order: A. The notice goes up on the maple. B. The letter explains the rot and the decision. C. Chayala says the settled part out loud. D. She makes the still-to-choose list. E. She draws the tree with her sister. F. The crew comes, and the hollow shows. G. She pots six maple keys in the new light. Which step turns the story - and what would the story be without it?

Activity 2: Settled or still to choose?

Label S (settled - it cannot be changed now) or C (still to choose).

1. The rot inside the trunk.
2. Who owns the strip by the curb.
3. The removal day.
4. Whether to draw the tree.
5. What the trunk section becomes.
6. The potted seeds. Careful: feelings about the settled items are real and allowed. Settled means unchangeable, not unimportant.

Activity 3: The two lists

Write Chayala's two lists from the story - three settled things and four still-to-choose things. Who shows her the hollow core, and why does seeing it end the argument in her head? What does her mother mean by "Settled is settled. What isn't settled is what we do with the week"?

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

Suppose Chayala pots 6 keys and 2 sprout - what fraction sprout? Suppose the trunk section is 120 centimeters long and a bench seat needs 100 - how much is left over? The notice goes up Wednesday and the tree comes down the next Tuesday - how many days are between them?

Activity 5: Two sentences, two jobs

Quote "Can't someone check again?" and "The tree comes down Tuesday. I can't change it." What job is each sentence doing? Note: the first question is fair to ask once - two arborists did check. When does asking again stop being a question and start being a way of not saying the second sentence?

Activity 6: Draw the window

Draw Chayala's window before Tuesday: the branches, the notice on the trunk, the desk. Only what can be seen - no labels for feelings. Faces and poses are your choice. Caption with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Settled and still to choose - planning for a fictional case

A teen named Toba learns that the empty lot where the neighborhood children have played for years has been sold, and building starts next month. Write her settled list (two things), her still-to-choose list (three things), one person she could talk with, and one useful action. One sentence each, with names.

Activity 8: Word grid

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

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

SETTLED, CHOICE, TUESDAY, SEEDS, TRUNK, LIGHT, HOLLOW, DRAW. Which word names what the arborist found inside the trunk, and which word names what the seeds are for?