

The Quiet Rack

Eight activities

Activity 1: Remember the story

1. What are the three design flaws Yetta finds in the old room?
2. What is Yetta's ninety-second test, and why is speed privacy?
3. What replaces the clipboard, and how does Yetta answer "we fly blind"?
4. What happens with the five jumpers, and what does Yetta choose not to do?

Activity 2: Fact or guess

1. The old sign-out sheet recorded name, item, and size. Fact / Guess
2. Donations drop after the bag system starts. Fact / Guess
3. The girl who was asked her size never uses the rack again. Fact / Guess
4. The sponsor agrees to try the new design for one term. Fact / Guess

Activity 3: Think and write

1. None of these people were cruel, the story says - and yet "the room was perfectly designed - to keep away exactly the girls it was built for." How can a room be unkind without any unkind person?
2. "More information, less exchange." Explain the trade the sponsor finally sees.
3. Yetta says a list that lives in her head is still a list. What does she mean, and do you agree?

Activity 4: Apply it - Zissi's shelf

1. Zissi runs the grade's shared review-notes shelf - girls leave old notes, girls take what they need. Hardly anyone takes, because the shelf sits beside the teacher's desk where taking is visible. (a) Using the story, name the tax and redesign the shelf. (b) A teacher wants a sign-out sheet "to keep it fair." Write Zissi's answer in two or three sentences.
2. Why did the closed donation bags increase donations? What does the donor's privacy have to do with the taker's?
3. Name one place in your life where a record is kept "just in case." Who does it actually stop?

Activity 5: Scrambled words (from the story)

1. KACR
2. ZISE

3. STIF

4. STIL

Activity 6: Word work

Match each word to its meaning from the story.

1. jumble a. the quiet cost a system charges its users
2. tally b. everything mixed so nothing is findable fast
3. tax c. a count of totals, without names
4. turnover d. stock moving out and being replaced

Activity 7: Word search

Find the eight words hidden in the grid. All words run left to right.

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

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The eight words: RACK, SIZE, CLIPBOARD, PRIVACY, FITS, DONOR, LIST, JUMBLE.

Activity 8: Your turn - your quiet rack

Pick one system in your life that people avoid - a gemach, a program, a corner of your own house. Write five lines: what the avoidance tax is (what does using it cost a person in exposure?), and one design change that removes the tax without adding a list.