

The Right Table

Eight activities

Activity 1: Handled backwards

From Chapters 2-4, list Perri's two mistakes - one with news that was not hers, one with news that was. What makes them the same mistake worn two ways?

Activity 2: A hint is news in a coat

Perri never says the words "Chassi is engaged," yet Ruti knows in four seconds. Explain the coat line: "A hint is just news wearing a coat." Why does "ask me Sunday" tell as much as telling?

Activity 3: The three questions

Write Chassi's three questions from memory of Chapter 5, with a one-line explanation of each. Why does she say they are "sequence and setting, not secrecy"? What is the Shabbos-coat comparison saying about holding someone else's news?

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

Perri tells 1 friend. That friend tells 1 sister, who tells 2 neighbors, who each tell 2 people. How many people have the news by the end? How many heard it directly from the source, and how many heard it secondhand? And what can the count never tell you: whether the person who deserved to hear it first was in the chain at all? Show your steps.

Activity 5: The fish counter

Perri's mother is not angry - she is "hurt in a small, precise way." From Chapter 4 and the repair in Chapter 7, explain what "I wanted to hear it from you. First." actually means. What does the first look in Chapter 7 restore that a simple apology could not?

Activity 6: Draw the full kitchen

Draw Thursday six o'clock: the covered lists, the two women talking low, Perri in the doorway with the folded letter. Only what can be seen - no labels for feelings. Caption with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Mushky's two news days - a made-up case

A teen named Mushky learns her cousin had a baby boy (the family tells the great-grandmother Friday, in person), and the same day wins the class raffle. For each piece of news, write whose it is, who hears first, and one room-check Mushky should do before speaking. One sentence per answer, with names.



Activity 8: Word grid

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

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

NEWS, WAIT, ROOM, HERS, MINE, TURN, HOLD, ASK. Which word names what Perri holds like a Shabbos coat, and which word names what it was not yet, on Thursday?