

The Story That Gets to Finish

Eight activities

Activity 1: The two costs

In Chapter 2, Sura says, "Never mind. You tell it better anyway." In Chapter 5, Toiba discovers she has been walking around "with the wrong version of my best friend in my head." These are two different costs of the same habit. Explain each cost in your own words, and say which one the story treats as worse. Two or three sentences.

Activity 2: The audit numbers

In Chapter 3, Toiba counts her own supper. List the three things she counts (the finishes, the answered question, the stopped stories) with their numbers, and say whether the answered question is one of the finishes or separate. What question does she ask herself that she cannot answer? Short answers.

Activity 3: Order the repair

Put these in the story's order, and say why the order matters: (a) the index-card rules at the Shabbos meal; (b) Sura's choir story comes out in the space; (c) the bedtime audit; (d) Miryam's wedding-trip problem surfaces; (e) Toiba catches herself mid-sentence at the Wednesday table. One sentence on why the order matters.

Activity 4: Two suppers - a made-up set of numbers

The numbers in this activity are made up for practice. At one 30-minute supper, a girl counts: she finished other people's sentences 9 times and asked 2 questions. Two weeks later, at a 30-minute supper, she finishes 3 sentences and asks 7 questions. (a) What is her finishes-per-10-minutes rate at each supper? (b) What happens to her questions-per-10-minutes rate? (c) Her goal is zero finishes - is 3 a failure? Answer with the rates, and name one thing the numbers do not measure.

Activity 5: "It doesn't come out fast."

Sura says of her missed tryout, "I couldn't say it fast. It doesn't come out fast." What does she mean? What kinds of true things can only be said slowly? Why was Toiba's old speed a wall for exactly those things? Two or three sentences.

Activity 6: Draw the card

Draw Toiba's two rules as she carries them into the Shabbos meal - the index card, the two rules, and one moment from chapters 4-7 where a rule actually fires. Only what the story tells you. Caption it with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Pearly's answers column - a fictional case

A girl named Pearly is the fastest reader in her class discussion group - she always knows where the story is going, and says so, and the group has gone quiet. Her teacher gives her a job: write the discussion's questions column - before each meeting, she writes three questions she does NOT know the answer to. Write what changes at the next two meetings, one sentence each, and the sentence Pearly writes at the top of her column. 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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L I S T E N W B F Y
P A U S E M N O R S
S T O R Y I Q Z X J
S I S T E R G H U P
F I N I S H T C D E
Q U I E T J K V W B
Q U E S T I O N N O
T A B L E 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: LISTEN, PAUSE, STORY, SISTER, FINISH, QUIET, QUESTION, TABLE. Which word names what Toiba learns to do first, and which word names what Sura's story finally gets to do?