



Chesky and the Big Spill

Ages 6-9
A story and 9 activities



Chesky and the Big Spill

Chesky is carrying the grape juice to the table when his foot catches on the edge of the rug.

The bottle flies out of his hands. It bounces once on the floor, and purple juice splashes across the kitchen tiles, over the bottom of the cabinet, and onto Mommy's clean white tablecloth that is waiting on the chair.

For a second, nobody moves. The kitchen is so quiet that Chesky can hear the juice dripping.

His heart pounds. He looks at the door. Maybe he can slip out and say nothing. Maybe someone else will find it and think the dog did it. But they don't have a dog.

Then he hears Mommy's footsteps in the hall. He takes a breath. His face feels hot.

"Mommy," he says, before she even comes in. "I spilled the juice. It was an accident. I tripped on the rug."

Mommy stands in the doorway and looks at the purple puddle. Her eyebrows go up. Then she looks at Chesky. His shoulders are hunched, and his hands are clenched into fists.

"Oh my," she says. "That's quite a spill."

"I'm sorry. I'll clean it up."

"Are you hurt?"

"No."

"Then it's only juice," says Mommy. "Thank you for telling me right away. That makes it much easier."

Chesky blinks. He's been ready for a loud voice. Instead, Mommy hands him a stack of paper towels. "You start with the floor. I'll rescue the tablecloth."

They work side by side. Chesky presses the towels on the puddle and watches them turn purple. He wipes the cabinet. He gets down on his knees and rubs the grout between the tiles. Mommy dabs the tablecloth with cold water and a little soap.

"Will the stain come out?" asks Chesky.

"I think so. Cold water works best on grape juice. We'll see in the wash."

When the floor is shiny again, Chesky stands up. His knees are damp, and he smells like grapes. He doesn't feel scared anymore. He feels tired, and a little proud.

"Why did you tell me right away?" asks Mommy.

"I thought about running," says Chesky. "But then it would have been worse. And I'd have had a secret sitting on me all day."

"Secrets are heavy, aren't they?" says Mommy. "And you're right. A spill is easy to fix. Hiding makes it grow."

That night, Mommy sets the tablecloth on the Shabbos table. Chesky looks for the stain. He can't find one. Only a faint, pale spot near the corner, if you know where to look.

"It came out," he says.

"Mostly," says Mommy. "And what matters more is how it came out of you."

Chesky grins. On Friday afternoon, he carries the grape juice to the table again. This time, he walks slowly, and Mommy holds the door. Not one drop falls.

Mommy also shows him the trick for the rug. She puts a little rubber pad under the corner so it won't curl. "Now it won't trip anyone," she says. "You or me." Chesky likes that the mistake has helped fix something real.

At the Shabbos table, he tells the story to his little sister, who laughs so hard she hiccups. Chesky laughs too.



Activity 1 of 9

Remember the story

1. What does Chesky spill?

2. What does he trip on?

3. What does Mommy say works best on grape juice?

4. When does he carry the juice again?



Activity 2 of 9

Fact or guess? (circle one)

1. Chesky tells Mommy right away. Fact / Guess
2. Mommy yells at Chesky. Fact / Guess
3. The stain mostly comes out. Fact / Guess
4. Chesky's little sister laughs. Fact / Guess



Activity 3 of 9

Think and write

1. Why does Chesky think about running?

2. What happens when he tells the truth?

3. What can you do when you make a mistake?



Activity 4 of 9

Word search (find all 6)

Words: JUICE, SPILL, RUG, TABLECLOTH, TRUTH, CLEAN

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



Activity 5 of 9

Scrambled words (from the story)

1. UIJCE = _____

2. LLIPS = _____

3. LOHATCBELT = _____

4. EBTINCA = _____

5. EWTSOL = _____



Activity 6 of 9

Say it out loud

Practice each line in a calm, steady voice:

"I'm sorry. I did it. It was an accident."

"How can I help fix it?"

"I'll be more careful."

Activity 7 of 9

My chart

My Fix-It Chart

#	What happened	What I said	How I fixed it
Time 1			
Time 2			
Time 3			



Activity 8 of 9

Draw it

Draw Chesky and Mommy cleaning the purple puddle together.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing Chesky and Mommy cleaning the purple puddle together.



Activity 9 of 9

Answers

Remember the story:

1. Grape juice
2. The rug
3. Cold water
4. Friday afternoon

Fact or guess: 1 Fact; 2 Guess; 3 Fact; 4 Fact

Scrambled words: JUICE, SPILL, TABLECLOTH, CABINET, TOWELS

Think and write: answers will vary; talk them over together.