



Dovid and the Mixed-Up Names

Ages 6-9
A story and 9 activities



Dovid and the Mixed-Up Names

On the first day of the new year, Dovid walks into class and calls his teacher "Mommy."

It slips out. He is thinking about his lunch, and Morah Gila looks up, and the word comes out of his mouth before he can catch it.

"Good morning, Mommy."

The room goes quiet for one second. Then someone giggles. Then someone else snorts. Then the whole class bursts out laughing.

Dovid's face turns red from his chin to his hair. He wants to crawl under his desk. He wants to disappear into the floor.

"I didn't mean it," he says, but his voice cracks, and the class only laughs harder.

Morah Gila smiles kindly. "Dovid, that happens to teachers all the time. I once called my own teacher 'Mommy,' and I was twenty years old."

"Really?" Dovid peeks up.

"Really. Everybody has a funny slip once in a while. It just means you feel comfortable here."

A few kids settle down. But Moishy in the back row whispers, "Mommy Dovid," and snickers.

Dovid's stomach drops. He slides down in his chair and stares at the desk. All morning, he keeps quiet. When Morah asks questions, he doesn't raise

his hand. At recess, he sits on the bench by himself.

After a few minutes, his friend Yitzy comes and sits beside him. "You okay?"

"Everyone's laughing at me."

"They're laughing at the word," says Yitzy. "Not at you. I once called the principal 'Zaidy.'"

"You did?"

"In front of the whole school."

Dovid lets out a small laugh. "What did you do?"

"I laughed, too. And then I said, 'Well, he is very nice.' Everybody laughed, but kindly. By the next day, no one remembered."

Dovid thinks. The idea of laughing feels scary. But it feels scarier to sit alone.

When recess ends, he walks into the classroom. Moishy looks up with a grin, ready to tease him again.

"Hey, Mommy Dovid."

Dovid takes a breath. Then he smiles. "At least I didn't call the principal Zaidy," he says, grinning, and the class roars.

"Hey!" says Yitzy, grinning. "That was me!"

Everyone laughs again, but it is a different laughter, the warm kind. Even Moishy chuckles and says, "Okay, that was a good one."

Morah Gila winks. "A sense of humor is a gift."

That afternoon, Dovid notices something. The embarrassing moment has faded. His cheeks are back to normal. No one whispers anymore. The words were big in the morning and are small by the afternoon.

At home, he tells his mother the whole thing. She laughs until she has to wipe her eyes.

"You know what?" she says. "I'm proud of you. It takes courage to laugh at yourself."

Later, Morah Gila reads the class a funny story about a rabbi who calls his own wife "Rebbetzin" by mistake at breakfast. Dovid laughs the loudest. He sees that everyone, even grown-ups, trips over words.

The next day, a girl in his class calls the lunch lady "Bubby." Dovid is the first to say, "It happens to everyone."



Activity 1 of 9

Remember the story

1. What does Dovid call his teacher?

2. Who sits with him at recess?

3. What does Yitzy once call the principal?

4. What does the class do when Dovid jokes back?



Activity 2 of 9

Fact or guess? (circle one)

1. Morah Gila calls her own teacher Mommy once. Fact / Guess
2. Dovid never speaks to anyone again. Fact / Guess
3. Moishy teases him at first. Fact / Guess
4. By the afternoon the embarrassment has faded. Fact / Guess



Activity 3 of 9

Think and write

1. Why does Dovid want to hide?

2. What helps him feel better?

3. What can you do when you feel embarrassed?



Activity 4 of 9

Word search (find all 6)

Words: MOMMY, LAUGH, RECESS, TEACHER, SLIP, JOKE

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



Activity 5 of 9

Scrambled words (from the story)

1. RCHAEET = _____

2. GLHUA = _____

3. ERECSS = _____

4. PIANPRLIC = _____

5. CHBEN = _____



Activity 6 of 9

Say it out loud

Practice each line in a calm, steady voice:

"Everybody has a funny slip sometimes."

"I can laugh about it."

"It happens to everyone."



Activity 7 of 9

My chart

My Silly Moments Chart

Day / moment	What happened	How I felt	How it ended
Moment 1			
Moment 2			
Moment 3			



Activity 8 of 9

Draw it

Draw the whole class laughing with Dovid smiling in the middle.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing. It occupies the central portion of the page below the instructions.



Activity 9 of 9

Answers

Remember the story:

1. Mommy
2. Yitzy
3. Zaidy
4. Laughs in a warm way

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

Scrambled words: TEACHER, LAUGH, RECESS, PRINCIPAL, BENCH

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