



Mimi's Visit to Miri

Ages 6-9
A story and 9 activities



Mimi's Visit to Miri

Miri hasn't been in school for four days.

Mimi notices. She notices the empty chair beside her. She notices the missing voice in the lunchroom. When Morah Sara says, "Miri has a bad flu and will be home for a while," Mimi feels a pang.

"Can I do something for her?" she asks.

"That's a lovely thought," says Morah Sara. "It's a big mitzvah to visit someone who isn't well. It's called bikur cholim."

Mimi thinks about it all day. What will make Miri feel better?

At home, she tells her mother. "I want to visit Miri."

"She might be too sick for visitors," says Mommy. "Let me walk over and ask her mother."

A few minutes later, Mommy comes back. "She says Miri's feeling a little better, and she'd love a short visit tomorrow. Just twenty minutes."

Mimi jumps up. "What should I bring?"

"What do you think she'd like?"

Mimi thinks hard. She remembers the pictures Miri likes to draw. She remembers how Miri loves jokes. And she remembers how bored you get when you're stuck in bed.

That evening, she gathers her things. She makes a card with a big sun on the front, and writes inside: Get well soon, Miri! We miss you. Love, Mimi.

She adds a joke on the back: What do you call a sleeping bull? A bulldozer.

She makes a little booklet of twelve riddles. She cuts out paper stars in different colors. She wraps a few crackers in a napkin, because her mother says flu patients like plain things.

The next afternoon, she and her mother walk to Miri's house. Her heart is beating a little fast. What if Miri is too tired to talk? What if she is grumpy?

Miri's mother opens the door. "Come in, Mimi. She's been asking about you."

Miri is propped up on pillows in her bedroom, wrapped in a quilt. Her nose is red, and her eyes are puffy, but when she sees Mimi, her whole face lights up.

"Mimi!"

"Hi, Miri." Mimi holds out the card. "I brought you some things."

Miri reads the card. She laughs at the bulldozer joke, then coughs, then laughs again. She flips through the riddles. "What has hands but can't clap?"

"A clock," says Mimi.

"You know them already."

"I wrote them."

Miri hugs the stars to her chest. "I've been so bored. Everyone's at school."

"I know. We miss you. Morah drew a picture of you on the board."

Miri giggles. "What did she draw?"

"A girl with a very big nose."

They both burst out laughing, and Miri has to hold her chest because it hurts. But it is a good hurt.

They play a quiet game of cards. Mimi tells her about the class. The new puppet, the spelling test, the chocolate chip cookies someone brought.

When twenty minutes are up, Mimi stands. "I'll come again if you want."

"Please," says Miri. "I feel so much better."

On the way home, Mimi feels something warm in her chest. It is a different kind of happy than getting a gift. It is the happy of giving one.

Two days later, Miri comes back to school with a big smile.

"That visit helped me get better faster," she tells Mimi. "I think laughing is medicine."



Activity 1 of 9

Remember the story

1. What is visiting the sick called?

2. What does Mimi bring to Miri?

3. How long is the visit?

4. What does Miri say laughing is?



Activity 2 of 9

Fact or guess? (circle one)

1. Mimi writes a joke on the back of the card. Fact / Guess
2. Miri doesn't want to see Mimi. Fact / Guess
3. They play cards. Fact / Guess
4. Miri comes back to school two days later. Fact / Guess



Activity 3 of 9

Think and write

1. Who could you visit or cheer up this week?

2. Why does Mommy ask Miri's mother first?

3. What would make you feel better when you're sick?



Activity 4 of 9

Word search (find all 6)

Words: VISIT, FLU, JOKES, CARD, STARS, CHEER

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



Activity 5 of 9

Scrambled words (from the story)

1. IVIST = _____

2. REDDILS = _____

3. ARDSC = _____

4. TPUPPE = _____

5. SIOOECK = _____



Activity 6 of 9

Say it out loud

Practice each line in a calm, steady voice:

"I hope you feel better soon."

"I brought you something."

"I'll come again."



Activity 7 of 9

My chart

My Visit Chart

#	Who	What I brought	How it went
Visit 1			
Visit 2			
Visit 3			



Activity 8 of 9

Draw it

Draw Mimi handing Miri a card with a big sun on it.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing the scene described in the text above.



Activity 9 of 9

Answers

Remember the story:

1. Bikur cholim
2. A card, riddles, paper stars and crackers
3. About twenty minutes
4. Medicine

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

Scrambled words: VISIT, RIDDLES, CARDS, PUPPET, COOKIES

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