

The Coat on the Wrong Hook



Nussbaum Mind

Illustration coming soon

Ages 6-9



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Chapter 1: Two gray coats

At dismissal, the hallway is full of backpacks and zippers.

Yossi takes a gray coat from the third hook and pulls it on. It is warm. It smells a little like pencil shavings.

He walks toward the door with his friend Moishy.

"Your sleeves look long," says Moishy.

Yossi looks down. The cuffs hang over his knuckles.

"Maybe I grew shorter," he says, and Moishy laughs.

Chapter 2: The pocket

Outside, Yossi pushes his hands into the pockets.

His left hand finds a folded paper. His right hand finds a small red eraser shaped like a strawberry.

Yossi does not own a strawberry eraser.

He takes out the paper. It is a spelling list, and the name at the top says Shmuli.

His stomach drops like a ball down a staircase.

"This isn't my coat," he whispers.



Chapter 3: What he could do

Yossi stands still while kids stream past him.

The coat is warm. Nobody else has noticed. Mommy is not here yet, so nobody would ask.

He could keep the coat until tomorrow. He could say nothing.

But Shmuli's mother might be at the door right now, looking for a gray coat. Shmuli might be standing in the hallway with no jacket in the cold.

Yossi thinks about that. The tight feeling climbs into his throat.

"Moishy, I have to go back."

Chapter 4: Rebbi at the door

Rebbi stands at the classroom door, watching the last children leave. His dark jacket is buttoned to the top.

"Rebbi, I took the wrong coat," Yossi says. His words come out fast. "It looked like mine. I didn't check. It has Shmuli's name in the pocket."

Rebbi crouches slightly. "Thank you for telling me right away. Where is it from?"

"The third hook."

"And where is yours?"

Yossi blinks. He had not thought about his own coat.



"I don't know."

"Let's find out."

Chapter 5: The hook

They walk back along the hallway. A second gray coat hangs on the fourth hook. Its zipper pull is a little bent.

Yossi checks inside the collar. Written in black marker is YOSSI B.

"That's mine!"

Shmuli stands near the hooks, holding a lunch bag and no jacket. His cheeks are pink.

"I think you have my coat," he says.

Yossi takes it off. His arms feel strange without the long sleeves.

"I'm sorry. I should have looked inside before I put it on. I found your spelling list and your strawberry eraser."

Shmuli takes the coat. "I was looking everywhere."

Chapter 6: How to check

Rebbi waits while the boys trade coats.

"You both have gray coats," he says. "So there is a quick way to check. Look at the name inside the collar before you put your arms in."



Shmuli nods. Yossi nods too.

"Next time," Yossi says, "I will look first."

He does not feel perfect. His ears are still warm. But the knot in his throat is gone, and Shmuli is no longer in the hallway with nothing to wear.

Chapter 7: Home

On the way home, Yossi zips his own coat. It fits, and the sleeves end at his wrists.

"Mommy," he says, "today I wore the wrong coat for almost three minutes."

"Did it work out?"

"Yes. I gave it back."

Mommy smiles. "Good."

Tomorrow, before he puts his arms in, Yossi will check the name in the collar.



Coat order

Number the cards in story order.

Yossi tells Rebbi about the wrong coat.

Yossi takes a gray coat from the third hook.

Yossi finds Shmuli's spelling list in the pocket.

Yossi plans to check the name in the collar.

Yossi finds his own coat on the fourth hook.



Clue or guess?

Mark CLUE for what Yossi finds. Mark GUESS for what he only wonders about while he stands outside in chapter 3.

Story statement	CLUE	GUESS
The sleeves hang over his knuckles.	☐	☐
Shmuli might be standing in the hallway with no jacket.	☐	☐
A strawberry eraser is in the pocket.	☐	☐
Shmuli's mother is at the door.	☐	☐



Tell it plainly

Choose the sentence that says what happened. Rewrite one other sentence in your own words.

Sentence	Plain?
☐ I took the wrong coat. I didn't check.	
☐ Shmuli put his coat in my spot.	
☐ Maybe nobody will notice.	

One sentence in your own words



Fix it fast

Draw a path through the helpful steps.

Start

Stop and look in the pocket.

Keep the coat until tomorrow.

Tell Rebbi right away.

Say nothing.

Check the name in the collar next time.

A helpful next step



A check I can do

Use a fictional child. Write or tell one quick check before taking something that looks alike.

A quick check

Who could help



Look before you put on

Read the reminders with an adult. Choose one that fits. Final stickers are 2 1/4-inch squares.

**Check the
name first**

**Tell a grown-up
fast**

**Mix-ups can be
fixed**

**Look inside the
collar**

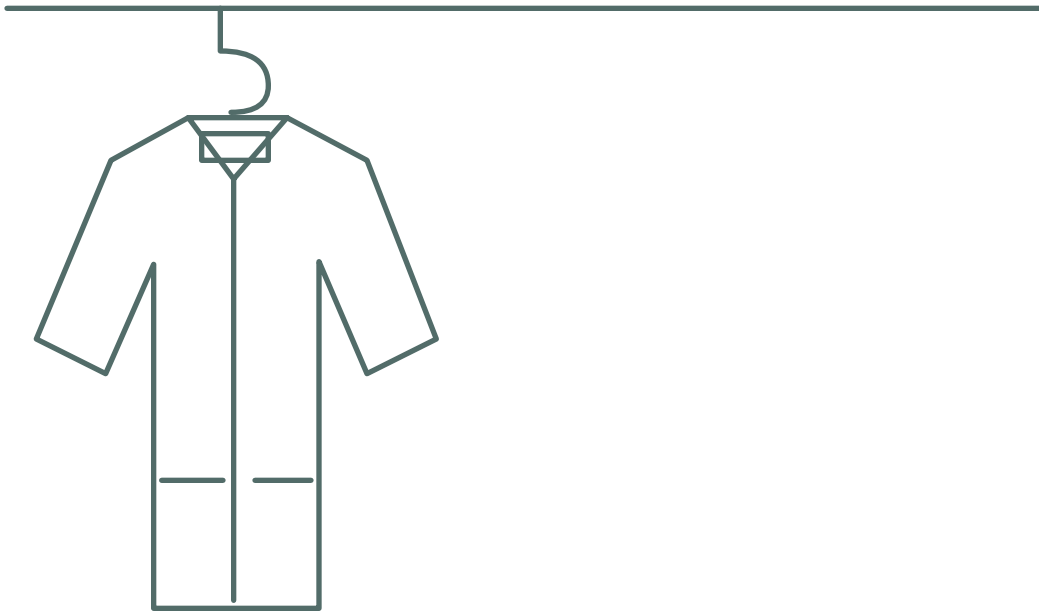
**Thank you for
telling**

Give it back



Two gray coats

Draw two gray coats on hooks. Make one zipper pull a little bent.
Write YOSSI B. inside one collar.



A detail I add to the coats



Find the coat words

Find COAT, HOOK, NAME, TELL, CHECK, POCKET, GRAY, SORRY. All go left to right. Tell one word's part in the story.

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

COAT**HOOK****NAME****TELL****CHECK****POCKET****GRAY****SORRY**

One word's part in the story



Parent notes and answers

Discussion questions:

What clues showed the coat was not Yossi's?

What could he have done instead of telling?

Who did he tell, and what did he say?

What quick check does Rebbi suggest?

How did Yossi feel after giving it back?

Parent tool: Children can notice a mistake nobody else has seen and say it plainly. Praise telling early, not perfection. Model a quick check habit (name inside the collar). Do not frame the mistake as stealing; it is a look-alike mix-up fixed right away.

1. Listed order 3, 1, 2, 5, 4.

2. CLUE: long sleeves, strawberry eraser, Shmuli's name on the list. GUESS: Shmuli's mother is at the door; Shmuli might have no jacket yet (Yossi only wonders in chapter 3).

3. Plain: I took the wrong coat. It looked like mine. Not plain: hiding it, blaming Shmuli, saying nothing.

4. Helpful nodes: Stop and look in the pocket; Tell Rebbi right away; Check the name in the collar next time. Not helpful: Keep the coat until tomorrow; Say nothing.

5. Open. Examples: read the name; look inside the collar; ask a teacher.

6. Open. A mix-up fixed fast is an ordinary mistake, not a disaster.

7. Open. No people needed.

8. COAT: row 1, column 1, right; HOOK: row 2, column 2, right; NAME: row 3, column 2, right; TELL: row 4, column 2, right; CHECK: row 5, column 2, right; POCKET: row 6, column 2, right; GRAY: row 7, column 2, right; SORRY: row 8, column 2, right