

The Line That Is Not "Have a Great Summer"



Nussbaum Mind

Illustration coming soon

Ages 12-15



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Chapter 1: The book goes around

On the last afternoon of the program, Tzippora holds a small notebook with a blue cover.

Chanie started it two weeks ago. It is a memory book. Each girl writes a page for every other girl, and the book goes around the room until it returns to its owner.

Now it is Tzippora's turn to hold Chanie's book. She has a pen and a clear page.

Chapter 2: The easy line

Tzippora writes, in her neat handwriting: Have a great summer! Hope to see you next year!

She looks at it. It is nice. It is also the line she has just written in four other girls' books, in nearly the same words.

She turns the page and starts the next girl's book. Have a great summer! Hope to see you next year!

By the sixth book, she can write the line without reading it.

Chapter 3: The page in her own book

When Chanie hands back Tzippora's book at the end, Tzippora reads the pages.



Most of them say the same thing. Have a great summer. Stay sweet. See you next year.

One page is different. Rochie wrote: You were the one who saved me a seat on the first day, when I did not know anybody. I did not forget it.

Tzippora reads it twice. Her throat feels warm.

She remembers saving the seat. It took two seconds. She did not know it mattered.

Chapter 4: The thought

Tzippora looks at the blue notebook, with its pages she has already written for Chanie.

I wrote something nice, she thinks. But it could have been for anyone.

Another thought arrives. Chanie will read it and see that it is the same as everyone's. It will feel like nothing.

Then a third thought. It is not too late. The page is not full.

Chapter 5: What is true and small

Tzippora finds Chanie by the water cooler. Chanie is holding eleven notebooks.

"Can I add something to yours?" Tzippora asks. "I wrote a quick line. I want to write a real one."



"Sure," says Chanie, and hands over the blue book.

Tzipora does not know what to write. She makes herself think of one real moment.

On Tuesday, the bus was late. Everyone was grumbling. Chanie handed out a pack of crackers from her bag and did not say anything about it.

Tzipora writes it down. She does not write that Chanie is the nicest girl ever. She writes what happened.

Chapter 6: The new line

Under the quick line, she writes: On Tuesday, when the bus was late and everyone was cranky, you passed around your crackers like it was nothing. I noticed. It made the wait easier.

She stops. It feels a little exposed. It is plain and true.

She hands the book back.

Chanie reads it standing up. She does not say anything for a moment.

"I did not think anyone saw that," Chanie says.

"I did."

Chapter 7: The rest of the books

That evening, Tzipora does not write the same line again.



She goes through the pile, one notebook at a time. For each girl, she thinks of one small thing she actually saw. Sara, who stayed to stack chairs. Malky, who laughed at her own spilled juice. Dina, who asked a quiet girl a real question.

Some pages take her a long time. Some are only two sentences.

At the end, Tzipora sits with her own book on her lap. She decides that next year she will begin with the true line.

She begins with the word that was true, and not the word that was easy.



Memory book order

Number the cards in story order.

Tzipora writes the same quick line in several memory books.

She reads Rochie's specific page in her own book.

She asks Chanie if she can add a real line.

She writes about the crackers on the late bus.

She writes one small true thing in each remaining book.



Fact or thought?

Mark FACT for what the story shows happened. Mark THOUGHT for what Tzipora thinks to herself.

Statement	FACT	THOUGHT
Chanie passes around crackers on Tuesday.	☐	☐
It could have been for anyone.	☐	☐
Rochie writes about the seat.	☐	☐
It will feel like nothing.	☐	☐



General or specific?

Choose the sentence that names something specific that was seen.
Rewrite one other sentence in your own words.

Sentence	Names something specific?
☐ You passed around your crackers on Tuesday.	
☐ You are the nicest girl ever.	
☐ You stayed to stack chairs.	

One sentence in your own words



A true note

Draw a path through the steps that help write a true note.

Start

Think of one real moment.

Copy the same line.

Write what happened.

Say how it helped.

Invent praise.

Keep it short if you need.

A short, true note



My true note

Use a fictional person. Write three true notes about small things seen.

A fictional person

Three small things seen

One true note in full



Note words

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

**Write what you
saw**

True is enough

Short is fine

**Name the
moment**

**Notice small
things**

Not too late



Blue notebook

Draw a blue notebook, open, with a pen beside it and a small pack of crackers.



A detail I add to the notebook



Find the note words

Find BOOK, TRUE, SMALL, NOTICE, PEN, BUS, CRACKERS, SEAT. All go left to right. Tell one word's part in the story.

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

BOOK**TRUE****SMALL****NOTICE****PEN****BUS****CRACKERS****SEAT**

One word's part in the story



Parent notes and answers

Discussion questions:

What line did Tzipora write in the first books?

What did Rochie's page say that was different?

What true moment did Tzipora choose for Chanie?

How did Chanie react?

What did Tzipora do with the rest of the books?

Parent tool: A specific, true sentence about something you saw can mean more than a general nice one. Write only what you actually noticed; do not invent praise. Short is fine. Use fictional examples only.

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

2. FACT: Chanie passes around crackers on Tuesday; Rochie writes about the seat. THOUGHT: it could have been for anyone; it will feel like nothing.

3. Specific: You passed around your crackers on Tuesday; You stayed to stack chairs. General: You are the nicest girl ever.

4. Useful nodes: Think of one real moment; Write what happened; Say how it helped; Keep it short if you need. Not useful nodes: Copy the same line; Invent praise.

5. Open. Example: name the day, say what happened, say how it helped.

6. Open. No result is promised.

7. Open. No people needed.

8. BOOK: row 1, column 1, right; TRUE: row 2, column 2, right; SMALL: row 3, column 2, right; NOTICE: row 4, column 2, right; PEN: row 5, column 2, right; BUS: row 6, column 2, right; CRACKERS: row 7, column 1, right; SEAT: row 8, column 1, right