

The Book That Stays Honest

Facilitator note: The skill is keeping a record honest under friendly pressure - the pressure here is not a bribe or a threat but a good man having a weak moment, with a hand on the shoulder and a reason that almost holds. Keep the frame on the three-part answer: what you saw, the rule, and the channel. The channel matters as much as the refusal - Chanoch does not just say no upward; he offers the league's own review, and the review gets used. The coach is never a villain (he carries the bases, he lets it go in one breath), and Berish's decency is part of the lesson: the person the favor was for never wanted it. Do not let this become "adults cheat" (one man, one weak moment, one recovery) or "rules before people" (the rule exists so every boy's marks mean the same thing - the rule is what protects the people, including Feivel, who never learns there was anything to protect him from). Students are not asked to disclose real pressures they have faced; Activity 7 is a fictional case.

Teacher answer key

1. What he saw - "I watched it hit his glove at knee height. He didn't run for it, and the sun was behind third." The rule - "An error is a ball a fielder should catch with ordinary effort." The channel - "The rule sheet says the scorer's call can be reviewed... if he rules it a hit, I'll change it myself and initial it." With only the first two, the answer is a wall - one boy's stubbornness against a coach; the channel turns the refusal into a process both of them can stand inside, and it proves Chanoch is defending the record, not his own authority.
2. A batted ball is an error when a fielder with ordinary effort should have made the play, and a hit when he could not - "score the ball," not the blame. The four facts: the sun was behind third base (not in Feivel's eyes); Feivel did not run for it (it came to him); the ball hit the glove square (not tipped or spinning); it was knee height.
3. The metronome boy - second by a hair, "who hits and never talks," loses the title if the mark moves. The book itself - "the thing nobody is the father of"; if the E moves when someone asks nicely, every mark becomes "a favor I haven't been asked for yet." Also fair: Berish - a title won by a moved mark is worth less to exactly the boy it was meant to honor; and Feivel - an E that disappears teaches the league's twelve-year-olds that the record protects the important, not the honest.
4. (a) $21/40 = .525$. (b) Error: $21/41 = .512$. Hit: $22/41 = .537$. (c) Second place is $.520$, so the hit book has the first boy ahead ($.537 > .520$) and the error book has him behind ($.512 < .520$). The scorer cannot choose because the book "cannot record what anyone wishes. It can only record what one honest boy saw" - the version must come from what happened, not from the result anyone wants. Steps shown.
5. The point of Chanoch is accuracy - the book exists so that every mark means the same thing for everyone, and a scorer who marks what people ask for is not a scorer at all. It matters that Berish refuses the favor because it shows the pressure was never really about him: "If I'm first

in June, I want it to be because I hit." The honest book costs him nothing he actually earned.

6. The page should show one game page, the fourth-inning play marked E9 (small, like everything he writes), and the coordinator's initials added Wednesday - the mark unchanged. Strong captions quote "score the ball" or "every mark in it means exactly what it meant on the day it was made." Any honest rendering counts.

7. Sample: Says - "Velvel says he records what happened, but if his friend thinks the game was really drawn, they can take the scoresheet to the faculty advisor together." Channel - "He offers to replay the last moves with the advisor watching, and to write whatever the advisor rules." Writes - "On Friday he posts the loss, unchanged, with his initials at the bottom of the sheet." All three parts, with names; wording may vary. (Case name Velvel is fictional.)

8. SCOREBOOK row 1 columns 1-9; INNING row 2 columns 1-6; ERROR row 3 columns 1-5; PENCIL row 4 columns 1-6; LEAGUE row 5 columns 1-6; COACH row 6 columns 1-5; CATCH row 7 columns 1-5; CALL row 8 columns 1-4. The mark nobody likes is the ERROR; the job the coach cannot overrule is the CALL - the scorer's call, reviewed only through the channel (accept CALL; SCOREBOOK with reasoning).