

The Ending on the Wall

Facilitator note: The engine is the hard stop - treating the ending as part of the promise, so people can plan on you. The story argues against two comfortable self-images at once: the overage that calls itself generosity (the club drifting late) and the leak that calls itself diligence (Talli's own late nights), so keep both in view - girls may see only one. The nuance in Chapter 6 matters and should not be skipped: the rule is not rigidity. Planned, announced extensions are fine; silent drift is the betrayal, because the people downstream - the mothers at the door - cannot see the wonderful reason, only the broken time. The tomorrow card is the mechanism that makes the stop kind instead of abrupt: nothing is dropped, it is postponed in writing. Expect pushback that ending mid-sentence hurts learning; the story's answer is the pack-and-preview (the learning leaves with a handle) and the honest beginning (girls bring the real question first once the end is fixed). The mother in Chapter 7 stays not-warm - trust is rebuilt on evidence, not apologies.

Teacher answer key

Activity 1: 1. Mothers waiting in coats doing silent arithmetic, and a girl getting "the look" for lateness Talli caused; the ending is part of the promise. 2. 4:00 settle and questions; 4:50 last question; 4:55 pack and preview; 5:00 out. 3. An index card per girl holding whatever was unfinished, seen first next session; the last-question rule cuts off, the card promises nothing is dropped. 4. She refuses the drift but announces a planned, signed-up extra review session - planned is fine, drift is the betrayal.

Activity 2: 1. Guess (their mothers pulled them over the broken five o'clock). 2. Fact. 3. Guess. 4. Fact.

Activity 3: Sample answers - 1. The people downstream can't see the good reason, only the broken time; the days it feels noble to run over are exactly when the promise is being tested. 2. The extra is announced and signed up in advance - planned, so families can plan; drift is unilateral and silent. 3. The work was always getting done; what leaked was the boundary - the discipline belongs at the end.

Activity 4: 1. (a) Sample: 11:00 warm-up and pieces; 11:45 last run-through; 11:55 pack and preview; 12:00 out. (b) Tomorrow card - the song, marked, first thing next practice - and out at noon; the song gets parked, not cut. 2. A planned, announced, signed-up longer practice before the recital - parents hear it before it happens. 3. Open - a parent, sibling, ride; the cost should be concrete (dinner late, a sibling's bedtime).

Activity 5: 1. CLUB. 2. PACK. 3. TRUST. 4. EARLY.

Activity 6: 1-b, 2-c, 3-a, 4-d.

Activity 7: CLUB row 1 columns 1-4; CLOCK row 2 columns 1-5; PACK row 3 columns 1-4; TRUST row 4 columns 1-5; PROMISE row 5 columns 1-7; ENDING row 6 columns 1-6; WAITING row 7 columns 1-7; EARLY row 8 columns 1-5

Activity 8: Open response; look for a four-time wall and a plausible first card.