

The Tape on the Bedroom Floor

Facilitator note: The skill is fixing the frame instead of the picture - treating a repeating conflict as something a setup can produce, testing that with evidence, and changing one variable at a time. Keep the frame on the evidence (the tally, the ingredients, the Shabbos comparison) and on the two honest limits: the tape fails because it treats the sister as the problem, and the Sunday fight is Blima's own and gets a real apology, not a gadget. The mother affirms an action anyone can copy ("Who are you and what have you done with my daughter" is teasing, not a verdict on Rikki), and nobody in the story ranks the sisters. Do not let this become "people don't matter, only systems" - the story says the opposite: the frame fix works because Blima stops treating Rikki as a problem to beat. Also do not let it become "every fight is just logistics" - the Sunday fight is not logistics, and Activity 5 is built on that. Students are not asked to disclose real conflicts with siblings; Activity 7 is a made-up case.

Teacher answer key

1. Fourteen fights in three weeks; twelve of the fourteen start between 5:45 and 6:15; eleven of the fourteen share the same three ingredients (hunger, one shared object, one deadline); zero fights on Shabbos, three weeks running. Accept any as the persuasive one with reasoning; the strongest answer is usually the Shabbos control, because it removes the ingredients without changing the people - "the day is built around meals" and there is no bus and no homework, so the same two sisters get along, which points the blame at the setup.
2. A mood depends on how you feel in the moment; 5:45 arrives daily whether anyone feels patient or not. Thursday proves it: the nicer plan survives one day and collapses at 5:47 over the saved wafers - "nice is a mood, and 5:45 is a fact. A mood loses to a fact most days." Niceness could not hold because it asked Blima to win the same fight again every evening, forever, on willpower.
3. The tape fails because it treats the room as if the problem is Rikki's existence in it - it makes every object a border case and hands them "a whole new subject" to fight about, and it freezes the conflict into geography. A managing fix changes what the hour demands of two people (food before the window, an agreed desk order, a landing spot for bags); a blaming fix builds the sister into the architecture. The tape "treats the room like the problem is that there is a Rikki in it."
4. (a) 13 of 15, or 13/15. (b) 5 fight-free evenings (7 minus 2). (c) The Shabbos pattern controls for the people, not for the ingredients: the same two sisters, with food, timing, and homework pressures all gone at once, stop fighting. It cannot show which ingredient does the work - Shabbos removes all of them together - but it shows the fights track the conditions and not the sisters, which no single count could show. Steps shown.
5. Excluding a counterexample is what corrupts evidence, so the mark stays - the record has to hold the fights the pattern does not explain. The label keeps the pattern honest: this one had

no clock pressure, no hunger, at most one object, so the frame neither produced it nor could have prevented it. It was Blima's own sharpness, "sharper than the scarf deserves." The bare apology shows the limit of frame-fixing: what is yours still has to be owned in words, directly, without "but you also." A better room does not excuse a sharp tongue.

6. Open. The door should show the tally sheet, the written desk schedule with alternating slots and Thursday free, and the pencil on the string, with Rikki's small-letter signup in Tuesday's 6:00-6:30 slot if the student includes it. Strong captions quote "the picture isn't broken. The frame is." or "She just uses it, the way you use a chair." Any honest rendering counts.

7. Sample: Tally - "Etty counts eleven fights in two weeks, nine of them after 7:30, and eight with the lamp between them." Change - "First she moves the lamp to the middle and gives each side its own light, before she tries anything about manners." Sentence - "'The table isn't too small,' Etty writes. 'The setup was.'" All three parts, with names, counts; wording may vary.

8. FRAME row 1 columns 1-5; SISTER row 2 columns 1-6; DESK row 3 columns 1-4; TALLY row 4 columns 1-5; HOOKS row 5 columns 1-5; MIRROR row 6 columns 1-6; SCHEDULE row 7 columns 1-8; HUNGRY row 8 columns 1-6. The thing she changes instead of herself is FRAME; the evidence that changes her mind is TALLY.