



Elsa High School Newsletter

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# Weekly Daf

Term 2 Edition 3

18 January 2019 - 12 Shevat 5779



## Dvar Torah: Beshalach

In this week's parsha, Parashat Beshalach, the people of Israel, after fleeing from Mitzrayim, are immediately faced with another challenge. Pharaoh sends an army to chase after them in order to force their return back to their slavery in Egypt. The Israelites find themselves trapped between the sea and Pharaoh's army. G-d commands Moses to raise his staff over the water and to split the sea. The sea splits and the people of Israel passed through, while the water closes over the Egyptian forces. Moses and the people of Israel were joyous as they escaped the hardships and years of slavery of Mitzrayim, so they begin to sing the famous "Song over the Sea" which has become part of our daily Tefillah.

As the Talmud describes, the splitting of the sea was the biggest miracle ever to occur in Jewish history. This type of miracle has not been experienced again since that time. It was an astonishing event which we can imagine had a significant impact on the people of Israel. This makes what comes after the splitting of the sea more unusual. As Moses began to lead the people through the wilderness of the desert, the people of Israel immediately began to complain of a lack of water. After this, they complained again saying that they remember the great food they once had in Egypt compared to the lack of food they were experiencing right then in the desert.

After experiencing such a miracle, it is difficult to comprehend how the people of Israel could begin to complain and show the limited faith they have in Hashem and his ability to provide.

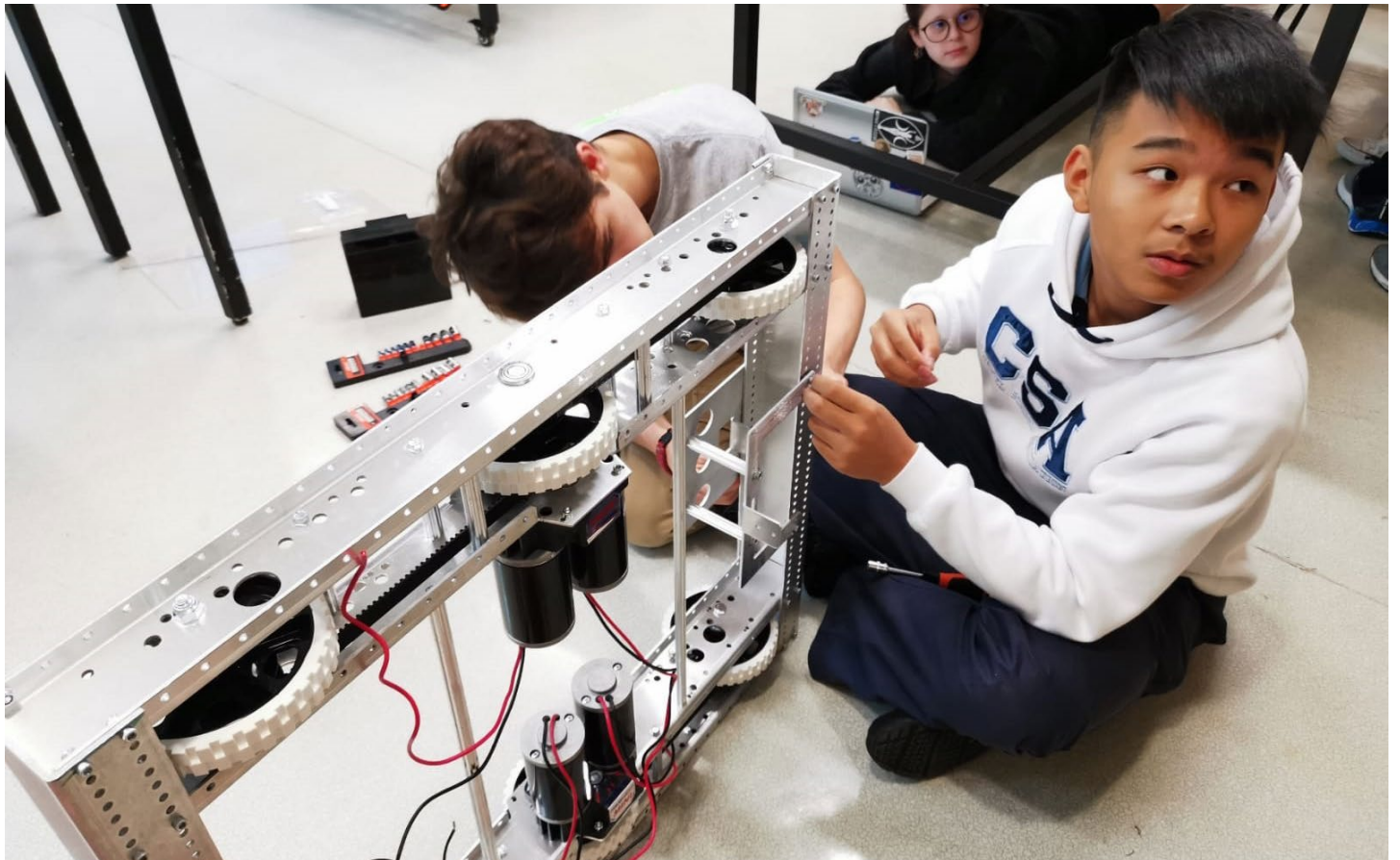
How could the people of Israel long for Egypt and wish for what they had, not long after experiencing the horrendous years of slavery, ten plagues and the miracle of the splitting of the sea? A common belief was that through the experience of such tremendous miracles, people could change and learn to improve themselves, their behaviour and habits by believing in Hashem and having faith that he will provide.

As seen through these events, the people of Israel did not change even after experiencing the largest and most significant event in Jewish history; it seemed to have little impact. Perhaps the people of Israel in fact did require this long journey in the desert which they were about to endure in order to change their ways and focus more of their faith on principles of the Torah.

From this week's parsha, we learn that it is the long term processes and projects which truly shape our values and beliefs. One key experience, powerful as it may be, doesn't portray the same impact. I experience this personally as part of my experience through the CAS programme. Performing different projects related to Creativity, Activity and Service really allows you to focus on the different outcomes and implications these experiences can bring you through consistent commitment, whereas, a one-off or small scale activity has less of an influence and beneficial aspect.

Shabbat shalom!

Stephanie Fleischer Grade 12



## FIRST Robotics Competition Weekly Update: Week 2

Last week, our objective was to design the robot realistically, and according to its functions. This week we started to build the robot and watch it slowly come together. Our dedicated building team has accomplished a lot this week. They have finished the drive base (the mechanism that allows the robot to move) and started working on the bumpers of the robot (the protective "padding" on the exterior of the robot, that allows it to bump into other robots or objects on the field without being damaged).

The team has also been building a mock field, to practice controlling the robot in the competition. The more practice we can get the more confident we can be in ensuring that our robot can perform the tasks it has to, as well as finding problems sooner, so that we can fix them before the actual competition. The team has also started building a shipping crate for the transportation of the robot to New York.

In addition, our coding team has been working hard to ensure that the robot can

perform the right functions and that they are continually being mentored so that they can overcome issues we may have in the future.

Our marketing and fundraising team has also been continuing the campaign for the competition, posting photos of the process on our Instagram ([@prism\\_7242](https://www.instagram.com/prism_7242)). There is also a video of the process being planned in order to exhibit the hard work that is going into the robot. Follow us and check it out!

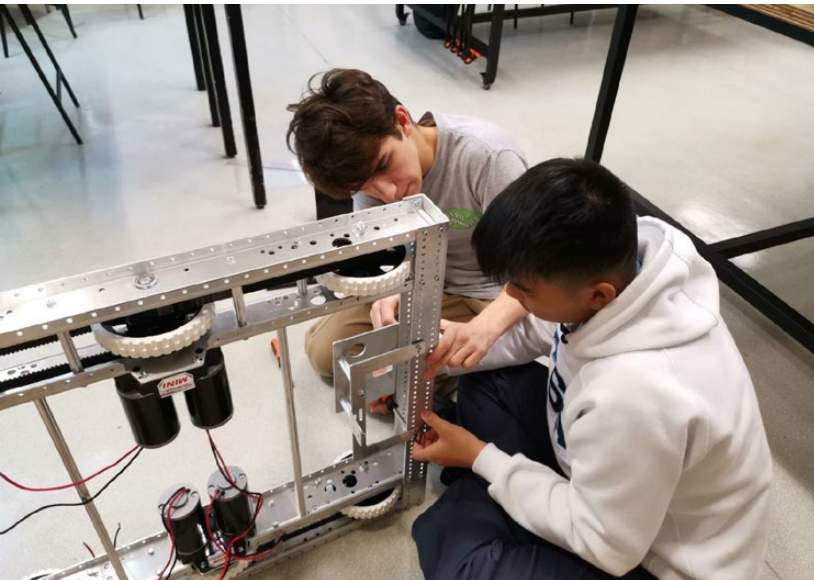
Our team is working extremely hard in order to build a robot to the best of our abilities, coming in to work on the robot during any spare time we have. We have had a strong start, and will hopefully continue to progress like this for the next three, pressure-filled, months of the competition.

Look out for next week's news!

Arya Idan-Cummins Grade 11







*Hello, world: the robot begins to take shape*





## CAS and ESS Reflections

This week saw three Grade 11 students taking Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) present their findings from their class excursion with Pre-K and Nursery students from the Holly Rofé Early Learning Centre. The Pre-K and Nursery grades have been exploring the topic of 'Sharing the Planet', and ideas about saving our planet and protecting the seas.

The IB DP students Arya Idan-Cummins, Louis Effron and Sammy Yeung, with the support from Mr. Stone and myself went out on Kayaks to conduct an ESS experiment which also linked with participating in a Sea Clean Up. Back ashore, Grade 11 explained to 60 PYP students what they found both in the sea and on the beach and ways we can save our planet. The Pre-K and Nursery students had very valuable ideas and facts which they shared with us, the students had clearly explored this unit and they were all very enthusiastic about

sharing their ideas.

It was very special to see students connect and share what they have learnt in lessons to what they were able to find in the sea and beach. Thank you very much to all the teachers and support staff from Pre-K and Nursery, we look forward for more opportunities to demonstrate Service and Action.

Thank you and Shabbat Shalom.



**Mr. Roshan Julian**  
Director of  
Experiential Learning



## CAS Perspective

With a drastic amount of trash being carelessly tossed into the waters of Hong Kong's beaches every day, Arya and I have grown increasingly concerned and decided to finally take action against it. Through hosting fundraisers, such as the massively popular Sponge Slunge, we hope to purchase sea kayaks for Elsa High School, in order to allow for the students to go out on occasional trips to the ocean in an effort to clean it.

This past Tuesday, we, alongside Sammy Yeung, Mr. Stone,

and Mr. Julian, organised the first ocean clean up initiative of our CAS project. The day consisted of travelling to Stanley Main Beach, renting several kayaks, and collecting whatever trash we saw, in order to more effectively plan how our future trips to the ocean would pan out.

However, we were met with little success, as there was much less trash than usual due to the closing of Hong Kong's factories in preparation for the Chinese New Year. But despite this, the trip proved itself to be useful in teaching Arya and I how to handle any circumstance that might present itself, and prepare accordingly.

We hope to soon be leading our first official ocean clean up initiative at Elsa High School, and that those of you wish to help solve the issue of Hong Kong's polluted environment will join us and make an active change towards cleaning our beautiful beaches and bettering our city!

Louis Effron Grade 11



## ESS Perspective

On Tuesday, a group of students kayaked throughout Tai Tam Bay to conduct an experiment for our Environmental Systems and Societies class. We are currently learning about ecological zonation and succession, hence, we kayaked from Stanley Main beach throughout Tai Tam Bay. Water samples were collected in order for us to carry out an experiment to investigate the pH levels of the water in the bay and the effect of pollution and pollutants on the pH levels in the ocean.

We observed and studied the zonation and succession of the sandy shore and the sea – zonation refers to the arrangement or patterning of plant communities or ecosystems into parallel bands (or ‘zones’) in response to a change in an environmental factor in relation to its latitude and the climate; whereas succession refers to the orderly process of change over time in a community of a physical environment. Thus, we documented the conclusions of our observation of the environment, and successfully collected water samples in which we will experiment with later on in the school science laboratory.

Thanks to Mr. Stone and Mr. Julian for organising this interdisciplinary experience for us!

Sammy Yeung Grade 11



## Summer Programmes

Last Thursday lunchtime, Mr Ford held a summer programs event for both students and parents discussing the benefits of summer college programs and its importance for applying later on. This talk has provided us, the students, with the realisation that we must take action early on in order to stand out as a student. This not only helps guide students with future interests but helps bolster your college application.

Summer programs are great for those who have a busy school year, allowing them to show their specific interests and build connections through their university of choice. Many universities have summer programs granting students a variety of choice and freedom to explore. I personally have taken away lots from this talk and will soon take action into exploring the summer college programs, aiming to find my interest and develop it further.

It is important to act early to provide a personal, ‘wow factor’ in your college application, and summer programs are a perfect way to achieve this. Thank you to Mr. Ford for inspiring us to take action!

Sophie Effron Grade 9

## Hong Kong from West to East

Our resident French teacher, Ms. Fosseprez underwent an enormous challenge last weekend when she took part in Hong Kong's 26th Green Power Hike, an intense 50km hike across Hong Kong island. We caught up with her to get the lowdown on endurance hiking in Hong Kong.

Interview conducted by Louis Effron and Issy Lyons



**What inspired you to do the 50km hike?** The personal challenge of doing it. Since I come from Belgium, a 'flat' country, hiking is something new that I had discovered since coming to Hong Kong. I mainly wanted to do the 50k for personal reasons, however I also wanted to do it because I feel the Green Power hike goes to a good cause. When you enter, you need to give a donation that goes to the Green Power association, and they take care of the country parks.

**What was the experience like?** I participated in the Green Power race and completed the entire Hong Kong trail. So, I started from Victoria Peak and went all the way to Big Wave Bay. It was 50 kilometres and this was the second time I did it, I was better prepared and I knew what to expect. I was prepared well, physically as well as mentally. I also had the chance to do it with a friend this year, and it was his first time, so we went

together but as individual walkers.

**What did the preparation for this endeavour entail?**

Last year when I finished the 50 km, I felt physically broken, so this year I wanted to be better prepared. That involved hiking every weekend with my friends, starting in October, doing 20-22km hikes as well as going to the gym to develop my physical strength.

**How would you describe the experience?** It was very interesting you can be outdoors all day looking at nice landscapes. The hard thing this year was the pollution. On the day of the hike, it was extremely high - almost AQI200. That was probably the hardest part, just because each time you'd climb a mountain, the pollution hit you and you almost couldn't breathe. It was good, but hard.



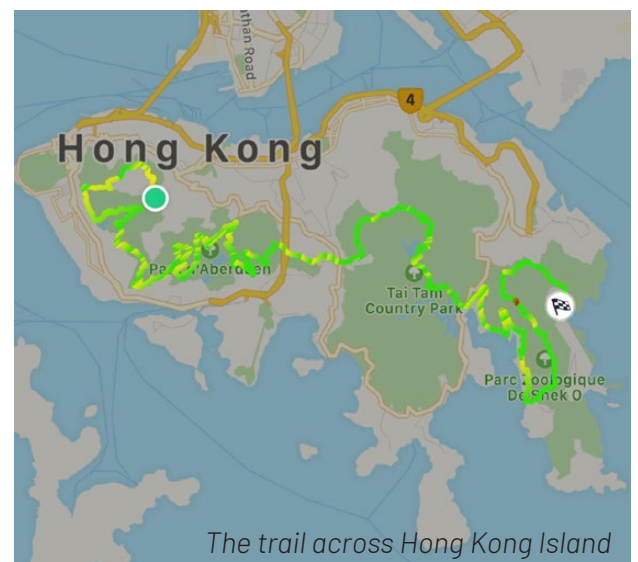




**What were some of the challenges on the hike? Can you specify the most difficult aspect?** Other than the pollution, the hardest part was the final section of the hike, because I knew it was the last section and I was almost done. I just wanted to go home but still needed to walk the 9km of Dragon's Back. We had to go all the way up and then all the way back down.

**What would you say you've gained from completing the hike?** That's a good question. Just to be able to say that I've done it and for the second time. I would definitely do it again next year but I'd try to improve my time. I've mostly gained satisfaction from completing the hike. There are teams and individual walkers, and there were around 400 individual participants. Only 81 of them were women, and I was happy, as a woman, to finish it.

**What would your advice be to anyone looking to complete this challenge?** To not underestimate the hike because people think that it is just walking and that the Hong Kong trail is mostly flat. But it still requires a lot of endurance and you must work on this for the day while also being prepared with a sufficient amount of food and water. Because it is a Green Power hike, they don't provide any plastic bottles so you must come ready with everything, especially some bottles to refill. You really do need to be well prepared physically and mentally on the day.



# Announcements

**Happy Birthday to**  
**Max Valihora, Duncan Lin,**  
**Iska Guitelmann, Samuel**  
**Zeidan, Agam Himmelman,**  
**Fabio Caviglia**



We hope you've enjoyed reading  
The Weekly Daf!

From **The Weekly Daf Team**

Tyra Dahlberg, Louis Effron, Hanna Hipwell-Serfaty, Ian  
Lyons, Issy Lyons, Luis Yap and Mr. Dan Bartholomew



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## CARMEL ANNUAL FUND



Thank you to all who have pledged so far

Please visit [www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkwprj0azvroo](http://www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkwprj0azvroo)  
to find out how you can contribute

## PTA Announcements



Carmel Elsa PTA invites parents to

### Tips for Managing Time

Wednesday 23 January at 12:30pm  
Elsa 3/F, Davidson Conference Room

#### Special Guest Presenter

**Valerie Hotton**, Coach and Trainer  
CARE Consulting, D.i.S.C certified, ACC  
certified of International Coach Federation

Time is life's greatest equalizer. No matter who  
you are, your age, income, gender, race or religion,  
you have the same amount of time as the next  
person. So it's not about how much time you have;  
it's about how you manage it.

This isn't about achieving goals around the clock.  
This is about quality of life.

This course also benefits students, teaching them  
to better know themselves and to find their way.

RSVP to Nancy at [elsahighadmin@carmel.edu.hk](mailto:elsahighadmin@carmel.edu.hk)





## KUNG HEI FAT CHOI

Dear Parents,  
Please join us for our annual  
**Chinese New Year Lunch**  
Wednesday 30th January 2019  
12.15pm - 2.15pm  
JCC, King David Room  
70 Robinson Road, Level 1  
HKD 250 per person payable at the door

RSVP Nancy: [elsahighadmin@carmel.edu.hk](mailto:elsahighadmin@carmel.edu.hk) Please bring photo ID

## ATTENTION HIKING LOVERS!

### AMAH ROCK HIKE

Thursday 31 January 9:30am

Join us to experience views of Tai Mo Shan, Needle Hill, Grassy Hill, Ma On Shan, the Hunch Backs, and the beautiful Amah Rock.

The group will depart 9:30am Thursday 31 January and walk the Sha Tin Au Section 5 of the Wilson Trail, an easy 7.4 km (2.5 hour) hike.

This is an all-campus event.

To RSVP and for more details please  
Whatsapp Ronit at 66886010

# Carmel Library

## Books of the Week

Support at home is key to how young people approach reading for pleasure. Every week we will be promoting books new and old, fiction and non-fiction for readers of all ages and levels.

Our libraries are **open to students and parents** alike and books can be borrowed through students' accounts.

These books, and more, can be found directly:  
[libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php](http://libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php)  
or through our school library site:  
[carmel.edu.hk/learning/library](http://carmel.edu.hk/learning/library)

### **We Are All Made of Molecules** by Susin Nielsen

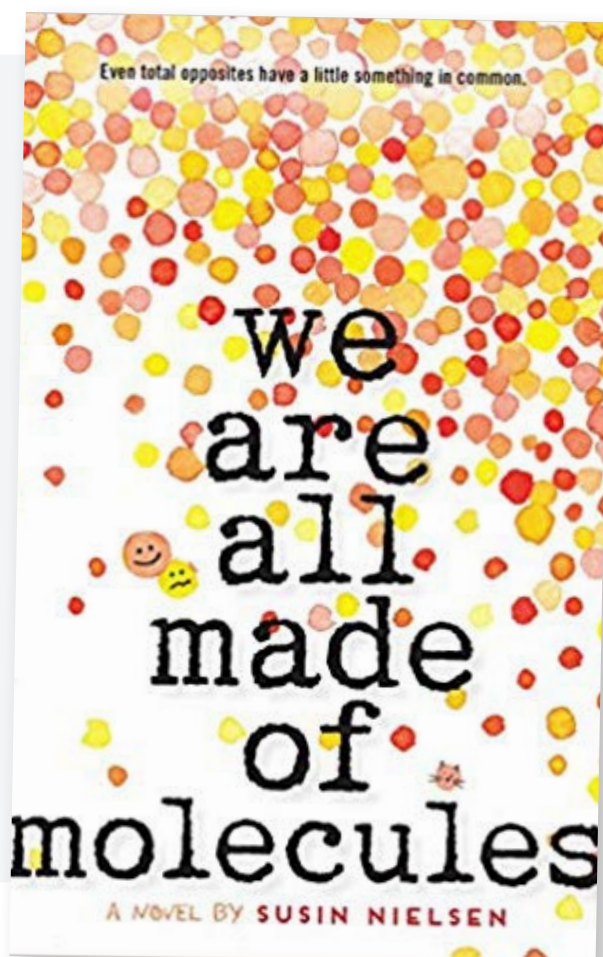
Thirteen-year-old Stewart is academically brilliant, but socially clueless. Fourteen year-old Ashley is the undisputed "It" girl in her grade, but her marks stink.

Their worlds are about to collide when Stewart and his dad move in with Ashley and her mom. "The Brady Bunch" it isn't. Stewart is trying to be 89.9% happy about it, but Ashley is 110% horrified. She already has to hide the real reason her dad moved out; "Spewart" could further threaten her position at the top of the social ladder.

They are complete opposites. And yet, no matter their differences, they share one thing in common: They – like the rest of us – are all made of molecules.

In this hilarious yet deeply moving story, award-winning author Susin Nielsen has created two narrators who will steal your heart and make you laugh out loud.

*"This savvy, insightful take on the modern family makes for nearly nonstop laughs."* – Kirkus Reviews



Fiction



## The Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse

Amsterdam, 1943. Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. She likes to think of her illegal work as a small act of rebellion.

On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen wants meat or kerosene, Hanneke is shocked by the older woman's frantic plea to find a person – a Jewish teenager Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished without a trace from a secret room. Hanneke initially wants nothing to do with such dangerous work, but is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations that lead her into the heart of the resistance, open her eyes to the horrors of the Nazi war machine, and compel her to take desperate action.

*"Themes of guilt and betrayal, ingenuity and courage, and the divisive effect of the occupation on friendship and community weave through a gripping historical mystery."* – Publishers Weekly



Fiction

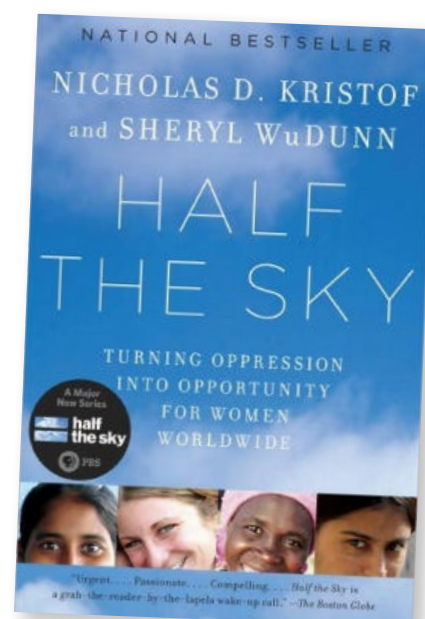
## Half the Sky - Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn

Half the Sky is a passionate call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

With Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet with extraordinary women struggling there.

Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity and, ultimately, hope. They show how a little help can transform the lives of women and girls abroad and unleashing that process globally is not only the right thing to do; it's also the best strategy for fighting poverty.

*"Vitaly important. . . . Heartbreaking, galvanizing, and unforgettable"* – Publishers Weekly



Non Fiction

# פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר שני: מהדורה מספר 19  
י"ב בשבט ה'תשע"ט



ספר זה מתרחש בכמה תקופות שונות אך לרוב בסביבות 1948 לקראת העצמאות של מדינת ישראל. בתחילת הספר שלושה ילדים (יפתח, רוני ויפתח סמך) יוצאים לשחק על פסי הרכבת כאשר רכבת בריטית עוברת בתחנה ומתפוצצת. יפתח אשר נפצע צריך ללכת למקום הכי קרוב והוא גבעת הקיבוצים. לפי כריכת הספר כבר אפשר להבין שגבעה זו היא גבעה מסתורית. כאשר יפתח נשאר בגבעה, מכיוון שהוא אינו יכול ללכת, הוא מבין שמסתתר במקום סוד והוא מחליט ליידיע את חבריו. שלושתם מחליטים לנסות להבין מה אנשי גבעת הקיבוצים מסתירים מכולם. אני ממליצה על הספר מכיוון שבנוסף להנאת הקריאה אנו יכולים גם ללמוד ממנו הרבה על ישראל, על ההיסטוריה שלנו ועל מה שאנחנו היינו צריכים לעבור כדי שתהיה לנו מדינה.

דניאלה רונן - כיתה ז'

## מתוך הספר "בלב הגבעה המסתורית" כתבה: אורה מורג

עוד רגע והקטר ידרוס את שלושת המטבעות. אחריו יעברו עליהם גם כל קרונותיו, והרכבת תמשיך בדהרה מפחידה לעבר העיר לוד. שלושת הילדים המתינו עוד רגע, להיות בטוחים שהרכבת באמת חלפה וכי לא נשקפת להם כל סכנה. אבל כשעמדו לזנק כדי לקחת את המטבעות שלהם, נשמע לפתע פיצוץ עז! שניים מקרונות הרכבת התפוצצו ועפו באוויר ומתוכם נזרקו חיילים במדי הצבא האנגלי והוטלו על הקרקע. הילדים לא העזו לזוז ממקומם והביטו במחזה מוכי הלב. זעקות הפצועים צימררו אותם בעוצמתן. חיילים בריטים שלא נפגעו יצאו מהקרונות השלמים וירו לכל עבר ברובים ובתותחנים. השלושה השתווחו במקומם והביטו בים של כרוזים שהתעופפו באוויר, כציפורים לבנות מנוקדות בכתמים שחורים. רוני הושיטה את ידה ותפסה את אחד הדפים המתעופפים. היא הספיקה רק לקרוא את הכותרת: לוחמי חירות ישראל, כשלפתע צעק יפתח ובהצביע על רגלו השותתת דם: "נדמה לי שנפצעת!"

אחד הדברים שהלהיבו את שלישיית החברים הטובים היה ללכת לפסי הרכבת שבקצה המושבה, להניח על אחד הפסים מטבע עם חור ולחכות שהרכבת תעבור עליו. לאחר שהמטבע השתטח ונעשה דק כעלה, השחילו אותו על שרוך נעליים ותלוהו על הצוואר. עיני הילדים נצצו מהתרגשות. "אתם יודעים מתי מגיעה רכבת?" שאל יפתח. "כן", ענתה רוני, "בשמונה וחצי. רכבת של חיילים בריטים מקהיר". "אני רואה שיש לך ממש מידע". "נכון", ענתה רוני והניפה את ראשה מעלה בגאווה. "אבא שלי בש"י, שירות הידיעות של ההגנה, והוא סיפר לי על הרכבת הזאת". שלושת החברים מכיתה ו' התקדמו לעבר הפסים. יפתח סמך הוביל אותם לעיקול הראשון, שממנו כבר לא היה אפשר לראותם, עצר ליד המסילה ושלח מבט אל הפסים. הרכבת טרם נראתה. שני הבנים ורוני התקרבו בצעדים זהירים לפס, שהיה מוגבה על החצץ הלבן. מדי פעם שלחו מבט אל האופק הרחוק, להיות בטוחים שהקטר לא מתקרב.

יפתח סמך הניח את אוזנו על הפסים והתרכז. "שומע?" שאל יפתח. "ששש... רגע... כן, אני שומע שקשוק רחוק, הוא הולך ומתגבר. עוד חמש דקות היא כאן. בואו נניח את המטבעות ונתפוס מרחק". "צריך להזדרז, שנסיק לברוח לפני שהרכבת תגיע", אמרה רוני. "ברור", אמר יפתח סמך. "יש לנו עוד מספיק זמן". הם הניחו את המטבעות העגולים שבמרכזם חור. "תניחו

בדיוק באמצע, אחרת הם ייפלו", אמרה רוני. שלושת המטבעות הונחו בשורה על הפס המוכסף. "עכשיו לברוח רחוק!" צעק יפתח סמך, והשלושה מיהרו להתרחק ולתפוס עמדת תצפית על גבעות חול, במרחק של חמישים מטר.

באותו הרגע התעצם רעש שקשוק הרכבת. צפירה חדה חתכה את האוויר, ועשן שחור התנשא מארובת הקטר. הרכבת קרבה בקול מאיים, כשמתחתית הקטר רוחשת ורוגשת אש צהובה-אדומה-סגולה.

