



Elsa High School Newsletter

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Weekly Daf

Term 2 Edition 4

25 January 2019 - 19 Shevat 5779



Dvar Torah: Yitro

In our Parasha, Parashat Yitro, we read about the Giving of the Ten Commandments. The giving of the Ten Commandments, was a unique moment, not only in Jewish history but in religious history. In the giving of the Ten Commandments, G-d revealed himself to the entire nation. That event is so significant that it is called "The Revelation at Sinai" as it was the only time in history that G-d spoke and revealed himself to millions of people at the same time, and not only to a single prophet. This important event was accompanied by the great sound of the shofar and thunder and lightning filled the air.

The people of Israel could not stand the magnitude of this event and only the first two commandments were told to them directly by G-d and the rest through came through Moses. But even though it is limited, the Revelation at Sinai remains at the core of the Jewish nation. The Jewish belief emphasizes the importance of the Revelation at Sinai and according to the Midrash, during the revelation there were not only the

members of the nation who actually left Egypt themselves but the entire souls of the Jews who were still not yet born.

In the Jewish belief, it is not only an elite group of people who carry the divine message. It is not only a small group of scholars that got directly the designation from G-d. It is the entire people: Men, women, old and young, who got the message and have the duty to carry it on.

This week we commemorated the International Holocaust Memorial Day. As at Sinai, here too the students had the privilege to listen to the message of remembrance directly from Holocaust survivors. As with our belief, the responsibility of carrying the message on is not only on the shoulders of our prophets, parents or teachers. As the ones who directly heard both the message at Sinai and, although different, the stories of the Holocaust, it is our duty to carry them both on. It is a duty which is a privilege.

Shabbat Shalom!

Mia Apelbaum Grade 9



Tu B'shevat

Tu B'shevat is a special holiday celebrated on the 15th of the month of Shevat. It is often referred to as the "birthday" for trees. The holiday originated in the Talmud, and was based on the date chosen for calculating the agricultural cycle of taking tithes from the produce of the trees.

The holiday is celebrated by having a special meal which involves eating biblical foods and drinking four cups of wine. It is a custom to eat wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates and Tu B'shevat has developed throughout time into a holiday that reminds Jews of our connection to the earth and to our role as caretakers of the environment. It is customary to eat 15 types of fruit requiring us to say the bracha for fruit of the tree.

Some people decide to donate money to plant trees in Israel or choose to plant trees locally. In order to celebrate this holiday at Elsa High School, we had a vegan lunch which included biblical foods in Israel, followed by a jeopardy game about Geography, Jewish Studies, Israel and more.

Thank you to Nadiv and Viky for organising this event!

Jessica Jay Grade 8





WeRemember

On 23 January, the students and faculty of Elsa High School observed the international Memorial Day for the Holocaust, together with millions across the globe. To honor this day, we all took part in the #WeRemember movement, a recently launched project in which people of all ethnic backgrounds come together to honor the victims of the Holocaust, in order to highlight the importance of remembering its horrors.

Preceding our participation in this project, Nadiv and Vicky ran activities which encouraged us to reflect on other

events in history, and what it is that makes such events so important to remember. This provided us with the necessary understanding to recognize the importance of our participation in the #WeRemember movement, or more specifically the importance of remembering the atrocity of the Holocaust so that no one may ever be a victim of such cruelty ever again.

We remember.

Ori Razon Grade 10

Eva Koralnik

On Friday last week, we had the honour of hearing the story of Eva Koralnik who was a little girl at the time of the Holocaust – just 7 years old at its start. I feel that her story really connected with us as students because we can relate to the way she felt. Her sense of overwhelming pressure and a feeling of imminent death is terrible and can leave lifelong scars on children.

The students received insight on what the Holocaust was like from a different perspective; not one that was written down or annotated by historians, but rather a first hand story, a recollection of events that can help us pass down knowledge of the Holocaust to future generations.

I feel that the main lesson from her story was that when we are younger, perseverance is needed more than when we are older and more independent. I also learned that the only thing needed to overcome fear is hope – something that every human shares.

Shabbat Shalom!

Asher Hasofer Grade 7





ELSAMUN

On Thursday, our annual Elsa Model United Nations took place, and Issy, Rachamim and I were the chairs. This was a completely new experience for me and I enjoyed it. It was a step up from my previous experiences as I have been participating in MUN for four years now and I have always been a delegate of a country. It felt unusual, though, watching everyone participate because I had so many points I wanted to say but I couldn't as I had to remain impartial. Overall, it was a great experience and hopefully next year I can do it again, not just at Elsa's Model United Nations, but at Hong Kong's MUN.

Elianna Diestel Grade 10

This Thursday, I had the privilege of experiencing Elsa MUN. The topic was the Yemen civil war and the country that was assigned to my group was North Korea. Seeing as North Korea is viewed as a controversial country, we knew we would have to make a statement from the get-go. We immediately united with Russia and the Arabian countries (besides Saudi Arabia) to take over Saudi Arabia. We ended up resorting to a peaceful resolution, due to Saudi Arabia being backed by both China and America. To conclude, Elsa MUN gave me an insight to government and how political parties might function. I had a great time and highly recommend it to all other students. I look forward to next year!

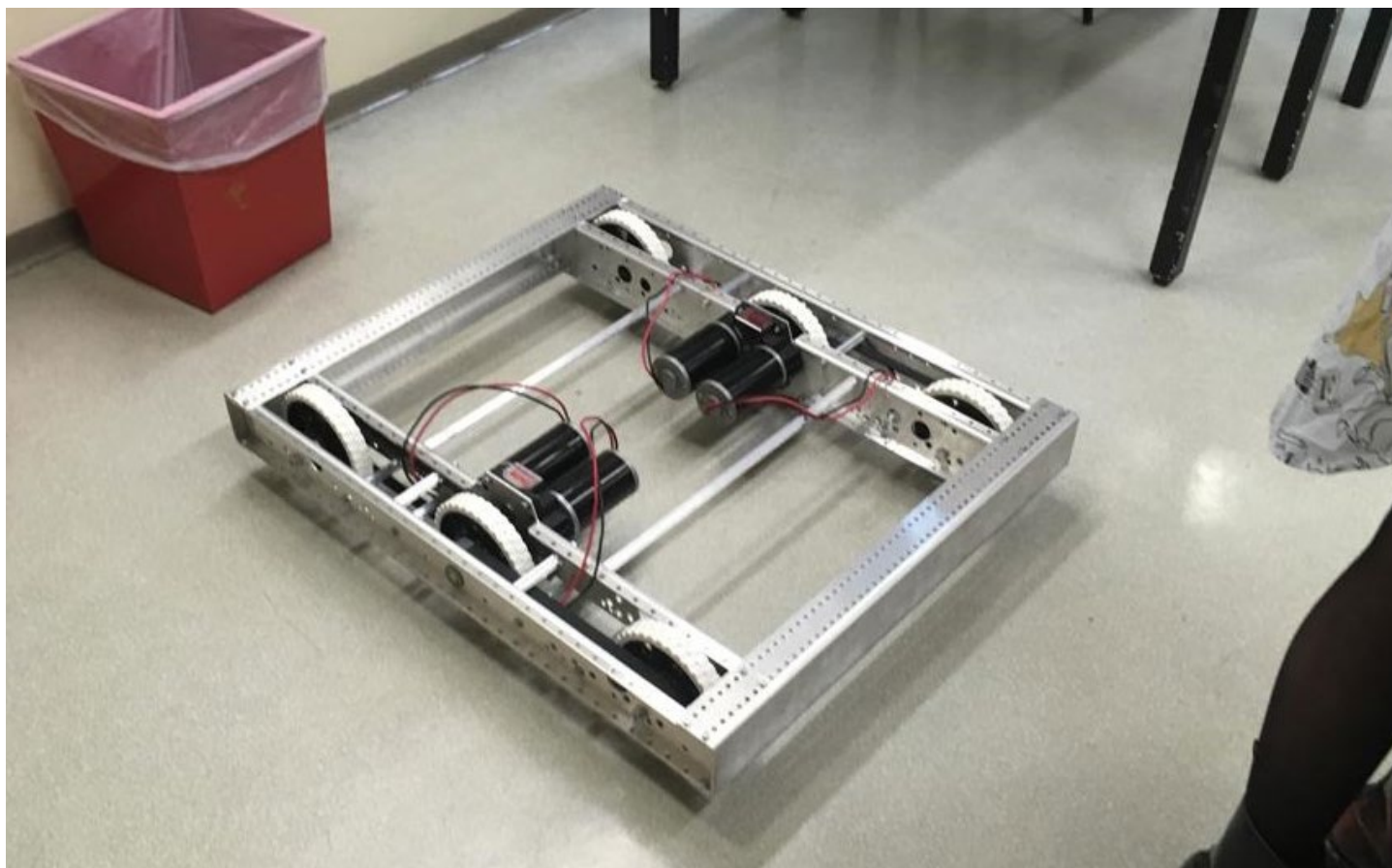
Mordechai Oser Grade 10

In this year's Elsa MUN, we were tasked with the topic of resolving the Yemeni Civil War. As Iran, I had a considerable role as the war was closely linked with the Iran-Saudi Arabia proxy conflict. In the several rounds of moderated and unmoderated caucuses, we looked into the root causes of the war and debated on disarmament. Allying with other Middle Eastern countries, we eventually came up with a resolution that was widely supported and passed in voting.

Through this year's conference, I was able to learn a lot about this large humanitarian crisis as well as gain different perspectives on the issue. I believe in order to be a responsible global citizen, it is essential to be knowledgeable and analytical about the world around us. For this reason, I highly encourage all of you to participate in MUN next year.

Janice Cheng Grade 11





FIRST Robotics Competition Weekly Update: Week 3

This year Elsa High School's Robotics Team is going to deep space. Elsa's team - Prism 7242 - will be facing off against another three-man team in a race to secure hatch panels and special cargo.

The clock is ticking for Prism, with only 25 days remaining in order to completely finish the robot, but we will not buckle under the pressure. Last week the team successfully finished the robot's drive base. Additionally, other members of our team completed segments for this year's mock field which will be used for driver training. After a couple of days worth of furious planning from our build team, we laid out the final design for our robot's mechanism just in time for the parts that arrived on Monday.

With the base done, the design set, and our materials collected, the real fun can begin as we start to assemble the final

stages of our robot. Already, the lifter is almost complete and soon will be able to reach heights of more than two meters. Trailing after it is our ball launcher capable of launching balls 33 cm in diameter.

At 15:15, on Elsa's first floor, you can hear the sound of progress, the low drone of drills, the rhythmic clicking of ratchet wrenches and the high pitched whir of chop saws. Prism looks forward to hearing your support as we blast our way to deep space in New York.

Rachamim Zamek Grade 11

Out and About

Public Parks

Hong Kong parks are usually famous for their “Do not step on the grass” policy. However, here are some grass filled parks where you are more than welcome to enjoy spending a day.

These parks are the perfect place to enjoy the cool sun that Hong Kong has been blessed with these past few days. Enjoy!

Arya Idan-Cummins Grade 11

Cyberport Dog Park - Cyberport

This park is beautiful and convenient. Right outside Cyberport mall, it is very accessible and a great place to stroll around, skate, or take your dog. You can sit on the grass or on the benches and take in the beautiful view of the water and Lamma Island in the back.



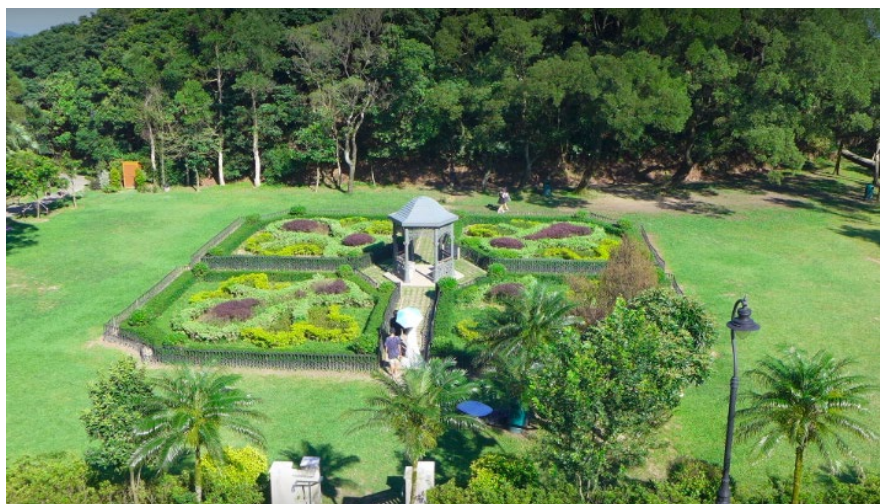
Po Tsui Park - Tseung Kwan O

Although it is not as well known, Po Tsui Park is a beautiful place for a picnic or a walk around. Located close to TKO MTR, it's not too hard to get to and the scenery is definitely worth the journey. The park has a playground, football pitch and a waterfall, so you will not be bored!



Victoria Peak Garden - The Peak

This park is well known and is very easy for you midlevel folk, located on top of the Peak. You can take the tram up and enjoy a different type ride, or taxi or hike up if you wish. It's a beautiful garden and perfect for picnicking.



Into The Woods with Mr. Swart

The students of Elsa High School, alongside our resident English and Theatre teacher, Mr. Swart, have recently started production on the school's annual play. We were all moved by *The Fiddler On the Roof* and thrilled by the cast of *Fame*, but we must now prepare ourselves for the school's next masterpiece: *Into The Woods*.

We caught up with Mr. Swart to get the lowdown on some of the finer details of what it's like producing the play and what he hopes will come out of it.



Thank you to Mr. Swart for giving up the time to speak to us, we can't wait to see it all come together!

Interview conducted by Louis Effron and Issy Lyons

What inspired you to choose this particular play for the production? I felt that before, we had used quite popular musicals that a lot of people already knew, and I wanted something with a little bit more for the students to bite into. Something with a little bit more depth. There is a lot of symbolism in this musical, so the characterization is key and it is a lot more challenging for the actors to represent their characters, and what the meaning is behind them. So the impact of that and its delivery on the audience will require a lot more technique and training.

What is your vision for the production? My vision for the production is that it becomes more student-led, as it has been, slowly, every year. I hope that the students will decide to take more of an initiative in how they represent their characters, and how they grow throughout the process. My vision for the production is also that our regular audience will slowly begin to see how the students have grown as actors, and not just how they have grown as singers which we have already seen. This is an opportunity for them to really show what it is like to take on a character because the script is not based in the real world, it is based on fairy tales. So the characterization can be that much more.

What does the creation of this play entail? It is a long process, there are a lot more workshops in relation to acting and not as much in singing. They have already done all the singing training and they have also learned all the songs so the focus for the moment is really on allowing them to develop their acting skills in order to build their characters. The set is also going to be very challenging because there is a tower so we need to play with a lot of different levels and different props moving on and off stage. So even though we have a smaller cast we have a lot more stage work to focus on. We have a larger production crew this year.



What can you tell us about the progress so far? So far the set design has been finalized and the process of set building will be starting this coming week. As I mentioned before, the performers have already learned all their songs, so now it is more about building their characters into the songs and starting to work on all the scenes that connect each one.

What can you tell us about the casting process? The process this year was more grueling as the popularity of the school musical has grown and more students want to take part in it. The cast is also much smaller, so the competition was tough and students really wanted certain roles. We also had a lot of students who did vocal training specifically for the positions, so there were a lot of nerves. There were also a lot of callbacks, but this was all very successful and we saw a lot of talent, so it was much easier for me as a casting director to select people this time, however it was a lot more challenging for the students.

Can you outline some of the difficulties and some of your favorite aspects of producing? The difficulty in producing any play in this school is trying to juggle schedules, as a lot of students have different commitments and are involved in many activities. One of the challenges is trying to find the time for the students to work collaboratively, especially with a smaller cast. They have to work collaboratively to create chemistry on stage or else the entire play will fall flat. So trying to cut times out of their schedules where they can all meet has been a challenge.

What I love about productions and the creation of productions is to see young people discovering talents that they never even knew they had and growing into them as a result. As well as this, I love being able to present them to an audience and watch them receive the respect that they deserve for what they have developed.

Announcements

We hope you've enjoyed reading

Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf



From **The Weekly Daf Team**

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

CARMEL ANNUAL FUND



#powerofparticipation

Every student counts.

Every moment counts.

Every donation counts.

Thank you to all who have pledged so far

Please visit www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkpwrj0azvoo
to find out how you can contribute

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ELSA PTA



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 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.

**Last Day to
Register
28 January!**

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
or through our school library site:
carmel.edu.hk/learning/library

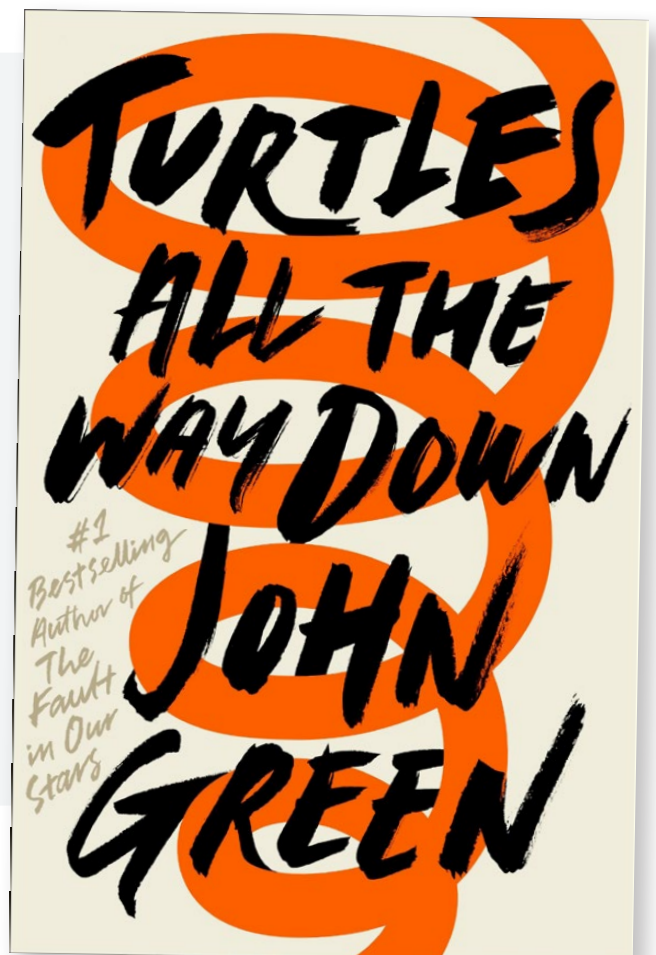
Turtles All the Way Down by John Green

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis.

Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

In his long-awaited return, John Green, the acclaimed, award-winning author of *Looking for Alaska* and *The Fault in Our Stars*, shares Aza's story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship.

"There is tenderness and wisdom here, and a high quotient of big ideas." Wall Street Journal



Fiction

Lifeformed: Cleo Makes Contact by Matt Mair Lowery and Cassie Anderson

The fight for Earth's future!

In the wake of an alien invasion—and her father's death—a young girl must leave behind the life she knows to fight for the future of Earth.

Aided by a shapeshifting, rebel alien posing as her father, Cleo packs extra snacks for the road as they travel in search of both family and foe. *Lifeformed: Cleo Makes Contact* follows the unlikely pair as they bond, fight back, and ponder what it means to be human.

The power of choice, courage, and unity are examined in this unforgettable debut work from creators Matt Mair Lowery and Cassie Anderson.

"Emotionally complex and kick-ass science / apocalypse fiction." The Million Year Picnic



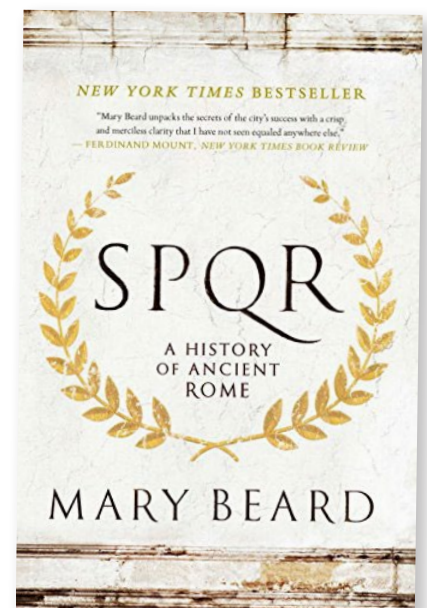
Fiction

SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome by Mary Beard

Opening the book in 63 BCE with the famous clash between the populist aristocrat Catiline and Cicero, the renowned politician and orator, Beard animates this "terrorist conspiracy," which was aimed at the very heart of the Republic, demonstrating how this singular event would presage the struggle between democracy and autocracy that would come to define much of Rome's subsequent history.

Illustrating how a classical democracy yielded to a self-confident and self-critical empire, S.P.Q.R. reintroduces us, though in a wholly different way, to famous and familiar characters while expanding the historical aperture to include those overlooked in traditional histories: the women, the slaves and ex-slaves, conspirators, and those on the losing side of Rome's glorious conquests.

"Beard tells this story precisely and clearly, with passion and without technical jargon ... SPQR is a grim success story, but one told with wonderful flair." The Wall Street Journal



Fiction

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר שני: מהדורה מספר 20
י"ט בשבט ה'תשע"ט



הספר מבחן קבלה מספר על ילדה בשם סול. חייה של סול, נערה בת חמש עשרה שגרה בשכונת עוני בתל אביב, משתנים בגלל מבחן הקבלה להצגה חדשה שאליה היא מנסה להתקבל. הספר מספר על אירועים קשים שסול המתבגרת עוברת, וההתמודדות שלה עם המצבים החדשים שהיא חווה. התמודדות עם שמועה מרושעת עליה וחרם קשה שגורם לה לבדידות. היא מגלה בעצמה כוחות שלא ידעה שיש לה שמאפשרים לה לא רק לעבור את חייה הקשים, אלא גם לעזור לאלה שחייהם קשים גם כן. בדרך, למרות הכל, צומחת לה אהבתה הראשונה. הסיפור מלא ברגשות, אהבה, חוויות וחברות טובה.

אני ממליץ על הספר כי יש בו עלילה מרגשת המתארת כיצד הגיבורה מצליחה להתמודד ולהתגבר על כל כך הרבה מצבים חברתיים מאתגרים, שאני לא מאחל לאף בן נוער בגילי לחוות אותם. הספר הוא מאוד מעניין, גם אם לכאורה נראה שזה ספר של "בנות", גם בנים יכולים להנות ממנו מאוד.

יהונתן רוז - כיתה ח'

מתוך הספר "מבחן קבלה" כתבה: נאוה מקמל-עתיר

סול סובבה את המפתח ונכנסה פנימה. הבית היה שקט וריח קליל של סבון תינוקות ריחף באוויר. היא נכנסה בשקט לחדר ההורים. לאור מנורת הלילה שדלקה בפניה יכלה סול לראות את אמא ישנה והתינוקת הקטנה חבוקה בזרועותיה. תחושת אכזבה צבטה בליבה. למרות השעה המאוחרת קיוותה שאמא עדיין מחכה לה ערה, דרוכה וסקרנית לדעת איך עבר עליה היום הקשה והחשוב הזה. סול הרגישה שהיא צריכה לספר לה, ששיתופה של אמא בעניין ייטול משהו ממשקולת הרגשות המכבידה על ליבה ומקשה עליה לנשום. ואיך תוכל להירדם עכשיו, כשבטנה רוחשת דברים שטרם סופרו?

"כמה ילדוטי מצידך", נפח בעצמה בלי קול והחליטה בו במקום, שצעד ראשון בהתבגרות פירושו היכולת לסכור את הצורך לספר לאמא. אחר כך הלכה למטבח, מזגה לעצמה כוס חלב והתיישבה לשולחן, מנסה לשחזר את כל מה שאמרה היום במבחן הקבלה. אבל כל מה שהצליחה להעלות בזיכרונה היו רק דברי הבמאי כשסיימה להציג את קטע המשחק שהכינה:

"תודה, גברת צעירה, את יכולה ללכת. בשבוע הבא נודיע לך אם התקבלת."

השעה היתה קרובה לתשע בערב. סול צעדה בצעדים מהירים לעבר ביתה שבקצה השכונה. גוש בנייני הרכבת נראה כמו מפלצת רדומה בלילה, והכניסות החשוכות של חדרי המדרגות כמו ארבעה לועות פעורים. היא צעדה בשביל שאריחיו שבורים והגיעה לכניסה ד', לחצה על המתג והעלתה אור בחדר המדרגות. נורה צהובה שאורה קלוש איפשרה בקושי לגשש את הדרך למעלה.

בדירה שבקומה הראשונה הפעילו שואב אבק, בקומה השנייה בכה תינוק ובקומה השלישית צילצל טלפון, אבל איש לא ענה. היא הגיעה לקומה הרביעית בדיוק כשכבה האור וחיטטה בכיסיה בחושך אחר המפתח.

בבתים אחרים בשעה תשע בערב עוד דולקים האורות. אנשים צופים בטלוויזיה, מפנים את הכלים של ארוחת הערב או מקריאים סיפור לילדים לפני השינה. אבל הבית של סול, בשעה תשע כבר היה שקט לגמרי. היא הצמידה את אוזנה לדלת. אמא והתינוקת בוודאי ישנות מזמן ואבא עוד לא חזר.

סול חשבה עליו, על אבא, שעומד עכשיו ליד תיאטרון הבימה ומנגן בכינור, ואנשים בבגדי ערב חולפים על פניה, מפשפשים בכיסיהם, שולים מתוכם מטבע, זורקים לו וממהרים להיכנס לתיאטרון. קצת לפני חצות יעלה אבא על האוטובוס האחרון ויחזור הביתה, אל אמא ואל סול ואל התינוקת שנולדה להם לפני חמישה חודשים.