

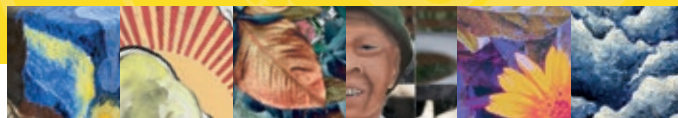


Elsa High School Campus Newsletter

www.carmel.edu.hk

Weekly Daf

6 September 2019 // 6 Elul 5780 (Edition 3)



Dvar Torah: Shoftim

In this week's parsha, Moshe instructs the people of Israel to appoint judges and law enforcement officers in every city so that authority can exist without corruption or favoritism. Moshe states that in every generation, there will be those entrusted with the task of interpreting and applying the laws of the Torah. Shoftim also includes the prohibitions against idolatry and sorcery, laws governing the appointment and behavior of a king and finally, guidelines for the creation of "cities of refuge".

These cities of refuge are set up for those who've accidentally committed serious crimes such as murder and must be separated from the majority of people, however not condemned further due to the crime being unintentional. While, given the circumstances of these people, it might seem unjust to simply move them to another place for the sole reason that they did not mean to commit the crime, we must also attempt to understand it from their perspective, as they view any condemnation, even if for their own safety, as unfair seeing as their intentions were inherently good.

For any justice to exist in the world, people will need to

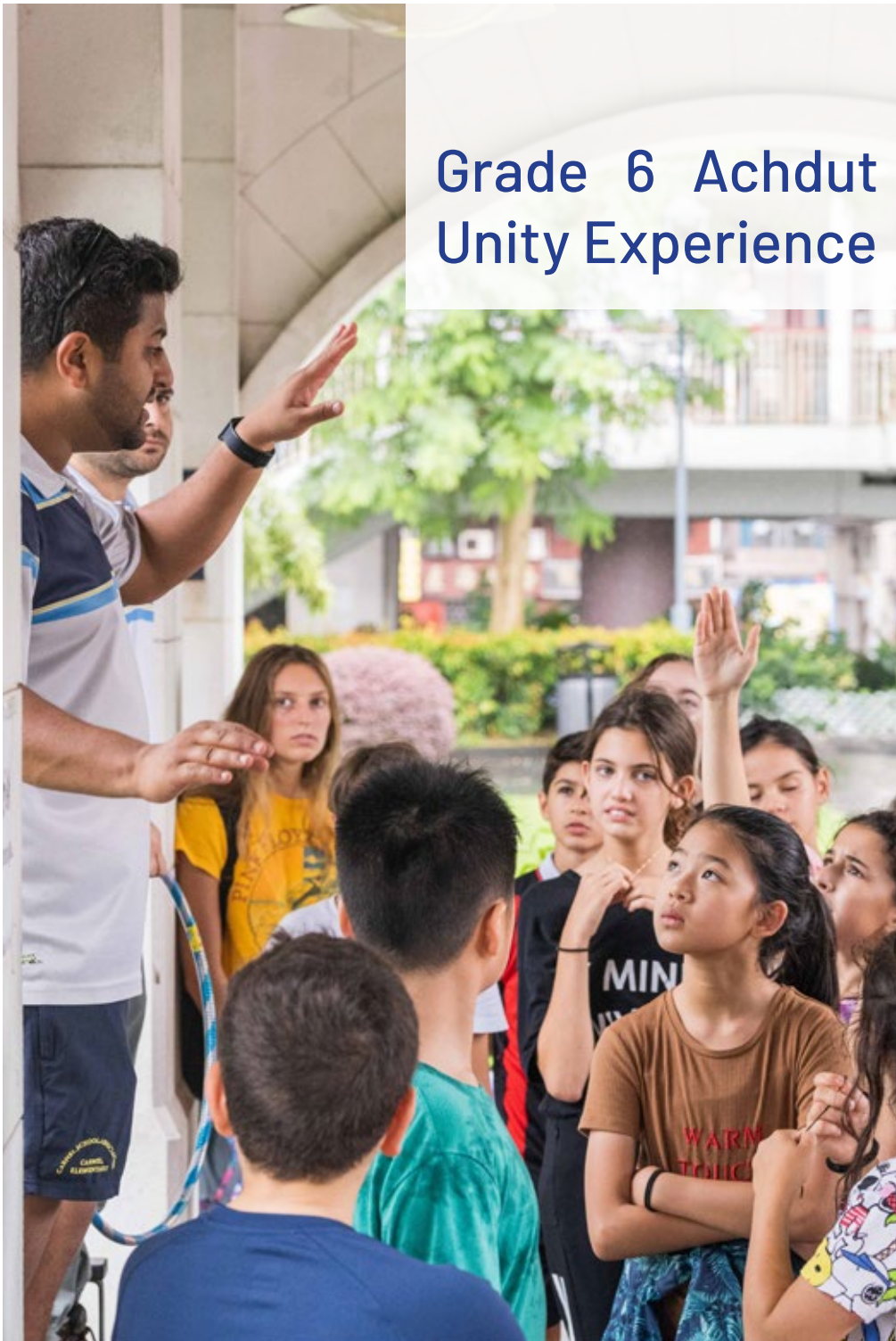
make compromises. No society can make judgements without being seen as "unfair" from at least one point of view. People get caught up in things that we do not intend, but this is simply a part of the natural order of making mistakes. For without this, there would be no need for justice. It is in this commentary that we can review ourselves and our own perceptions of justice, or even our stance on whether a judgement was fair or not. A pertinent example of this in our own lives can be seen on an everyday basis; such as viewing the School's regulation of dress code to be unreasonable, without fully considering its necessity in creating unity and respect within our community.

So whenever you view a judgement to have been made against your favour, take the time to pause and reflect on whether it was fair or not, and consider the perspective of the other person. Because even you think it is unfair, it is something we all have to deal with and must overcome in order to better ourselves and move forward.

Thank you and Shabbat shalom!

Louis Effron Grade 12

Grade 6 Achdut Unity Experience



Last week the Grade 6 class were taken out of School for two days for the Achdut Trip. I was lucky to be asked to join in along with Tal Konyin, Eden Shemtov and Nicolas Fung as Madrichim (Youth Leaders). The two days were packed with exciting activities beginning right after Tefillah until the end of School.

The first day consisted of indoor rock climbing and an outdoor team-building activity at a park. The indoor rock climbing was enjoyable and many of the students faced their fears and challenged themselves to climb to the top. As Madrichim, we were told to interview the students before and after they participated in rock climbing. We would ask them whether or not they were nervous and once they finished we'd ask them how they succeeded and the challenges they overcame. It was evident when talking to them afterwards that many were very proud of themselves. The indoor rock climbing challenged the children to take risks and trust themselves; and with the enthusiastic support and encouragement from their classmates, it made a wonderful bonding experience. At the park, the students got into their House teams and did a team building activity. This activity focused on working together as a team. Despite the rain the activity went smoothly and everyone had an amazing time.

The second day we planned to do an outdoor activity in the morning and go to Shek O beach in the afternoon. The weather had other ideas. The morning was spent in the auditorium with more team building activities. Despite a last minute change of plans, the morning worked out perfectly and the students worked extremely well together and had a fun time. After lunch, we took a bus down to Shek O beach. We worked together on a beach cleanup where we cleared most of the trash. It was an activity for the children to focus on themselves and their surroundings and was very impactful for some. We then celebrated our beach-clean and the amazing two days of adventures together with a nice swim in the water. As a Madricha, the experience of supporting and working with all the Grade 6 students was wonderful; everyone in attendance felt that the trip was fun and exciting, but more than that, it will have a lasting impact in helping to bring the class together. After the sweat, laughter and joy of overcoming challenges, we can confidently say that this year's Achdut trip was a true success!

Sophie Effron Grade 10



Inside Scoop With Ms. Nostran

Ms. Nostran, or Ms. Vee as she prefers to be called, joined Elsa this year. She was born in Italy but spent the last decade in the UK, where she studied at UCL, LSE and Canterbury.

Interview conducted by Isabella Ricklow (G10) And Liana Tang (G9)

Ms. Nostran, thanks for talking to us. First of all, why did you become a teacher?

I really didn't like working in the 'real world'. Early in my career I did some teaching to undergraduate students but soon after that, I went to work for a big corporation which I did not enjoy - it was very boring and I don't like grown-ups. I think that teenagers and students are more interesting.

Tell us about your education.

Different. Most of my education was spent in a primary and secondary school in Italy. I then went to study and work at University in the UK. The Italian system of education and International Baccalaureate are very different but have some similarities. Teaching the Baccalaureate now is much closer to my heart than teaching GCSEs, which is what I used to teach last year.

What are you passionate about?

The environment. A sense of fairness. I hate bullies; I genuinely dislike them. And I'm Italian, so I'm passionate about pizza. Pizza is happiness.

I agree. Since you teach mathematics, I wanted to ask you what is mathematics and its purpose?

Well, it is difficult to think of it as a purpose because would you ask the same question to an English teacher, "What is the purpose of English?". We use it to communicate in the most basic [form]. As in going to the supermarket buying to buy an apple that cost 5 cents and you're buying three, that is maths. Also, maths is an international language. Two plus two equals four in every country in the world. I find it as a way to bring people closer in some way because you'll realize it's an invisible net that covers the world because you can't dispute two plus two equals four. I found it very reassuring that there's no argument about it. It's just left or right, right or wrong. It's almost democratic because you can't disagree.

How does Maths come in to your daily life?

Other than teaching... We wouldn't have laptops



without maths. We wouldn't have a lot of systems and transportation. Trains would not be on time, and we wouldn't have a way to make sure trains don't collide since it's based on algorithms. It's one of the invisible qualities of maths. Behind the nitty-gritty things we learn in school that we think are boring, you then realize that without maths, you wouldn't have a lot of things that make our lives easier. Every time you take the MTR you're using maths, one way or another. Even using your octopus card, you're using maths.

When you're having a bad day, what do you do to make yourself feel better?

I'll eat a pizza. And sometimes I'll call my Mom to show me a WhatsApp video of my dog. I left my dog with my Mom. So, yeah. But pizza mostly.

What is the best piece of advice you've received?

Never assume that you'll know better than the next person. Especially as a teacher, I noticed that sometimes we assume that we know better than the students. But I often remember that piece of advice that tells me I shouldn't assume that I know better than the students. Sometimes, I've learned to teach better from the mistakes of my students because I didn't know that I could make that mistake. And now that I know I could make a certain mistake because I've seen it before, I'll teach in a way that prevents that certain mistake. So, the best piece of advice is to never assume you know better than the next person.

That's bold advice, and I think that's pretty cool. Well that's it, thanks again for talking with us, Ms. Nostran!



Philosophical Theories

Part 1: Determinism

Arts & Culture

Determinism, in philosophy, is the theory that all events, including moral choices, are determined by previously existing causes. Determinists have proposed the notion that all behavior has a cause and is therefore predictable, that Free Will is fundamentally considered an illusion, and that our behavior is a product of internal or external forces over which we have no control. This is in contrast to Judaism, which holds that Man has free choice. Determinism is explored in a book I have been recently reading called **Things Fall Apart** by *Chinua Achebe*. The protagonist's acquiescence to the Ibo culture is so intense that he abandons his love for his son and decides to kill him to maintain his image of strength amongst his tribesmen. This event in the book depicts the cultural system as a constraint that leads the protagonist to commit a crime despite his previous hesitations. Again, this is in contrast in Judaism, in the story of Abraham, who was tested by G-d when instructed by G-d to kill his son in sacrifice, and is stopped just before doing so.

Further exploring the deterministic school of thought, we are led to ponder about our identity: are we a product of our own volition or are we perhaps a result of the numerous systems we associate ourselves with? John Locke, a prominent philosopher, argued that the

human mind is like a "blank slate," that it had no means of processing data, and that rules for processing are formed solely by one's sensory experiences. However, it breeds the question: who helps us establish the rules for processing information?

The notion of a pre-decided fate is seen to be strongly present in determinism. However, like many other theories, it awaits rigorous evidence to support it. In the meantime, the question "If determinism precludes free will, then does it also preclude moral responsibility?", may be of great interest towards avid thinkers.

Victor Fong Grade 11

Amusement Parks

by Sarah Cohen Grade 11

Going to an amusement park is a great way to spend time with family and friends on the weekend. As Asia's 'World City', it comes as no surprise that Hong Kong has many amusement parks. Hong Kong has had a rich historical connection with amusement parks, with its first amusement park opening in Kowloon in 1949. Known to locals as Lai Yuen, this amusement park was an important cultural site throughout the 20th century, feeding the developing canto-pop and film industry by producing its biggest stars. It was an important part of many childhoods for Hong Kongers. While it unfortunately closed in 1997 to make space for a housing development, there are still many parks operating in Hong Kong:

If you love Mickey: Disneyland

Part of a growing number of Disney Parks, Disneyland Hong Kong first opened in 2005 and is the biggest amusement park in Hong Kong to date. Although it is significantly smaller than other Disneyland Parks around the world, most of the original rides are found in this charming amusement park on the island of Penny Bay. Along with exploring the rides, you can take pictures with your favorite Disney character and watch their famous Disney parade. It makes for a great day out and you can end your trip at Inspiration Lake, just a short ride from the park.



If you love Nature: Ocean Park

Located in the Southern District and now just a short MTR ride from Admiralty, Ocean Park is a favorite among families due to its range of activities and rides. The park has its own aquarium packed with 400 different species of fish! From Arctic-themed rides, water-themed rides and big roller coasters, Ocean Park offers something for everyone!



If you're nostalgic: Snoopy's World

One of the lesser known amusement parks in Hong Kong is Snoopy's World. Opened in 2000, the small Shatin amusement park is full of Snoopy statues and recreations of scenes from the popular comic book. While the amusement ride section is mainly aimed at young children, it is definitely worth visiting if you're around the area to take some cute pictures and feel nostalgic about your fleeting childhood!



If you're looking for an educational experience: Noah's Ark

As the world's first full-sized replica of the renowned biblical ship, Noah's Ark Park is an educational and relaxing experience. Complete with an Ark Expo, an Ark Garden and an Adventureland with rock climbing, the park provides a great opportunity to learn outside of the school environment while having fun! Moreover, the amusement park also has one of the largest professional vacuum solar telescopes in South East Asia located in its very own solar tower (open to the public upon reservation). This is a great opportunity for students that want to learn more about astrology and solar activity, and use its game booths to learn about robotics and technology.



Service and Action

MYP Music at Elsa

This year, the School is launching a new programme for students who have a passion for Music and musical instruments: students between Grade 8-10 will have the opportunity to prepare themselves if they choose to take Music DP in the future.

As it's the very beginning, unknown factors await ahead, such as workload and upcoming formatives. However, it will allow students to express themselves and discover their potential through initiatives like the Elsa High School Band. They have recently been practicing every day to perform in assembly, and this Music course will surely deepen their love for music. This year the School will have the opportunity to see talents of its students reveal themselves in exciting ways!

Isabella Ricklow (Grade 10) and
Liana Tang (Grade 9)



Auditions for WEST SIDE STORY

Sign Up and Material Collection - 3 September at 13:10
Open Call (Singing and Acting) - 9-13 September
Open Call (Choreography) - 16-20 September
Call Backs - 23-27 September

All auditions and call backs will take place
in the Black Box Theatre.



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

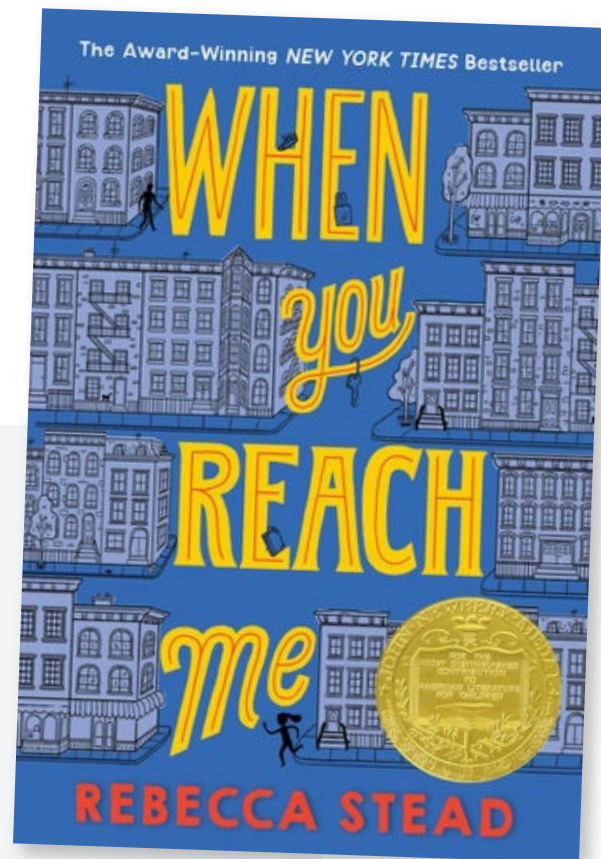
When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

This remarkable novel holds a fantastic puzzle at its heart.

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know who to avoid. Like the crazy guy on the corner.

But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then a mysterious note arrives, scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

"Readers ... are likely to find themselves chewing over the details of this superb and intricate tale long afterward." The Wall Street Journal



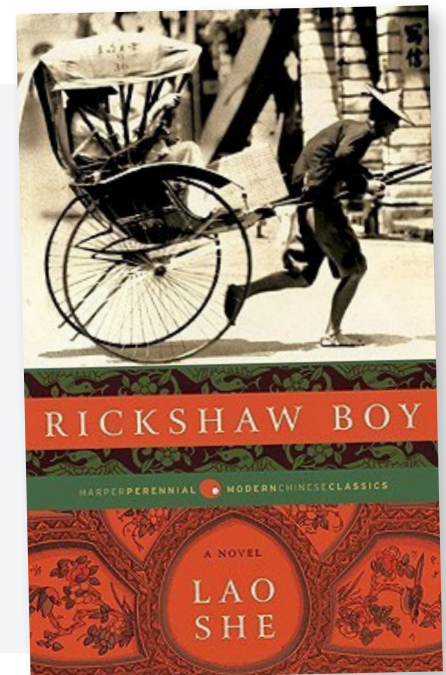
Fiction Age 10+

Rickshaw Boy by Lao She

Rickshaw Boy is the story of Xiangzi, an honest and serious country boy who works as a rickshaw puller in Beijing. A man of simple needs whose greatest ambition is to one day own his own rickshaw, Xiangzi is nonetheless thwarted, time and again, in his attempts to improve his lot in life.

One of the most influential and popular works of twentieth-century Chinese literature. It presents an unflinchingly honest portrait of life on the margins of society, intertwining dark comedy with tragedy in a searing indictment of the philosophy of individualism.

"An impressive novel of an individual struggling against and defeated by a corrupt society" The Library Journal

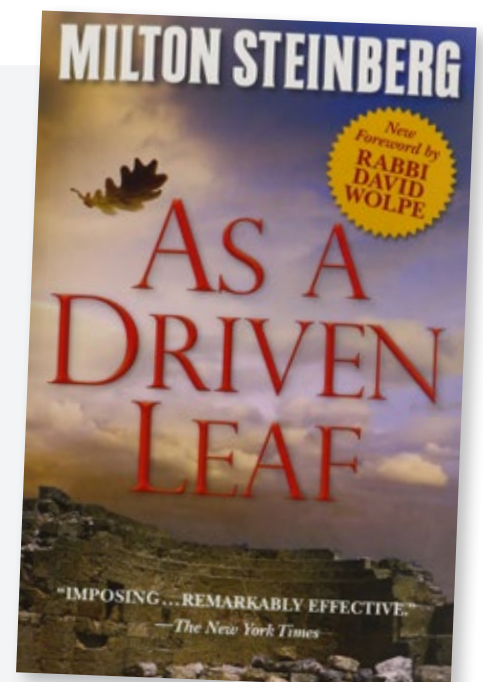


As a Driven Leaf by Milton Steinberg

First published in 1939, this masterpiece of modern fiction tells the tale of renegade Talmudic sage Elisha ben Abuyah's struggle to reconcile his faith with the allure of Hellenistic culture. Set in Roman Palestine, As a Driven Leaf draws readers into the dramatic era of Rabbinic Judaism. Watch the great Talmudic sages at work in the Sanhedrin, eavesdrop on their arguments about theology and Torah, and agonise with them as they contemplate rebellion against an oppressive Roman rule.

Steinberg's classic novel also transcends its historical setting with its depiction of a timeless, perennial feature of the Jewish experience: the inevitable conflict between the call of tradition and the glamour of the surrounding culture. Beyond its literary achievement, As a Driven Leaf is regarded as a major influence on contemporary Jewish life and thought.

"An extraordinary historical novel." The Wall Street Journal





Carmel Elementary & Elsa High School Highlights **on sale soon!**



Don't miss out.
Pre-order your
copy of this
special keepsake
of the 2018-19 / 5779
Carmel School
Year.

Available from 20th June at
Carmel Elementary and Elsa
High School Reception.



Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Editorial Team Issy Lyons, Louis Effron, Isabella Ricklow,
Liana Tang and Sarah Cohen

Managing Editor Mr. Adam Darell

Editor in Chief Mr. Dan Bartholomew

Thank you for reading,
The Weekly Daf Team



Happy Birthday to Yoav Assor

Follow Us Online!



@CarmelSchoolAssociation



Carmel School Association



CARMEL SCHOOL PTA
INVITES ALL PARENTS TO

Greet & Graze

THE ELSA PARENT - TEACHER
COCKTAIL EVENING

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH
6:00PM TO 8:00PM
GARDEN ROOM, JCC

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 9TH
TO ELSAHIGHADMIN@CARMEL.EDU.HK
PLEASE BRING ID

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 2
ו' באלול ה'תשע"ט



אפשר לבקר באתר שלנו: <http://hebrewlib-elsa.weebly.com>



הספרייה ממשיכה בפעילות מהנה בהפסקות. "מועדון הספרים" אוטוטו מתחיל וכבר ישנה היענות רבה. החברים ב"מועדון הספרים" ייהנו מהאפשרות להשפיע על הפעילויות השונות במהלך ההפסקות כמו בחירת השירים שנשמע בספרייה, הסדרות בהן נצפה, הספרים החדשים שנזמין וסיוע לחברים החדשים שיגיעו לספרייה.

במהלך השבוע כיתות ח' ו-ט' הגיעו לשאול את ספר הקריאה הכיתתי, הספר "מעורב ירושלמי" שכתבה הסופרת לילית רוטנר. התלמידים נשארו לקרוא את הספר בספרייה יחד עם המורה אביטל. הספר מספר על איתי שנאלץ לבלות את חופשת החנוכה, עם

אחותו התאומה, אותה הוא לא כל כך מחבב. בעקבות אירוע משפחתי הם נאלצים לבלות את החופשה בירושלים ביחד עם רחוקי משפחה דתיים שמאוד לא קשורים אליהם. לשניהם יש בעיות עם בני הזוג, לאיתי יש חברה בשם בר אשר לאחרונה הם לא כל כך מסתדרים. לשרית אין חבר אבל יש לה מעריץ שרוצה להיות חבר שלה, אבל היא לא יודעת איך לומר לו 'לא'. מהצד השני יש את נעמי, רחוקת המשפחה מירושלים. נעמי עברה לא מזמן מתל אביב לירושלים ועדיין לא הספיקה לסדר את חדרה וכבר פולשים לביתם קרובי משפחה חילונים שהיא לא ראתה מימיה.

בנוסף, קיים בליבה החשש שלא תכיר אף אחד בשכונה ולא יהיו לה חברים בירושלים כמו שהיו לה בתל אביב. היא פוגשת ילדה שבתחילה נראית כחביבה אבל מהר מאוד מתגלה כשתלטנית ויהירה. וישנו גם הבחור מסתורי...

איך תיגמר חופשת החנוכה המעניינת הזאת? תאלצו לקרוא כדי לגלות. תוכלו להנות מספרים נוספים בסדרה שנמצאת בספרייה.

ספרים חדשים הגיעו מישראל לספרייה שלנו, בשבוע הבא נפרסם את הרשימה. מחכים לכם בספרייה שלנו, כולכם מוזמנים.

מילת השבוע

קבלו בבקשה חלופות עבריות למילים לועזיות

משחקן – (gamer), חובב נלהב של משחקי מחשב ומשחקי חזוי (וידאו) המרבה לשחק ולעסוק בהם. השם המופשט: משחקנות.

קודר – QR code, קוד תגובה מהירה; שיטה לזיהוי אופטי של קוד גרפי, שבה בתוך מסגרת ריבועית מסודרים רכיבים שחורים על רקע לבן המאפשרים לבטא מספר רב של תווים מסוגים שונים.

חדשות קזב – (fake news), ביחיד: ידיעת קזב.

דר רחוב – (Homeless), אדם השוהה ברחובות וישן במקומות ציבוריים, בגנים וכדומה. השם המופשט: דרות רחוב.

מעובד על פי פירסומי האקדמיה ללשון העברית