



מִסְכַּת אָבוֹת פָּרָק א מְשֻׁנָּה ו: "עֲשֵׂה לָךְ רֵב"



The Mishna:

Avot, Chapter 1, Mishna 6:

Joshua ben Perahiah used to say:  
 appoint for yourself a teacher,  
 and acquire for yourself a companion  
 and judge all men with the scale  
 weighted in his favor.

המשנה:

אבות א,ו

...יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן פְּרִיחָיָה אוֹמֵר:  
 עֲשֵׂה לָךְ רֵב, וּקְנֵה לָךְ חֵבֵר,  
 וְהוּי דוֹ אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם לְכַף זְכוּת.

*Assignment before class:*

- ❖ Read the Mishnah and write in your own words: what are the three important messages that Rabbi Joshua ben Perahiah conveys?

A. ....

B. ....

C. ....

- ❖ Interview an adult family member:  
Who is the educational or rabbinic figure you admire the most, and why?

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- ❖ Choose a good friend of yours and write:

- What qualities do you particularly like in this friend?

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- Tell about an extraordinary deed a friend did for you? Or an extraordinary deed you did for your friend?

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"Judge all men with the scale weighted in his favor"

*Class assignments*

Split into pairs and follow the instructions.

Here are several situations.

- Read each situation.
- Each partner should *think* about the situation and write their answer: How can you judge all people favorably? Write your answer.
- *Share* what you wrote with your partner and listen to what he wrote. Write a common insight that is important for both of you to share with the class:
- Now discuss the topic with the whole class and present a shared insight that came up during your discussion.

**Story 1:**

Danny asked his friend Dubi to let him play with his ball at recess. Dubi said: "Sorry, no" and left.

- Try to judge Dubi favorably (Why didn't he let Danny play with the ball?):

*My thoughts*

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*Partner's thoughts*

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### Story 2:

Miriam was standing on the sidewalk near a zebra crossing, waiting to cross the road. By law, car drivers are obligated to stop and let pedestrians cross the road at a zebra crossing. Miriam was about to cross, when she saw the car coming very quickly, and not slowing down. At the last moment Miriam didn't cross the road and nothing happened to her...

- Try to judge the driver favorably (why didn't he stop at the zebra crossing?)

#### *My thoughts*

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#### *Partner's thoughts*

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### Story 3:

Dina usually greets everyone who she meets on Shabbat with a "Shabbat Shalom" blessing. Last shabbat she saw her teacher Rachel walking in front of her on the street. As usual, Dina greeted Rachel with a "Shabbat Shalom" and a big smile. Rachel did not respond and continued walking.

- Try to judge Rachel favorably:

#### *My thoughts*

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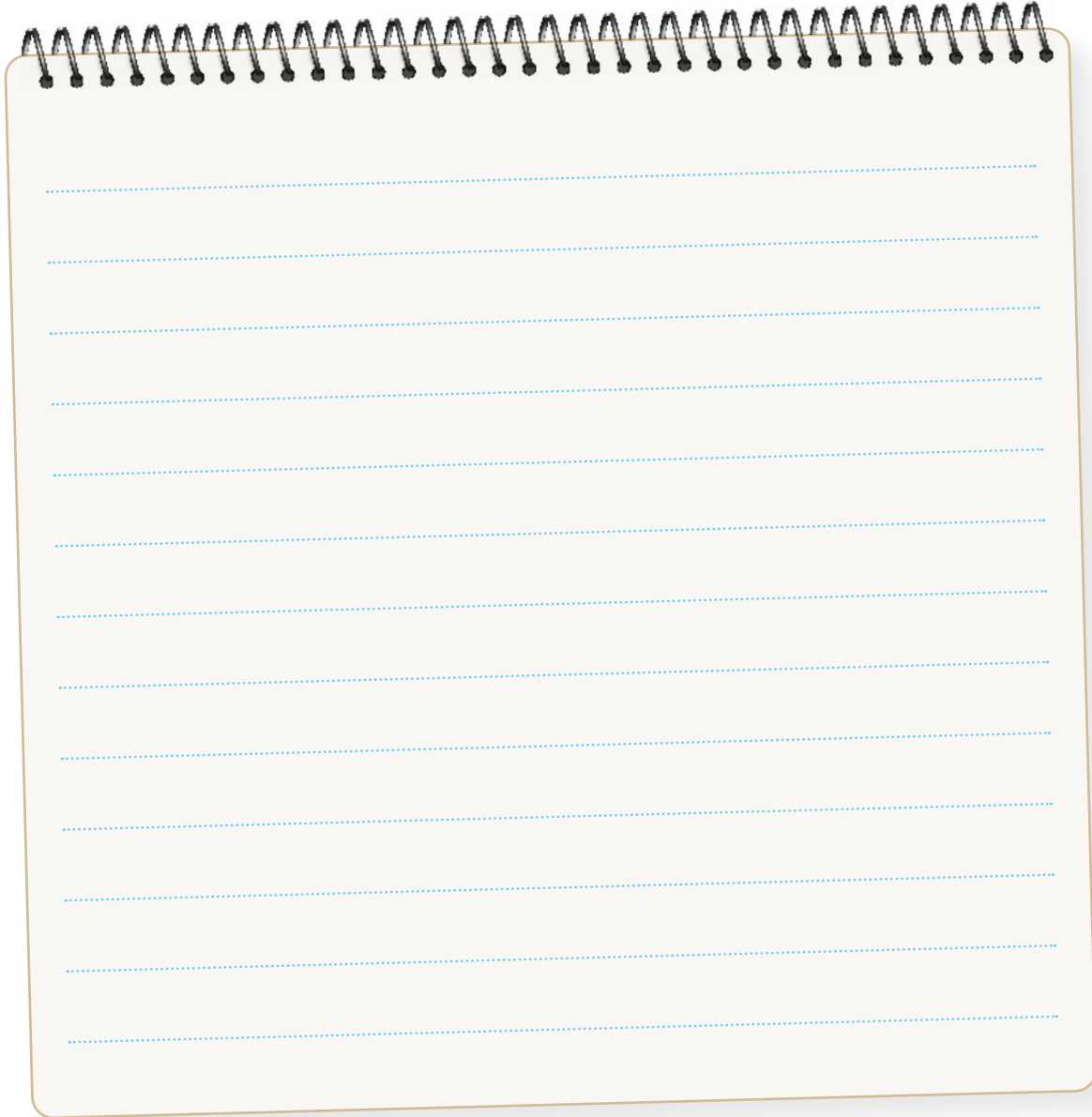
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#### *Partner's thoughts*

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- Write your own story about a situation that can be understood in different ways. (You can add how you would judge someone favorably in such a case).



- Would you like others to judge you favorably? In what situations?

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