

8 Lost in the Forest



In the meantime, Shira continued walking in the forest and trying to find her friends. But she didn't realize that she was walking in the **wrong** direction. She walked farther and farther into the forest, feeling more and more scared with every minute. Where was everyone? she thought.

Finally, she was too tired to walk any more. She stopped and looked around for a place to sit. Yes, there was a tree **stump**! She sat down on the stump and tried to think.

Don't worry, she told herself. By now, Mrs. Brill must know that I'm not with the class. Someone will come **looking for** me. Everything will be okay.

But it was hard not to be worried and afraid. She was alone in the forest, and she was cold and hungry. All around her were big trees—twenty, thirty, and **even** forty meters tall. The trees blocked the sun and made the forest very **dark**. It was quiet besides some noises made by birds and other animals. When would someone find her?

*in the meantime = בינתיים

*stump = גזע עץ כרות

*dark = חשוך

*wrong = לא נכון

*looking for = לחפש

*finally = סוף-סוף

*even = אפילו

2:00 p.m. — *Smallwood Forest*

The police came to Smallwood Forest quickly. They asked Mrs. Brill many questions.

“What is the girl’s name? What does she **look like**? When and where did she get lost?”

After Mrs. Brill had answered the questions, the police started looking for Shira. Many policemen went into the forest. Some of them had dogs. There was also a helicopter flying in the air, but it was hard to see anything in the forest because of all the trees.

In the meantime, Class 8A went back to school. The girls were all very worried. On the bus, they said *Tehillim* for their missing friend, and they continued to say *Tehillim* when they **arrived** at school. All the other classes at school were also saying *Tehillim*. Some of Shira’s friends were crying. At 4:30, all the girls went home, but the police still had not found Shira.

At 6:00 it was too **dark** to continue **searching**. Two policemen came to the Friedlands’ house to give them an **update**.

“We’re sorry,” they told Mr. and Mrs. Friedland. “We must stop now. We will start searching again tomorrow morning.”

“But...but...” Mr. Friedland said, “How can you stop now? It’s dark and cold in the forest! How can Shira stay there alone?”

“And she doesn’t have any food with her!” Mrs. Friedland said. “She must be very hungry!”

“There is nothing that we can do,” the police told them. “It’s very hard to search in the forest at night.”

Mr. and Mrs. Friedland were very **upset**, but there was nothing that they could do.

They spent the night with their family and friends, saying *Tehillim* and praying that Shira stay safe in the forest and be found quickly.

*look like = נראית

*arrived = הגיעו

*dark = חשוך

*searching = לחפש

*update = עידכון

*upset = כעוסים, כאובים, עצובים