

I was angry. "Chavi, you always eat cornflakes for breakfast," I said, "and Avrumi, Mommy always gives you plain milk to drink. Menachem and Shimmy, we eat pancakes only on *Rosh Chodesh*. Now, everyone eat your cornflakes and get ready* for school."

The children ate, but not very fast. I was nervous.* It was already 8:00, and the boys started school at 8:15. My sisters and I started school at 8:30, but first I needed to take Avrumi to Mrs. Levin's house. How would I ever come to school on time?

In the end, we only came to school at 8:50. It was the first time that I had been late to school that year, but I was worried. What would Mrs. Goldstein say?

Wow! What a surprise! Mrs. Goldstein wasn't angry with me at all.* She said, "It's okay, Chaya. With your mother in the hospital, I'm sure that you needed to help at home. You can sit down in your seat."

I was very relieved,* but I was still nervous about my math homework. What would Mrs. Mensky say when I told her that I hadn't done the homework?

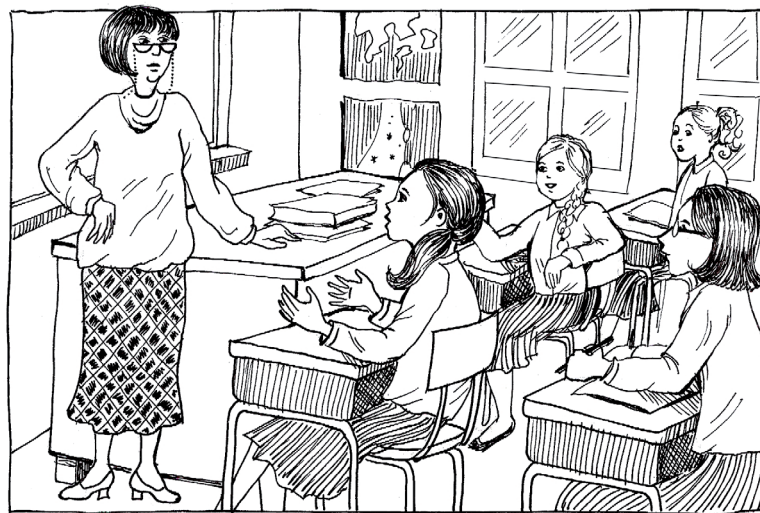
At one o'clock, Mrs. Mensky walked into the room. "Good morning, girls," she said. "Please take out your homework."

I raised my hand. "Yes, Chaya?" she said. "Is there a problem?"

*get ready = התכוננו *nervous = לחוצה, מודאגת *at all = בכלל
*was very relieved = חשתי הקלה גדולה

"I'm so sorry, Mrs. Mensky, but I didn't do my homework," I said. "My mother had a baby yesterday and I needed to help at home."

Mrs. Mensky didn't smile, but she didn't look* angry, either. "Yes, I heard the good news," she said. "Mazel Tov! I understand why you couldn't do the homework yesterday, but please do it today. We have a big test next week and it's very important that you know all the material."*



"Yes, of course," I said. I was so relieved and happy that Mrs. Mensky wasn't angry at me. But I hoped* that I would really have time to do all my homework.

*look = נראתה *material = חומר *hoped = קיויתי