

Hey, you! Yes, I'm talking to you. Guess what? *You* are going to be the star of this story. That's right — you! Sounds exciting, doesn't it? But there's just one thing you need to know before you begin reading. Every page or so, you're going to be asked to choose how you want the story to continue.

You probably already know a lot about making decisions in your life. After all, Hashem gave people free choice. Some decisions in life are small and easy to make; others are bigger, with bigger stakes, and are harder to make. Sometimes you make the right decision. Other times, you don't. Depending on the situation, you may or may not be able to undo your choice.

The good thing about *this* story is that once you reach an ending, you get to return to the beginning of the story and make different decisions. Doing this allows you to reach a different ending. You can keep doing this over and over again until you've reached all of the endings that are in this book. There are fifteen of them!

THE SHOPPING ADVENTURE

Are you ready for your starring role? Good. Then it's time to begin *The Shopping Adventure*.

Imagine it's Friday morning. However, it's not just any Friday — it's the first day of summer vacation. Another successful school year is behind you, and all you want to do now is...your math review booklet.

Ha! Of course not.

What about your reading review booklet? Nah. All you want to do is *nothing*. That's all your brain can handle at this point. You worked so hard these past few months!

You walk into the kitchen.

"Oh no!" your mother says as she digs through the freezer.

"What's wrong, Mommy?" you ask. She sounds desperate, but you aren't sure why.

"I was so positive that I had a gefilte fish loaf for this Shabbos. Except, now it seems that I don't. What am I going to do? I can't leave the house now; I still have to prepare the chicken soup, potato salad, and roasted chicken, not to mention do all the laundry."

Your mother slumps into a chair. *Maybe I could help*, you think. Perhaps you could go to the store yourself and get the fish for her. Your parents are

THE SHOPPING ADVENTURE

always telling you that you need to become more responsible. If you run to the store, then you can show them you are dependable. But a trip to the supermarket on the first day of summer vacation? That's not how you planned to spend your day.

IF YOU DECIDE TO OFFER TO GO GET THE GEFILTE FISH, TURN TO PAGE 8.

IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO VOLUNTEER TO GO TO THE SUPERMARKET, TURN TO PAGE 12.





I can go and get the gefilte fish, Mommy,” you tell her.

She looks at you, a bit surprised. “By yourself? You’ve never gone grocery shopping by yourself.”

“That’s true. But this isn’t really grocery shopping. I mean, it’s not like it’s a whole list. It’s just one gefilte fish loaf. I even know which kind you always buy — the one with the purple label, right? Besides, you and Abba always tell me I need to help out more. Please, can I go?”

Your mother hesitates for a moment but then goes over to the counter. She takes a twenty-dollar bill out of her purse. “The fish costs exactly ten so I expect —”

“Ten dollars back,” you say, jumping in. Who needs a summer math review booklet anyway?

“Right.” Your mother smiles. “Ten dollars back. Go straight there, straight back, and don’t stop anywhere along the way.”

You take the bill from your mother and fold it neatly. Then you place it in your shirt pocket. You even close the button. “Don’t worry, Mommy. I’ll

THE SHOPPING ADVENTURE

be back in no time with that loaf. You can count on me.”

“I know I can. Thank you, honey. This is a huge help.”

You walk out of the house and head over to Super Duper Supermarket. On the way, you pass by Bloomgarten’s Flower Shop. There’s a beautiful display of flowers in the window. You know when you walk past it that it’s just a few more minutes until you reach the supermarket.

Soon, you arrive at the small strip mall where Super Duper Supermarket is. Even though you’ve been there a million times before, as your mother pointed out, this is your first time going in alone. Right before the supermarket is the bookstore, Judaica Galaxy and The Scooter Spot.



THE SHOPPING ADVENTURE

You take a quick peek in the window of Judaica Galaxy. There's a new adventure book that was recently released. You want to read it over the summer. Maybe the store already has it! You would love to go in and check if it has come in. After all, you *are* supposed to keep up with your reading over the summer, right?

You also gaze through the window of The Scooter Spot. They've always got the latest scooter styles and designs. They even have an area at the back of the store where customers can try them out. You just have to wear one of the helmets that they keep on a shelf nearby. It's a really fun store, and kids are always welcome there even if they're not planning on buying a scooter.

You haven't gone inside for a long time. Oh, how you would love to test-run the newest scooters being sold! Now *that's* an activity for the first day of summer vacation!

Of course, Mommy told you not to make any stops along the way to Super Duper Supermarket. But these stores are not *along* the way. They're just *next door*! Now, if you had stopped at Bloomgarten's Flower Shop, *that* would have been stopping along the way. Right?

THE SHOPPING ADVENTURE

Deep down, though, there's a place where the truth hangs out even when you try to ignore it. You know Mommy meant you should not stop *anywhere*.

But still, if you were just to stop in at either of these stores for a minute or two — no more! — then no harm would be done, right? A little browsing, and then you would buy the gefilte fish.

Yet if no harm would be done, why do you feel like maybe you shouldn't do it?

**IF YOU DECIDE TO GO INTO JUDAICA GALAXY, TURN
TO PAGE 16.**

**IF YOU DECIDE TO GO INTO THE SCOOTER SPOT,
TURN TO PAGE 18.**

**IF YOU DECIDE TO GO STRAIGHT INTO SUPER DUPER
SUPERMARKET, TURN TO PAGE 22.**





Well, I'm sure you'll figure something out, Mommy. You always do." You try to sound encouraging. Then you walk to the fridge. It's empty, as usual. Why is there never anything to eat?

Without another word, you go back upstairs to your bedroom. You lie on your bed, staring up at the ceiling. Ah! This is the life, not a care in the world. You start to count the dots on your ceiling.

By the time you reach one hundred, the thrill has worn off.

You go over to your desk and flip through your math review booklet. There's not a single page that's calling out to you, "Try me!" Same thing with your reading review booklet.

Now you think about your mother downstairs in the kitchen. Mothers never get a summer vacation, or any real vacation at all, for that matter. Sigh. You should have offered to help her. What's wrong with you? It's just one loaf of gefilte fish! You'll be back in no time at all to resume your state of...boredom.