

## From Mrs. Noah

Join Hannah, Max, Mrs. Noah and many of their friends as they explore the Torah and the awesome stories and lessons waiting to be found

### Part 1

### In Mrs. Noah's Kitchen



**Continued from last week:** Hannah and Max had been walking with Dodi, their friend, leading a lamb that was to be an offering. Max was hungry.



When he saw a platter of wafers, he headed straight toward them.

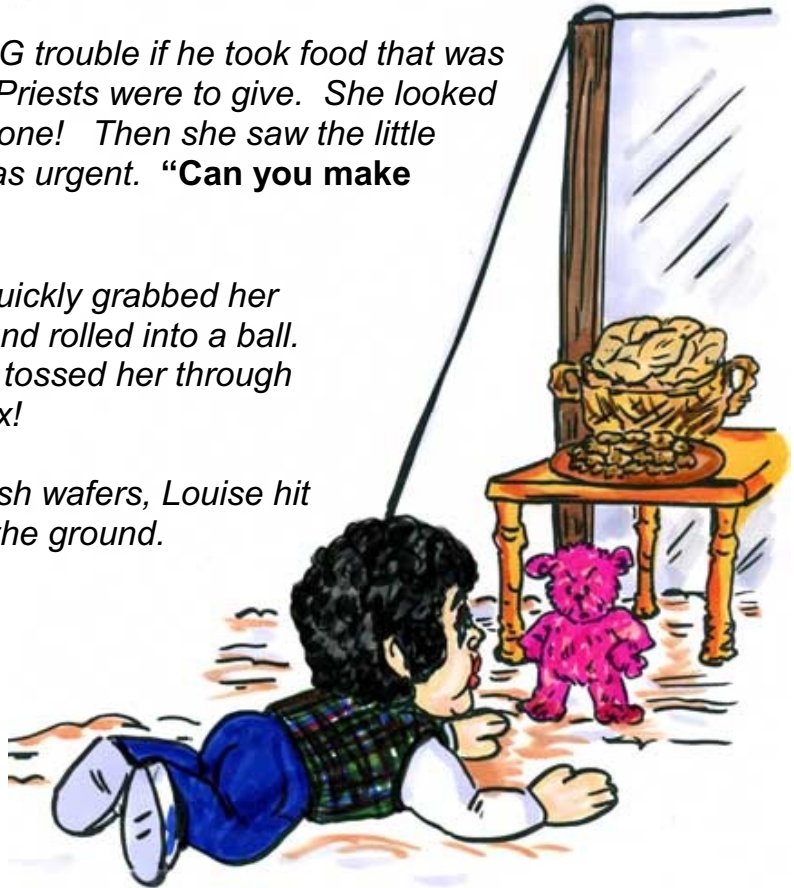


Hannah knew he'd be in **BIG** trouble if he took food that was intended as part of the offerings the Priests were to give. She looked around quickly for something - someone! Then she saw the little teddy bear. "**Louise!**" Her voice was urgent. "**Can you make yourself into a ball?**"

"**What?**" Louise asked. Then she quickly grabbed her dusty paws, tucked her head down and rolled into a ball. Hannah picked up the fuzzy ball and tossed her through the air - right toward the running Max!

Just as he reached for one of the fresh wafers, Louise hit him in the back and knocked him to the ground.

Hannah ran as fast as she could to reach Max - **BEFORE** he took any of the wafers for the offering. When she got there, she found Louise had picked herself up and was standing in front of him. "**Max! What were you thinking?**" Hannah demanded.



**"I was just hungry," he answered. "They have plenty. What's the problem?"**

**"Max! That's special bread! It's for the offerings!" Dodi told him.**

*Louise looked very stern. "No way, Max."*

**"Just a little nibble. No one will know," he begged.**

**"Max," she told him firmly, "you have seen the power of YHWH! You know how He wants everyone to respect and follow His Commandments. You can't ignore them!"**

*Just then they looked up and saw Aharon raise up some meat over his head, then place it on the altar. He lifted his hands and blessed the people, then he came down off the altar to join Moshe.*

*Everything was quiet as Moshe and Aharon went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out – they blessed the people again.*

*Suddenly, the cloud covering the Tabernacle began to grow larger and larger. Fire and lightning shot into the sky. Then, flames came out from YHWH's presence and devoured all the meat on the altar. All the people shouted and fell on their faces.*

**"Look over there," Hannah shouted as she pointed to 2 men, dressed in priest's garments, walking kind of strangely as they went through the entrance and into the courtyard.**

**"Hmmm," Dodi mumbled, "they look like they have had a little too much wine."**

*The first fireball licked up the offering. Now, another fireball shot out of the presence of YHWH. Hannah and Max couldn't see anything, but they knew it wasn't good.*

*The crowd hushed. Then, slowly, Hannah could hear murmuring. Then sobs. Dodi went to find out what had happened.*

*He returned looking very sad.*



**“Aharon’s sons – the 2 oldest – didn’t listen to the instructions Moshe had given them,” he told them. “Fire consumed them, along with the offering!” [Levit 10:1-3]**

**“Mrs. Noah was telling us about people who ‘play games.’ I think these sons of Aharon may have been playing games, too. You can’t play games with Abba YHWH. He is smarter than we are,” Hannah told them.**

**“Maybe it’s time for us to go back to see Mrs. Noah!” Max cried.**

## **Part 2 Lemonade with Mrs. Noah**

**“Mrs. Noah, Aharon’s sons didn’t know how to dress for success. Does Yah always zap people who make mistakes?” Max asked. “Or, was there something wrong with their hearts?”**

**“I think it was their hearts, Max.” Mrs. Noah poured fresh lemonade and pulled some peanut butter cookies out of the oven. “But having our hearts right IS dressing for success. Remember when He said He didn’t want people to give – unless they REALLY wanted to? Abba YHWH looks at all of our hearts.”**

**“Is that why people play games? Because their hearts are bad?” Hannah wondered.**

*Max looked puzzled as he reached for a cookie.*

**“Play games? What’s wrong with playing games – we play games all the time!”**

**“Well, Max, some people play games that aren’t fun,” Mrs. Noah remarked.**

**“How do they play those games?” he asked through a mouth full of cookies.**

**“Hmmm.” Mrs. Noah hesitated. “If Hannah tells you she likes tomato soup – then you give her tomato soup, and she goes to Miss B and tells her she HATES tomato soup and that you ALWAYS give her tomato soup – that would be a game, a game to make you LOOK bad to Miss B.”**

**“Why would she play that game?” Max questioned.**

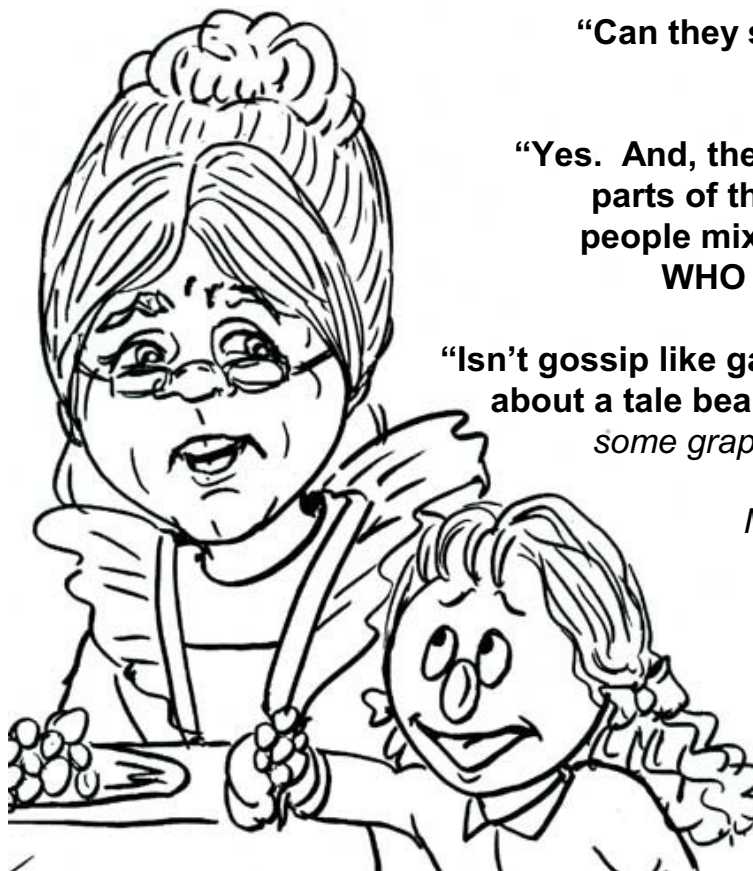




Mrs. Noah looked very sad. **“It would be a game to make Miss B feel sorry for her and to get her attention.”**

**“Ohhh, these games are a way of changing people’s HEARTS!”** Hannah exclaimed.

**“That’s right,”** Mrs. Noah confirmed. **“Some people play these games all of their lives. They use words – gossip and lies – like bullets in a gun. They can change hearts and make people very confused.”**



**“Can they separate families and friends?”**

*Max looked at Hannah.*

**“Yes. And, they even use the Torah – bits and parts of the Scriptures – to divide and get people mixed up, so they don’t even know WHO YHWH IS,”** Mrs. Noah said sadly.

**“Isn’t gossip like games? I think you wrote a story about a tale bearer,”** Hannah recalled as she took some grapes from the platter on the table..

Mrs. Noah smiled. **“Oh, yes. The Ballad of Dicky Villain.”**

**“I know what we can do!”** Max cried, as he quickly jumped up from the table.

*But, his shoe caught, and ...*  
**“Max!”** Hannah cried.  
*But it was too late.*

*When Max jumped up from the table, his foot hit the table leg and he lost his balance. As he began to fall, he grabbed the tablecloth that pulled off of the table! The glass Hannah was reaching for tipped and splattered all over Miss B! Miss B wiggled out of the puddle of juice and up onto the platter of cookies.*

*Cecil heard the commotion and hopped upon the table and reached for a piece of cookie – but instead, he got hold of Miss B.*



**“Cecil!”** Hannah screamed as she snatched Miss B out of his hand – just before Cecil could take a bite out of her! Miss B’s eyes were wide open, but she was speechless Cecil gasped.

**“Whoa,”** Mrs. Noah sighed. Then she got busy wiping up the lemonade with a dish towel.

But, then, as they looked around, they noticed Max wasn’t helping – **MAX WAS GONE** – again!

Hannah took Miss B, hat and all, and carefully rinsed off the sticky lemonade in the sink.

**“Ewoooo. He makes me so mad!”** Hannah grumbled. **“He’s just playing games with me – trying to get my attention.”**

Mrs. Noah watched Miss B climb up on Hannah’s arm as she set down a small cloth for Miss B to dry on. **“Games? What kind of games?”**

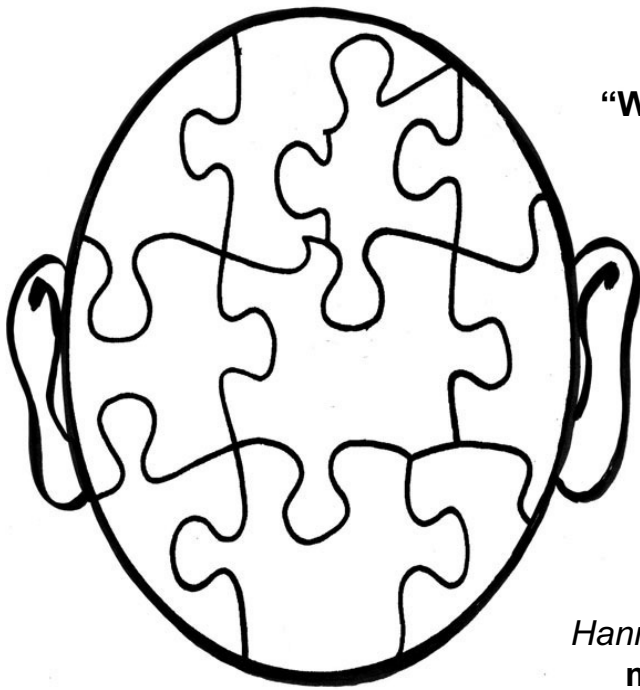
Hannah glanced over at the Bible where Max had been reading – as he was looking for a new adventure. **“He just wants me to come and find him – like I always do. He probably went someplace scary – and he KNOWS that I don’t like scary places. I am so mad. He ALWAYS leaves me out – and just does what HE wants!”**

**“Don’t you think you’re being a little hard on him, Hannah?”** Mrs. Noah suggested. **“Do you REALLY think he ALWAYS plays a game to get his own way?”** she asked a very peeved Hannah.

As Hannah crossed her arms and scowled, Miss B slipped off her arm – and right down into her pocket. **“Remember when Max went on that trip with his parents – and he didn’t even tell me?”** Hannah began. **“Then there was that time he ran off with Zak, and I had to search Sodom for them,”** she recalled. **“And at my 7<sup>th</sup> birthday party he said I looked stupid and embarrassed me in front of my friends. And, last year he glared at me when I said he was wrong about the goats. He’s ALWAYS trying to make me feel bad!”**

Mrs. Noah raised her eyes and looked at Hannah, who appeared very angry. **“My, my, Hannah! Are you forgetting a lot of pieces to the puzzle?”** she asked sternly.





**“Puzzle?”** *Hannah gulped. “What puzzle?”*

**“Well, there are many pieces to look for, before you accuse someone of playing games – to hurt you,”** *Mrs. Noah told her, as she pulled a puzzle off a shelf, and lay it on the table.*

**“Do you mean MAX is a puzzle?”**  
*Hannah exclaimed.*

*Mrs. Noah took a blue marker and wrote ‘Max’ on the top of the puzzle. “Now, tell me what Max did to make you think he is playing a game to hurt you?”*

*Hannah thought for a minute. “He ALWAYS makes me go find him – then I go places I don’t want to go! If I don’t go, he ALWAYS makes me feel guilty.”*

*Mrs. Noah looked at Hannah and smiled. “ALWAYS, Hannah? YOU choose to feel guilty. NO one MAKES you feel bad. YOU decide to do that.”*

**“But, but ...”** *Hannah sputtered. “He makes me so ...”*

**“Hannah,”** *Miss B whispered, as she poked her head out of Hannah’s pocket. “Do you remember the song Mrs. Noah sang to Max when he was being SOOO grouchy?”*

**“It’s like our puzzle. Can you make a decision about HOW you are going to feel with only ONE bit of information – one piece of the puzzle? You may not have the right picture,”** *Mrs. Noah explained.*

**“That’s right, Hannah. When Max went on the trip – remember – Max couldn’t call! His mom was sick and they had to leave quickly. He tried to write – remember?”**  
*Miss B reminded her.*

**“And when he goes to scary places, is it to hurt you? OR just because he is so excited, he forgets to think of other people – just himself. Maybe that’s not good, but not because he WANTS to hurt you,”** *Mrs. Noah suggested.*

*Miss B wiggled back up on Hannah’s arm. “And, I think Yeshua said we are*

supposed to give up our feelings, our lives, for our friends – didn't He?"  
[John 15:13]

**"Actually," Mrs. Noah added, "He said that there was no greater love than for 'a man to give up his life for his friends.' But, 'giving up' your life, what YOU want – is NOT talking about giving up your time, money – or your life – for mean, evil people. It's more like loving and helping people; family, friends – or puppets – even if they aren't perfect."**

**"Yeah – I heard someone say, 'He who angers you – controls you.' So, be careful who gets you angry!" Miss B told them.**



**"I heard it was important to 'dress for success,' "**  
*Hannah suggested. "If we 'put on the armor' described in Ephesians 6, we will know who is playing games and WHEN to get angry."*

*Just then, Max startled everyone when he peeked over the end of the table where Mrs. Noah was showing Hannah the puzzle. "Hey, Mrs. Noah. You were right! That was too scary for me!" He looked at Hannah. "Sure glad you didn't come, Hannah. Sorry I ran away," he muttered . "I felt bad that I made such a mess."*

*Hannah smiled at Mrs. Noah. "I guess you were right. I just needed more of the pieces."*

*Max frowned. "Don't know what you are talkin' about!"*

*When everything was all cleaned up, Max tried to remember WHY he had jumped up from the table and the lemonade was spilled. "Oh, yeah! Mrs. Noah was going to tell us a story. But, I wanted to go back and see Dodi. We left in such a hurry, we didn't say goodbye."*

**"NO!" Hannah asserted. "I want to hear Mrs. Noah's story!"**

**"Max, we decided to start the story first," Mrs. Noah reminded him as she put the mop away, and sat in her favorite chair. Then, while they all gathered around, she said, "This story is about some boys who loved and trusted the God of Isra'el, even if it meant that they would make the king angry, and that they would die."**

**"A true story?" Miss B asked.**

**"Yes. And, an important one," Mrs. Noah told them. "All the tribes of Isra'el, put together, had made a big, powerful nation. But, they forgot the Covenant they had made with Abba YHWH – their God. They had a fight, then they divided into 2 separate kingdoms: Isra'el and Judah."**

**Moogy wiggled out of a book on the table. "Yes. Then, Isra'el lost its blessings, and enemies took over the land. Next, the land of Judah was taken over, too. The whole promised land that Yah had given them was lost to the pagan nations around them."**



**Max, still hungry, grabbed another cookie. "Who were the boys that had good hearts?"**

**"Well, a bunch of young men – 10 to 17 or 18 years old – were taken to Babylon, where Iraq is today," Mrs. Noah explained. "The King, N'vuk'hadnetzar, told them he was ..."**

**"Neb-u-can – WHO?" Max interrupted.**

**Mrs. Noah smiled. She knew it was a hard name. "In English it is pronounced Neb-u-cha-nez-zar. This king wanted a bunch of smart boys to serve him in his palace. One of the boys was Dani'el. Dani'el and 3 others were given new names. Dani'el was given the new name Belt'shatzar. Hananyah was renamed Shadrakh; Misha'el was now Meishakh; and Azaryah was Aved-n'go." [Dan 1:7]**

**"Wow, those are all hard names!" Hannah noted. "Go on, Mrs. Noah. What happened to them in this Arab country?"**

**"Did they beat and torture them?" Max asked.**

**"Thankfully, no. The King ordered the same food for these young men that he ate. BUT, these boys wouldn't eat the unclean animals, wine, and unhealthy foods from the King's table. They asked for vegetables and water. All the guards watched as they became healthier than all the others in their care," she told them. [Dan 1:12-15]**





**“They WANTED vegetables?” Max exclaimed in disbelief.  
“Is that how they got into trouble?”**

*Mrs. Noah smiled.* **“No. The king made a big golden statue and commanded everyone to bow down to it – every time they heard the music that King N’vuk’had’netzar (Neb-u-cha-nez-zar) had prepared.” [Dan 3:1, 4-5]**

**“I read about that. The King said that anyone who wouldn’t bow down to his statue would be thrown into a big fiery furnace,” Miss B told them. [Dan 3:6]**

*Hannah got another glass of lemonade and sat down with her paper and pencils.* **“And, no way would the boys bow down to that! Yah said we are NOT to bow down to ANY graven - or sculpted – image!” [Levit 19:4 & 26:1]**

**“I remember! The King told Hananyah, Misha’el and Azaryah, that they would be thrown into the fiery furnace,” Miss B added. “Daniel was put into a lions den.”**

**“That’s right! But, these 3 boys said, that even if they were not saved – were burned up, YHWH was GOD, and they would NOT worship the golden statue. That made the King really mad! So, he had the furnace made even HOTTER before he had them thrown in!” Mrs. Noah told them. [Dan 3:14-18]**

**“Yeah. You told us about this story before. Right?” Max asked.**

**“Yes. But this time I want you to notice these boys had GOOD hearts!” she answered. “They TRUSTED YHWH. HE didn’t protect them from the fire – He saved them from INSIDE the fire!”**

**“They was thrown IN that fire? Tell us again!” Max urged.**

*Mrs. Noah smiled.* **“That’s ‘were thrown’ into the fire, Max. But,**



you need to read the whole story of these boys. There are lots and lots of lessons to learn about different kinds of armor.” *[Dan 3:12 & Eph 6:10]*

“But, just like Isra’el, no matter how big a problem you get into, if your heart is right, YHWH WILL help you – if you ask Him, right?” *Hannah asked.*

“Yeah. And sometimes,” *Max remembered,* “He even changes His mind. He has saved lots of people he was going to wipe out – when they changed their hearts.”

“Look back in this week’s story!” *Miss B called to them.* “Look what the next instructions to Moshe are. Chapter 11 of Leviticus. He’s talking about what kinds of animals are food.”

*Moogy was reading, too.* “You are correct. Yah is telling them about what animals He made for them to eat and how to tell which ones that are good food. He calls them ‘clean’.”

*Miss B continued,* “And, which ones He said are NOT good for food – that are ‘unclean.’ ”

“Hey, wait a minute! Isn’t there somewhere, in the back of the Bible, that says He changed His mind and now EVERYTHING is good for food?” *Max asked.*

“Are you talking about the dream that Peter had?” *Mrs. Noah asked. [Acts 10:10-16 & 25-29]*

“Yeah. He had a dream and somethin’ showed him a big sheet filled with all these animals. A voice told ’em to kill and eat them. AND – some of them were on the list of the animals that used to be unclean,” *he replied.* “I think somebody changed the rules.”



*Mrs. Noah picked up a pencil and started sketching a picture .*

“Oh. So, you don’t think what YHWH says here in the Torah is still good?” *Mrs. Noah asked Max.* “Well, I looked, and looked. I can’t find anyplace where anyone changed the Torah. But tell me, do you know who Peter was?”

Miss B was excited. **"I know!"** she said, as she watched Mrs. Noah drawing. **"He was one of Yeshua's disciples – one of His students."**

**"Yes. And Yeshua taught His students all that He had learned from His Abba, YHWH Elohim. Notice, Peter refused. He would NOT eat the unclean animals. Do you think that after studying the things Yeshua taught him, he would have refused – IF they were now somehow clean?"** Mrs. Noah asked.

**"But ... but, everybody says ..."** Max stuttered.

**"DID Peter kill and eat the animals?"** Hannah asked.

**"If you had a dream of a plate of mice being given to you and you heard a voice tell you to kill and eat THEM, what would YOU do?"** Mrs. Noah questioned.



Max was speechless. What **WOULD** he do?

Secretly, without anyone knowing that he was listening from his hole in the wall, Cecil overheard **PART** of the conversation. **"Eat MICE? Max is going to eat mice? That's it! I'm out of here!"** he mumbled to himself. So Cecil packed his bag, grabbed a cookie, and headed for the door, tears streaming down his face.

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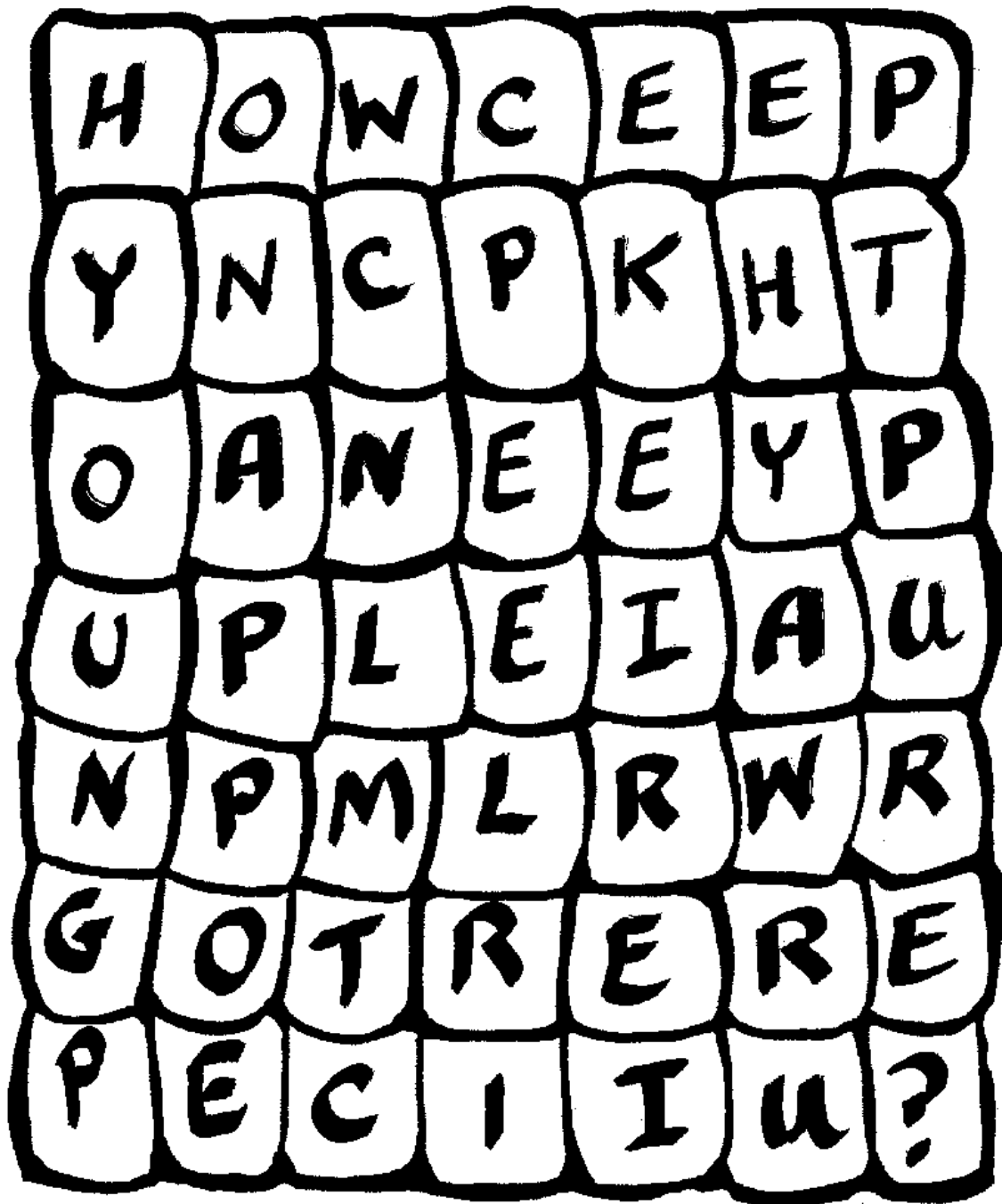
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