

Ruthie and I didn't talk much the rest* of the way. After all, we were in the car with the assistant principal! After around fifteen minutes, we arrived at the hospital. We all got out and waited for the minivan.

As soon as the rest of the girls came, we went inside. Mrs. Pinsk took us up to the fourth floor and brought us to a large waiting room. She told us that the children would be brought there to see our performance. Some would come in wheelchairs and others would walk by themselves.

Ruthie whispered in my ear, "Are you okay?"

I nodded.* The waiting room actually looked very nice. There were beautiful posters on the walls, and everything was very colorful. In one corner, there were lots of large stuffed animals,* some as tall as an adult! Another corner had a play area. There was also a big aquarium with beautiful fish. It looked more like a kindergarten or toy store than like a hospital. That is, until the children appeared.

They were all wearing hospital pajamas. Some had bags of fluids* attached* to them and other things that made it very clear that we were in a hospital. The nurses even brought out one little girl in a hospital bed. There were about ten kids in all.*

*the rest = שאר

*stuffed animals = דובים וחיית צעצוע

*attached = מחוברים

*I nodded = הנהנתי

*fluids = נוזלים

*in all = סך הכל

Adina and Shuli started playing Chanukah songs. The children were all smiling and some of them were clapping, too. In the meantime, Ruthie gave a balloon to each child. The children looked very happy with their special animal shapes. Then, Yocheved, Tzippy, and Malki performed a complicated* dance while Shuli played the accordion. When they were done, everyone clapped. The nurses seemed to like it, too. Finally, it was time for the puppet show.



While Leora and I were performing, I was so caught up* in the moment that I forgot to think about where I was. When one of us said something funny, all the children laughed. When Leeba was very sad that nobody wanted to come to her party and she didn't know why, one of the children yelled that she should talk to Reeba! When we were finished, they all cheered and clapped very loudly.

*complicated = מסובך

*caught up = תפוסה ב-, בתוך ה-