



Beth Meets Max's Bubbie – A Story for *Va'Yetze*

By Alan Levin

Many children are told during their childhoods not to stare at people with disabilities or those who look different for any reason. Many grow up not asking questions, not understanding, and perhaps even fearing others. In this story, Beth learns an important lesson from Max's Bubbie who is in a wheelchair as a result of a stroke.

Ideas for Teachers

This story can be used in different ways:

- To begin a study of aging and respecting elderly people (the mitzvah of *Kibud Zekaynim*)
- As part of a disability awareness units
- With a study of the mitzvah of “not placing a stumbling block” (*Lo Titayn Michshol*)
- To examine one aspect of *Va'Yetze*

Enduring Understandings

- Torah can provide us with guidelines for our daily lives.
- We learn by asking questions, but should ask with sensitivity.

Possible Lesson Questions

- Why did Beth feel that looking at people or asking questions was wrong? Have you ever been in a similar situation or had an experience like Beth's?
- Who can you talk to if you have important questions to ask? If you don't know how to handle a situation, who can you talk to?
- Why might Max's Bubbie have felt like less of a person when Beth avoided looking at her? How does avoiding someone with a disability make them feel badly? What can you do instead?
- How can you celebrate differences? Why is it such a wonderful thing that we are all different? What would it be like if we were all the same?
- What kinds of disabilities can be a part of the aging process? Do you have family members or neighbors that have disabilities which may be related to age? How did Beth's story help you think about how people with disabilities might feel?