

# LAYERED STORIES

**Title: “The boy on the train”**

## PHASE 1

On the 7:30 regional train, a woman reads the newspaper in silence. Next to her, a boy of about 17 stares out the window, seemingly absent-minded. After a few minutes, he begins laughing to himself and talking loudly. The people in the nearby seats turn around annoyed. The woman shakes her head and clutches her bag to her chest.

👉 Questions: *What do you think is going on? What do you think of this boy?*

## PHASE 2

The conductor enters the compartment and asks for the tickets. When he approaches the boy, he fumbles in his pockets and says, "Mom has one, I don't have one, but I'm going to dad's today..." The conductor sighs and says something to the woman next to him, who is watching him with concern.

👉 Questions: *Has your opinion of the boy changed? How do you imagine the situation now?*

## PHASE 3

The woman explains to the conductor that the boy is her son, he has a cognitive disability, and is taking a short trip alone for the first time, as part of an educational program to develop independence. She follows him from a distance without interfering, even though her heart is pounding. The conductor smiles and nods, leaving them alone.

👉 Questions: *What did you learn from this story? How can you avoid hasty judgment? Has anything similar ever happened to you?*

# LAYERED STORIES

**Title: "A message on the wall"**

## PHASE 1

During the break, some students find a writing on the bathroom wall:

"Luca is a loser. Nobody wants to be with him." The news spreads through the class, and many start laughing and making jokes. Some even take a photo to share.

👉 Questions: *What do you think about the situation? Who might have written the sentence? How do you feel about Luca?*

## PHASE 2

A few days later, the writing was erased. Luca, however, stopped coming to school. A classmate reported that he was already going through a difficult time due to family issues. It turns out he had often been targeted in the past, too, in subtle ways: exclusion from groups, jokes, nicknames.

👉 Questions: *Has your opinion changed? How do you view the phrase on the wall now? Who is responsible?*

## PHASE 3

A few weeks pass. During a meeting with the school psychologist, it emerges that the person who wrote the sentence was another boy in the class, Marco, who felt invisible and thought that by hitting Luca he would gain the group's attention.

Marco says, "I just wanted to make people laugh. No one ever laughs with me."

👉 Questions: *What does this new information reveal? How can we better understand the dynamics of bullying? Is it all Marco's fault?*

# LAYERED STORIES

**Title: “The phone call at the library”**

## **PHASE 1**

In a quiet school library, during study time, a phone rings. A girl sitting at the back of the room quickly picks it up and, without going out, answers in a low but audible voice: "Hello? ... Yes... But I can't now..." Several students look at her with annoyance. The librarian sternly calls her out: "No phone calls in here!" She lowers her gaze.

👉 Questions: *In your opinion, was the answer correct? How do you rate the librarian's behavior?*

## **PHASE 2**

A few minutes later, the girl grabs her backpack and walks away. Some classmates comment, "Same old girl, doesn't care about the rules." A teacher meets her in the hallway and asks if everything's okay. The girl responds in a broken voice, "It was the hospital. My mom had another breakdown..."

👉 Questions: *Does this change your initial perception? What does it make you think?*

## **PHASE 3**

In the days that followed, the librarian apologized to her for his harsh reaction. She said she didn't blame him, but that sometimes she felt trapped between school and what was happening at home. A classmate, who had been judging her, approached her and asked if she needed help with her homework. From that day on, they began studying together.

👉 Questions: *What does this story teach us? How can we train ourselves to suspend judgment?*

# LAYERED STORIES

**Title: “Hidden truths of a father”**

## **PHASE 1**

A man steals bread to feed his children. He is arrested.

👉 Questions: *What do you think? / Did he do well or badly? / Is he guilty or understandable?*

## **PHASE 2**

We discover that the man had refused a regularly paid night job a few weeks earlier.

👉 Questions: *In light of this new information, has your opinion changed, and why? / Why do you think he turned down the job? / What do you think of his choice now?*

## **PHASE 3**

Then it turns out that he has a seriously ill son, lives in his car, and working nights would have put his health and ability to care for his son at risk.

👉 Questions: *What new insights have you learned? / How much does context matter in people's choices? / How can we avoid hasty judgments?*