



On the Outside Always Looking In: *A Dear Evan Hansen* Text Study

Questions for Reading

1. Narrative: What is this text talking about?
2. Allegory: What are the deeper meanings of this text?
3. Today's World: What are the lessons for today that this text is trying to teach?
4. Now Go and Do: If you took this text seriously, what would you be inspired to do or think?
5. Food for Thought: Is this a text you can see using with your teens? Why or why not? How?

Shabbat 77b:6

On the subject of sores, the Gemara cites a statement referring to one of the methods for healing a sore. **Rav Yehuda said that Rav said: Everything that the Holy One, Blessed be He, created in His world, He did not create anything for naught. He created a snail as a remedy for a sore; He created a fly to be crushed and spread as a remedy on a wasp sting; He created a mosquito as a remedy for a snake bite; and He created the snake itself as a remedy for a skin rash; and He created a gecko as a remedy for a scorpion bite.** The Gemara explains: **How does one implement the remedy? He brings two geckos, one black and one white, cooks them, and spreads the resulting ointment on the affected area.**

שבת ע"ז ב:ו'

אמר רב יהודה אמר רב כל מה
שברא הקב"ה בעולמו לא ברא דבר
אחד לבטלה ברא שבלול לכתית ברא
זבוב לצירעה יתוש לנחש ונחש
לחפפית וסממית לעקר רב היכי עביד
ליה מייתי חדא אוכמא וחדא חיורא
ושלקי להו ושייפי ליה



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"Waving Through A Window", *Dear Evan Hansen*

We start with stars in our eyes
We start believing that we belong
But every sun doesn't rise
And no one tells you where you went wrong

When you fall in a forest, And there's nobody around
Do you ever really crash or even make a sound?
Did I even make a sound?
It's like I never really fell
Did I even make a sound?

On the outside always looking in
Will I ever be more than I've always been?
'Cause I'm tap, tap, tapping on the glass
I'm waving through a window
I try to speak but nobody can hear so I
Wait around for an answer to appear
While I'm watch, watch, watching people pass
I'm waving through a window,
Can anybody see? Is anybody waving back at me?
Oh, Is anybody waving?



Questions for Discussion

1. The first text teaches that everything is created with a purpose. The second teaches that not every teen always feels that way. How do you help teens recognize their unique gifts and qualities? How do we help them recognize and accept the "yucky" or less positive aspects of themselves?
2. If your teen had written "Waving Through a Window", would you think this was part of typical adolescent behavior or a teen in crisis?