

Ultimate Parsha continued...

Dr. Mel Levine makes a similar argument in *The Myth of Laziness*. All children want to do their best; all children want to make the adults in their lives pleased with them. So when a child appears to be "lazy," something else must be going on. Perhaps that child isn't confident about his abilities and is therefore sabotaging his own efforts so that he can later blame something other than lack of ability for his failure: "I could have gotten an A if I tried." Perhaps some important life event took priority; I have taught students whose world was rocked by the death of a close friend in a car accident, in which case school work was not going to be a priority. The point is that just as the Jewish soul wants to do the right thing, the child wants to succeed and make those around him happy. Just as it is the court's job to help a person "volunteer" to give an offering, it is our job as adults to help students work through their challenges without simply accusing them of being lazy.

Shabbat Shalom,

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