

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on
Sefer Shmuel: Perek Aleph - Bet
by Zvi Grumet**

פרק א

1. Who is at the center of this story?
2. What does חנה want? What does אלקנה offer her? In what ways is this story similar to/different from the story of יעקב and רחל?
3. What is the great irony in the נדר that חנה takes? What does that say about her?
4. Find the word in פסוק יז which appears to be misspelled. Is that a mistake or intentional?
5. In this פרק, compare אלקנה's offering to חנה's offering.
6. Notice the puns on שמואל's name in כז-כח.
7. What was אלקנה's attitude toward שמואל?
8. How do you think שמואל is related to עלי?

פרק ב

1. Two different people in this פרק are called נער. What are the differences between them?
2. Whom does עלי misjudge?
3. Who are called בני בליעל in this פרק? Who was called a בליעל in the previous פרק?
4. Notice how the story bounces back and forth between שמואל and עלי's children. Why do you think it does that?
5. Contrast the practice of עלי (בני עלי) (פסוקים יג-יד) with what the תורה describes as what was supposed to happen (דברים יח:ג).
6. What verb dominates עלי's rebuke of his sons? Why might this be important?
7. What message does the איש א-להים bring to עלי? With ספר שופטים in the background, what is the extra significance of that message?
8. Notice how similar the names חפני and פינחס are to each other! Do they remind you of anything?
9. Notice where the word משיח is used in this פרק!
10. What happens to חנה in this פרק?