Re-Imagining the Story

You have been studying food sustainability and security, as well as housing security, in General Studies… now it’s time to think about how it impacts Jewish studies and the stories that we learn. Along with your chevruta, I want you to think about how food and housing plays a role in the lives of our characters. Answer the following questions to get your thinking going - they are fairly open-ended so just answer as closely as you can:

- How does the idea of “home” play a role in Yosef’s life?

- How does the idea of food play a role in the lives of Yosef, his family, and the Egyptians?

- When the brothers come to Egypt, who holds all the power? Why?

- How does the role of food continue to play a role in the lives of the brothers as the story goes on - what is used as “props” in Yosef’s tests to see if his brothers have changed?

Your goal for the next two classes is to create an alternate story for how Yosef and his brothers were reunited, only this time they are not brought together because of a famine, but because of something else. This story needs to be three full paragraphs (15 sentences total) which explains how Yosef and his brothers were able to meet and reunite. You can still imagine that Yosef tests them, or not, but devise a way for them to reunite without food factoring into it. How different would the story be if there had been plenty of food in Canaan?