

Overcoming Challenges

by Year 6

Inspired by R. J. Palacio's *Wonder*



Deaf World

By Roshni Kaur

It was Lia's first day of school in 6th grade. She was sitting in her seat daydreaming about herself. Nobody knew who she was, nobody knew anyone. As she was in a gaze, her teacher Miss Maya was calling her name multiple times, 'Lia, Lia', but she did not answer. Five minutes later, a girl who was sitting next to her tapped her shoulder and pointed at the teacher. Lia looked at the teacher as she had an annoyed look on her face, she could feel all of the students whispering about her. Then, suddenly, the bell rang for the end of the day. The teacher dismissed everyone and Lia made her way home. When she got home her Mom signed with her hands, 'How was your first day?' "It was fine," said Lia sarcastically. But she stormed to her room with anger.

Hi, I'm Lia Tomas. I'm 10 years old and I am deaf. Life is pretty hard for me. I get bullied a lot, most people don't really know I'm deaf. So, when people are trying to get my attention, they think they are getting ignored and start shouting at me but the funny thing is I don't even know it.

It was a Saturday morning. It was my 11th birthday. My mum was taking me to the trampoline park with my older brother Jake and my younger sister Kate. When we arrived we had to book in. Finally we could jump and have fun! One of the safety workers was trying to get my attention but obviously I could not hear. Shockingly, I was put on a 'jump ban', all because I was not 'listening'. Luckily, my mom came just in time; mom looked red with rage, so we had to leave. When we got home I rushed straight up to my room and started to cry. "If I was normal this would never have happened!" I exclaimed. And that was the worst birthday ever.

On Monday I was in my seat daydreaming as normal. Miss Maya called my name. "Lia, Lia, Earth to Lia!" said Miss Maya, rolling her eyes. I looked up and saw her lips move. Finally, after a whole week she figured out I was deaf! She signed with her hands to answer the question on the board. I stood up as I was walking to the board my legs were trembling because I was not paying attention to the lesson: I did not know anything. I was standing facing the board with a piece of white chalk in my shaking hand. "Hurry up, we don't have all day!" exclaimed Miss Maya, with a frown on her face. I looked around and saw that people were laughing and talking about me. My ears were burning, my hands and legs were shaking and everything turned into a blur...!

When I woke up I was lying on an ugly hospital bed while as doctor announced, "She's awake! She's awake!" My mom smiled and said "Are you ok?" I replied, "Yes mom, I'm fine." When we left the hospital we went to get lunch as a special treat; it was sooo delicious! After we ate lunch, we went home to find my brother and sister arguing again. To be honest being deaf is not half bad because you don't have to listen to your siblings argue all of the time.

I was in my room listening to music; when I spotted something (under my desk). I wanted to go and explore the mysterious note under my desk. It said it was from my great, great grandmother with a necklace with a diamond pendant attached to the bottom. When I opened the pendant it said "YOU CAN BE ANYTHING!" Then I read the note it had read:

Hi Lia, I am your great, great, grandmother and I was also deaf. Before I died, . I also found things very hard until my grandmother told me that I can be anything!

After I read the note I was feeling very inspired; I could feel some sort of warm fuzzy feeling inside of me. Suddenly, warm tears of hope ran down my face. From that day I never took my necklace off and always stood up for myself!

Skylar By Faith

As Skylar walked through the bustling corridor of the University of Cambridge, she felt both excitement and nervousness, for this one of her only chances to do what she loves. But if only she could hear the chatter that filled the air. At only 18 years of age, she had won herself a scholarship to University of Cambridge - an awarding school.

The tall, reddish building stood proud for having so many bright minds for students. When she had entered her class, stares followed her to her seat with no welcome. She sat at the back of the class waiting for class to start. " If x is twelfth what is y seven x bigger? Skylar ! " asked Mr Bob, as he pointed to her. But only if he knows the sad secret that Skylar has had for years and years... Ten seconds later, he demanded an answer, but as normal before no answer, " Skylar detention, now get out of my class!" Minutes passed and there was still no reply . Then Mrs Redman (the principal of the school) approached her " She is deaf that's why I gave all of the teacher sign language class" she said while she gave a big frown." Now, can you please apologise to Ms Skylar for me! She might think how rude we are to students. I am very disappointed in you right now. I would never think you would suggest such a thing, but now I can unfortunately see your true colours." she said in disapproval to Mr Bob. One hour later, Skylar could be seen through the corridor. Stares and whispers followed her like a hawk. Nowhere to hide.

Next morning, Skylar could be seen at the University of Cambridge gate. As she walked towards the school, Ms Redman insisted that she should come today to have met the teacher and have a tour around the school. If only she knew the secret that lurked in the walls of Cambridge. As she entered the school he was quickly greeted by Mr Bob (her Maths teacher). She bargained with biscuits and treats from Ms Redman. Ms Redman left with parents and Skylar left Mr Bob to meet the children in her homeroom. Walking through the corridor of University of Cambridge, she felt scared, she had no insight of the place, only to know this is going to be her home for the next four years.

Mr Bob guided her through the corridor and showed her class to their classroom. He said, " Now, this is going to be your home room ", but she could only hear the silence like normal. Approximately one hour later, Skylar could be seen walking through the corridor tears in her eyes. She was in the walls of Cambridge not knowing how she got there. A minute ago she was with Mr Bob walking to the bathroom, the next she ended up here. Suddenly, she noticed some children from her class walking toward her and one approached her and said, "My name is Owen, what

is yours?" but she could only see his lip moving. One of his friends pointed to her saying that she is deaf. As she laughs, Skylar was overcome with sadness. She shows them her new hearing aid as she walks away. Silence fell upon with remorse for what they have done. As she walks away Skylar starts to question her existence as she cries.

Before she blinked, she was face to face with Ms Redman and her parents. Then Ms Redman requested "Might I suggest that you wear your hearing aid every day and if it breaks you would come to my office so I can contact your parents for a new one ". As Mr Bob approached us he said with a worried voice " Skylar I have been looking for you everywhere where have you gone?" asked Mr Bob " Why did you lose her ?" questioned Ms Redman, as she gave a stare surely to give you the shivers. Suddenly the air became awkwardly silent as we stared and we waited for someone to talk. Then Ms Redman said " Do you want some sugar-free cookies before you go? As she put up the tray of a dozen cookies.

The next morning at six am, Skylar packed her bag because she was going to stay at the school for the next four years like the other students. If only she had friends so it could be more enjoyable for her. As she arrived, she overlooked the stares. Skylar was welcome. Ms Redman told her that. " Room 49, you will be staying with Staley and Camie, is that okay?" She gave a nod that she was listening. Would she finally make some friends? As she unpack her clothes she saw Staley talk about her not knowing that this is going to be her sworn enemies for the rest of the school years. When she went downstairs she was greeted with a warm welcome but as the teacher left she saw their true colours as the student started laughing at her pointing to her ears saying that she is deaf as they laugh. Suddenly her in rage came out for the bad memory about bullying just came out told how she be bully just for being deaf how people call her name how said that an on how come near will become deaf. Before she knew it people respected her

The Story of Miles

By Armani

If only 13 year old Miles started Year 9 with laughter and joy whooshing past him. Through the opened iron gates, everyone was pushing past each other. Miles had a very heavy bag. The head teacher demands students walk through the hall quietly.

Miles is in his first English class, the teacher told everyone his name. Mr Kyle was impressed with Miles. He's done a lot of work, answered a lot of questions and even done his own question on the board.

Miles is at maths, he is starting to get hungry but the lesson is nearly finished. He was starting to get frustrated because he was at the back and he couldn't see the screen properly.

At lunch Miles smells a lovely smell through the dinner halls but Miles gets even happier because they were cooking his favourite food and drink (chicken and chips) (chocolate milk) he sat down by himself because if people made fun of him he was too nervous to make friends.

Now finally, science, Miles favourite class they didn't even do any work. They just did a science experiment but there was a really mischievous boy trying to ruin the experiment. He got detention after Miss Angel told us to choose a partner for the experiment. Nobody chose me so Miss Angel just worked with me. It was so fun she even put a secret potion in our one to make it erupt even spread across the table.

Now it's home time. Miles is walking home and he had a great day. He is happy because the teacher is telling everyone's parents a surprise...

The weather was so good the sun was shining bzzz bzzz "oh hi mum" Miles said excitedly.

"Hi sweetie" mum replied

"How was your day!" mum shouted.

"Good" the teacher said he was impressed with me" Miles said desperately.

"Well guess what Miles I have something to tell you at home!"

"What is it!" Miles boasted out.

"I can only tell you when you get home," Mum replied.

"Ok," Miles said.

If only Miles starts his second day of school. Entering the gates, he gets stuck in a huge crowd.

"Hey" Miles gets barged.

"Sorry didn't see you there" as she walks off laughing.

Eventually Miles gets to his first lesson .

"You're late" Mr Sesh shouts.

"Sorry I got lost in a big crowd and I dropped all of my books".

"That's your last chance."

"WHAT"!!!!Miles whispered....

Kai's Anger Issue

By Duwayne

Armani Mazin Anniyah, Latifah are my friends. We went to the trampoline park and we tried to do a backflip on the trampoline.

After an hour, we went back home and we watched a scary movie called Annabelle. After Duwayne's friend went home, Duwayne went to sleep. Duwayne friends go and meet someone that has dwarfism and he gets bullied every single day.

So Duwayne's friends want to be popular. If Duwayne's friend were to be a presenter we would be rich. On Friday, Duwayne's friend got in a fight because someone bullied him and he was feeling angry. Duwayne punched him in the nose and he dived. Kai had anger issues so he got 1 month of an exclusion. "Yo what did u do?" said Kai to Le,Shayne. He replied, nothing why because your getting excluded who snitched on Joel.

- FEAR -
By Zena

Chapter 1

One Sunday afternoon, Maria was on her daily walk to the park. She sat on the bench rethinking if her life was real or not (typical Depersonalisation-Derealisation Disorder). She was extremely depressed, since she just realised that she was transferring to a new school; the children in her old school would always talk and make fun of Maria. Maria would get these flashbacks/episodes of this till this day.

Tears started to drop one...by one... She was paranoid about attending her new school, since all of her trouble in her old school.

Chapter 2

As the day of Maria's first day of school began, it was TENSE. She'd never had any real friends; at her previous school they all gossiped and spread rumours about Maria. She'd been insecure her whole life. Making friends and communicating was basically her worst FEAR. She kept her troubles in the past and focused on what was ahead.

Today, I decided to wear her hearing-aid to show people in my new school that I was deaf and struggled to hear things and people properly. Like I promised myself to, I keep my head up and make a good impression on the school. 'Good morning Mr Tollaman!'" I said, with a great big smile I made sure to make a good impression. I sat down and covered my ears, just in case the students thought bad of me because of my hearing-aid.

After recess we had history class. We were focusing on Henry VIII (a man who apparently killed his six wives (DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DIED, DIVORCED, BEHEADED, SURVIVED). This class was the most awkward thing. I was in the middle of the classroom where nearly everyone stared at me since I covered my ears.

Chapter 3

After class, I headed to the cafeteria so I could enjoy my lunch. There were massive groups of grades 7 and 8ers huddling all over, so I decided to eat my lunch by myself in the library. I sat between the book shelf on the floor and started to talk to myself: a girl named Maya overheard me talking to myself and asked me to sit next to me.

I wanted to get to know her and her and finally made some friends, I thought in my head."Are you new in the school." Maya asked with a mighty big smile. Could Maya be the friend that I was looking for I wondered?

Mike
By Le'Shayne

SCHOOL

If only young Mike could hear the rhythmic melody of life that filled the bustling corridors of Petchey Academy secondary school - Hackney - on that crisp July morning.

He was 13 years old, stepping into a world overfull with normal people. At school it was hard; he got bullied by a guy named Tyler. When he was absent from school it was his lucky day. Mike hadn't told mom because she would get overprotective and he didn't want to get embarrassed so he hadn't told mum. Although he was in year 8, people always think he is seven years old, so when Mike says he is 13 years old they are so shocked.

Outside, he gets looked at differently because of his height, but mom says if you don't like where you are, picture where you want to be - so Mike pictured him as a football player and getting so many autographs and pictures.

People say Mike is a nerd because he is so smart and even the teachers are fed-up with my eagerness, so they always ask other people. But they don't know, so the teacher has to ask me anyway. Everyone thinks Mike is awkward just because of his height. The teachers say I'm so smart - so they give me year 10 questions. He gets them correct of course because he's smart and get to go on the computer and play. This makes things worse!

HOME

After school, Mike goes home by himself and always bumps into my mum with the shopping. Although he gets on with his sisters (Lily, Whitney, Yasmine and Isabelle) they sometimes get into arguments. Everyone knows that we don't mean it really and mum just tells everyone to breathe in and out - this actually works. Mum has to go to work so Mike is trusted to be the responsible one as the eldest.

Mason and Mitch (both a lot younger) are sometimes a real pain, but mom taught him the breath in breath out method for a reason, so he'll have to teach it to them too because sometimes they get

out of control! Often we just watch a movie with some popcorn and a drink. We play a mini-game called 'odd one out' and Mike always wins. The boys always rage, then the breathe in and breathe out method comes in handy. Typical!

The Life of Kellihiia

By Hephzibah

I was sitting on the bench with my best friends, talking about a wondrous plan on how to get a place in cheerleading and destroy Cheetah High School (in California). I am the most popular cheerleader at my school. I am popular because of my long, luscious black hair, light dawn skin and light-blue ocean eyes . The whole school adores me, even the boys. Every single guy blushes when I pass by in the hall.

I am Kellhia Jane Cheer Madredez; I am currently 15 years old and I have an abnormal insecurity about myself. If I were you. I really wouldn't want to hear this heart-breaking experience. It all started when I was eating dinner, about to go to my first cheer-leading strategy sleepover, which was at my best friend's house. I was thinking so much about it that my thoughts could burst out of my intensely excited mind. As I was about to get dressed, my phone rang with the loudest cheerleading music in the whole universe.

As soon as I answered the phone, a rambunctious voice yelled, "Heyyyy Keke, what's popping girl!" It was my friend, Jane. "Not much, I'm joking," I replied. "I am extremely excited we're going to have our first annual sleepover. One day before our first day at high school!!!" I squealed.

I turned off my phone and hopped into my car ,the sound of the engine was like a bunch of bees harassing me and I went speeding off into the sunset, as I was speeding past a car that suddenly hit me. The glass exploded into my face then some parts went into my ear. From that day onwards, everything changed. Everything.

Who Is He?

By Chaneya

Wave was laying down getting ready for the big day. Tomorrow was the first day of Cardinal Pole secondary school in Year 7. He was nervous because he had ADHD and one of the things in ADHD is hyperactivity. How was Wave going to get through this in the 2ed strictest school, because he has a hard time focusing on any task.

Monday 1st September 2023

On the first day of Year 7 Wave's mum came to get him up. Wave said "no mum ok ". Because he had ADHD he had a big tantrum but then he got up and went to school. He was nervous but then went in.

His first class was maths. He was having fun and got a good A+ on his maths test. Then lunch came because Wave was new. He had no one to sit next to but then a group of people came and sat next to him. He was happy. Then he got a lot of friends. When he was talking he said he has ADHD " what is ADHD?" someone said. Then Wave walked out because Miss Carla said Wave come here please I have something for you. Wave was confused because it was his first day of school but when he was walking to her room he said he had a belly ack so Miss called his mum. It was an excuse.

Leah's Life

By Anniyah

If only young Leah could just make simple friends. It would make her life much easier. She was more scared to make friends than going to secondary school.

It was 11 year old Leah's first day off secondary school, which is harder than her peers because she was deaf. It's hard to be deaf because some people don't know sign language. Some teachers don't know what she says. Leah knows when they laugh and get upset, when people are all happy and she sees the big smile on their face then when they're upset. she sees the sad faces. Sometimes she just wants to be like everybody else.

Leah has a younger sister named Lisa. Leah's little sister is only best friend she can sign too. Leah loves her little sister very much. If Leah could hear what they say to each she could learn other people's secrets too.

When Leah went back to school, there was a new person, his name was Aiden. He didn't want to talk and some other kids looked worried. He looked kind, but he never talked. Leah felt like he would get used to it. Leah signed to Lisa all about it that night.

Another day at school and she saw the new kid again. She wanted to talk to him but Leah was signing. Aiden didn't know she was signing, so he turned around and looked at his fingers. Leah was so embarrassed, so she waved back in her seat and looked back nervously.

When it was lunch time, she saw that Aiden was confused about where to sit. Leah waved her hands to get his attention to sit with her. He saw her hand and walked to where she was sitting and sat opposite her. She signed, 'Hi, where are you from?' Aiden signed back, "Brazil." Leah was shocked. she signed back, 'You can sign?' 'My mum is deaf.' Aiden replied back.

The Lessons

After lunch it was science, for science they had to be in pairs for a project. Mrs Thompson put Leah and Aiden together.

The Story of Jamyn

By Mazin

Jamyn Hola was a 12 year old boy, who had just joined Mossbourne Community Academy. He walked up to the gate with fear. His friends walked in together.

Nobody really knew him in the hallway; it was dead silent which was a norm for Jamyn ,since Jamyn was deaf. So people were going to have to use sign language. But the thing was, he was anxious that people were going to bully him.

After his first lesson, it was maths and luckily the maths was on paper, so he could actually understand it.; the next lesson was English and this was a bit harder because English was not on the monitor or paper so he could not understand it.

If Jamyn were to choose a favourite subject it would be art, since for Jamyn, it would be the easiest subject since it was just drawing. Either way ,he was next to someone so the person could show him the work. Third period was Literature.

Jamyn was bricking it when a new kid shuffled behind him in literature. His teacher's name is Mr Pari. He smelt a bit weird! In the hallway, everyone gave him weird looks. In the lunch hall a ham or cheese sandwich with a carton of milk was on today's menu.

Eventually Jaymn finished his lunch. In a muffled voice Jamyn asked, "Where is room 301"? Then he nervously walked to room 301. The next lesson was Geography and he found the class but the hard thing was that Jamyn didn't know what to do because the teacher just let everyone do what they normally do. So Jamyn took a sneak peak at another person's work and Jamyn got a 1 hour detention for cheating!

The last lesson of the day was food tech,it was the easiest for Jamyn because all it was was cooking and he would follow the recipe.This Nigerian-Baisian was a culinary wonder! Finally, an environment Jamyn could enjoy.

Get To Know Micheal Grover By Travaughn

Micheal had a bunch of Christmas presents, but the morning after Christmas Michael had cochlear implant surgery. In five hours, the surgery was complete .

At Highbury Grove, Mr Tallmaan, his sign language teacher, followed him to help talk to others. Now, Micheal has arrived to his first class of the new term. Micheal wished that he could hear high-pitched sounds but not low-pitched sounds .

Micheal went to the toilet just to stare at his cochlear implant but he did not hear the fire alarm but luckily he picked up just in time.

Another day, At Highbury Grove Mr Tallmaan his sign language used to help him but now he can speak with his cochlear implant
Micheal is now learning about algebra recap in class.

At lunch, Michael saw an eye-catching ,vibrant sign that said open tryouts for a place in the Lion King performance. He signed that day for the competition. Micheal was getting ready and the judges were impressed with Micheal. His part was the main part and when he told his mum the amazing news she was so happy.

Micheal had practised on Thursday and rehearsal went well. Mitchell (his brother) had a game against Wolves and won and got a scholarship at Arsenal in the under 21s.

Micheal went to say goodbye to Mr Tallmaan. Micheal gave him chocolate and a letter said Dear Mr Tallmaan I would love for you to stay but you can't. I wish you the best at your new school. I love Micheal.

Micheal went to Hollywood and Mitchell lived with his grandparents and became champions with Arsenal. Micheal was enjoying life in LA and had a company for deaf people to pursue a dream in acting while Mitchell won Ballon Dor at 25 and 35 won the World Cup and then the Euros .

One day, somebody knocked on the door and it was Mr Tallmaan. "It has been a long time since I saw you. 20 years later I am here again!" said Mr Tallmaan. "Wow what a career you have had!" he said.

Sunny

By Joyce

Chapter 1

A week before the Summer holidays ended, Sunny went to the beach with her friends to have fun before school started again. Her friends Skylar and Jade came with her to the beach so she doesn't go alone.

As soon as Skylar and Jade came, Sunny went to greet them with a snack. Since they knew Sunny's parents were on holiday, they ate with pace so they didn't keep her waiting. When Skylar finished her snack, she went to Sunny (who was sunbathing). Jade followed too because Sunny was particularly short and had dwarfism. Sunny, Jade and Skylar all went for a swim for about an hour. They finished swimming and went home. Sunny had trouble being able to walk so they decided to order a cab to take them home.

The next week began quickly which meant Sunny had school and her bully Kacy was going to make her life a living hell because of her dwarfism. Sunny wanted to switch schools but Jade insisted that she stayed..

Chapter 2

Through the iron gate, Sunny stood with gratitude and went to meet her friends who had just finished their breakfast. They walked to class and out of nowhere Kacy appeared and said, 'Hi sucker. You're still short! Maybe wear high heels - it will probably give you some height! But, you will always stay a dork. Now I'll torment you more later loser. Bye!' With that, Sunny wanted to burst into tears and run out the building that moment but didn't let it get to her because it is the first day back and Kacy still had plenty of time to change.

Chapter 3

As the bell rang, Sunny ran as fast as she could so she wouldn't get detention for being late. She entered the class which Miss Randa was teaching. As the students settled, Miss Randa said, "Good Morning class! How are you guys today?" The class responded with a warm welcome, but for some reason Skylar wasn't there. She had gone to the bathroom and the bell rang while she was in there so she had got detention for being late. She wasn't bothered since it was only twenty minutes and had nothing to do much and nowhere to be.

Two hours later it was lunch and Sunny went to the cafeteria. If Kacy were at another school life would have been a lot more enjoyable and Sunny would feel happy.

Chapter 4

After Sunny had stopped getting lost in her food, she looked up to find her teacher up her nose. Jade gave her a note that said that she and Skylar were going to meet her at her sister's house after school. With that Sunny jumped with joy. Thirty minutes later, lunch time had finished. Skylar was sent to the school office to ask for a pack of glue since Mr Jacks class was running low on them. While she had gotten the glue she hurried because she didn't get in trouble. When she entered the classroom she was shocked to see that they hadn't even finished the register due to the amount of talking and giggling happening in the classroom.

Olivia

By Jane

Chapter 1

Walking out of Oak Spice Cafe, Olivia took out a savoury doughnut from her bag. She took a bite and began to think. Olivia was going to start her second year of baking school; she hoped to be an amazing baker!

When she got back home, her mother greeted her and kneeled down to hug her. Olivia went to her room, her bunny Flop was sleeping. As soon as she finished changing, she decided to bake a chocolate cake. She went downstairs and got all of her ingredients. She took a bowl and poured half a pack of flour, cracked two eggs and began to stir. Her mood became instantly more calm and happy (baking had that effect on her). She needed the cocoa powder which was in the top cabinet but wasn't able to reach it. Olivia had always been like this, she had a limit to her height. She wished that she'd been taller but dreams were always crushed by reality.

Chapter 2

Today was an important day! Olivia needed to go shopping to buy clothes and baking resources, as school would be starting next week.

As she entered Primark, she went to the kids section feeling embarrassed. She picked up a tight denim jumpsuit, with silver buckles. As she put it into her basket, a lady with her child asked where her parents had gone. She sighed, knowing this would happen. Reluctantly, answered and told her that she wasn't a child and she was in fact 15 years old. Not believing her, the lady told Olivia, "If I were you, I'd stop lying and tell me where your mother is!" But Olivia ignored the woman and continued shopping. As soon as she was about to exit the shop, she was stopped by security, who then asked, "Where's your mother, little one?" Olivia called her mother to fix this 'misunderstanding' Again.. After 30 minutes, Olivia's mum had arrived with proof to show that Olivia wasn't a child and she was a 15 year old teenager .

The car ride home was silent. Olivia held her bag of clothes embarrassed and sad. Mum turned on her radio and tuned in with her daily gossip scoop of 'House Wives'. Suddenly, Olivia's phone buzzed: it was the baking school! She cleared her throat and began to stutter a response, "Hello?" "Hi! This is Oak Tree High, we just wanted to say the sample of strawberry shortcake you sent us was amazing!" the voice on the other end of the line announced. Olivia's frown had disappeared, and now she was grinning. "Really! Thank you so much!" "Of course they were! In fact, we decided to move you up 3 years into our prestigious college level due to their quality." they said. "Thank you so much!" replied Olivia. "No, Thank you!" said the school, as they hung up. Olivia's day had finally been made.

Chapter 3

When they arrived home, Olivia was happily greeted by Flop. She picked him up and cuddled him as they went upstairs. She placed him down on his dirt-filled bed and arranged her new clothes. Laying on her bed, Olivia knew that she would have to raise her baking skills for college level. Since she had a chunk of time on her hands, she decided to bake for the weekend.

Olivia worked hard, and was ready for school. She was all dressed up, in her black long-sleeved top, with her denim jumpsuit, along with her Nike dunks and black beret. As she sat down for breakfast, Olivia's mum gave her a plate of waffles and berries with apple juice.

When she had finished her breakfast treat, Olivia kissed her mum and Flop goodbye and left for school. As she left the house, she took a deep breath and began to walk ahead. She decided to grab a quick smoothie before the bus came for good luck.

When she entered the shop, she requested a berry smoothie and waited, then the man asked her "Where's your mother?" She rolled her eyes and told him that she was 15 years old. With suspicion the worker said "Well then, if I were you I would carry an ID or a bus pass just so people know." Walking out of the cafe, Olivia was annoyed and scared, like this situation was now a phobia. But as she reached the bus stop, the bus sped past her. "NO!" She screamed knowing she would be late.

Chapter 4

When she finally arrived (Olivia was able to get on another bus) she went to the reception to sign in. Gathering all her courage, she walked up to the front desk and said "Excuse me?, I'd like to sign into the college level please" The lady at the front desk stood up and looked down, her face looked suspicious. She asked what her name was and signed her in. Olivia felt awkward, standing there waiting. Finally the lady handed her a sheet full of lessons. First, was pastry baking.

As she walked to class, a tall boy disrespectfully eyed Olivia and said "Might I suggest that you buy a pair of heels," Olivia bent her head and walked to class. Only when she arrived had she realised that she was crumpling her paper. She took a sigh of disbelief and took her seat. The teacher (Miss Stacy) came in and introduced herself. She had silky, brown hair in a neat bun, and wore a simple black dress with matching heels. Very professional.

Clearing her throat, she politely said, "Taking attendance!" people raised their hands, as their names were called. She finally said "Olivia Jones?" Olivia raised her hand but the teacher asked "Olivia Jones?" Everyone looked around, as Olivia raised her hand higher and higher. Finally she raised her hand high enough for the teacher to see. She gave a kind smile and marked her in. After Miss Stacy had finished the register, she clapped her hands to grab the class' attention. "Students, we have a new girl joining us!" Most students groaned and muttered under their breath, and others were eager to know who was joining

them. Miss Stacy asked her to come to the front of the class. So Olivia stood up and walked to the front of the class, she looked down to avoid any eye contact with anyone, even the teacher she finally began to say "Hello, I'm Olivia, I'm 15 years old and I have a bunny named Flop," She stood there frozen with all eyes on her.

The Story of Elizabeth By Abigail

I was laying down on the stiff, hard-board like bed - the doctors were slowly injecting a liquid substance into my eyes. I could hear my parents desperately shouting and sobbing wanting to know if I was okay. Just then, everything suddenly turned pitch black; it was very quiet and eerie when I woke up. I was in my bed - my eyes were bleeding. It was the same dream again...

My name is Elizabeth Cray, I am 13 years old (almost turning 14), I was born with bright, baby-blue eyes just like the sea. Life was so beautiful, everybody adored me and they never tried to hurt me, everything was perfect until it all got taken away from me.

Four years ago, I was staying at my aunt Opal's house with her daughter Jenna, she had short, blonde hair and she was quite plump - her forehead was very prominent. It all happened one faithfull night, Jenna had a fight with her mum because she had snuck out and came back very late: it was pure havoc in the house. There were lots of screams that could be heard throughout the streets.

"Where did you go Jenna!" shouted aunt Opal. Her voice was mixed with rage and sadness but a hinge of bitterness was noticeable. "I just went to the movies with my friends. I'm already old enough, you don't need to tell me what to do!" screamed Jenna. If I were to shout at my mum I definitely would have got grounded. I knew the neighbours could hear all of the commotion going on. "You disrespectful girl, why can't you be more like your cousin Elizabeth?" she said. Aunt shook her head in frustration. "I hate you, I hate all of you! Why does Elizabeth get all of the attention? It's not fair, I hate you!" Jenna exclaimed angrily. She had a mischievous glint in her eyes while she ran to her room and shut the door with a loud THUMPI! I layed on my back on my bed facing the plain, white ceiling in despair. I really wanted to go back home to America but mom and dad were away on a business trip so I had to stay in Germany where my aunt was - it was always like this-. I finally drifted off to sleep but little did I know a black figure was lurking in my room waiting to strike.

I woke up with my eyes stinging like crazy; a nurse told me I was in the hospital and that my eyes were injured then she said my aunt wanted to talk to me. I heard a door open and then shuffling: "I'm so sorry for everything Elizabeth, it's all my fault." cried aunt. "Aunt please tell me what's going on and why can't I see properly?" I asked. My aunt told me

everything that happened and how Jenna got arrested for stabbing my precious blue eyes out; I didn't know any of this, all I knew was that my eyes were hurting tremendously.

An hour later, my parents burst through the door: I felt a wave of excitement rushing through my whole body. I had to stay in the hospital for a week but it was alright because my parents visited me everyday. After what seemed like an eternity, they finally released me and told me they had important news to tell me - with a sigh the doctor said, "I'm so sorry to tell you but you're permanently blind." I felt my whole life crumbling; I was outraged, this was all Jenna's fault. I hate her.

At home, my mom sat me down on the couch; she said she had good news to tell me. "Elizabeth, since it's your fifteenth birthday today and you're now blind me and your dad was wondering if you wanted a dog because you've always wanted one." Mom asked, smiling. I looked at her in awe and replied, "I would love one, you're the best!" I was so excited I almost collapsed right on the floor.

The next day, my pet dog arrived, but since I was blind I couldn't see what dog it was so my mum told me - it was a Labrador guard dog; my jaw dropped in surprise, I was dumbfounded. I thought they would give me a French Bulldog or something, but no, they gave me a guard dog because I'm blind. I was so disappointed. I went up to my room and called my best friend Emily and told her everything that had happened to me in the past few weeks. She was so devastated she promised me that she would never leave me and she would always be there for me, but that was all a filthy, filthy lie...

Jeremy's Blindness

By Kaiden

Jeremy could hear the bounce of the ball and his mum cheering for him. He felt so confident when he was playing. He even won a trophy for it! But Jeremy was blind. I wish I was a pro-basketballer and I wish I wasn't blind he thought. Basketball is my favourite sport. He was 15 years old and went to Petchy in year 10.

Time to start school

As he walked through the gate he asked if anyone could help him. They said yeah, so he got led to his class; he couldn't write because he couldn't see so he was only listening. Jeremy would you like a laptop so you can talk into it and it will type what you want it to type, his teacher asked. He was in shock. Why didn't anyone do this before? Jeremy was very surprised when he had the laptop because that was the only teacher that ever done that. In a muffled voice, Jeremy said thank you. The laptop was gonna make work a lot easier. Mischievously, Jeremy's laptop stopped working. Since Jeremy's laptop had stopped working the government provided him with a new one. In a muffled voice, Jeremy replied saying "thank you!" Now Jeremy's favourite subject is writing stories about basketballer's becoming NBA stars. Life has improved dramatically for this 15 year old.

Jamie
By Noah

Once upon a time there was an 11 year old boy called Jamie who was in secondary school. He was kind and caring and had a hearing little sister. He had hearing aids, but on the first day he unfortunately forgot them. When he arrived, a tall slender boy approached him and noted, "Is it just me or are you bricking it?" But all Jamie saw was lips moving, "I don't understand you." he responded. "Your boring, I'm gonna leave!" he stated to Jamie who didn't care at all.

He couldn't hear but he knew the slender dude was buzzing off. Luckily, Jamie's teacher knew sign language so at least he would understand. However, to say he didn't have any problems in class would be a lie. First of all, he shared the class with the annoying boy earlier so that was a problem. Second, he had no hearing so obviously there was going to be problems there. And Finally, his best friend wasn't at his school so he was lonely and friendless. However he was going to try his best and never ever give up. After all, he could make some new friends so that's a good thing and he was a smart boy so it won't be that hard will it? After all, it can't that hard right?

TIMMY'S MOST UNFORTUNATE DAY AT SECONDARY SCHOOL

By Mason

CHAPTER ONE - GOING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

As Timmy woke up, he was glaring at the wall idly; then after a second, he snapped out of his trance. Groggily, he went downstairs. His parents said, "hello," as he ate his breakfast and got dressed. He remembered it was his first day of secondary school. As he went outside, he embraced the cool Scottish air and ran to school. As he got there, he saw a big sign saying 'Lockwood Secondary School'. When he entered the towering school, he was astonished with the unique display. When he got to class, he quickly plopped himself into a chair and as he did, the teacher told everyone to settle down. The first thing they did was introduce themselves.

Everyone said one thing about themselves. As it got to Timmy's turn, he said he uses hearing aids. Everyone was shocked. He explained more about it; like some of the challenges like he couldn't hear anything without his hearing aids as he finished the teacher did the register.

He explained more about it, including: the challenges such as: hearing feedback, difficulty with the fitting and ear wax build up.

As a while passed by, he desperately asked to go to the toilet. The teacher said yes [surprisingly]. As he went into the toilet, his hearing aid fell out and to make matters worse, the fire alarm was going off. Timmy Couldn't hear anything. He scrambled for his hearing aids and held onto them until he got to class. When he got back to class, he panicked. No one was in class. He was relieved to see his peers outside through the window. He went outside and lined up with them and awaited for the teachers commands. As the head teacher came, she said it was a false alarm and suspected a year 7 child had pulled the alarm.

Eventually, all the children went back to class. As he sat down, the headteacher bursted into the room with fury. Her face was practically red.

She shouted, "Which one of you maggots pulled the fire alarm!"

"Timmy was the last to leave the class," called out Johnny.

"Thanks Johnny. You shall be rewarded for this," replied the headteacher.

Timmy was dragged out of the room and brought to the head teachers office. Timmy tried to plead his innocence but the head teacher boomed, "Silence you maggot!"

Timmy knew at that moment he was cooked like a rotisserie goose.

Modie

By Joel

One day, Modie was glaring through the window observing how all his classmates were having fun: running around, playing sports. Modie wasn't able to do any of those things because of how he was born. Modie felt a sprout of envy fill his mind' he clenched his fist and banged the table to ease his anger. Modie took a quick glance at his leg. He closed his eyes and thought: why was he born like this?

Chapter 1

It was the end of July and today was the day that he had to attend a tour of his secondary school. When he arrived, there were so many kids who seemed joyful.but Modie didn't give off the same ecstatic energy.Those were his last moments before his trauma began. Modie began the tour and he had already noticed many faces staring at him. Modie was as silent as a mouse, and only ever spoke when spoken to. He was ignored the whole time, he didn't get to do any activities nor was he able to speak to anyone. Once he got home he locked his room door and cried himself to sleep. He was an anomaly; he had to accept it.

Chapter 2

Six weeks later... It was the first day of school and Modie had forgotten all about what happened on his tour day. He was boasting with excitement, "Mum, mum, mum! Make sure to pick me up today bye." Modie screamed while leaving with his friend. Modie had a friend named Kasey who also had a rare disability like Modie. Kasey was born with a missing limb. Modie felt like he could be himself around her because she was the only friend she had with a disability like his. Once they arrived the teacher divided all of the new students into separate classes for the day. Kasey and Modie weren't in the same class but that didn't dampen Modie's spirit and wasn't go to let anyone break him!

The Dwarfism

By Tabatha

Little Max didn't know anything about the life of Six Form, as soon as he stepped in to City Academy -Hackney-Homerton the warm air and the smell of fresh food like when you go get pastry in a bakery, Max normally goes to breakfast club but today, today was different. Today he got detention for being late (because of his dwarfism) so now he is sitting in the headteacher's office with his older brother and sister on opposite sides of him Lilly and Kyle are significantly older than Max and are to listen to why he is later for school "Your brother is late because of his dwarfism and you people could not give a ride because your children makes too much noise and also because you and Kyle live in different houses!!" shouted the headteacher angrily "Yeah but just because we live in different places do not say it is our fault if you blame someone blame yourself for not dropping him off MUM!!" shouted Kyle "Kyle leave Mum out of this she left us for a reason now lets leave her," Lilly cried the conversation continued and led to the bullying situation. After the long sad and angry meeting finished Max went to his Art class he always had to sit in the front because of his dwarfism;(dwarfism can lead to bowed legs, shorted hands and feet and a large head) His school is a large labyrinthine! And his school's modern facade was so bright God had to wear sunglasses and demanded it should be in his room, the logo was so beautiful nothing can compare to its beauty.

William (the school bully) pushed Max to the floor groped his neck and started to choke him "STOP!!" shouted Samantha (William had a crush on Samantha but Samantha had a crush on Max and in the future his wife) "Are you okay?" asked Samantha caringly "Yeah I think so" replied Max. So Max and Samantha walked to class and William did the worst thing imaginable. William opened Max's looker and put mealworms in his lunch "Hwah hahahahahahahaha, wait until you see the look on his face when he gets mealworms all over him!" William laughed as he walked back to class.

"William, why are you late to class anyway. Go sit next to Samantha at the back of the class," Mrs BlackMan said "Yes finally next to Samantha," whispered William "Mrs!!" shouted Samantha from

across the room "Yes Sam what do you need?" Mrs BlackMan spoke lovingly "Can I sit next to Max I can not see?:It is too dark!"replied Samantha "Okay darling but only if you focus,"Mrs BlackMan whispered "Mum why not at school !" Samantha spoke annoyingly . So Samantha sat next Max and a spark happened, not a love spark, a fire spark the class nearly got on flames.

After school finished(school ended at 5:30 because of AS additional studies) Max arrived at home but to his surprise nobody was there "SURPRISE!!" yelled his family,all of his family was there from grandparents to siblings and cousins "Today is the day we tell you how you got dwarfism now that you are 16" spoke Grandma "It's time for the story everyone gathers around !" spoke Granddad

BANG,BANG,BANG...

Marcus

By Latifah

Chapter 1: GETTING TO KNOW MARCUS

Marcus was like any other boy. He had four friends: Duwayne, Anniyah, Zena and LeShayne. He has dwarfism and has a very nice family; they would get him anything he wanted. He has two brother and five sisters. They are all happy, except for Olivia and Luca (they are jealous of Marcus as he gets everything he wants).

Marcus was starting a new school with his friends. Marcus believed that people shouldn't take friends from the face but from their character and kindness. On the morning of school, they got into the car ready to make their first commute.

"Marcus, have you heard the news?" Mom said

"No, what is it?" Marcus

"Your bully is going to your school," Mom said.

"WHAT! I AM NOT GOING TO SCHOOL." Marcus yelled.

"Well, you have to," Mom said.

"Well I am not going to that school. Good luck in trying to get me to go," Marcus insisted.

I Am Unique!