

Amputeddy Makes a Choice



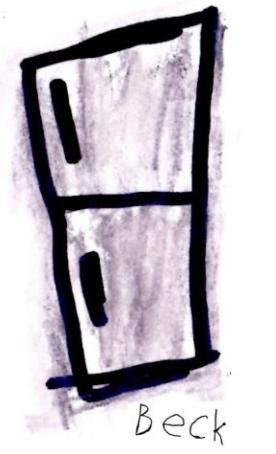
Written by Kate Policani

Illustrated by Ms. Davidson's 3rd Grade Class,
Hilltop Elementary School, Lynnwood, WA

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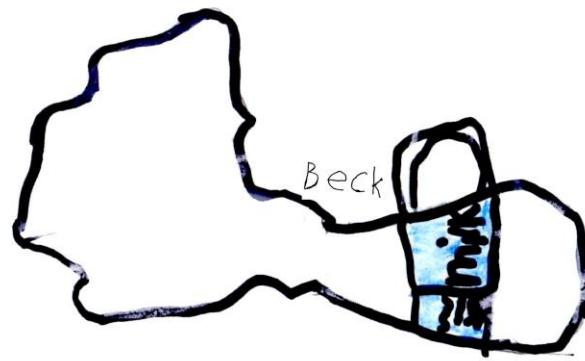
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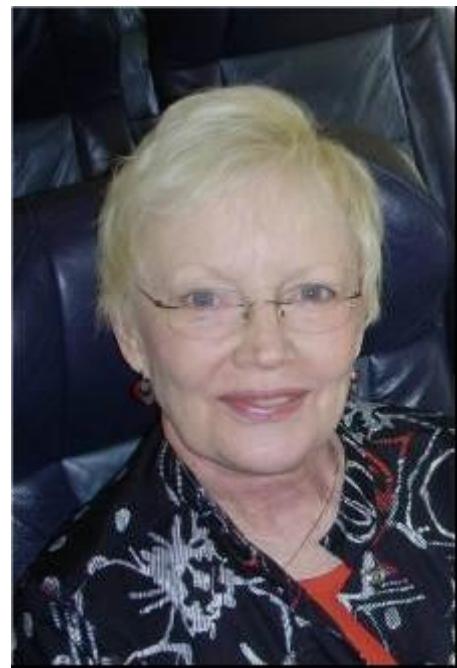


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DEDICATION

To Ms. Davidson and all the wonderful students of her class. You inspired me to write more of Amputeddy's adventures, and you made my first book written without Aunt Jean a joyful experience.





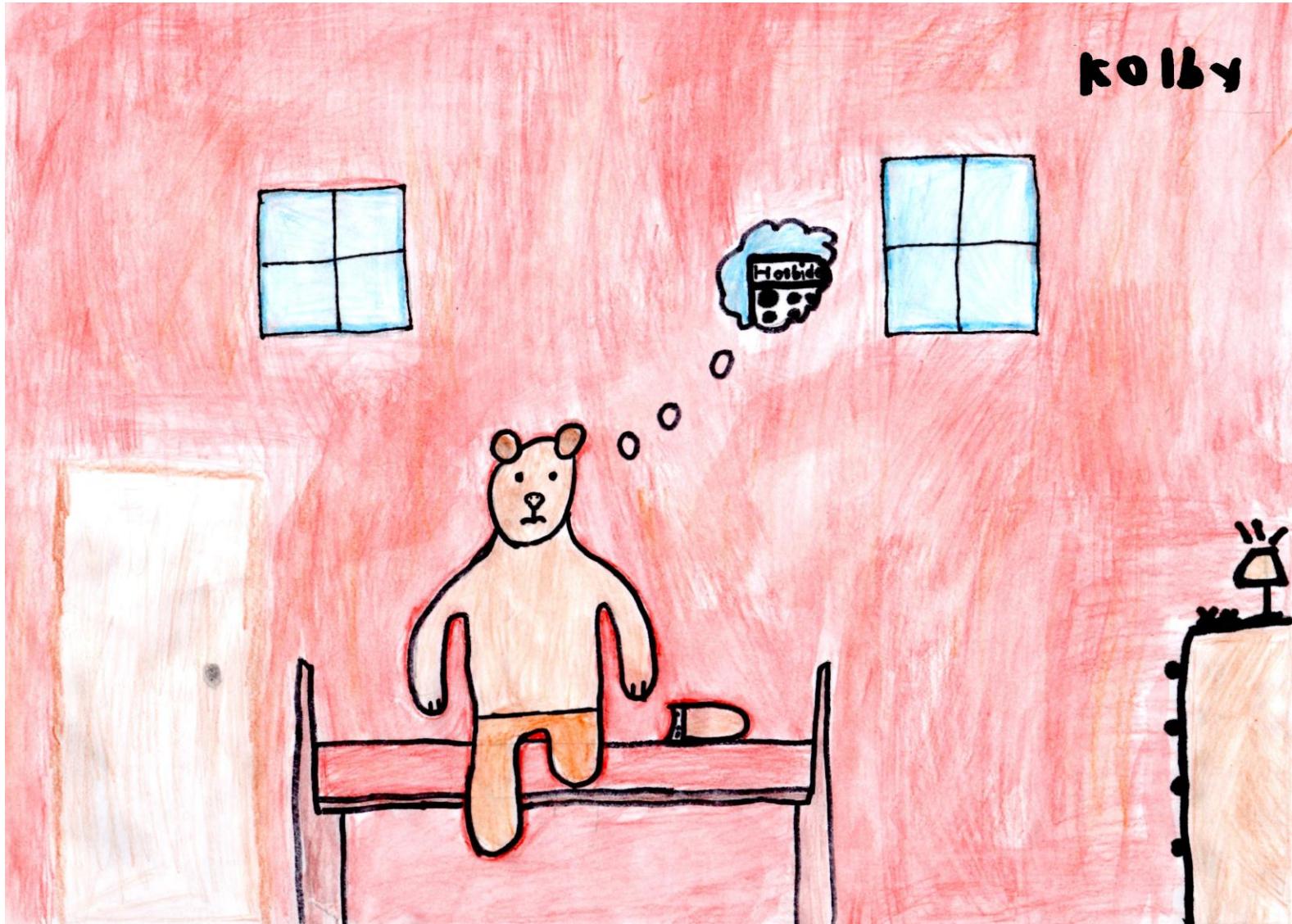
JEAN BOELTER
1941-2010

The president of Amputeddy, Inc. until her battle with cancer was lost in 2010, Jean was a counselor and advocate for amputees of all ages for many years. Her left leg was amputated at the age of five. She dedicates these stories to the many courageous people she met in her work.



Todd the Amputeddy was not having a good day. He looked around his room at all the cards and gifts from his friends. He had all the newest books and video games and even a new tablet. But none of it seemed fun anymore.

Though the doctor and his mom said that he was all better now, he didn't feel all better. The accident that hurt him so much seemed like a long time ago. He was glad that he didn't need any more surgeries and that his leg didn't hurt anymore, but what now?



All the other kids were at school, but he was stuck here at home. He never thought he would miss school.

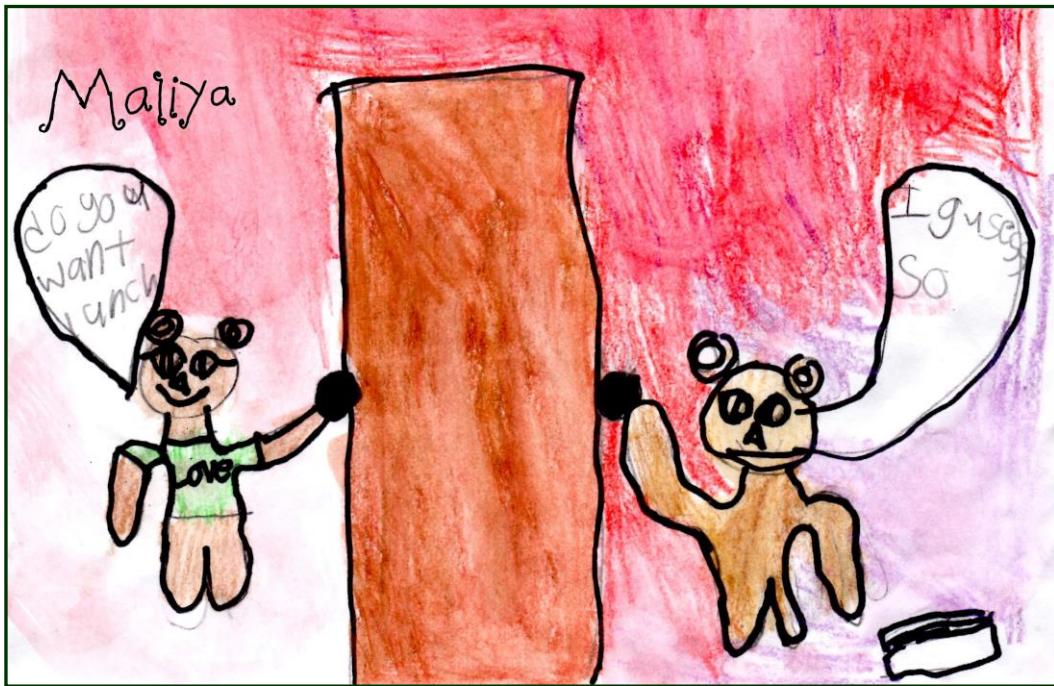
He couldn't walk well enough yet, and his helper leg never seemed to fit right. He and Mom had gone in to change it so many times and it still hurt every time he used it. He couldn't do anything fun anymore. Why did this have to happen to him?



Braden

He couldn't do anything fun anymore. Why did this have to happen to him?





He heard a knock at his bedroom door and his mom asked,
"Todd, honey, do you want some lunch?"

"I guess so," he replied.

"Are you all right, sweetie?"

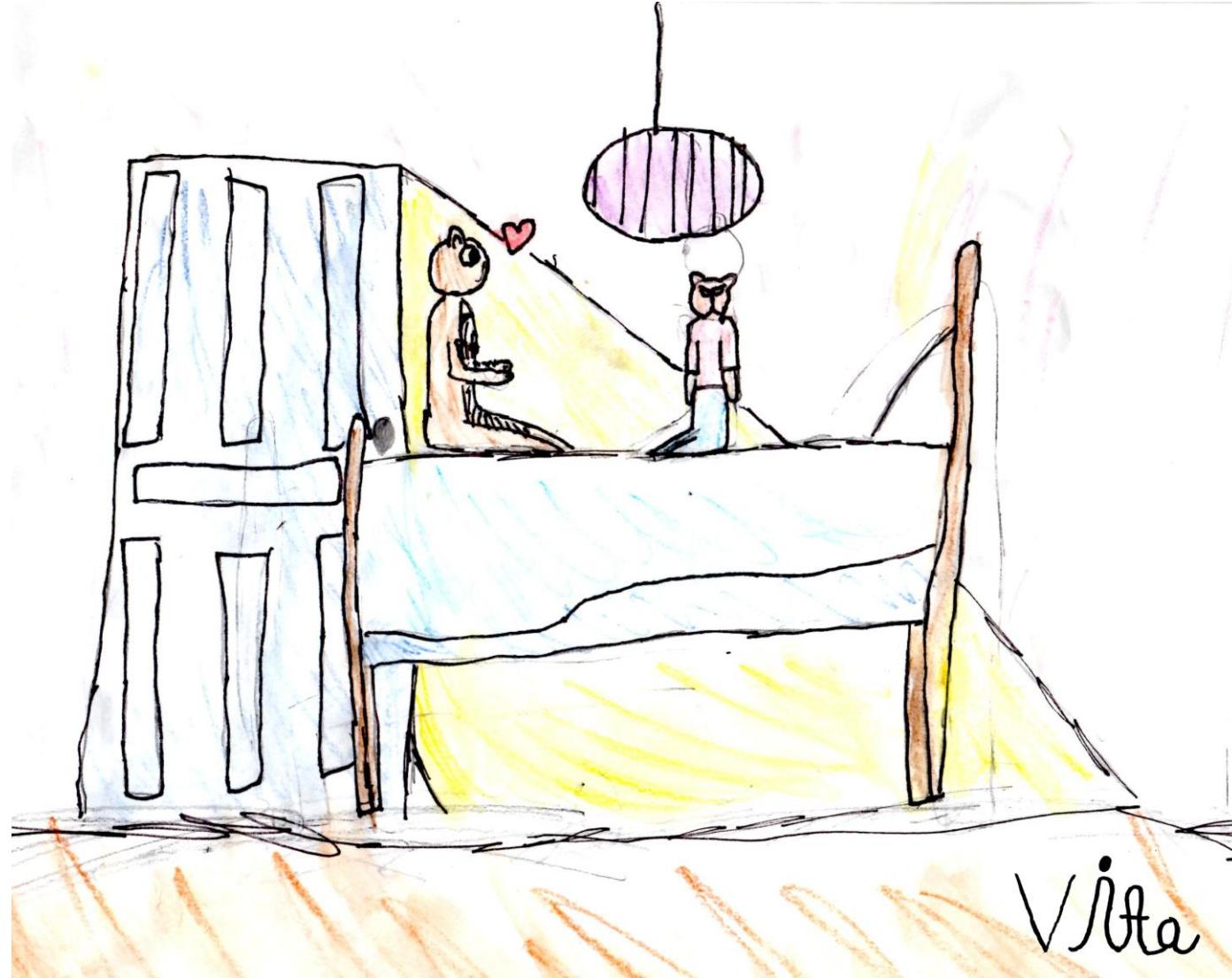
Todd felt a little annoyed that she asked. Of course he
wasn't all right! He didn't say anything



Mom came in and sat beside him on his bed. "I can tell that things aren't OK. Are you going to lay here in bed all day? You know that won't help you get used to walking again."

"Why should I bother? I can't do anything anyway. I will never be able to do anything."

"Who says?"



Devan!



Todd gave his mother an angry look and pointed at his stump. How could she not understand?

But Mom frowned at him. She looked angry. Then she stood up and walked out of the room!

"Mom!" Todd yelled. "What about my lunch?"

"You can come out here when you are ready to eat," Mom replied from the other room. She didn't sound happy.

"Ugh!" Todd said in a growl. What was her problem? He scowled and kicked at his stuffed animals with his stump.





But he started to realize he *was* hungry.

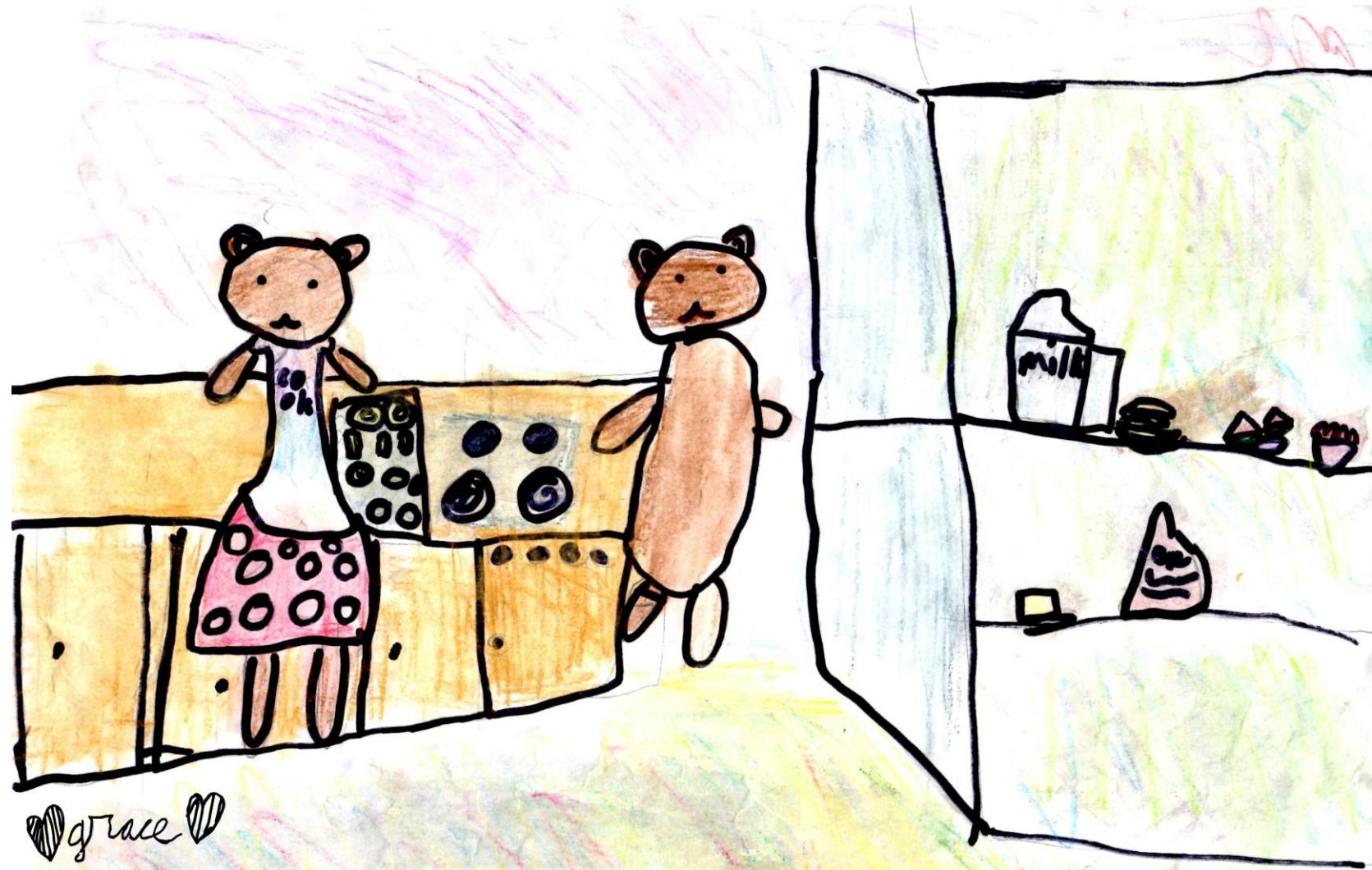
"I want to eat my lunch in my room!" he yelled.

"No!"

What? She couldn't do that! She was supposed to help him.

For what seemed like hours, Todd waited for his mom to see her mistake.

When he couldn't wait any more, Todd went to the kitchen. He made sure to show it was hard for him. Mom was washing dishes. She didn't say anything, and she didn't help.



grace

"Where's my lunch?" he asked, but not in a nice way.

"I made a sandwich for you. It's in the fridge. Be sure to have a glass of milk and some fruit with it."



That made Todd angry. "Aren't you going to get it for me? I only have one leg after all."

"I think you can get it yourself. You're a clever bear."

"I can't!"

"Todd, I want you to try," said Mom.

He made his way over to the refrigerator and tried to show Mom how hard it was. He took an apple out and set it on the counter. Then he took out the plate with the sandwich. He made lots of noise, but Mom still didn't see how hard it was for him.



Todd dropped the carton of milk on the floor and it spilled out into a big puddle. "See what you made me do!" he said.

Mom looked at the mess and at Todd. She was very angry. "Clean it up, Todd."

"You know I can't."

"You can. Pick up the carton and use that towel."

"It's too hard!"



Mom dried her hands and gave her full attention. "Todd, the doctors and all of us who love you have helped you as much as we can. We can't make you all better, even though we want to. Now it's your turn.





You have to choose to be a bear who is handicapped, or a bear who does things for himself even though it's hard. It is your choice. Lots of Amputeddies do great things. Others let the hard things stop them. What kind of bear do you want to be?"

BROOKLYN



Todd looked at the puddle of milk on the floor and felt very bad for himself.
Mom went back to washing dishes.
Todd thought about what he imagined his life would be like before the accident. Part of him wanted to give up.

But he didn't like the way life would be if he couldn't do anything for himself. He knew that he still wanted to do amazing things, just like he did before he lost his leg. So he looked at Mom and grabbed the towel. Todd cleaned up the milk and poured himself a glass from the new carton.





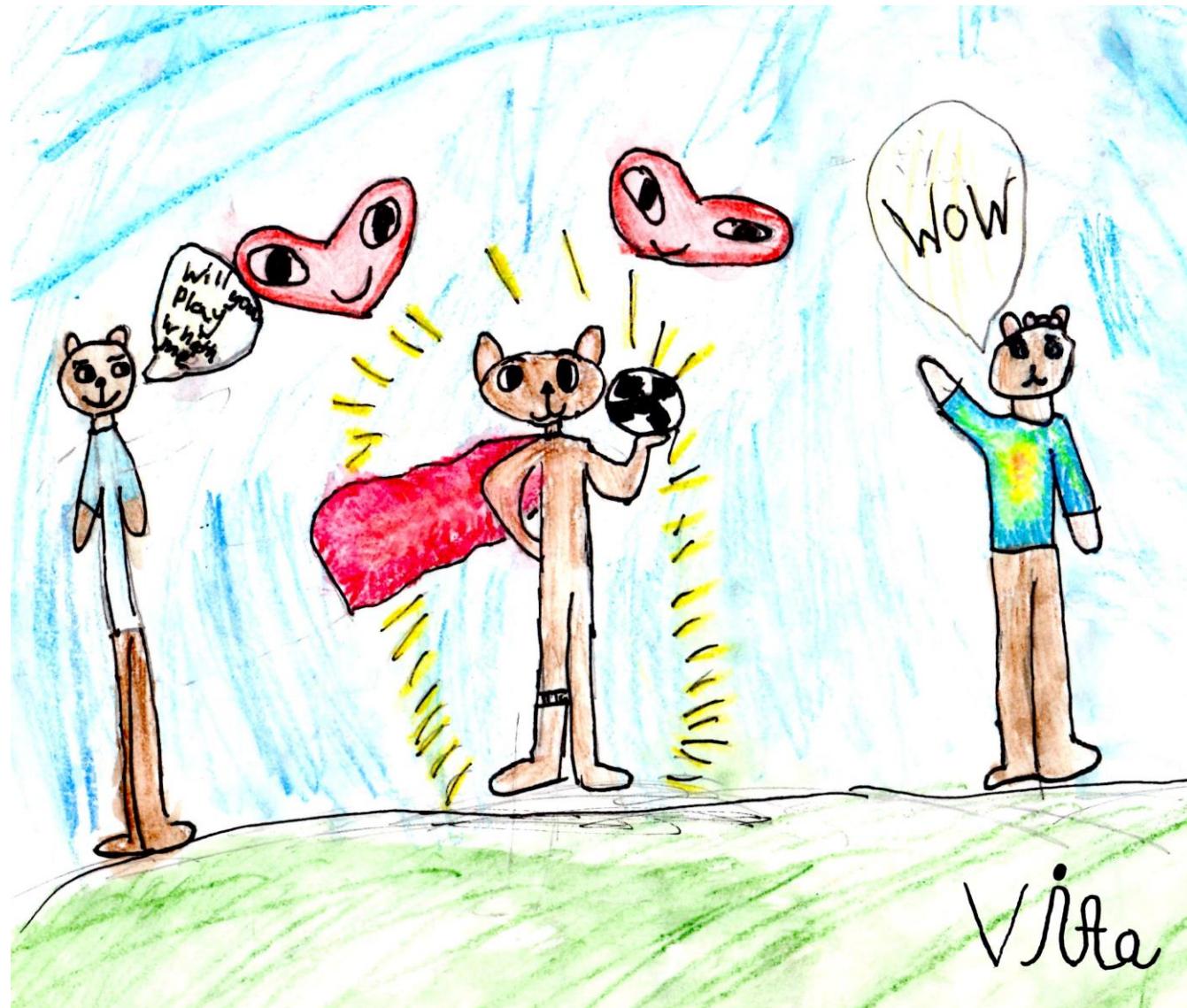
He decided that day that he would never let his amputation decide for him what he would do. He would learn to use his helper leg, even if it hurt. He would go back to school and start his life again, almost the way it was before the accident. It would be harder to do, but he knew he could do it.



Alice

And he did.

THE END



cameron! J08h deran
Corbin Blaize! Devan
Vito B

Kamryn
M.

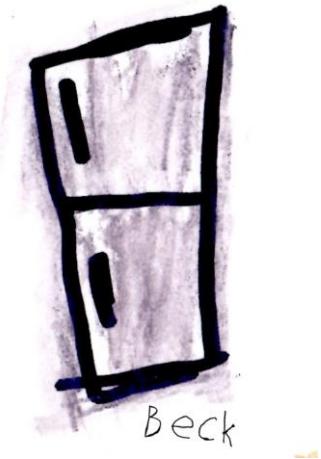
Kristen

Your difference doesn't make you a different person. Be strong, don't give up, and believe in yourself. You can still do what you did before. You can do big things. You can change the world!
you are unique!

Julia

Maliyah
Layla
Arianna
Brianna

payton Even kids! -Zack Guicho Jamie D.
Melissa Kolby
michall Christian
Jacob is the best
grace



FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Reader,

I hope these books fulfill their purpose to comfort and encourage you or your loved one struggling with limb loss. Jean would have wanted to hear your story and share hers with you. These stories were her story too.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Policani".

Kate Policani