

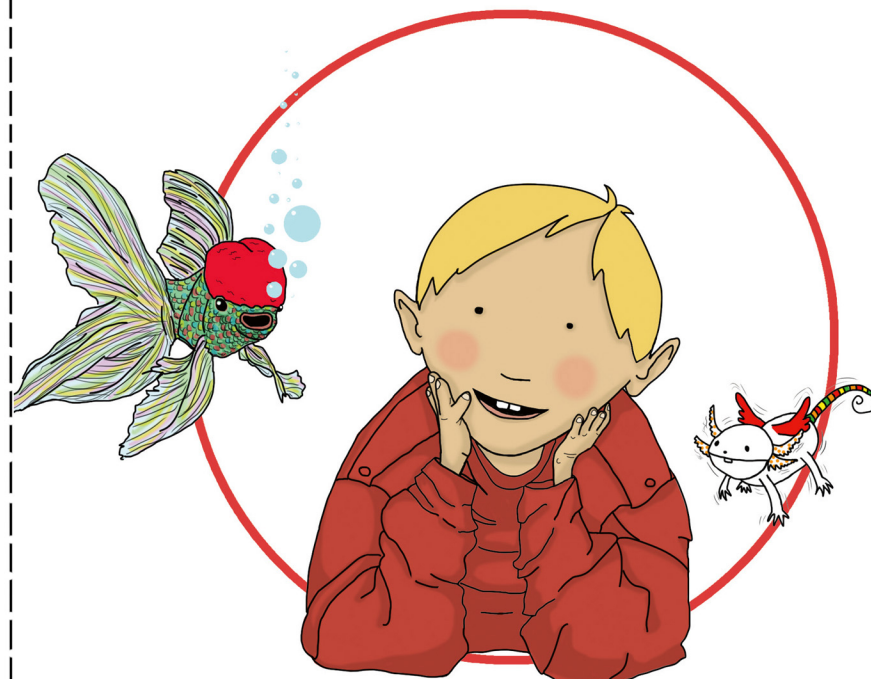


STORIES TO
SPREAD ILUSION

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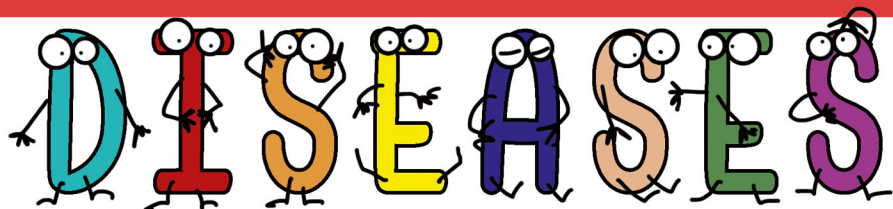
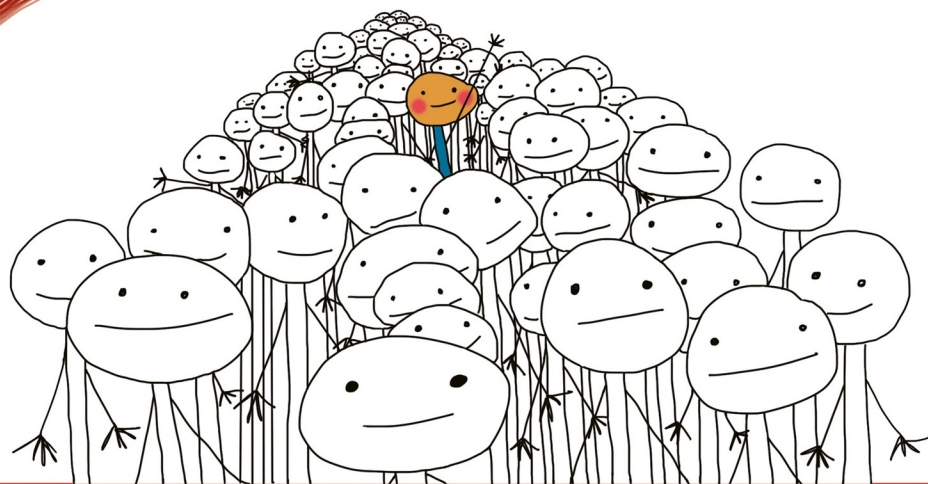
1



BALTASAR
born to explore

Print on a DinA4 or DinA3 size.

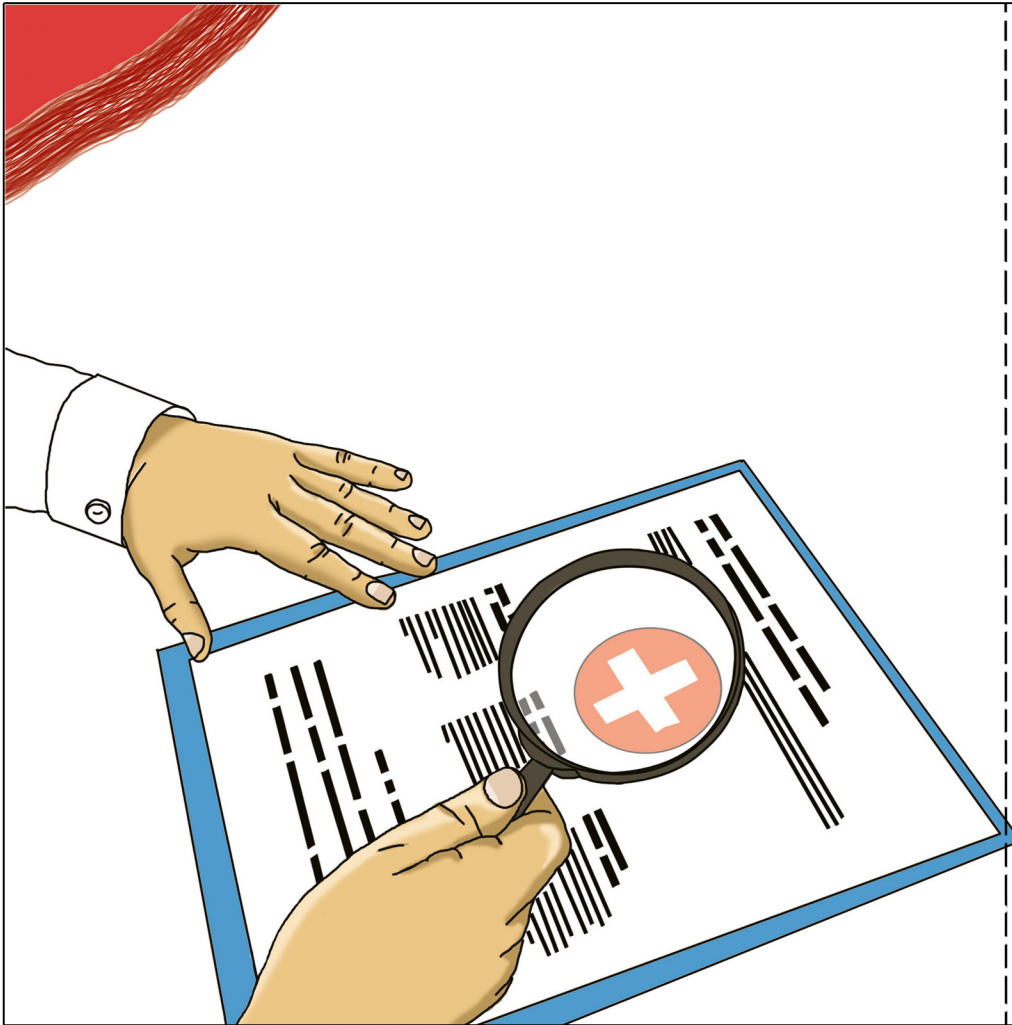
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ABOUT RARE DISEASES (RD)

Rare diseases are a set of various symptoms that are **VERY UNCOMMON**.
Imagine that! A rare disease is considered to be one that affects one or two people out of every thousand.

There are loads of varieties and very little is known about them, which is why we prefer to say that it's not the person who is rare, **BUT THE DISEASE ITSELF**.
Since there is power in numbers, the doctors parents and the patients themselves join forces to **FIND SOLUTIONS** that improve the lives of people with uncommon diseases.



The **DIAGNOSIS** is the most important aspect, which is why more research is needed.

Baltasar, who has a rare disease that has not yet been identified, has decided to become a **RESEARCHER** to learn more and to find good treatments for all of them.

Small but tough.

**you're going
to love Baltasar.**

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THE SEA

The waves come and go.
How do they do that? I chase them
and then they chase me.

However much I run,
they lick at my ankles
and **TICKLE**
my feet.

I like wet sand, but dry sand
gives me the **SHIVERS**.

Mum makes me walk on it because
of something to do with a **MOTOR-AND-CITY...**

7

I live in a small village
next to the sea and, when I get close
to the shore, **MY GRANDMA**
always says:

*"Balta, only put your feet in ...
Just in case... "*

"Justin Case" must be a scaredy-cat.



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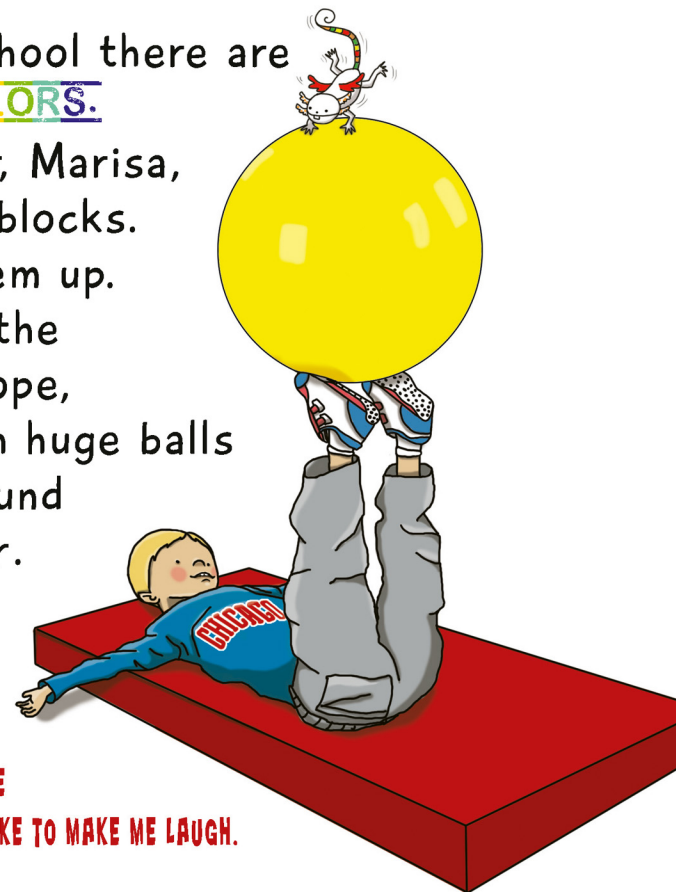
When we go to the city, I go to the
hospital. Everything is **WHITE THERE**.
The walls, the doctors' coats, the sheets,
the tubes, teeth, hair, even my
favourite doctor
who's called Whitey...



Maybe they were painted by a... **CLOUD?**

9

At school there are
COLORS.
My teacher, Marisa,
gives me big blocks.
I stack them up.
I jump over the
skipping rope,
I PLAY with huge balls
and I roll around
on the floor.

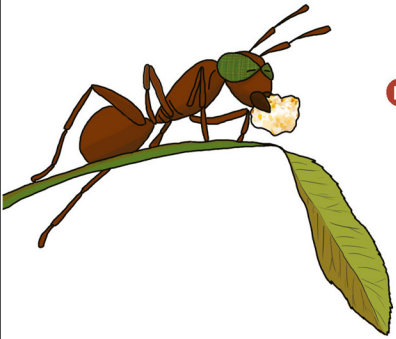


**I MUST HAVE A NICE SMILE
BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE TO MAKE ME LAUGH.**

10

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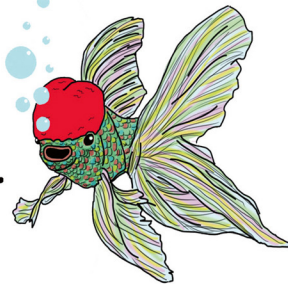


GROWN-UPS ARE WEIRD.

They are so serious.
They forget to **LOOK**
at things; the poor
little ant trying to carry a huge
breadcrumb; the wind that **blew**
that leaf up into
the air.



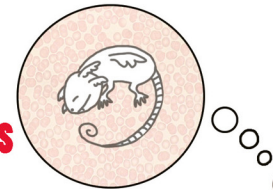
Where is it taking it?
They don't see the **PRETTY**
colourful fish in the water...



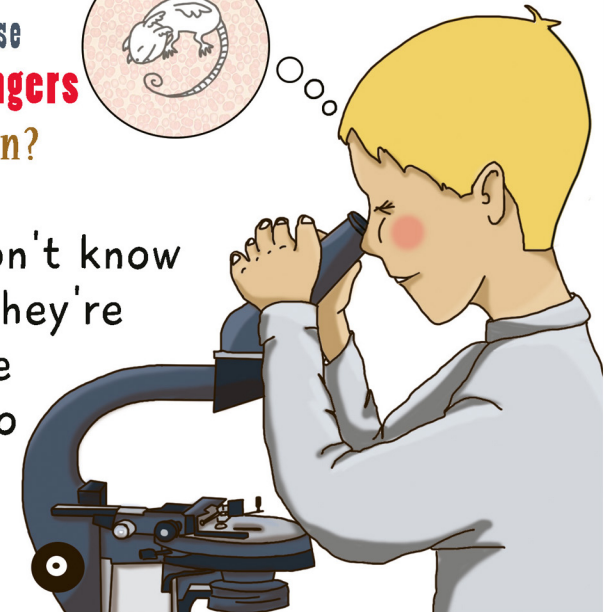
11

Grandma says that I ask a lot of
questions. I'm just **curious**. That's why
I want to be smart like Whitey when
I'm older, and find out what's wrong
with me.

They say that
I've got a **rare disease**
Is that why **my fingers**
aren't fully grown?



The doctors don't know
what I've got. They're
looking for more
cases like mine to
come up with a
diagnosis.



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I find it difficult to get my **WORDS** out,
and I don't walk the same as Luisa
or Allison (my very **best friends**).

I've got a huge scar here from an
operation I had just after I was born.
And when I breathe it feels like someone
is pinching my **heart**.

We left the beach early this afternoon,
even though the waves were
sooo cool, because it was
EXPLORING TIME
(I gave it that name).



13



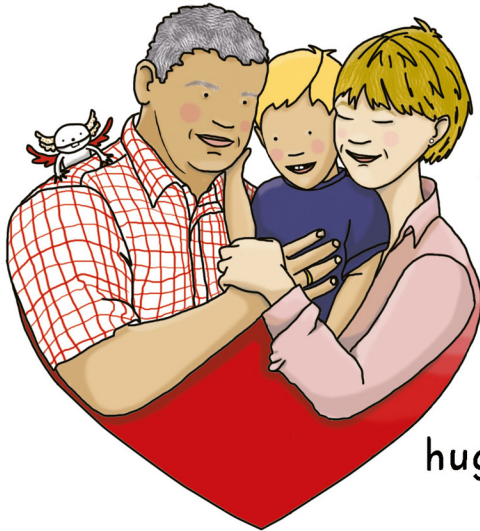
Once a week, my
parents and I get
together with my
teacher
and the **DOCTORS**
(we do it on the
computer, and I can
see them and
everything).
We talk about my
PROGRESS.

It always makes my
parents feel better
because we are slowly
MOVING FORWARD.

14

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I like to see them **smile**. I wonder if they know how much I love them? I'm sure they do because they **SQUISH** me with such warm hugs that I just melt.

There's an island near **MY BEACH**. My dad, who knows loads of stuff, says that there are remains from **ROMAN SHIPS** there. I'd love to see them.

DO YOU THINK THEY COULD GET THEM WORKING AGAIN?

I think so.

15

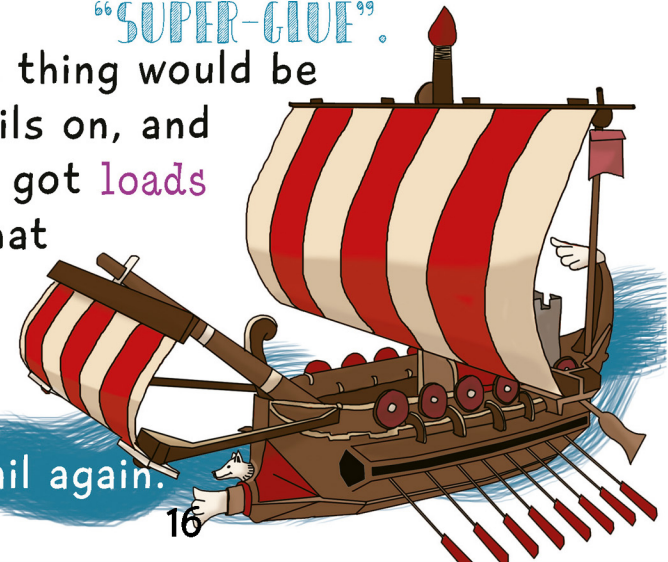


They just need to **find** some way to get them back up; my dad will figure something out. Then we would need to fix the **HOLES**.

Mum's got some great **"SUPER-GLUE"**.

And the last thing would be to put the sails on, and my grandma's got **loads** of material that I'm going to ask her for.

Then they'll sail again.



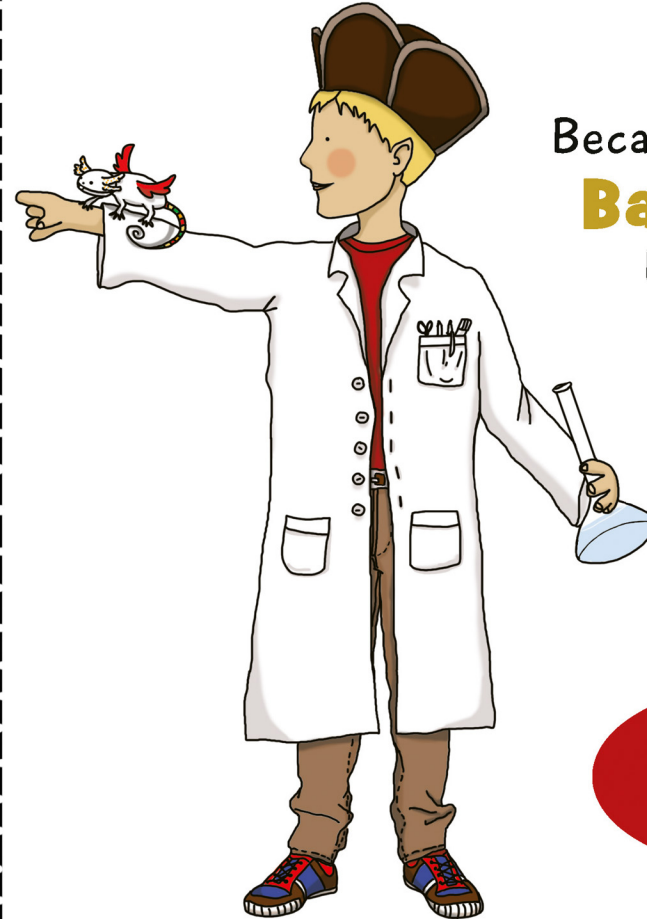
16

Like me. I won't just **sail**
with dad like those Romans did.

I'll also be a
discoverer of "new lands",
where kids with rare diseases
can **FIND**
greats treasures.

*Not even the storms, the waves,
the lightening or the mermaids
will be able to stop me.*

17



Because I'm
Baltasar,
born to
explore...

The end

18

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