

To Nurse Twyla, with love.

–Julia

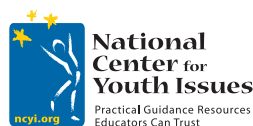
Disclaimer

This book is written to provide information about childhood cancer and should not be used as an alternative to receiving medical advice.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this book is accurate at the time of publishing; however, there is no guarantee that the information will remain current over time. Always seek the advice of a trained professional.

Duplication and Copyright

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from the publisher except for all worksheets and activities which may be reproduced for a specific group or class. Reproduction for an entire school or school district is prohibited.



P.O. Box 22185 • Chattanooga, TN 37422-2185
423.899.5714 • 866.318.6294 • fax: 423.899.4547 • www.ncyi.org
ISBN: 978-1-937870-17-1

© 2013 National Center for Youth Issues, Chattanooga, TN
All rights reserved.

Written by: Julia Cook • Illustrations by: Allison Valentine
Design by: Phillip W. Rodgers • Contributing Editor: Beth Spencer Rabon
Published by National Center for Youth Issues
Softcover

Printed at Starkey Printing • Chattanooga, Tennessee, U.S.A. • July 2016

Forward

Having a child diagnosed with cancer is one of the most difficult crises that any parent will ever endure. It can be devastating to the family and overwhelming to all those who love the child.

Treatment for childhood cancer is often aggressive and can involve months to years of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. 'Normal' daily life is transformed to a 'new normal' with the child spending extensive time in the hospital often feeling sick, tired and afraid. The child's life is filled with new limitations which can include missing school, not participating in sports and hobbies, and not playing with friends. Parents spend time away from work and siblings are often cared for by extended family members and friends. Families are often immobilized with the fear that life will never return to what it was prior to the child's diagnosis.

Julia Cook's *The "CAN" in CANCER* is a powerful book that teaches the child, the child's family and friends the importance of focusing on the things that "CAN" be achieved even when fighting cancer. By focusing on the things that "CAN" be accomplished instead of the things that "CAN'T," the child is able to find courage and hope from within, and share that courage and hope with others, so that they too can be inspired to find the "CAN" in their lives.

Ruth I. Hoffman, MPH

Executive Director

American Childhood Cancer Organization

www.acco.org



This book was made possible through the generosity of



My name is Eli, and
I'm just a regular kid.



I like to skateboard, and I'm pretty good at it.



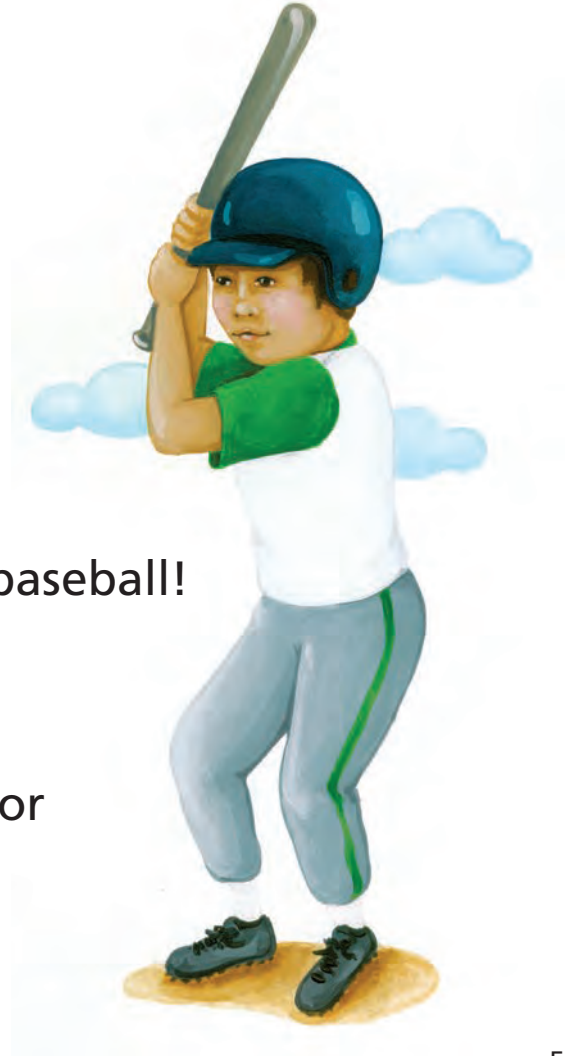
I don't like to read stories
that are boring.



My favorite food is cheese pizza, but sometimes I eat hamburger pizza too.

And, I LOVE, **LOVE**, **LOVE** to play baseball!

If I could play baseball every minute of every day of every week of every month for a whole year straight, I would be happy.

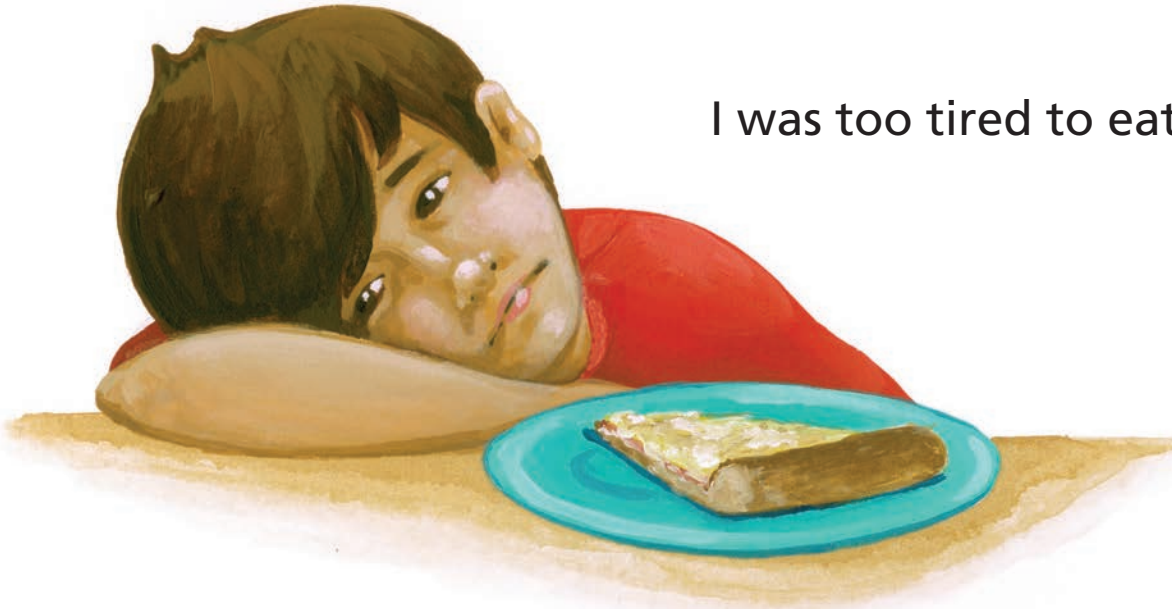


About a year ago, I started to get really, really tired all of the time.

I was too tired to skateboard.



I was too tired to eat cheese pizza.



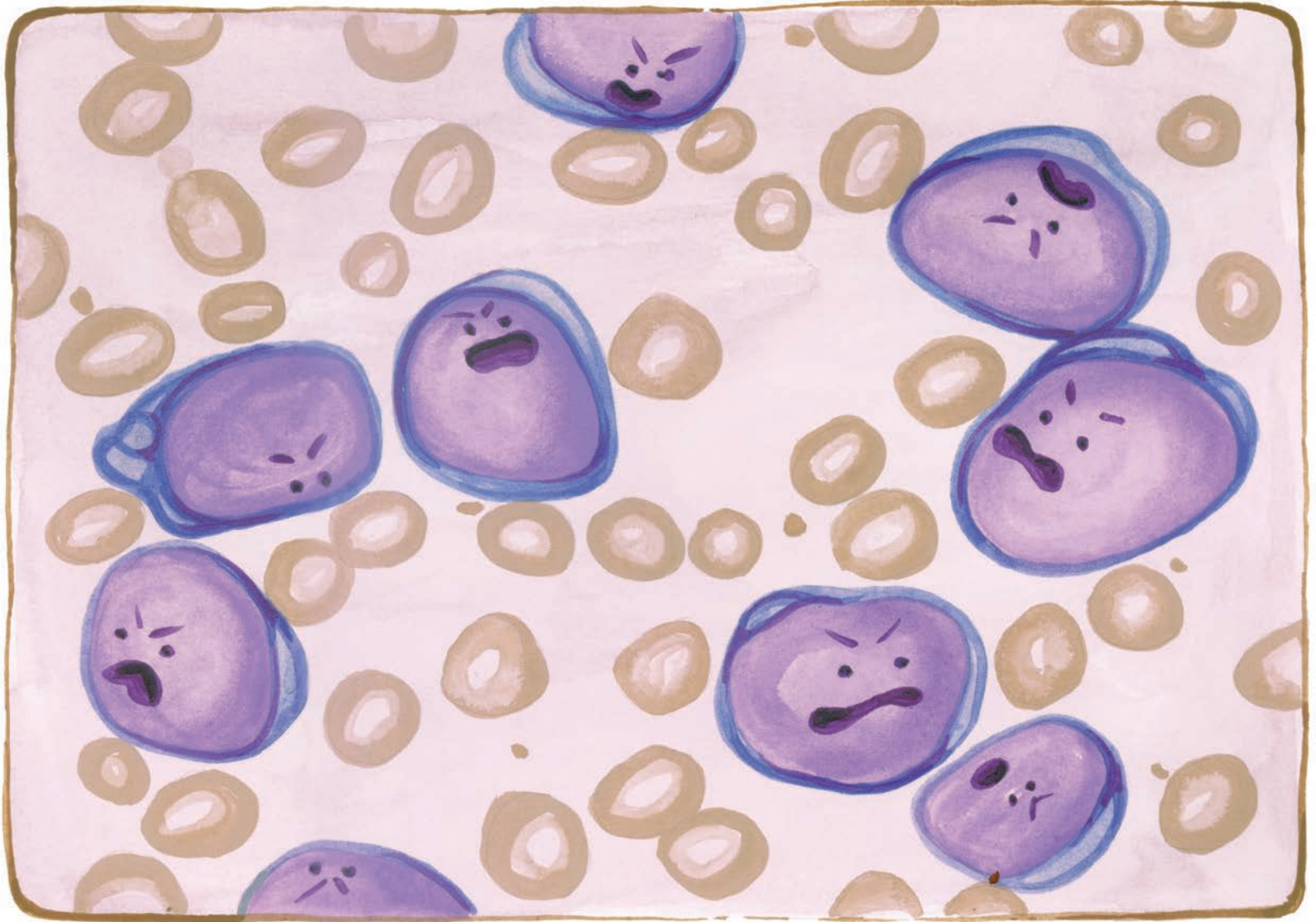
I was even too tired to play my baseball video games!



My mom started to worry about me,
so she took me to see the doctor.

That was a day I will NEVER forget...
because my doctor told me that I have cancer.





Cancer is a disease that makes some of the cells in your body turn bad and unhealthy. These bad cells grow so fast there isn't enough room for the good cells that are healthy.