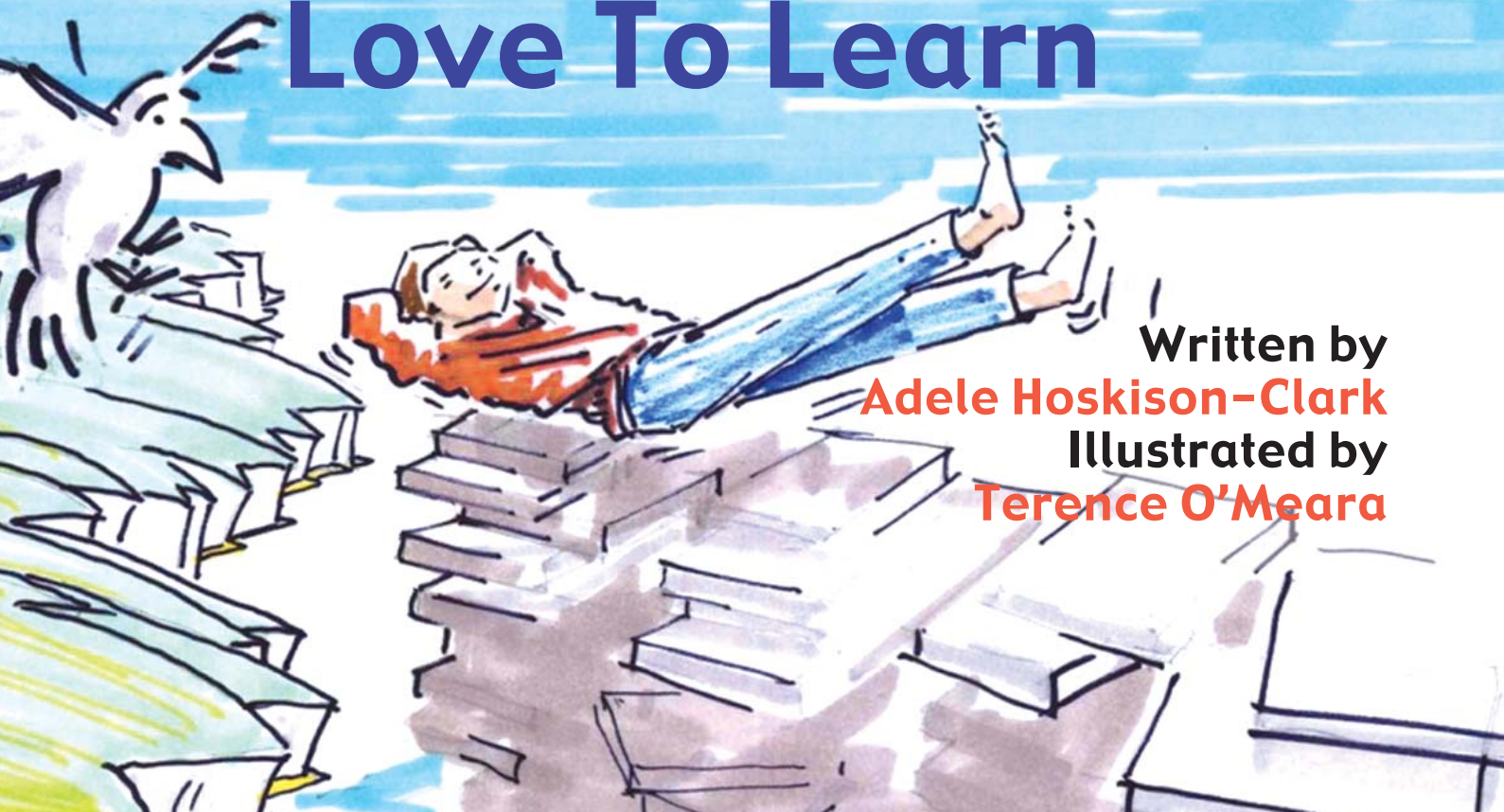


Elliott's Story

all equal
all different

Love To Learn



Written by
Adele Hoskison-Clark
Illustrated by
Terence O'Meara

All Equal All Different
KS1/Early Years
Disability Equality
Resource Pack
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adele spent 10 years in special education in Liverpool before transferring to the local comprehensive, which she found academically and socially much more positive. She was prevented from qualifying in social work at Lancaster University due to inaccessible placements and lack of support, but continues to work with young Disabled People.



UK Disability Forum
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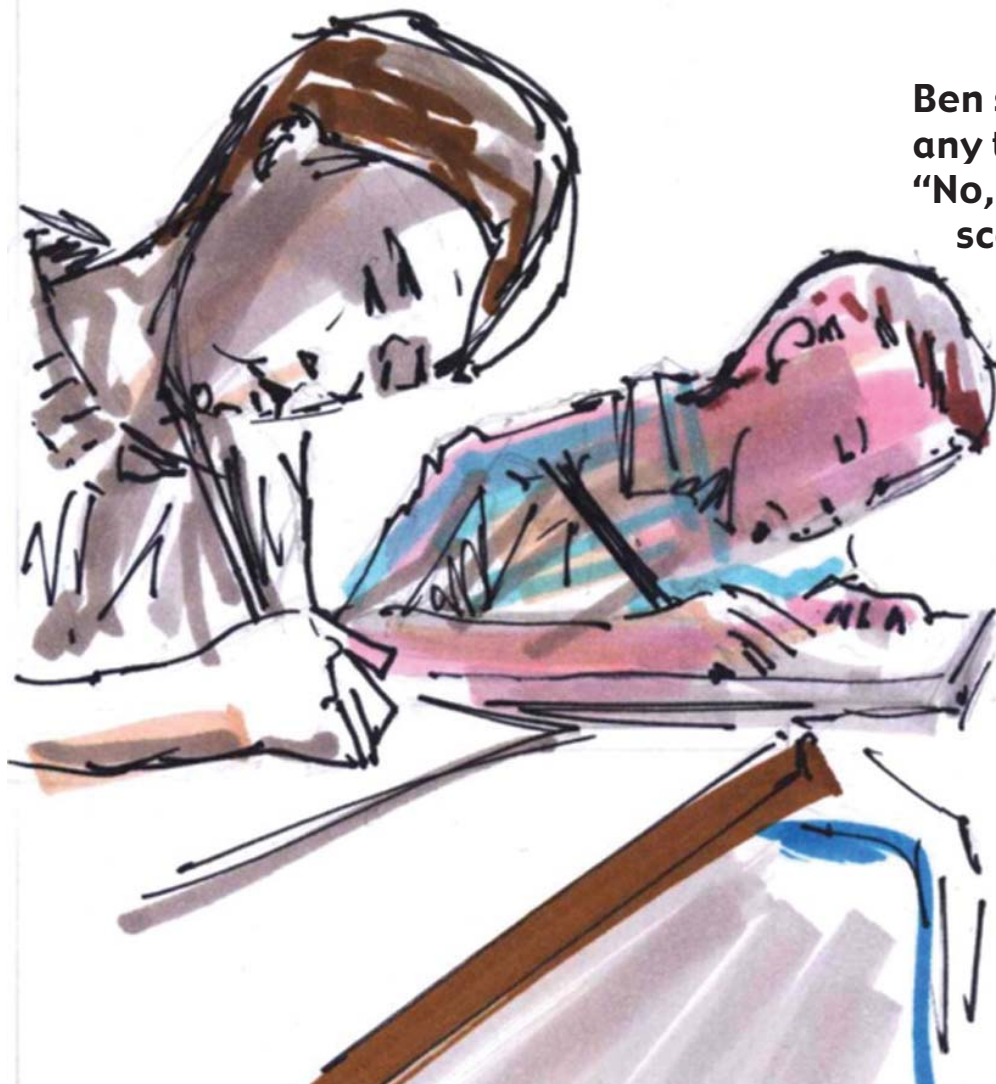
Its 11 pm at night and Elliott is fast asleep in bed. In his sleep Elliott is dreaming. The dream is a happy one. He dreams of being at school with his friends and having lots of fun in the playground.

Then the bell sounds and in Elliott's dream happiness turns into sadness because he knows he's got to go back into class and do some schoolwork. He thinks to himself, "I know I could do the work, if only the words stayed still. One day I will get ten out of ten for my work. Then my teacher will know I can do it."



The next morning on his way to school Elliott tells his best friend Ben about his dream. Ben says, "Oh! It's just a dream." "It is not just a dream," says Elliot. "Sometimes other people in our class laugh at me because I get my words mixed up when I am writing. Last week we had a spelling test and I only got four out of ten and Marcus laughed at me and said I should move classes and go back to the infants. Lots of the time I also miss play-time because I have to stay in and finish my work. It makes me sad. Sometimes I even tell mum that my tummy hurts so that I don't have to come to school."

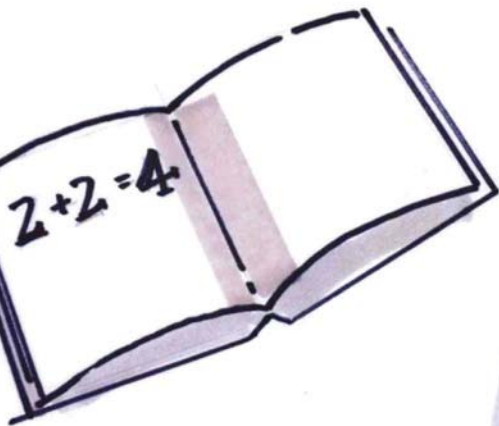




Ben says, "Have you told any teachers how you feel?"

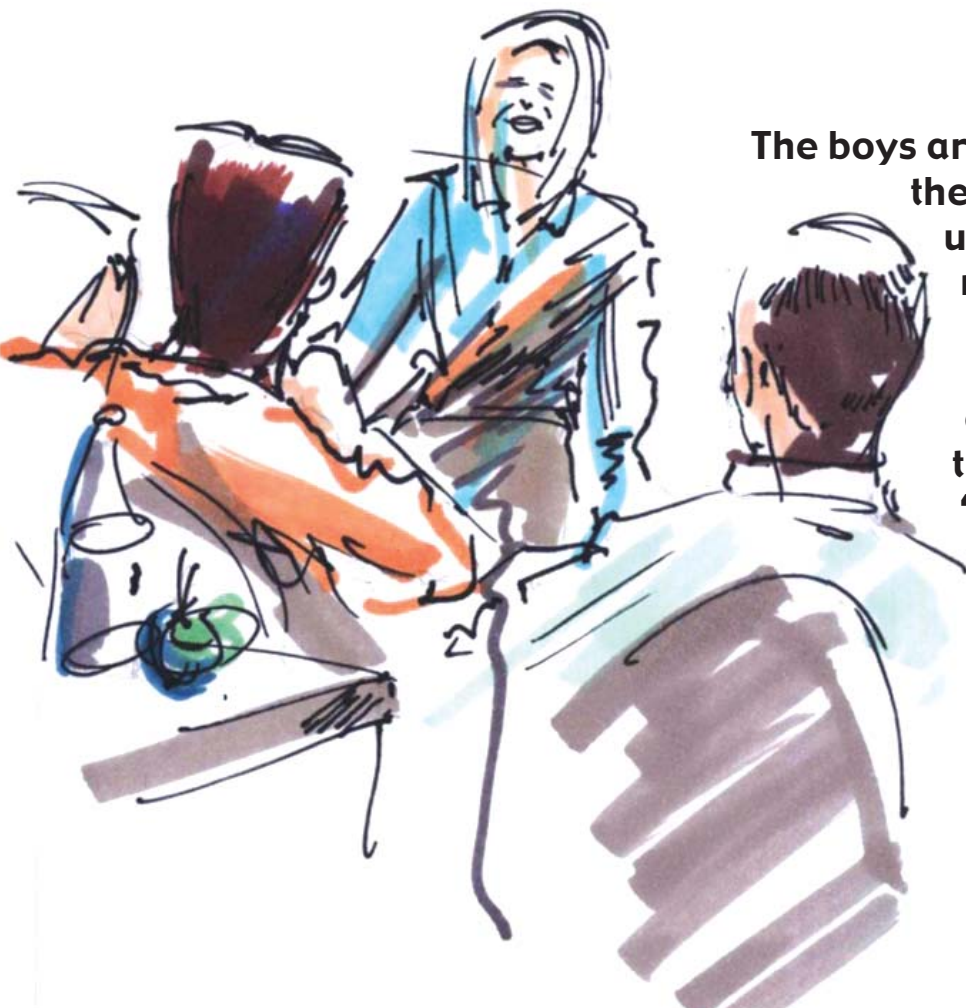
"No," says Elliott "I am scared." "Why don't you try telling Mrs Kelly? She's nice." "No," says Elliott. I told Mum she says that "I am not silly, I just learn in a different way."

"Everyone learns in different ways," says Ben. "You help me with my maths and I help you with your writing."



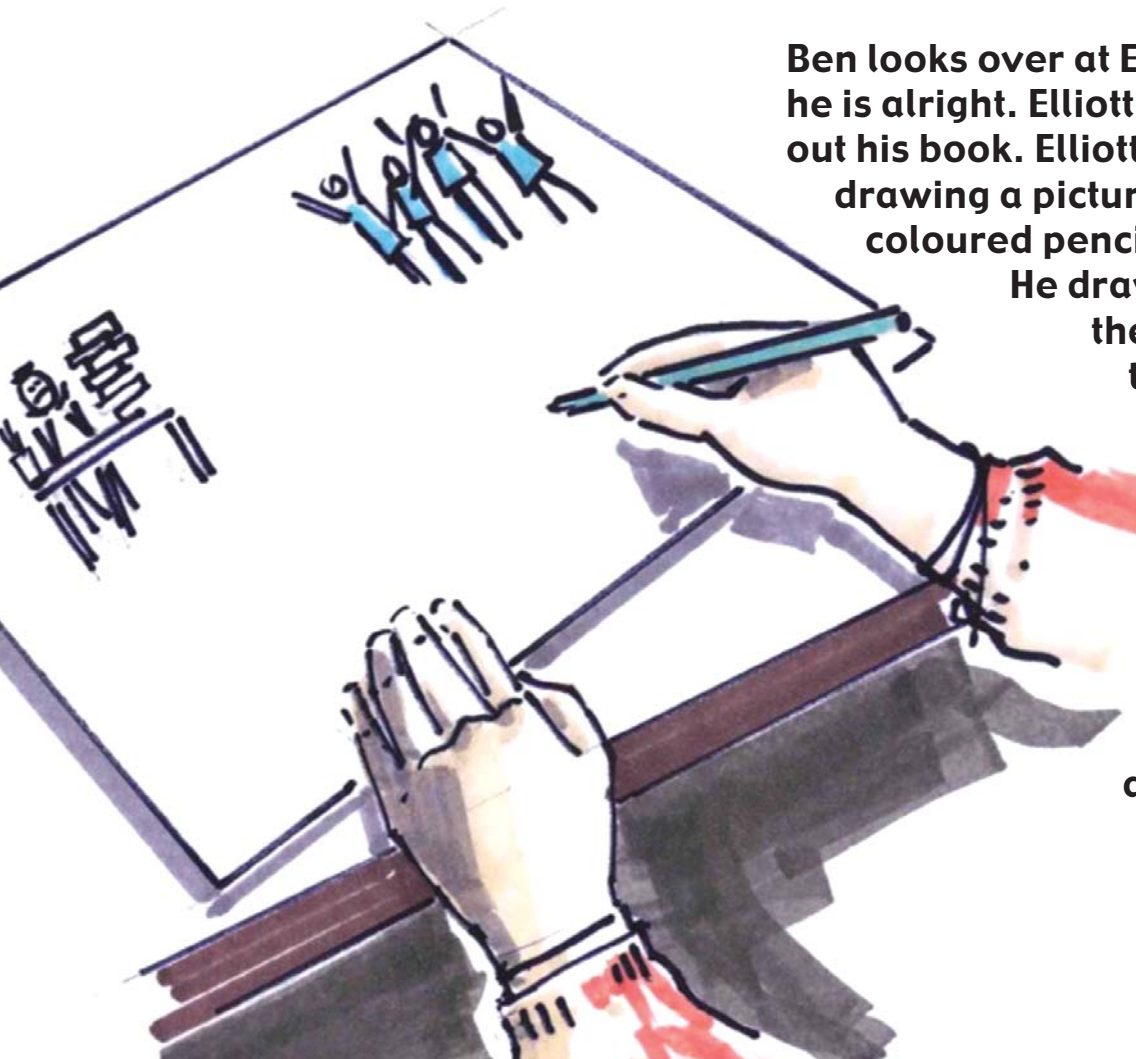
"Maths is my favourite lesson. I am good at maths and I get the answers right. I like it when Mrs Kelly ticks my maths book. In my writing books I always get crosses and that makes me sad, because I try really hard but the words jump around on the page."





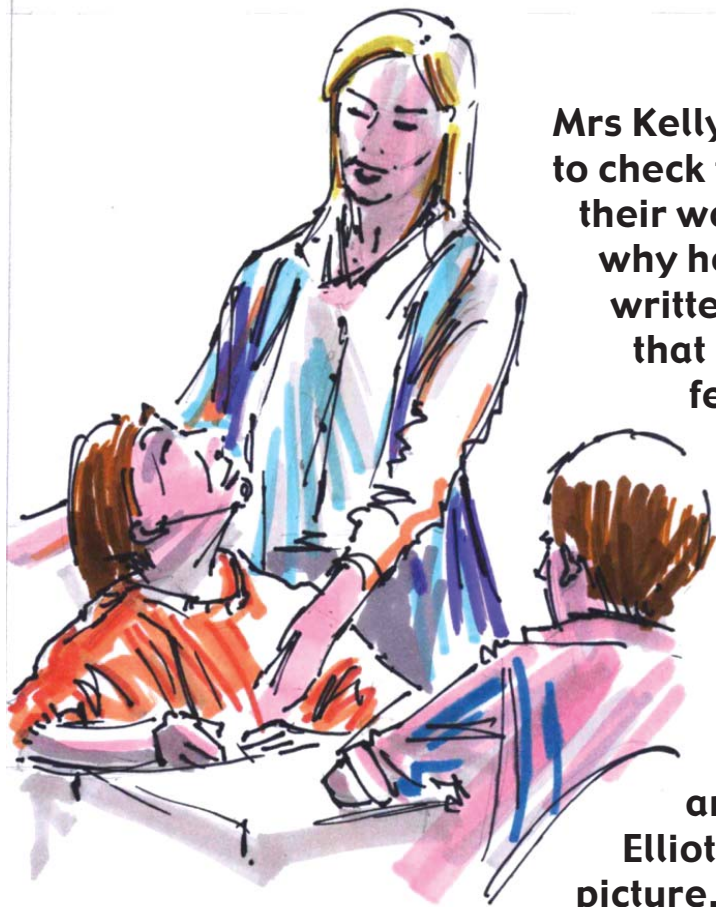
The boys arrive at school. Together they go to hang their coats up and they go to collect milk and an apple each for their morning break. Then Mrs Kelly asks everybody to get out their writing books.

“Right children, today we are going to talk about our feelings and I want everyone to write a story about how they feel. “If you have time you can also draw a picture.”



Ben looks over at Elliott and asks if he is alright. Elliott nods and gets out his book. Elliott starts by drawing a picture using the coloured pencils on the table.

He draws himself sat in the corner at a table with a pile of books and pencils. Then on the other side of the picture he draws a group of boys and girls talking and laughing.



Mrs Kelly, the class teacher walks around class to check that the children are getting on with their work. When she gets to Elliott she asks why he has drawn the picture and not written anything about it. Elliott explains that he drew the picture to show how he feels. Mrs Kelly asks Elliott to talk about the picture. Elliott says,

“This is me in the corner doing my school work. Sometimes it takes me a long time to do my work. I can do it. It just takes me a little longer than my friends. On this side of the page I have drawn other people in the class. They have finished their work and they are happy.” Mrs Kelly asks Elliot to write one sentence under the picture. After a short while Elliott writes “This is me in class I look sad and my friends look happy.”

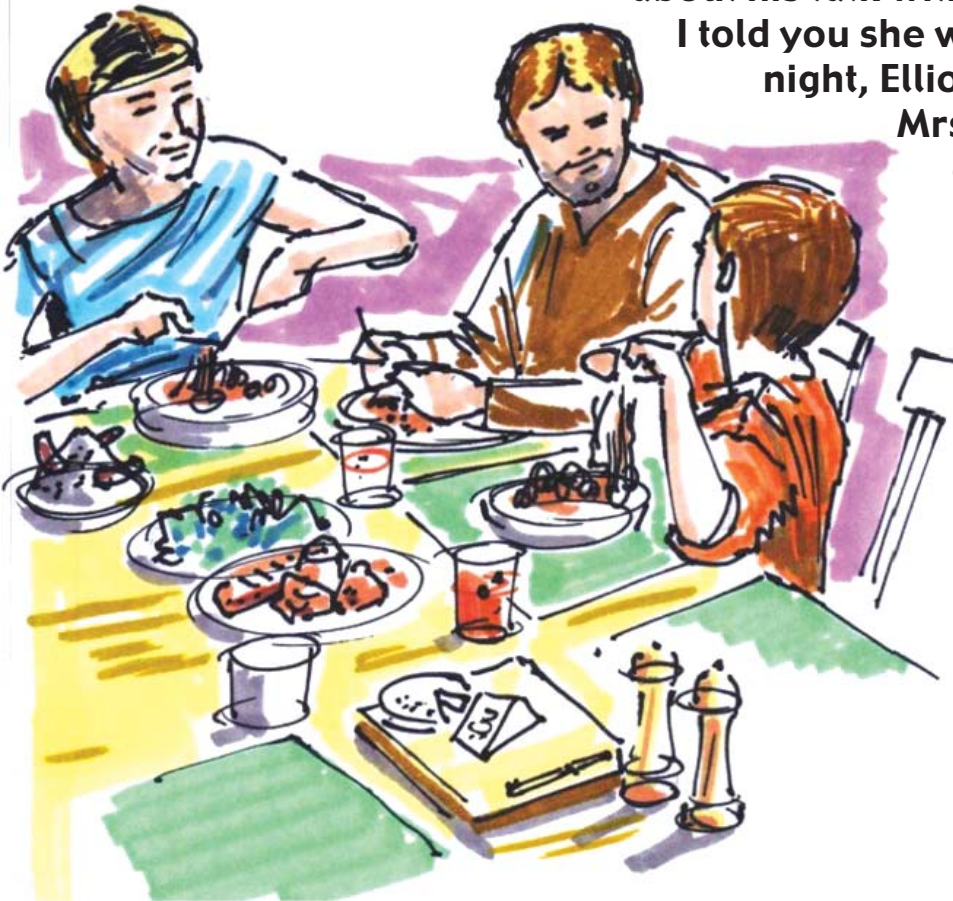
The bell rings for play time and the children line up to go into the playground. Mrs Kelly asks Elliott to stay behind. When all the other children have left the room she asks Elliott if he is happy at school. Elliott says, “I like maths and it’s great being in the same class as my best friend Ben, but when I do writing or spelling I get muddled up and the letters jump around on the page.” Mrs Kelly explains to Elliott that there might be a reason why the letters jump around on the page. She says everyone learns in different ways and some children have something called Dyslexia, which means that their mind works differently. This can mean that they need help or equipment like a computer or glasses to help them.



Mrs Kelly explains that you can have a test which tells you if you have Dyslexia. If you have, then you would be able to get the help you need in school, which means that you could work with your friends instead of working by yourself. Mrs Kelly asks Elliot to talk to his mum about it.

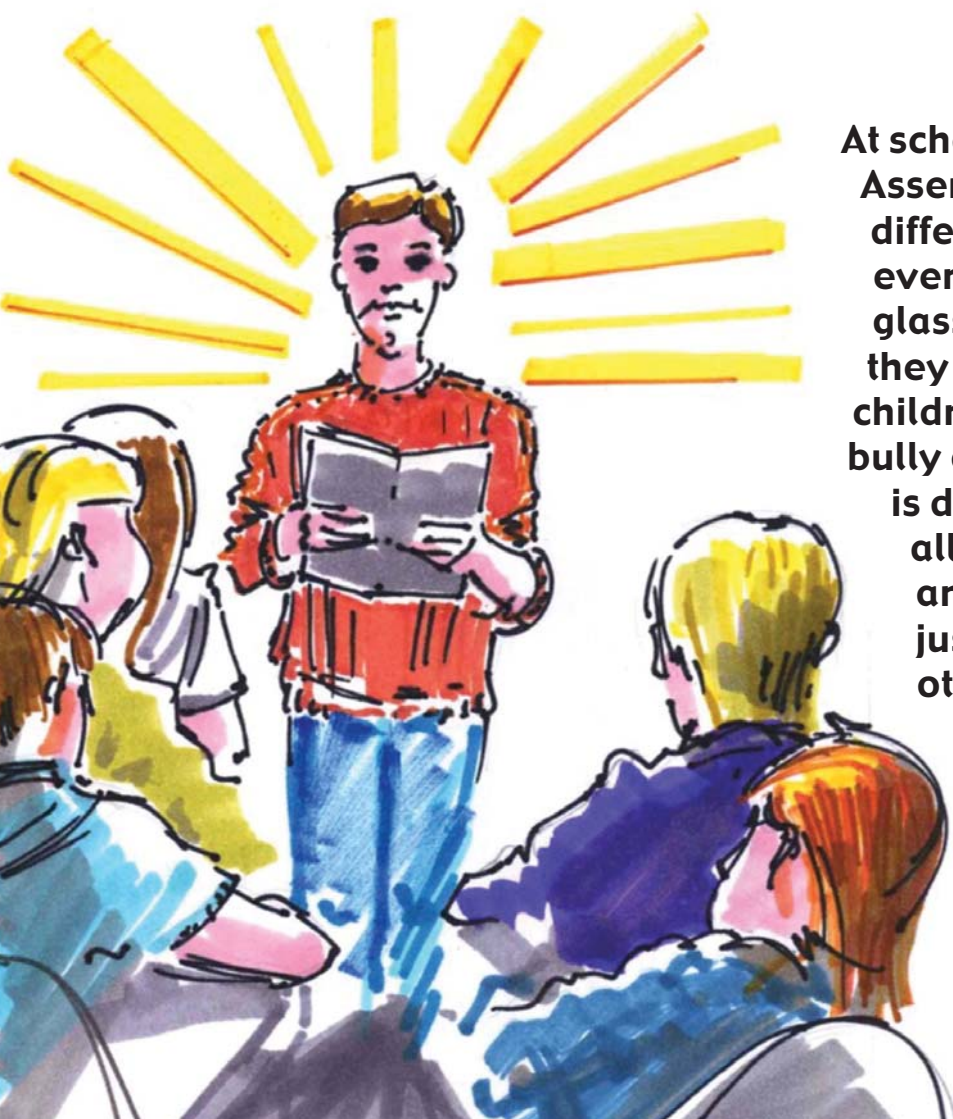
On his way home from school Elliott tells Ben about his talk with Mrs Kelly. Ben says, "See I told you she was nice." During tea that night, Elliot tells his mum about what

Mrs Kelly has said. His Mum gives him a big cuddle and asks Elliott if he would like to try the test, to see whether he does learn in different ways to other children. Elliott says "Yes" and the next day his mum rings Mrs Kelly to sort it out. While he is waiting for the test Elliott keeps thinking "I hope they don't ask too many hard questions".



Sure enough Mrs Kelly is right and the test shows that Elliott has Dyslexia. This big word makes Elliott feel happy because it shows that he is able to learn he just needs help.

Now Elliott gets lots of things to help him at school, things which mean that he can work with his friends. He has glasses with red glass in them which, help with his reading and stop the letters from jumping around the page. He has a computer which means that he can work faster and he gets to spend play time with his friends. He doesn't have to stay in class to finish work anymore.



At school, Elliot speaks at Assembly about learning in different ways. He tells everyone that he likes his glasses and computer because they help him learn. He tells the children that they shouldn't bully others, because everyone is different in some way. "We all have different colour hair and eyes. Some people are just more different than others." He ends by saying "I am Elliott and I can do anything I want to do. When I grow up I want to be a teacher so that I can help others to learn."



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