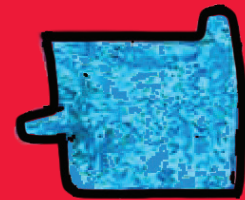
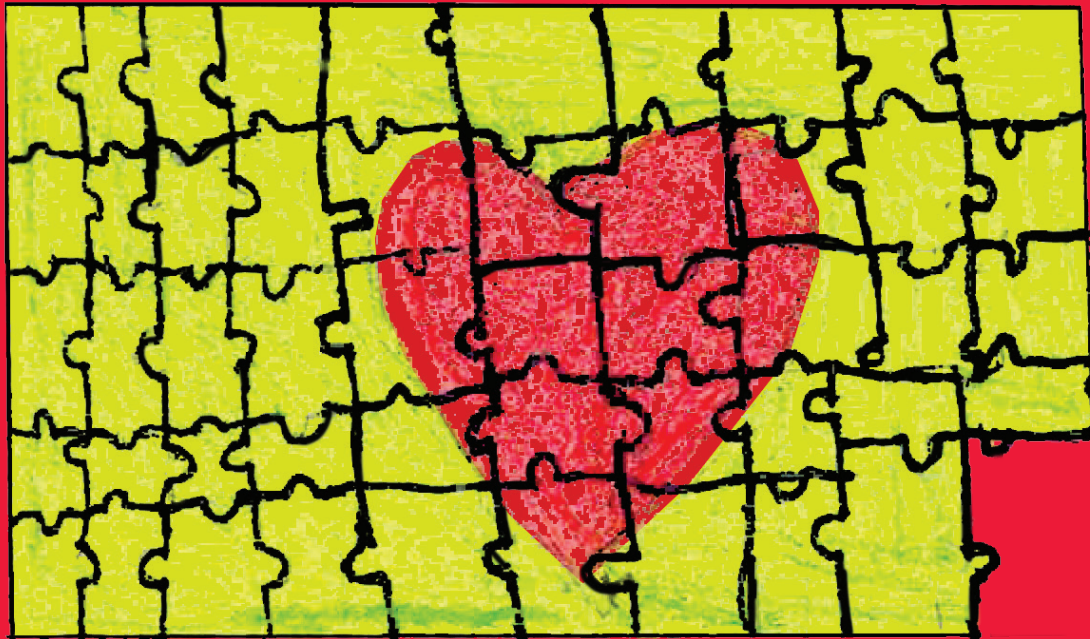


National Youth Foundation *Presents:*

# A Puzzle Piece

*Written By: Rebecca Malitis, Sara Nawabi,  
Lyndsey Gaebel, Miranda Post and Jane Hansen*



***Project Coordinator***  
Laura Johnson





# 2019

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## Dedication

This book is dedicated to anyone who has been bullied.

## OUR MISSION

The National Youth Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through creative educational programming. Our mission is to promote inclusion and gender equality, while helping young students develop their literary skills through academic and team building projects.

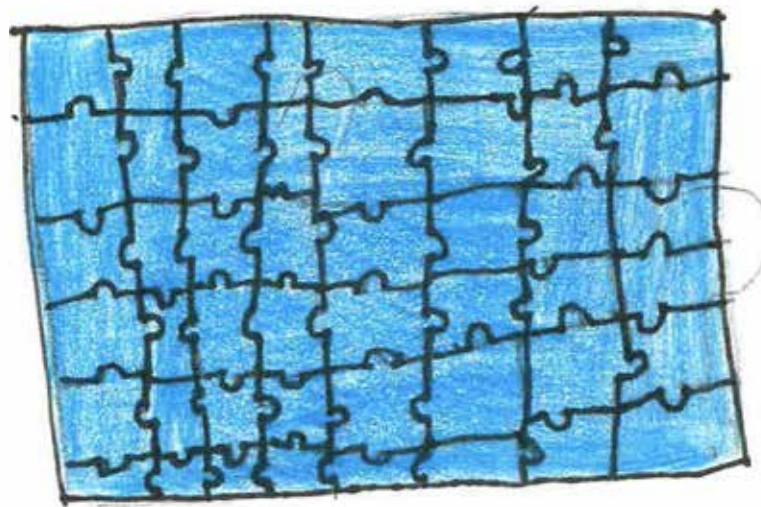
Sophia Hanson, *Executive Director*

NationalYouthFoundation.org

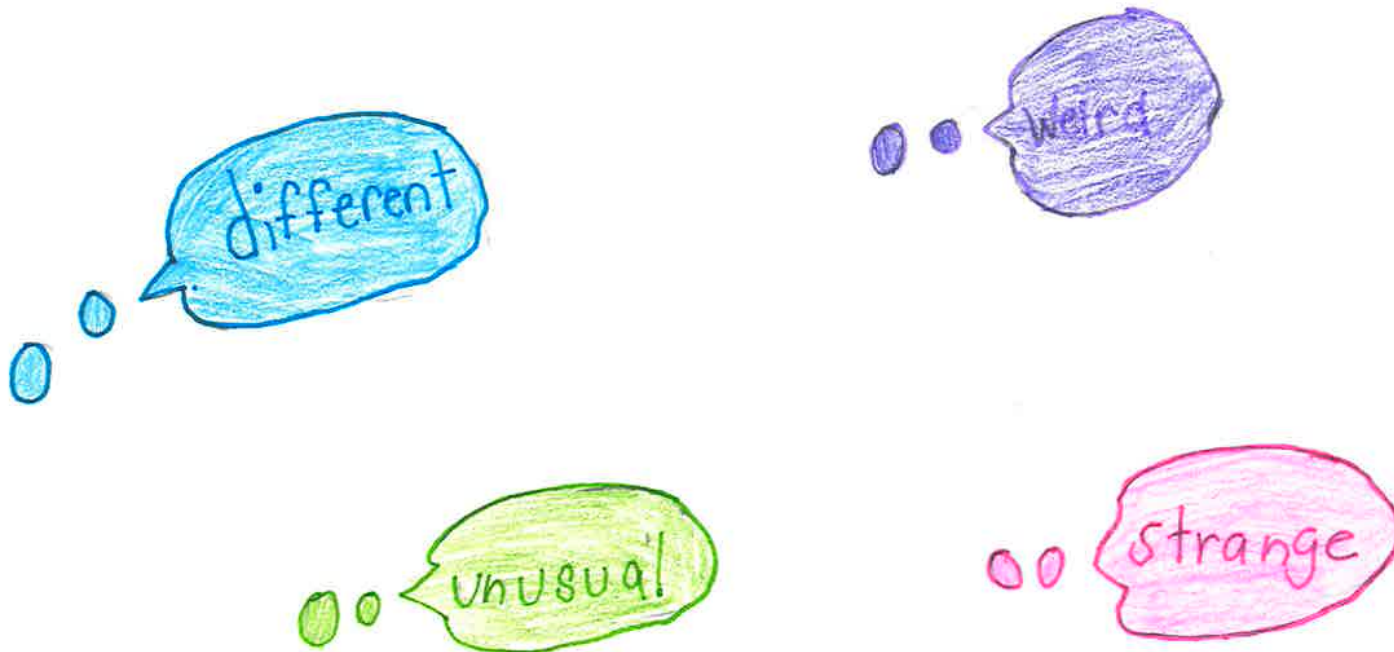




# Felicity



Some people may think I'm different, but that's not the case. I'm just as ordinary as you, though I may act a little different sometimes.





different

~~ab~~normal

unusual

weird

unordinary

strange

odd

I am Felicity, and I have Autism, plus I have Down Syndrome, too. My life was good. I was never bullied or taunted, but that all changed when a girl named Vivian came into my class.







From the time she found out that I had Autism and Down Syndrome she was taunting me and bullying me. She called me things like geek and mental. Her group of friends would laugh and make fun of me.



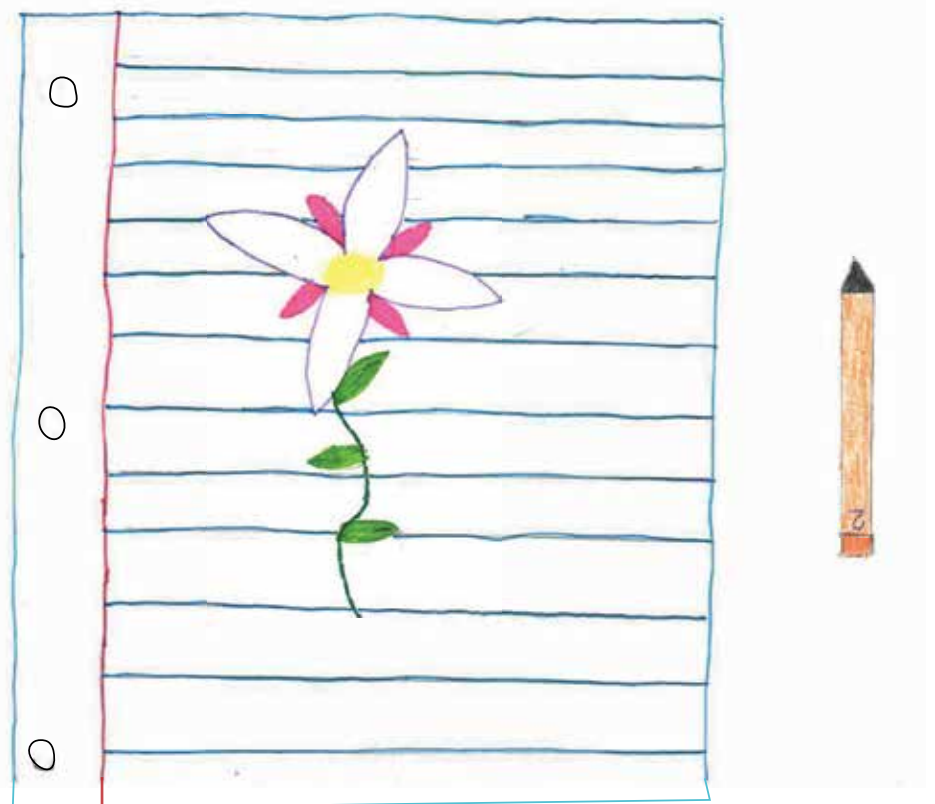


In gym class, Vivian and her friends called me slowpoke. One day in art class, a new girl Charlotte said, “That’s a beautiful flower.”

“Thanks,” I said back.

Then Vivian came over and sneered, “It’s more of a messed up flower than a beautiful flower.”

Charlotte snapped back saying, “You can’t even draw a stick figure, so get lost!”





**Vivian**



A lot of people think I have a nice and happy life, but that's not exactly true. My parents divorced when I was five. I never really got to meet my mom because I was only with her for five years when she left. My dad also has a very busy job.



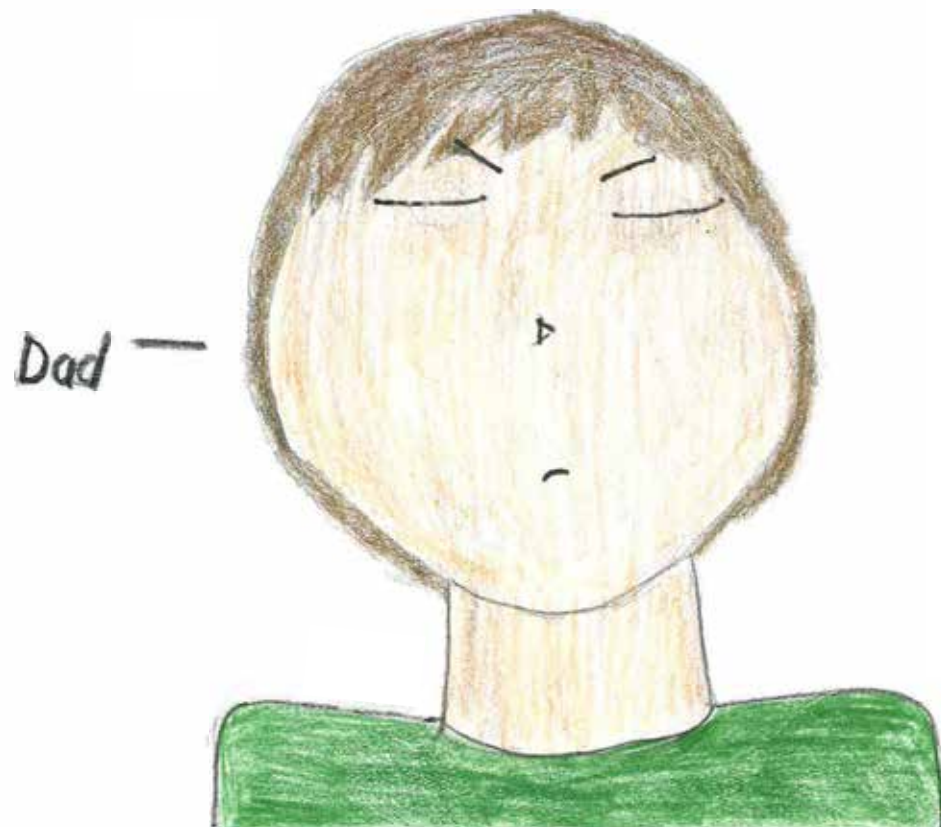


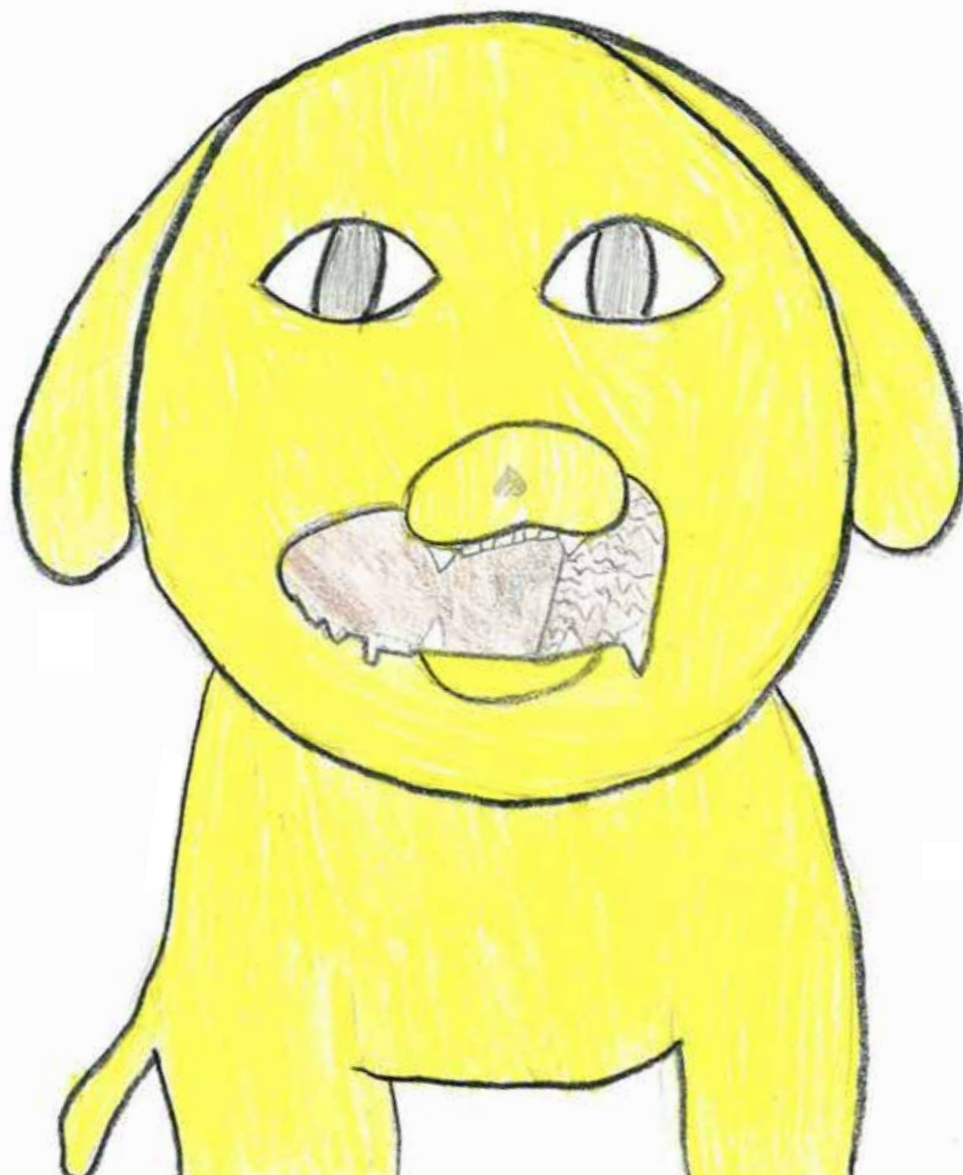


Everyday my dad leaves at 6:00 A.M. and comes back at 9:00 P.M., except when he goes on business trips. He always brings back expensive gifts, like earrings, to try to make up for being gone. But one day, not too long ago, my dad came back from a five-day trip acting differently.



For example, my dad got mad when our dog grabbed his shoes and hid them in the bushes. When he came back from the bushes, he tripped. Then he didn't give me any more gifts because he said I didn't deserve them. I was upset. So, when I walked into my new classroom, I saw a girl who looked different from the rest of us. I decided to bully her to get all of my anger out.









# Charlotte



Hi! My name is Charlotte. You may be thinking about why I moved here from another school. The reason why I moved here was that I got bullied. Life has gotten better though. I have a great neighborhood, and I have great friends in my neighborhood.

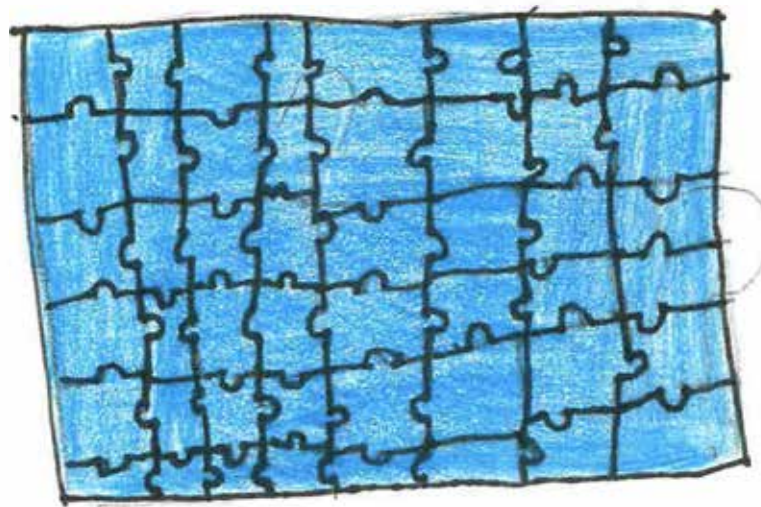


When I went into my new classroom, I knew that Felicity would be my best friend. Later, when I saw her being bullied by Vivian, I basically knew what to do since I have been bullied before. I went over and stood up for Felicity since I know how it feels. It really showed Vivian. She backed away and didn't look back. This is going to be a long year...





# Felicity





## The End of the Year

It's been such a hard and long year, and I'm so glad that it's finally over. Best of all, Vivian is being really nice to me now. She said that she wants to be best friends. I was a little suspicious at first, but then she told me all about why she behaved that way, and she apologized.



During Easter, Vivian's mom planned a big surprise and reunited with Vivian. She rang the doorbell and gave them all big hugs. After that, Vivian said her life felt normal again and she felt very bad for being rude to Felicity and Charlotte. Vivian realized that it wasn't fair to take out her frustration on her classmates and wished that she could go back and redo the whole school year.

Charlotte, Vivian, and Felicity all became great friends and had a lot of fun over the summer and hanging out. I wonder what will happen next year!





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