

LITTLE BIG

Daniel



Written and Illustrated by Samiksha Thapar

In a small town, lived a little boy named Daniel. He was tan skinned, with hazel green eyes. He had evenly spread freckles across his face, on a perfectly round one. He loved everything about him, but there was one thing, JUST one thing he wished he could change about himself.....





He was TOO SHORT. The shortest short. Because of his height, he was sad. Very sad. Daniel was excluded at school and teased by the other kids everyday. Everyday he tried and tried, gave everything a try, but just COULDN'T become taller. He just wanted to fit in and NOT BE DIFFERENT.

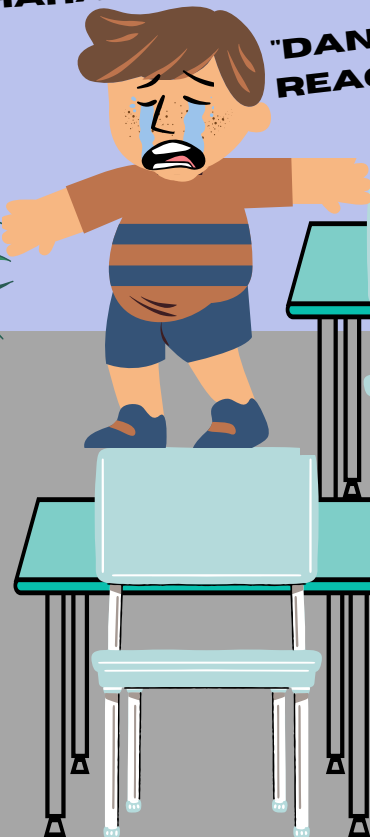
On Monday, Daniel went to school wearing stilts. He wore long pants on top to hide them. He looked tall now. Very tall, but he struggled. He **COULD BARELY WALK**. By lunchtime, Daniel gave up.





He took the stilts off, they were just too HARD. And again, the class started with its usual.

"DANIEL IS SO SHORT"
"HAHAHAHA"
"DANIEL CAN'T EVEN REACH THE BOTTOM SHELF"



The words were all around his head now. He had HAD ENOUGH.

On Tuesday, before going to school, he got his mum and dad to hold his arms and legs and STRETCH. For a whole hour.... They stretched... they pulled... Now Daniel felt like he grew taller. Confidence gushed in from the window, straight to Daniel.



But at school, there was no difference. Still the same.
Still short.

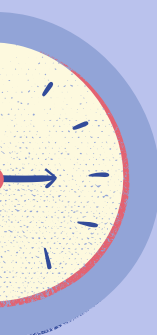


Tuesday night Daniel cried and cried. "WHY CAN'T I BE TALL?" I will eat a lot of beans and foods that make me taller, he thought. On Wednesday, he went to school just praying he had grown an inch.





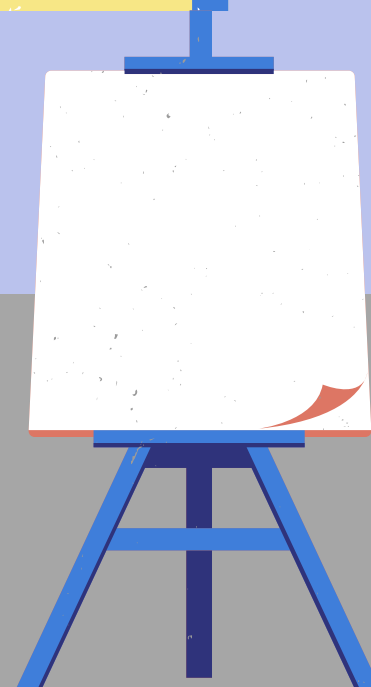
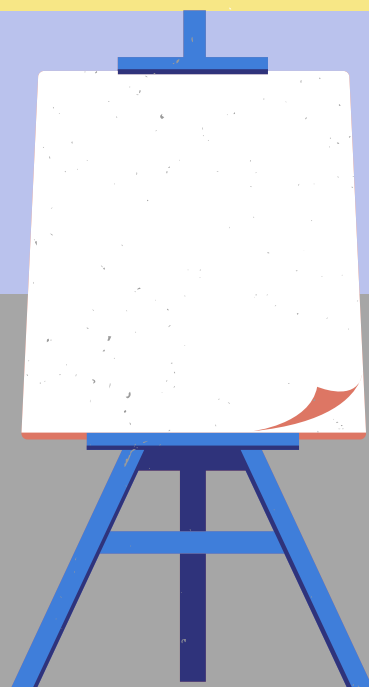
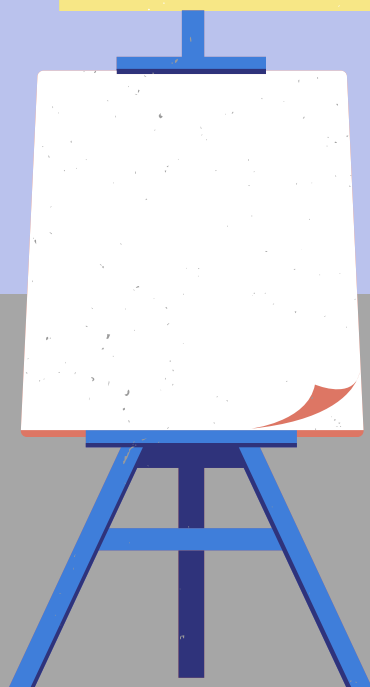
At school, Daniel spent his recess and lunch just hanging on the monkey bars in the playground. "My grandma says hanging on bars will make you taller and that's exactly what I want"



On Thursday, Daniel's class had an art competition. He was a very strong artist. Very strong indeed. His artistic skills were all natural. He was born with creativity. Mrs. Ruby, the classroom teacher excitedly said "Ready, Set, Go!!!" Giving the class 30 minutes to create any drawing they like.



Thursday's Art Competition





She was going to pick the best one at the end. Daniel knew exactly what he wanted to draw. His dog Bruno. Bruno was a fluffy brown dog with short stubby legs. He was adorable!!!!

An illustration of a woman, Mrs. Ruby, standing in a classroom. She has dark hair in a bun, wears a red short-sleeved top and a teal skirt, and is holding a red alarm clock in her right hand. A speech bubble above her head says "Ok times up everyone". The background is a green chalkboard with a yellow baseboard. To the right, there is a small potted plant on a tripod stand. At the bottom, there are two white papers on blue stands.

"Ok times up everyone"

Times up, Mrs. Ruby announced. In return she got a lot of...


Everyone except for Daniel complained and winged, he was the only one happy with his drawing. Apologetically, the teacher collected the drawings and guided the class to recess.




She had a look at everyone's drawings that break, and she could not take her eyes off Daniel's drawing of his cute little dog. The innocence of the picture attracted her.

After recess, when the class returned to the room, Mrs Ruby acknowledged everyone's hard work and effort, and happily awarded Daniel with a round of applause, certificate and a small chocolate bar for his exceptional drawing.



A teacher with dark hair in a bun, wearing a green skirt and black heels, holds a large white board with a simple line drawing of a dog. The dog is sitting, facing forward, with floppy ears and a friendly expression. In the background, there is a desk with a red pencil holder containing several colored pencils and a blackboard.

This shall be
hung at the
entrance of the
classroom

Three children are celebrating. A boy in an orange shirt and white pants jumps with his arms raised. A girl in a white polka-dot shirt and dark pants also jumps with her arms raised. A boy in a brown and blue striped shirt and blue shorts stands in the middle, holding a certificate with a gold star and a small orange box labeled "CHOCOLATE".

She informed the class
that she would hang his
artwork at the entrance
of the classroom. Where
everyone can see the
beautiful work as they
walk in each day.



That day, at lunch everyone wanted to play with Daniel. Radha and Aliza even offered their toys to him. Jacob wanted to play hide and seek with him. Hamza asked him to play cops and robbers with him.



They were willing to share and become friends with the boy. Daniel was filled with joy as he learnt that he had made so many friends in a single day.

On that particular Thursday, everyone learnt that everyone has a special talent.



It could be artistic skills like Daniel

OR



Sporting skills like Radha

OR



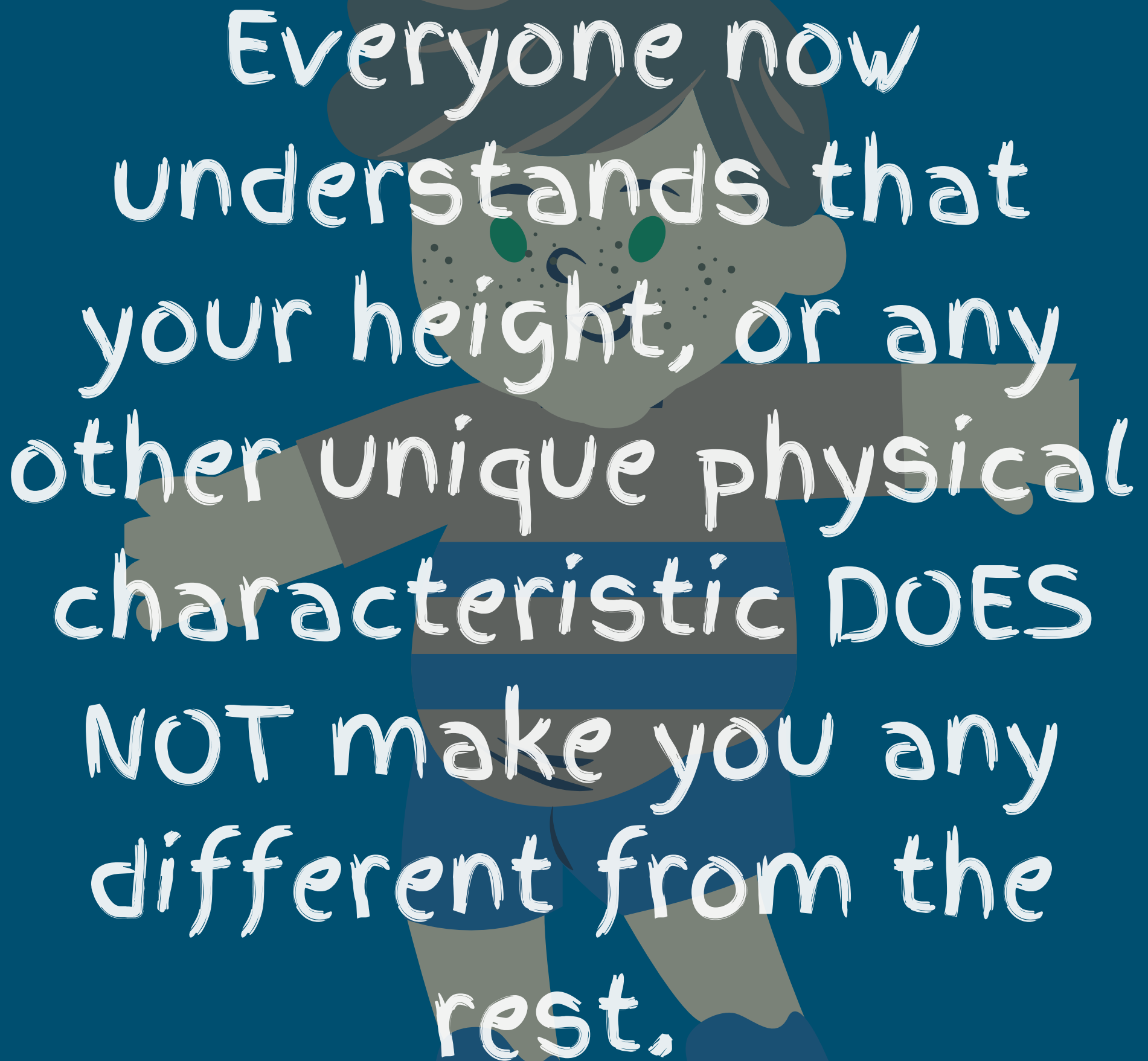
even cooking skills like Jacob



Everyone is different. Everyone is unique. Everyone must be proud. Be happy and embrace your uniqueness. Your height shouldn't make you any different or less from anyone else.

Friday at school was fun. Fun for Daniel as well as for everyone else at school. This time, Daniel walked in head high, and no horrible words were thrown at him like usual. No “HAHA SHORTY” or “Daniel is so short!!!”





Everyone now
understands that
your height, or any
other unique physical
characteristic DOES
NOT make you any
different from the
rest.

LITTLE BIG Daniel



Daniel is finally a big boy. But when you see his height, he is still small.

His height doesn't stop him from being the greatest artist in his class though.

See how Daniel makes friends despite his odd uniqueness.

HDTV

