

Scarlet's Big Adventure

all equal
all different

Written by
Maresa MacKeith
Illustrated by
Boruch Simons



All Equal All Different
KS1/Early Years
Disability Equality
Resource Pack
Published by UKDFEA/DEE

© Maresa Mackeith (story), Boruch Simons (illustrations) and Disability Equality in Education (DEE) and for the Resource Pack Disability Equality in Education & United Kingdom Disability Forum for European Affairs.

First Published by Disability Equality in Education and the UK Disability Forum for European Affairs with a grant from the Department of Work and Pensions for European Year of Disabled People.

April 2004

ISBN: 0-9547656-0-5

Book design: Caroline Grimshaw



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maresa MacKeith is an 18-year-old who has just finished at college doing her 'A' Levels. Previously she got a string of As and Bs at GCSE and 'A' levels. Like thousands of other teenage girls she celebrated - by going out clothes shopping with a friend. Next autumn she will start a degree in Journalism at Nottingham Trent University. Unlike most teenagers however, Maresa has had a long and difficult road to exam success. She was born with cerebral palsy and cannot write, talk or walk.

Maresa uses a wheelchair and has limited control of her movements. Maresa communicates by pointing to a specially designed message board which includes all the letters of the alphabet along with common words and phrases. A facilitator helps Maresa to use the message board and interpret what she is saying.

At exam time they were joined by a scribe who transcribed all Maresa's answers. When Maresa was 6 she was judged to have severe learning difficulties and sent to a special school. When Caroline, her mother, discovered how to communicate with Maresa, when she was 10, it became clear how fed up she was at the school. Eventually she started at a secondary school she liked in the middle Year 9.



UK Disability Forum
for Europe



Scarlet woke up early knowing it was going to be a bouncy day. She was so excited she jumped down every step of the stairs to get breakfast and all the way to the kitchen.

**Her mum poured
the milk on
Scarlet's cereal
saying "Look at
you all excited
this morning, I
can't think why
that would be!"
Scarlet knew her
mum was pulling
her leg as they
were all going
camping that day
at the beach.**





After getting dressed, Scarlet helped her dad load the car. It was so packed up she didn't think there would be room for her. Scarlet had two very best friends, Ivy and Tommy. They lived on the same street and went to the same school and were coming camping too. When all the families were packed up and ready, the party got on the move.

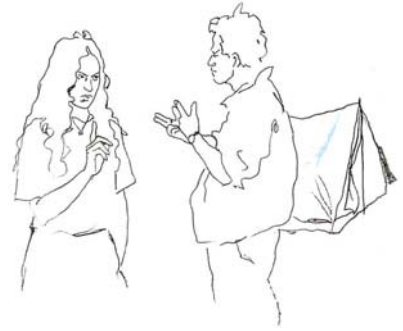




The journey seemed to take forever but Scarlet had her colouring books and also played Eye-Spy with her mum. Scarlet's favourite part of the journey was whenever Tommy's car was nearby. As Tommy can't hear, he uses sign language to talk, so he uses his hands to make signs. Scarlet has grown up with Tommy, so she knows how to understand. This means they can have conversations through the windows of the cars. Scarlet thought this was good fun because none of her other friends can hear her talk while riding in another car.



They arrived at the campsite and each family set up their tent except Ivy's family, who have a caravan.



Ivy and Scarlet played catch while they waited for their parents. They giggled a lot at Tommy's mum and dad as they argued.



Tommy's mum and dad also are deaf and use sign language.



Even though they were the other side of the campsite Ivy and Scarlet could understand what they were saying. Tommy had climbed a big oak tree so he could see a boat on the sea. He described it to Ivy and Scarlet. They agreed it sounded like a Pirate ship and that they should be careful when they got to the beach in case the pirates were there. They thought there might be buried treasure around.



Loaded up with buckets and spades they head to the beach. Scarlet rode on Ivy's knee down the hill. They screeched loudly as their chair got faster and faster. Luckily Ivy's dad had control so there was no crash. Scarlet took her shoes off as soon as she got to the beach. She loved the feel of the sand between her toes. Scarlet thought the beach was beautiful. The sea sparkled a shiny blue and the waves danced and splashed. On one side of the beach there were



rocks to explore and she wondered if mermaids lived there.



Tommy had the idea to build the biggest sandcastle ever. They decided this was a great idea. Scarlet collected buckets of seawater to wet the sand and seaweed to decorate it. Ivy's mum had collected a bucket full of stones and shells. Ivy's job was to pick the best and shiniest ones for the magic castle. Tommy dug and built and dug and built with some help from his dad.



When the castle was completed, the three kids decided to brave the ocean. Ivy's dad carried her down and Tommy and Scarlet skipped and ran next to him. When Scarlet's toes hit the water she let out a big screech. It was freezing! Tommy ran straight in. He was swimming and jumping in the waves in no time. They all had armbands and rubber rings and their parents watched them carefully because the sea can be very dangerous. Ivy's dad was trying not to get too wet, but a big wave came and soaked him through which made them all laugh.



**Once dry, they packed
up the stuff and
headed to the town for
warm fish and chips.
Scarlet loved mushy
peas with her chips.
They sat on benches
looking out at the sea,
watching the Seagulls
dart around in the air.**





All of a sudden, a cheeky one swooped down and stole one of Scarlet's dad's chips. This made them all jump and laugh as Scarlet's dad threw all his chips in the air when he jumped. He had to have a whole new bag.

Back at the campsite, Scarlet washed and got ready for bed. She talked to her mum about all the fun things that had happened to her that day, as she drank her hot chocolate. They agreed it had been a great day.





As the rain began to pour down Scarlet smiled at the adventures she was going to have the next day. They had agreed to explore the rocks. Scarlet loved sleeping in a tent while the rain pitter-pattered on the canvas roof.

Copies available, as part of '**all equal all different**' pack,
from DEE: £75 including P&P

DISABILITY EQUALITY IN EDUCATION [Reg. Charity No. 1055287]

Unit GL, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP

Tel: 020 7359 2855 Fax: 020 7354 3372

E-mail: info@diseed.org.uk

Website: www.diseed.org.uk

