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KS3

MY DYSLEXIA

(This story is written in different colours to help other people with dyslexia!)

Hi I'm Ellanean and I'm 13 years old. I have ADD and Dyslexia. One of my hidden talents is my Dyslexia! In this story, I will take you with me on my journey of learning how to value my dyslexia, not as a problem but as a hidden talent!

Ever since I was a baby I have had dyslexia. It has been very hard for me to see this as a positive thing, and a hidden talent - it's difficult for me to do things that other people find easy. It's like I've landed in a foreign country - and I can't speak the language (I'm learning Japanese and a bit of Italian from my stepdad in lockdown)!

Close your eyes when you read this. Imagine this. You step off the plane on holiday and you forget the language you just learned for the whole year. You have to find your hotel but you can't remember how to say the name. You look for someone who can speak your language - asking everyone you bump into in this new country and you find someone that speaks your language and you find it at last. Sometimes it makes me sad, that I'm left behind. But lockdown has let me discover, like an intrepid explorer, the hidden talents that dyslexia hides.

I found my own wings to fly in lockdown that describe me - literally! My hidden talent is building, using my hands and my imagination to engineer my very own pair of extraordinary working wings. I have to add the feathers - but the frame for my massive wings is finished. It has shown me that not only am I good with my hands, but that I have the potential to fly, even with dyslexia. When I put the wings that I built on, I feel like anything is possible and it makes me proud.

I see myself as a magnificent bird, free to roam the amazing world wherever I want to go. Sometimes, as I fly over the treacherous ocean, the sea spits and growls at me but I rise above it, where its claws can't reach me. That's how I like to imagine the things I find almost impossible - like reading, writing and English. But I know, through my hidden talent of art and creativity that it's possible for me to fly with my own magnificent wings.

In lockdown, I found hidden pathways in the forest around my little woodland home. I'm good at finding secret pathways wherever I go and that taught me that sometimes a talent can't be obvious, it can be hidden and you have to find it yourself. Sometimes a path to something can take a different route, especially with dyslexia, but you will get there eventually.

Finding out that dyslexia was a hidden talent in lockdown made me realise that there is talent in everything and everyone. It can be any shape or form.

