

What is happening to my Mummy?

Written by Noela Moran
Illustrated by Teresa Jordan



Dedication

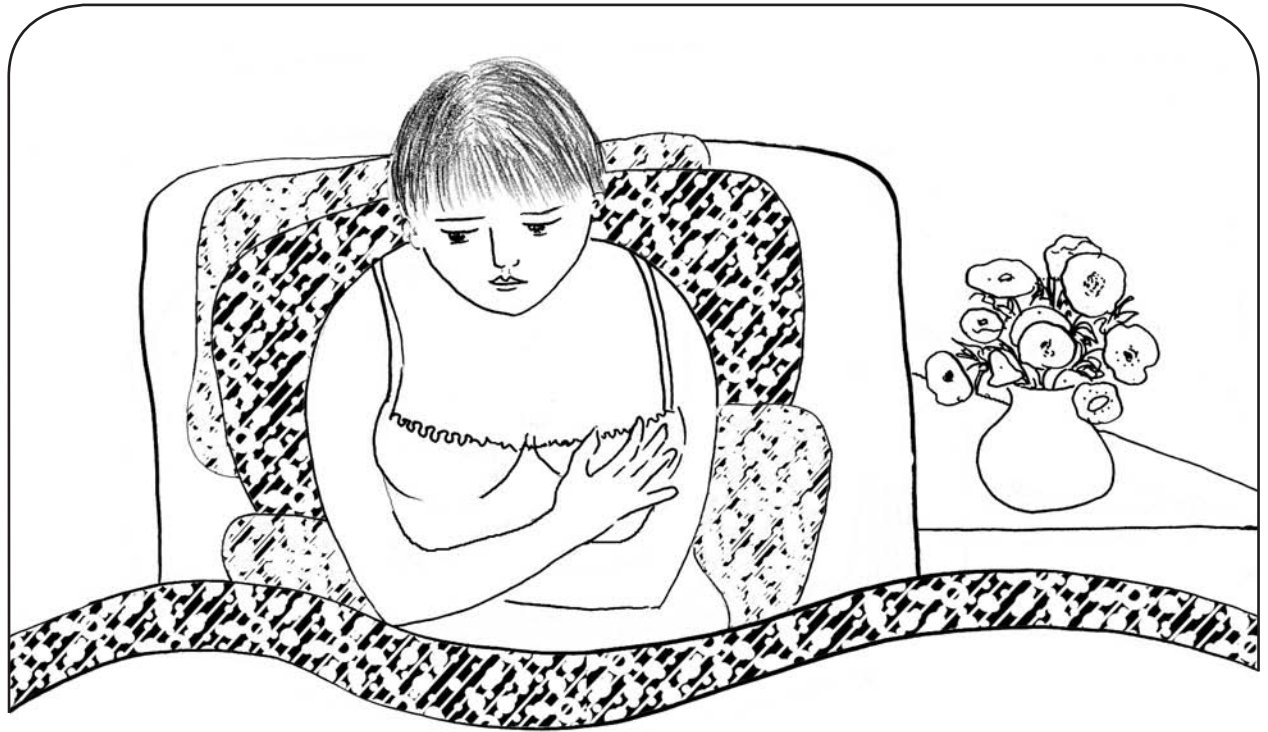
Without the art work of Teresa Jordan, the enthusiasm of Sally Graham (Breast Cancer Nurse, Mater Private Hospital, Brisbane) and the financial support of Cancer Council Queensland, this storybook would not be available to parents who are journeying with cancer.

I would like to dedicate this storybook to my children – Kate (who was the model for the illustrations), James, Ben and Lizzie, who along with my husband, Albert, make every journey worthwhile.

This colour-in story book is to help children with a parent who has cancer to understand about the cancer treatments. A useful way to use this book is for child to work through the book with a parent or other family member.

For further information and support contact:

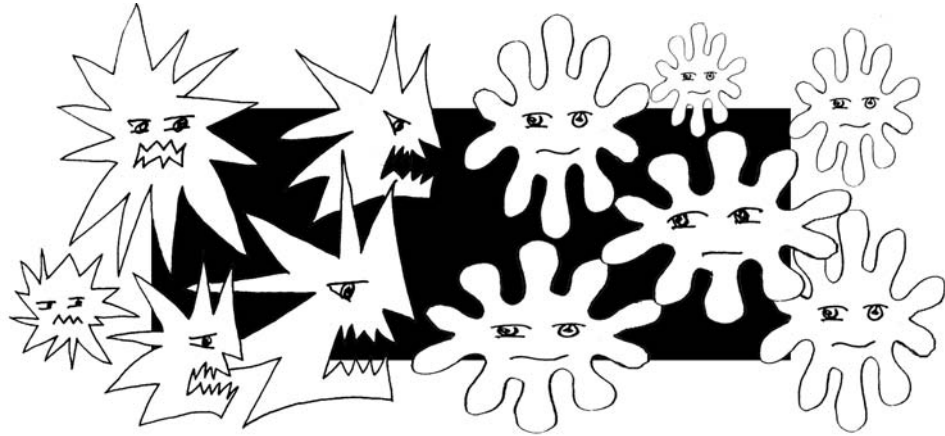
The Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm
Kids Help Line on 1800 55 1800



My Mummy had to go to hospital suddenly because doctors had to take away some bad lumps that were growing in her body.

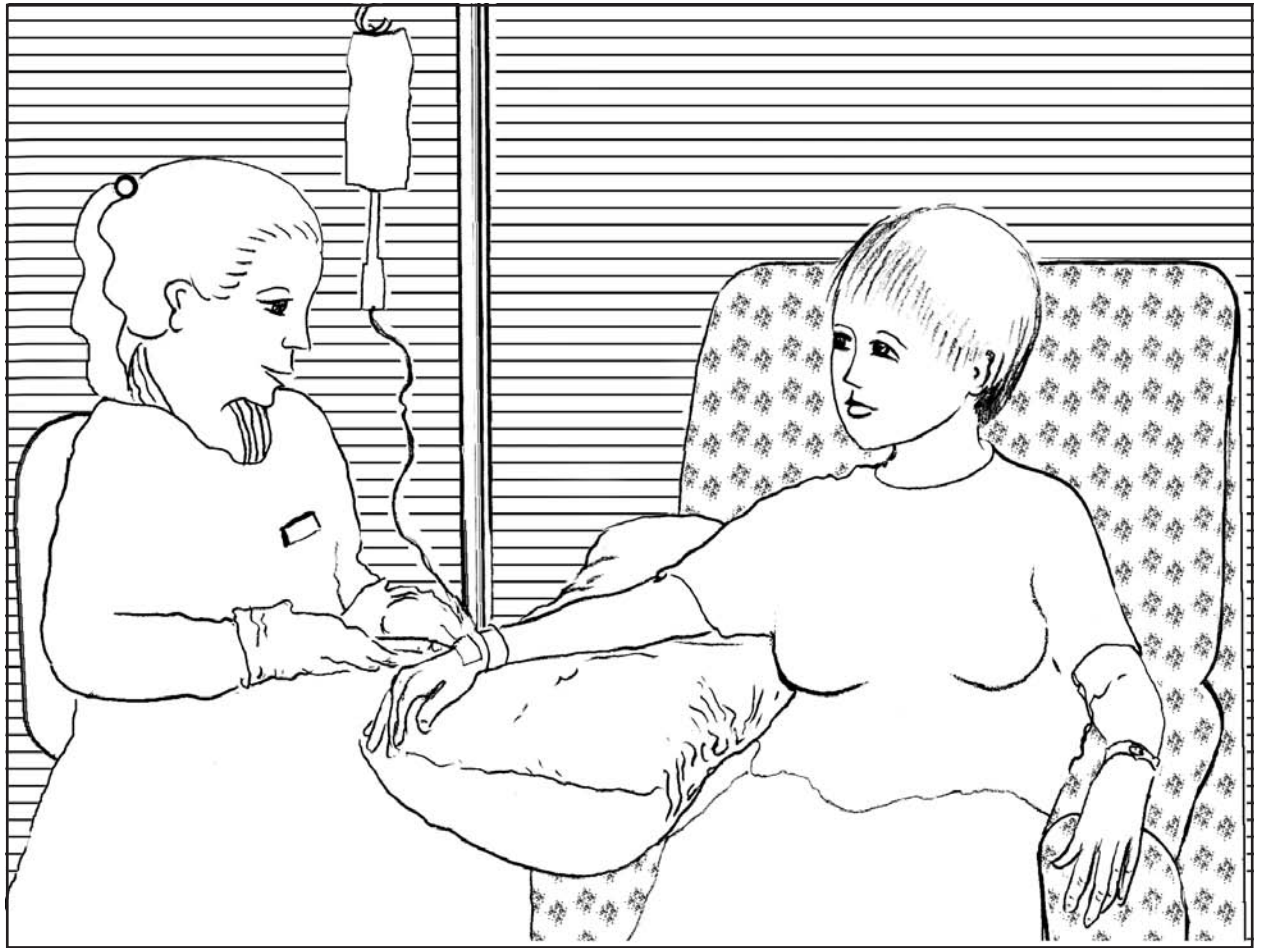
Mummy said it was a good feeling to know the doctors had taken all the bad lumps away. Her whole body seemed happy that those lumps had gone.

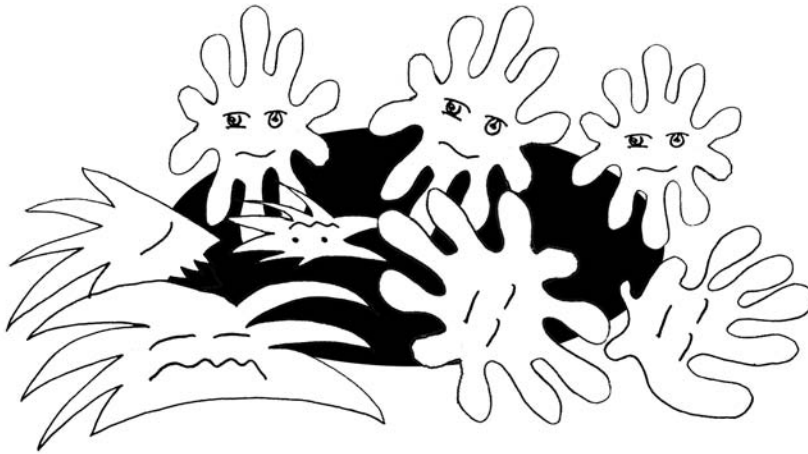




The doctor told her that those lumps were bad cells, small parts which make up our bodies, and that they could come back. Those bad cells have a special name – cancer. The good cells in her body do not want the cancer cells to come back.

Mummy will need to visit the hospital many times to be given special medicine to kill all the bad cells that may have been hiding in her body. This special medicine will go into her arm through a tube which hangs from a bottle on a long pole.



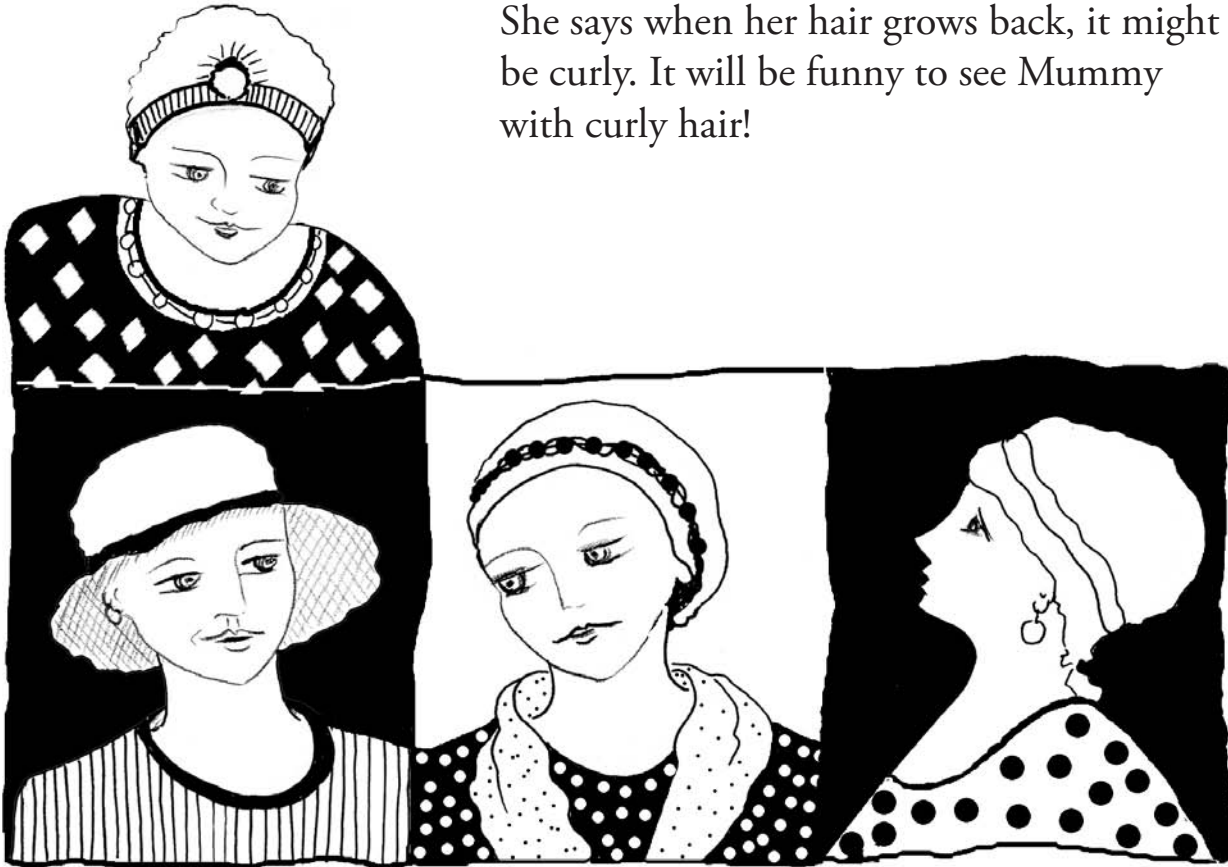


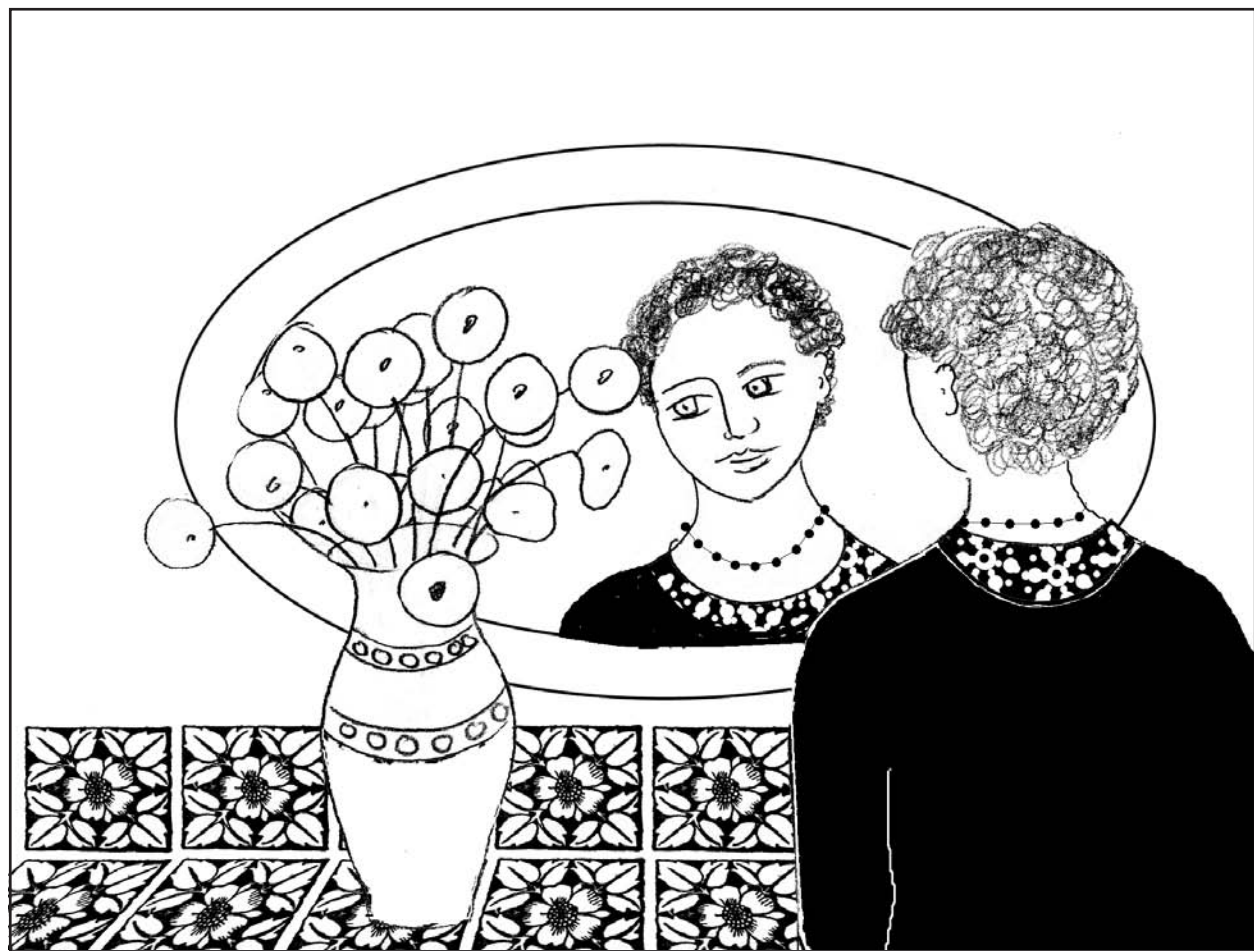
This special medicine is very strong and it kills all the bad cells, but it also kills some of the good cells.

That is why Mummy doesn't always feel terrific after she has had her special medicine. The special medicine will also make Mummy's hair fall out so she will be bald like Grandad!



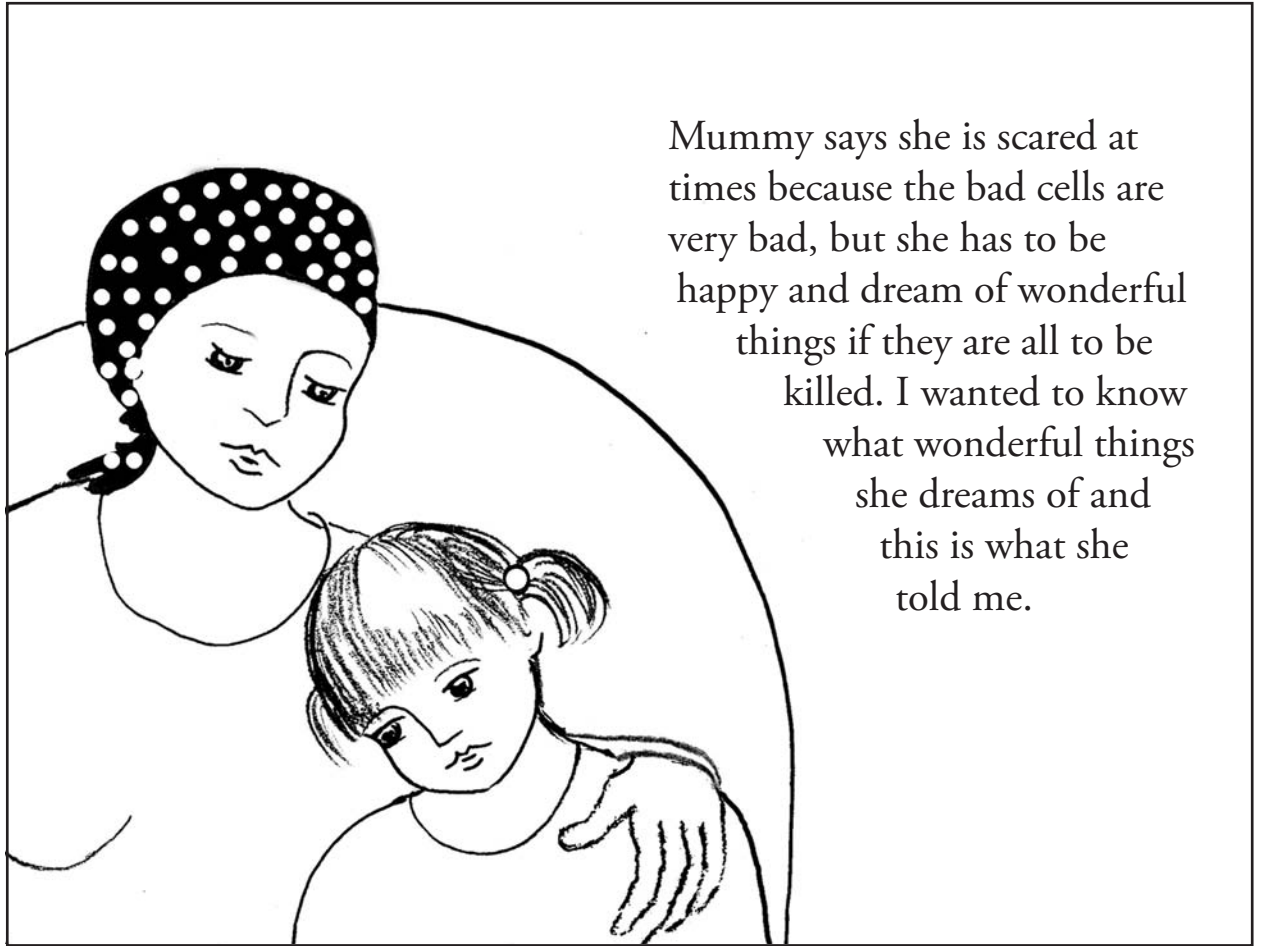
She says when her hair grows back, it might be curly. It will be funny to see Mummy with curly hair!





She needs me to understand how she is feeling and
wants me to know that she loves me very much.
By next Christmas or maybe by my next birthday,
all of the bad cells should be dead.

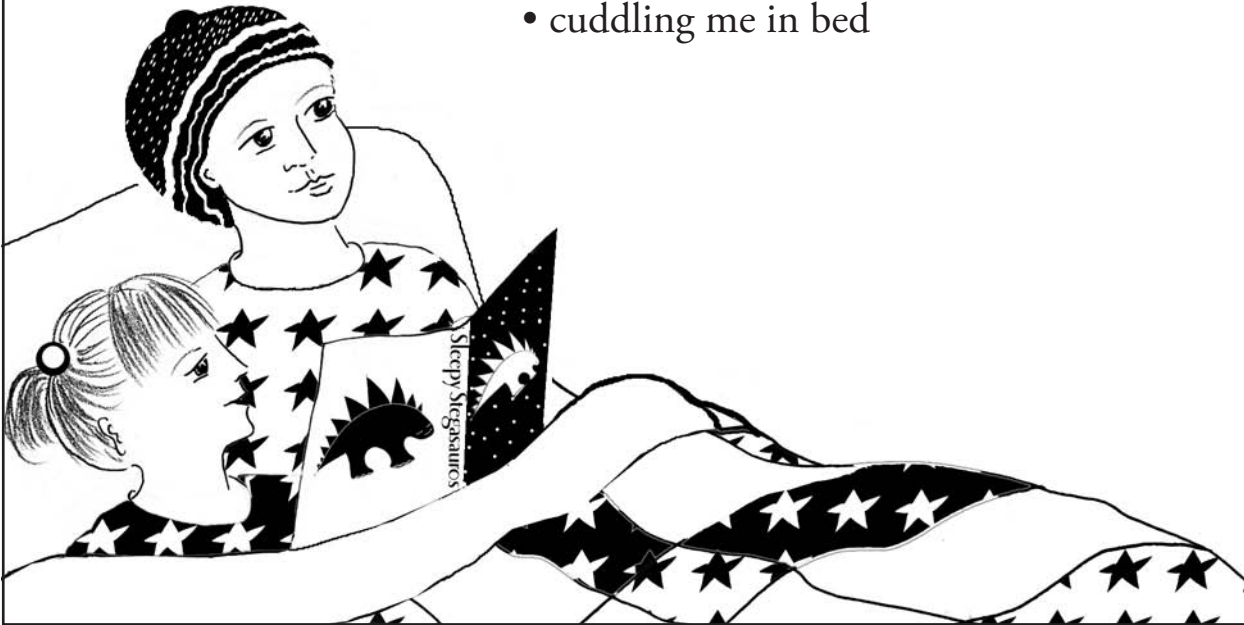




Mummy says she is scared at times because the bad cells are very bad, but she has to be happy and dream of wonderful things if they are all to be killed. I wanted to know what wonderful things she dreams of and this is what she told me.

My Mummy dreams of:

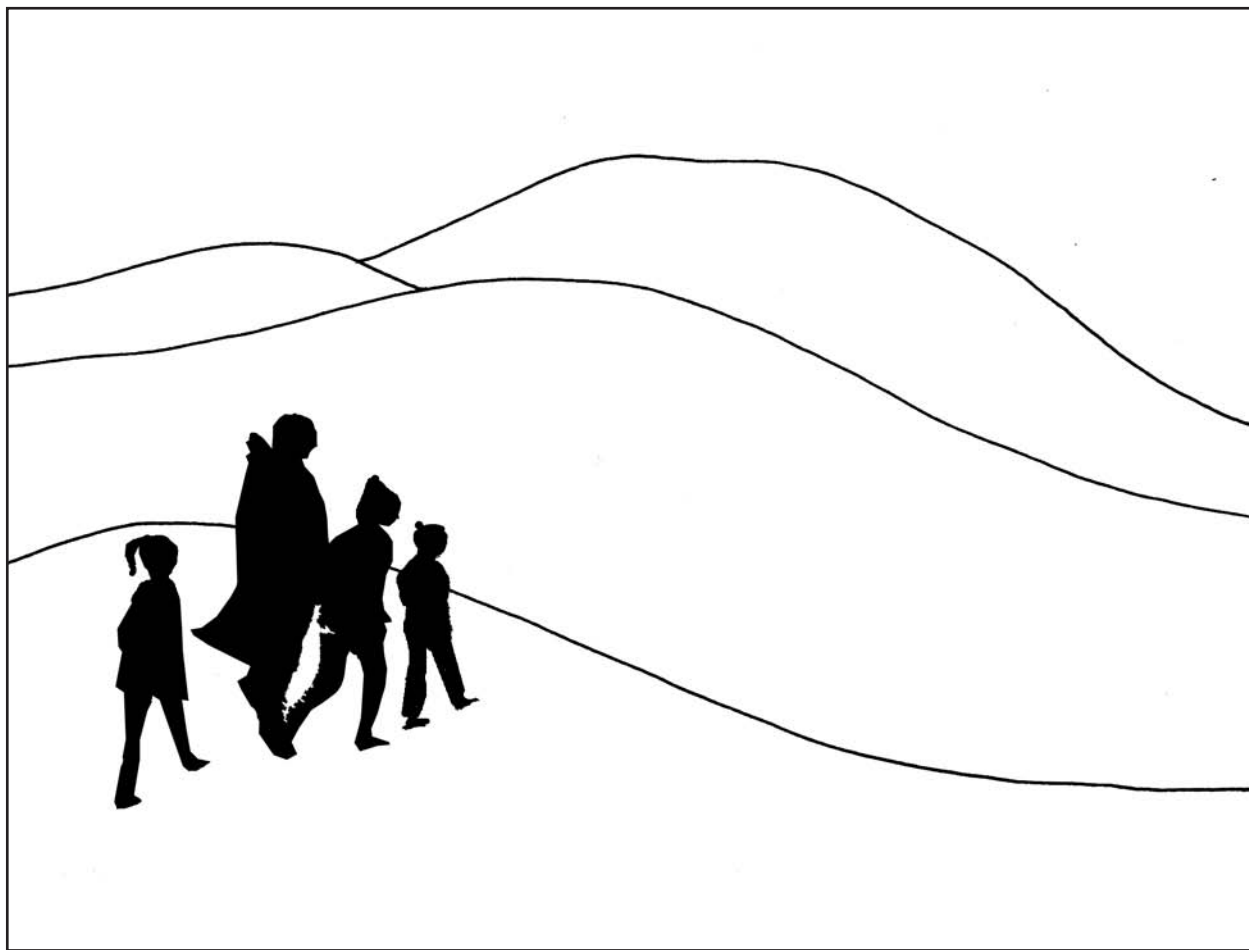
- walking me to school
- reading me stories
 - swimming at the beach
 - cuddling me in bed



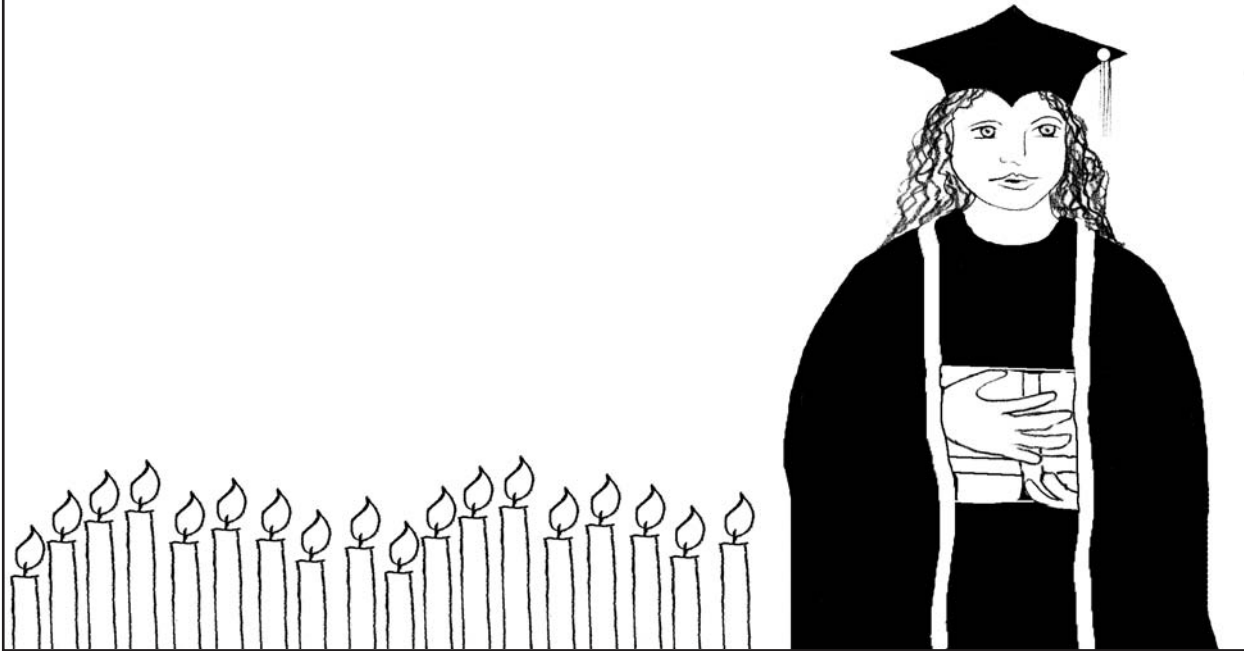




- Christmas Day
- going to Ireland for a long holiday
- taking me to Uluru
- teaching me how to sew



- making a beautiful quilt
- having wonderful birthday parties
- seeing me finish school
- watching me grow into an adult





But most of all she dreams of being a grandma
and holding my babies in her arms.



Cancer Council Queensland is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation that provides information and support free of charge for people with cancer and their families and friends throughout Queensland. These services are made possible through the generous donations of Queenslanders and we thank them for their continued support.

If you would like to know more about the information and support services provided by Cancer Council Queensland, call our Helpline on 13 11 20, Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm.



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www.cancerqld.org.au