

Terra chose to stay because she had an uncle who also had schizophrenia so she knew how help people with schizophrenia. She wanted people, and the whole world to know that Jake is not different from us. She hoped that by openly accepting him in front of their peers, it would help end stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses, like Jake.

The next day Terra came back to hang out with Jake and so did the next day and the next day. They became friends after those days together.

“Hey, you freak, why are you hanging out with Terra?” yelled a boy.

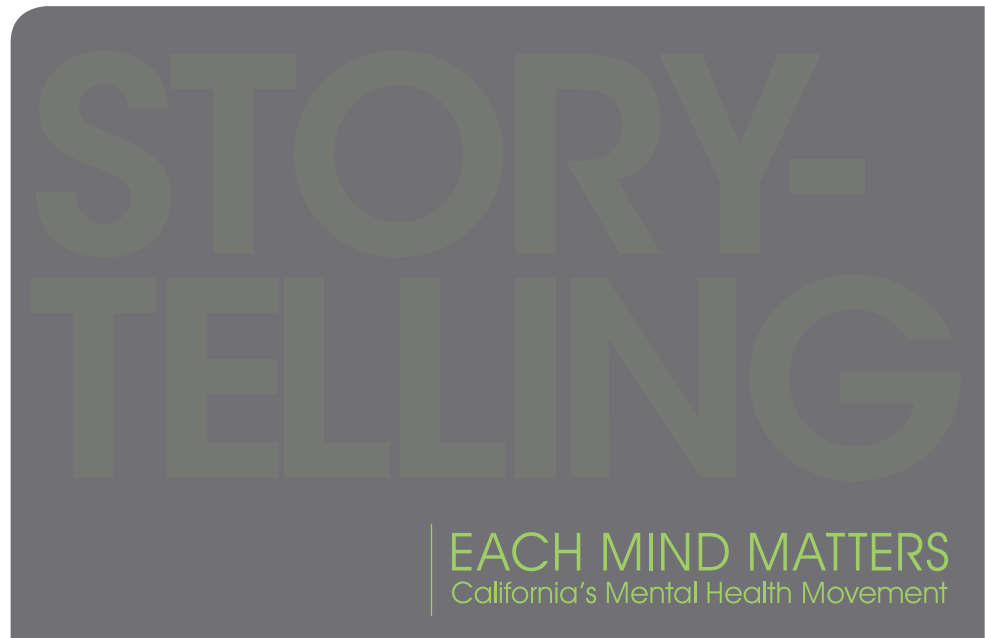
Jake ignored him and tried to walk away but Terra held her ground and didn’t move. Terra couldn’t stand it anymore.

“He’s still a human being, and he is still normal and not a freak like everyone thinks,” said Terra. “I want you to accept him for what and who he is.”

After spending so much time together, Jake started to talk more and he became more active every day. Jake wanted to show everyone and Terra that he can be just like everybody else. Even though Jake isn’t fully recovered, he doesn’t care because he has his family, Terra, and the support that he needs. With the people around him and their support, he can live a better life than he would if he didn’t receive any help.



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THE BOY WHO WAS MENTALLY ILL

by Selena Vang

There was a boy named Jake who had schizophrenia. Because of his illness, he started losing interest in everyday activities, like bathing, grooming, or getting dressed. So every morning his mom or dad would go into his room and dress him and groom his hair. They would try to talk to him but he would only nod and listen but never respond back to them. So his parents decided to sacrifice an animal to see if it could make it better but it didn’t. They didn’t know what else to do so they went to a Shaman. The Shaman got them herbs to see if it would work. But it still didn’t work. They didn’t know what to do so they let him be.

One day, there was a boy who bullied Jake and made fun of him. Jake couldn't do anything because of his schizophrenia. The bully pushed Jake and he fell and hit his head. When the security came, he asked if Jake was okay. When Jake nodded, the security took Jake to the nurse's office and then went to the principal's office. The principal called his parents and told them to come to the school to take him home. When Jake's parents came, they had worried looks on their faces. After checking if he was okay, they went to talk to the principal. Jake heard the commotion they were having. Then his parents came out and asked if he was okay. Jake nodded his head numbly and started to cry. After his crying slowed down, they went home.

"Do you want anything, sweetie?" asked his mom when they got home.

"No," replied Jake.

"Are you sure?" asked his mom. Jake nodded.

His mom sighed and said, "Don't forget to eat your herbs."

His parents decided to visit his grandparents for a couple of days. When they arrived his grandparents were so happy to see him. He was tired so he went to his room and fell asleep. On the first day, at his grandparents he was sick and couldn't even get up. His grandmother gave him some herbs to see if it would help him but they didn't so he was in bed for more than three days. A couple of days later, he and his parents went back home. When he went to school everyone called him names, but he could care less and walked away. Everyone at school hated him because they thought he was a mute because he wouldn't talk to anyone.

There was only one person who thought he wasn't a mute. Her name is Terra.

"Hi," said Terra.

Jake looked up surprised but didn't say anything.

"Can I sit with you?" asked Terra.

Jake didn't say anything but nodded.

"Thanks, so how are you doing today?" asked Terra. Jake shrugged.

"Terra!" said a girl.

"Hi guys," said Terra.

"Why are you hanging out with the freak?" asked the girl.

"Jake isn't a freak guys. He just has schizophrenia," said Terra.

"Sure he isn't. Anyways are you going to come with us or no?" asked the girl.

"Uh.... I'll come later," replied Terra.

The girl nodded and walked away.

"Why are you talking to me?" asked Jake.

"Because I want to," said Terra.

Jake stayed quiet.