

NOAH'S STORY

I used to think I knew what people thought about me.

I used to think that everyone thought I was useless.

I don't know why I thought it.

Maybe it was because I was last at a lot of things at school.

Or maybe because I never seemed to get picked for anything.

So I got it into my head that at school they thought I couldn't do anything.

That I was useless.

But what I didn't know was that they didn't think that at all.

And they didn't understand why I hid my talents from them at school.

Or why I always got bad marks or didn't turn up to try for sport or school plays.

Then one day things changed.

My school friends and the teachers saw the real me. The out-of-school me.

The me who hangs out with my friends in our Cub pack.

The me who put up a tent in ten minutes flat when everyone else didn't know where the poles went when we went on camp.

The me who can tell everyone which star they are looking at when we're sitting around the campfire.

The me who knows what type of bird is singing in the trees when we wake up in the morning.

The me who isn't useless at everything.

But I didn't think that was the me that anyone at school knew.

Then one day, about three weeks ago, something happened that changed my mind from me thinking everyone thought I was useless to knowing everyone knew that I wasn't.

My science teacher told the class that we were going to start looking at space and the sky.

I was so excited.

I knew stuff about space and the sky.

I was good at it.

So every time the teacher asked a question about the night sky, I put my hand up.

And I got it right.

Every single time. Every question I got right.

The teacher stopped me after class and said how impressed she was with what I knew.

She said that she'd always known I was talented and I left the classroom walking on air.

I decided then that I should try more.

And that next week I should go and try out for the annual school play.

For the first time ever.

Because I don't know if I'm good at acting but I'd like to try and see.

And if I don't get picked then that's okay.

It won't be because they think I'm useless.

It will be because someone else might be better at acting than me.

Just like I'm better at naming stars and comets than everyone in my class.

I've realized that we can't all be talented at the same things.

But we do all have talents.

You just have to find out what and then show the rest of the world.

But you also have to realize that the rest of the world might just have noticed you were talented already.

