Theo's Smile

Sebastián Schindler*

15th of April: Me

Hi Diary! I am Theodore Adler, but no one calls me that, they call me Theo and I am 6 years and 10 months old, I love to go outside, the playgraund is awesome and the swings are my favorite. In the Park I always pet the doggies, even if Mommy says I should be careful, they are so cute! And if I find a worm or an insect, I put it in my pocket and scare the girls hahaha!

But it's been a while since I went out, I'm at the Hospital now, they say I've got a Lymphoma, something inside my body is not right and they are trying to get it out of me. They realised one day that I had that when I was at school and my head hurt a lot and everything went black, they took me to the hospital and put me in a big tube to see inside my head, since that day everything changed.

Now my room is in the Hospital and they give me all the jello and ice cream I want if I eat my pills: P also I've got a tv all for myself! There are a lot of nice nurses that are always making fun jokes and smiling, I don't know why my parents try to hide it, but I can tell they had been crying and when I'm with them they smile weird, like robots or something, I don't like that. I don't wanna make mommy sad. I'm excited for tomorrow!!! I'm going to meet the other kids from the hospital!!! I hope there are any my age.

Mom said I should write this diary so when I am good again, I can remember how it was here in the Hospital and also to practice my righting since I'm not going to school right now. So, every now and then I will be telling you stuff.

PS: It smells weird here, like those pine tree freshners daddy puts on his car (THEY STINK!).

Goodnight Diary

16th of April: The other kids

Deer Diary Today I met all the other patients here, Some have just arrived, some have been here for a long time, but they're all trying to get better, the nurses know all of their names and what they like to eat. There are even old people here, older than my grandpa even. Mr Milner is so cool, he does all kinds of magic, and he keeps a ton of tricks below his wheelchair and makes everyone laugh, he says laughing is a kind of medicine. When we finished greeting each other we made a game where everyone had to say one thing they loved. We were all shy but Mr Milner was brave and said that as well as everyone else in this room he loved his family over anything in the world and that he was getting better for them and everyone agreed or nodded, (he's very wise). Just when the time for me to talk was arriving the boy next to me said he loved his dog, Mr. Snuffles! And I couldn't believe it! I was gonna say that I loved puppies! Anyways, his name is Jimmy, he's 2

^{* 1}º premio del Concurso Literario USAL en Lengua Inglesa – Categoría cuento largo (2019).

years older than me, and has been here for 3 years, so he knows everything there is to know about the Hospital, even some secret spots :P. We talked all afternoon and he showed me a picture of Mr Snuffles, he looks like a Mop! When we were about to go to our rooms he asked If I could be his friend and I said Yes. My Dad was very proud and we fist bumped, like in the movies.

Goodnight Diary

15th May: Going to the Movies

Today we're going to the movies! Kinda, because not everyone can travel outside, they're bringing the Cinema to the Hospital! They put up the biggest screen I've ever seen outside of a movie theater, and there was popcorn and everything, the salty ones make me thirsty though. When we got to the Common Area Jimmy was waiting for me and had saved me a seat! We watched my favorite movie: Iron Man! I sometimes think I'm like Iron man too, He uses a machine for his hart and I use some for my head, so we're alike. Mommy says I'm the strongest one in the family too, (I hope Dad doesn't hear that hehe). Some of the kids were tired and fell asleep, at one point one of them didn't feel so well and we stopped the movie for a little while, but It was fine, Mommy says heros are always kind to everyone.

I was thinking of what type of superhero I will be, I'm not sure if I've got super strength as Mommy said or superspeed or mind powers, so I will start small and work my way to the major leagues. From now on I'll be just like Iron Man! My Mission: To make everyone smile!!!

Goodnight Diary

25th of April: Aunt Sally

Dear Diary my Aunt Sally is the coolest aunt in the World, she's a "Confecshioner" or something like that she said, anyway, HER JOB IS MAKING CANDY (I would eat it all hehe). Every time she comes to visit, we go around the hospital and give candy to everyone to make them smile! (But she lets me pick first because she says I'm the cutest). She is really awesome at singing too. I love it when she comes.

Goodnight Diary

2nd June: New Haircut

Sup Diary, I've started Chemo last week, they say it is weird at first but you get used to it, the doctors said it is only for brave and strong boys and girls, they told me they would go little by little to see how I felt but for now I'm doing great, my Dad brought me his old knife from when he was in Vietnam to give me courage if things got tough, he said, but honestly I just wanna go exploring the jungle, and go on helicopters and planes like he did. Oh! And my mom gave me same Haircut my dad had when he was in the army, my head is as round as a ball, but I can feel the wind in my head and not get hot in summer!

Goodnight Diary

10th June: Tummy hurts

I barfed all day and my throat hurts so instead of talking I am just going to write to you Diary. I hadn't been feeling so good lately so my mom and I have been trying all the toys and games I have, but I am tired, they say it's because my body is fighting so hard that I don't have too much energy left. I am doing Chemo more often now and everything I eat tastes spicy now: (, even Aunt Sally's Candy! The nurses say it will pass but that it means that the medicine is working well.

Goodnight Diary

20th June My Birthday!

Dear Diary, today is my birthday! I turned 7 today and my family came to see me. They all brought toys but didn't stay long, I was a little tired. Sweets and cake are no fun now, but I never stopped smiling, sometimes it seems they need it more than I do, like when me and Aunt Sally went on our candy runs. I am very sleepy so I'll just finish for now, can't wait to go back to school....

PS: Jimmy is all cured now, and he will be going home to Snuffles this week, I hope he visits me someday.

Goodnight Diary

25th June SUPERHEROES!!!

OH MY GOD DIARY IRONMAN CAME TO SEE ME TODAY!!! And not only Ironman but Spiderman, Thor and Loki, they all came to see me and congratulate me on my Mission! Remember what I told you? I've been making people smile and they seem to have realised that! They all came to my room and lift me up and my mom took pictures and they told me I could be part of the avengers when I got out of the Hospital! I'll never forget this Day!!!

Goodnight Diary

5th July No more Pills or Chemo

Hello Diary, it's been some days since the Avengers came to see me and the treatment was harder since, I don't feel like eating much and I'm getting tired of being in my room all the time sleeping so I got to my old routine and Aunt Sally and I are giving candy away again. It's funny but after making them feel good I feel like that too, even if they are getting the candy and not me! I've got good news, they tell me I'm going to start feeling well again, a break from Chemo for a little bit, they want me to be as strong as I can before they make the Surgery and take it all out 4 ever!!! :D Mommy is in a really good mood, she and aunt sally started singing again all the time.

Goodnight Diary

21st July Tomorrow is the Big Day

Tomorrow is my Surgery! The doctors will take everything that's bad inside me, so everyone came today and had fun. Since food doesn't taste bad

anymore, Mom made me a giant chocolate cake and we had soda and everything, Aunt Sally brought a ton of sweets and toys and best of all my friends from school came to visit!!! Johnny got a new scar and Julie lost 5 teeth in a week!!! It's been a few weeks since I'm not taking more Chemo or too many pills so I have more energy than ever, we played goose and finally after a long time I could get onto the swings! I had missed them too.

Everyone cheered me on and said they would be waiting for me when I came back and gave me a card with a picture of all of us from my birthday where everyone was smiling.

It's about to be bed time, not only mommy stayed but daddy and Auntie too, I'm getting sleepy but I don't want this day to end, today was the best ever, I had a gazillion hugs and my friends made me laugh a ton. I'm so happy about tomorrow, If I get better we can all go home and Mommy won't be sad anymore. I'll go to school and THE PARK! Also! Daddy said we're getting a PUPPY!!! And It will be mine, so I get to choose a name for him.

Mommy said someone else might read this Diary so I should send them a message just in case. I've been thinking all week ad I think I've got it. This Diary is about me and how do I want people to remember me? No matter how tough it gets, I will be there to put a smile on everyone who needs it. So if you're reading this I hope we can be friends and you can always count on my superpower, "Theo's Smile"!

Mommy will stay with me in my bed tonight and she said if I'm scared I can hug her tight, that she wasn't leaving. I think I will. Mommy is taking my pencils so diary, I promise you, when I wake I up, I'll tell you all about the surgery, and everyone will smile and be happy again.

Goodnight Diary.