

I told the other kids in my class on my first day about AIDS. I said, "I have a disease in my blood. I got it from a blood transfusion when I was a baby. It is called AIDS, and it can kill you. If I fall down and hurt myself so that I bleed, you have to run and get help. You must not try to help me yourself. Stay away from my blood."



LEPPER

Then I said, "But you don't have to worry about getting my disease just from being around me, even if I'm bleeding. Just remember to get an adult to help me."

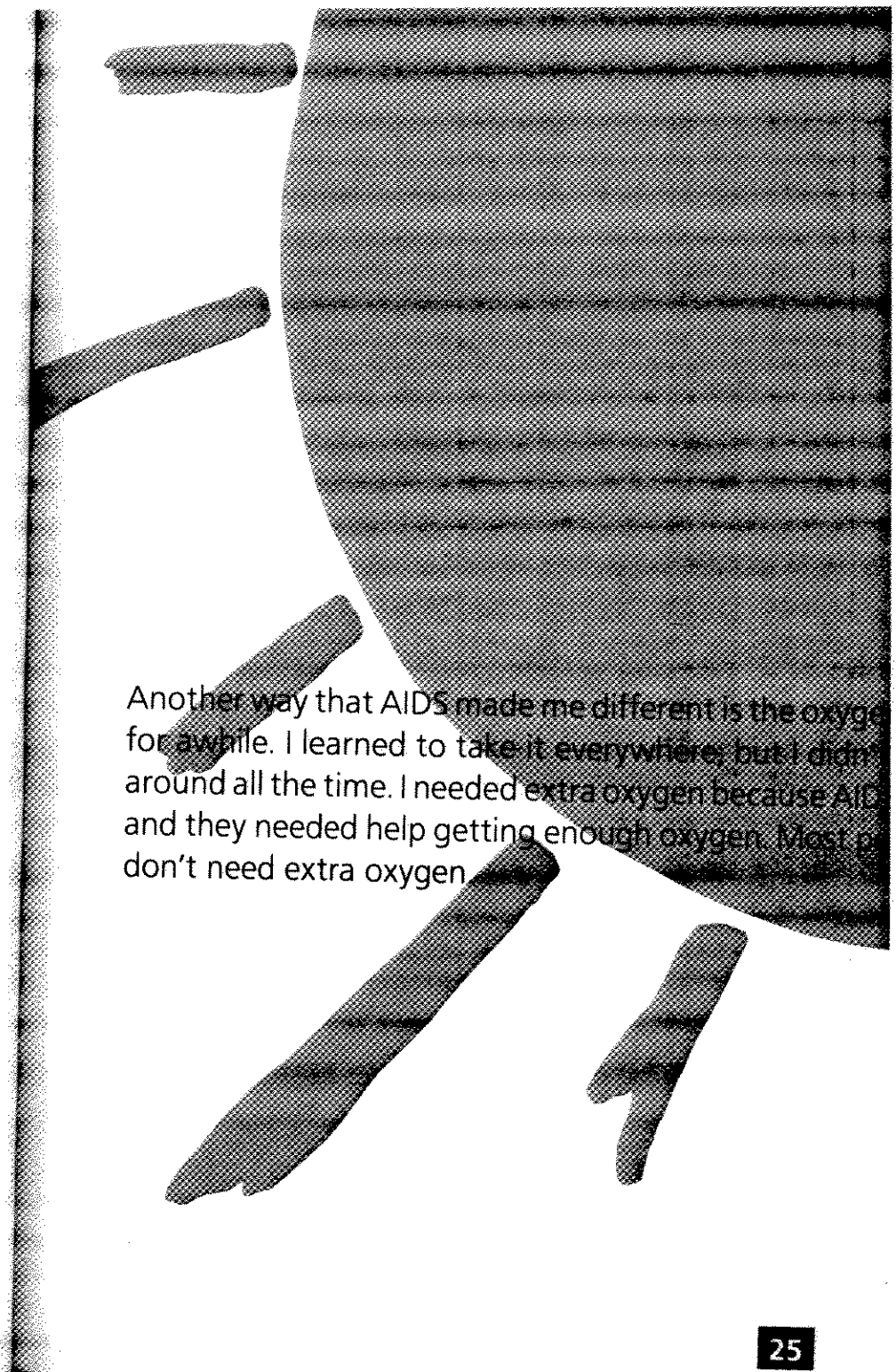
"The AIDS virus can't live outside my body, and it won't travel through the air. You don't have to be afraid to touch me. You can't catch AIDS that way either."



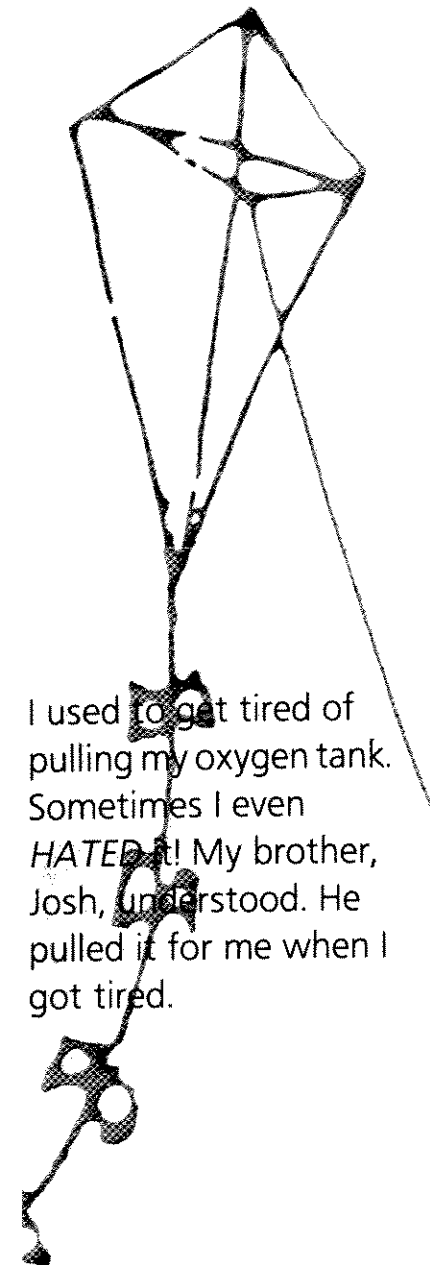
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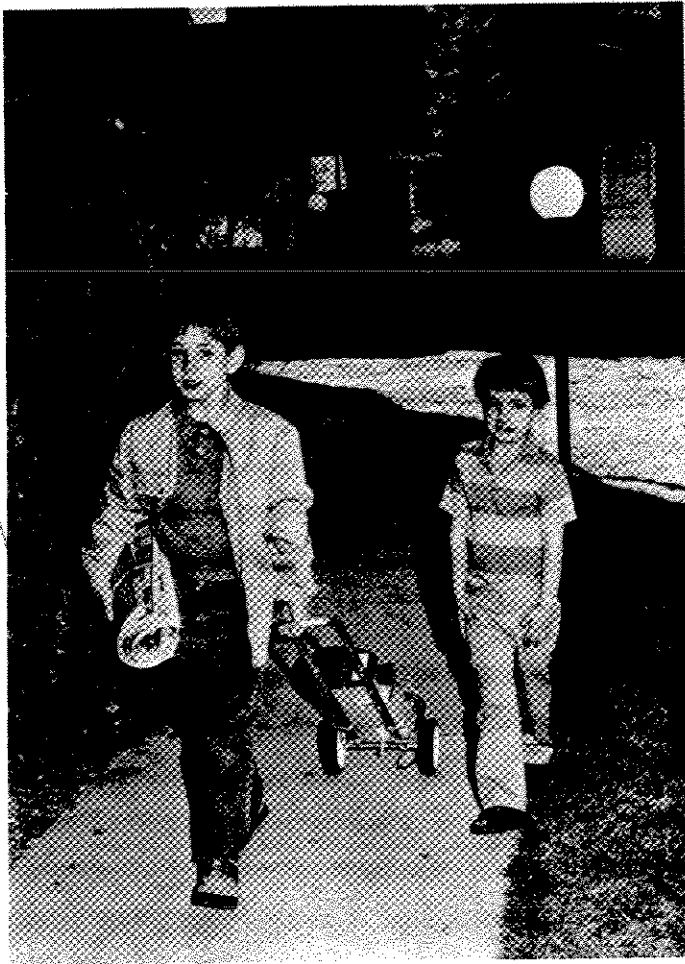
I love to race with Jonathan!



Another way that AIDS made me different is the oxygen for awhile. I learned to take it everywhere, but I didn't around all the time. I needed extra oxygen because AIDS and they needed help getting enough oxygen. Most people don't need extra oxygen.



I used to get tired of pulling my oxygen tank. Sometimes I even *HATED* it! My brother, Josh, understood. He pulled it for me when I got tired.



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