

## Sammie's New Mask



Created by the Patient and Family Services Staff at The National Children's Cancer Society. Illustrated by Lion Forge Comics.

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Hi! My name is Sammie. Today at school we are having Show and Tell.

My teacher asked us to talk about someone very special.



I've known for weeks that I am going to talk about my big brother, Jack. Finally, it is my turn!



We are always playing basketball, tag, rollerblading and riding bikes.



In the summer, we sell lemonade and go swimming all of the time.



This summer was a little different. I had to stay with my grandparents a lot this summer.

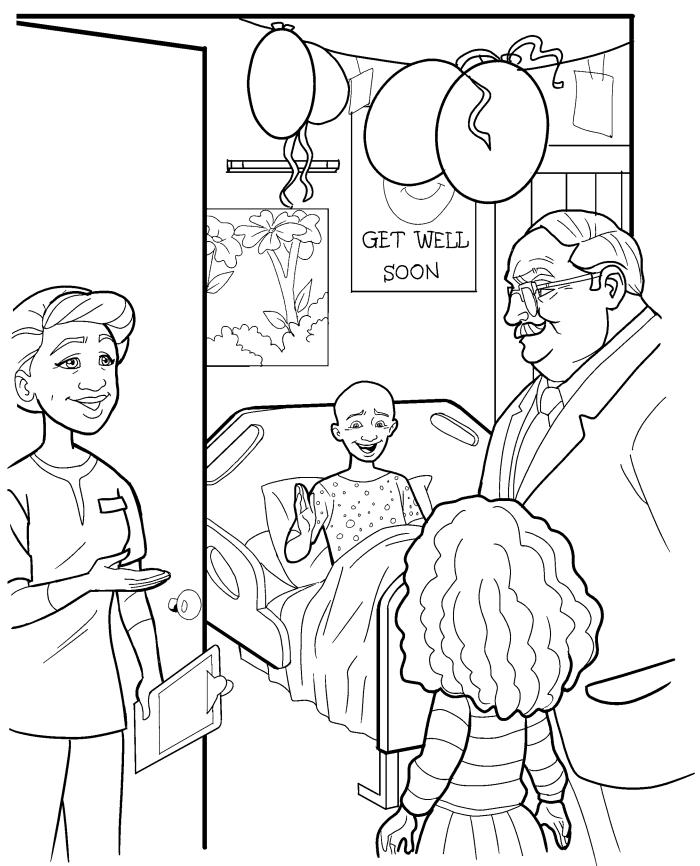
My mom had to spend a lot of time at the hospital with Jack.



My mom told me Jack had cancer. I didn't think kids could get cancer.
I was scared. What will happen to my brother? Can we still play like we used to?
She told me that I didn't do anything to cause Jack's cancer. No one really knows how a person gets it. I can't catch it from him either.



Mom thought I should visit Jack. So my Grandpa brought me to the hospital. My mom said people at the hospital could answer my questions. A nurse took me to see Jack and my mom.



The nurse said that kids with cancer get medicine and treatments to help them feel better. Sometimes it makes them lose their hair. They may also get very skinny or gain weight from the medicine. Sometimes they are very tired too, and have to rest more often than they used to.

When I went to Jack's hospital room, I saw get well cards and balloons everywhere.

Jack looked so happy when he saw me.



He ran into the hallway to say "hi" to me and started joking around like always. We went to the playroom where the other kids were decorating masks.



Jack said that sometimes kids with cancer have to be careful not to get sick, so they wear a mask to protect themselves. I got to decorate a mask, too. We used lots of glitter and paint!



All of the kids were so nice. I learned that even though Jack has cancer, he still needs his friends.

