



The Story of Rosie King

By Anna West



If you like to think big
But some make you feel crazy
Or they say you're too weird
Or they say you're too lazy

Don't pay attention
And keep on strolling
Trust in yourself
And keep the **positivity** rolling



But on the days you want a friend
On the days you feel alone
Remember Rosie King
And you won't be on your own



Rosie King was born
In the town of Yorkshire
Her family loved her so much
That's for sure

Their baby, Rosie
Was such a delight
The way she could see the world
It was quite a sight!



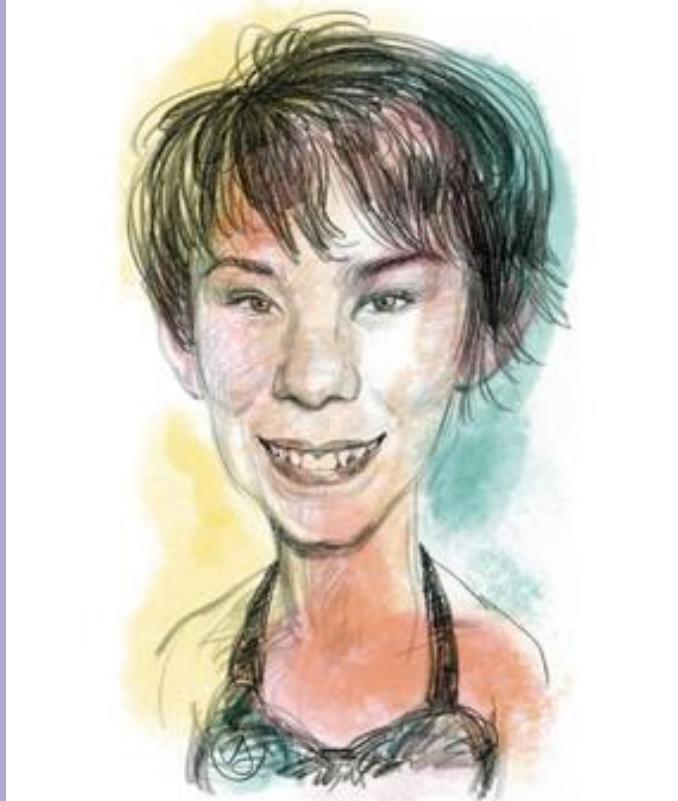
They didn't quite know
That creative Rosie King
Had a magic power
She could think of anything!

At 10 years old, Rosie was told
That she was born with **Autism**
This blessing gave her creativity
And her destiny for **activism**



Her imagination was so **vivid**
She could draw for hours
From pixies to goblins
And even bunches of flowers

She was so creative
That she could exit this world
And enter a new one with fairies and trolls
It was her own dreamworld



To her, she wasn't just playing
She lived in two places
Both the one that she created
And our everyday spaces

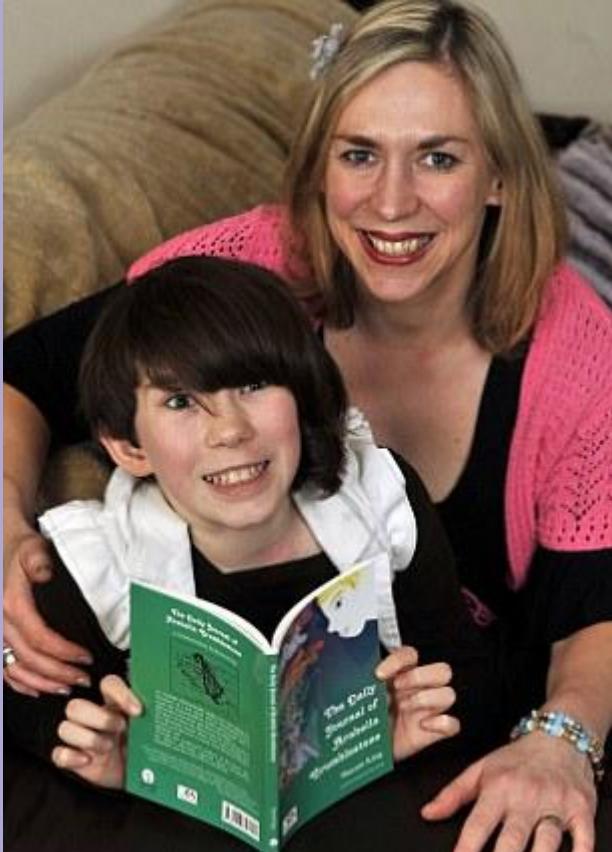


Her imaginative world would be so exciting
She would often begin to **stim**
As an outlet for her energy
Because her imagination would make her
grin

Sometimes her stimming
Would look like hand flapping
Or rocking in a ball
Or really hard clapping



But sometimes she had a lot of trouble
When it came to finding a playmate
They thought she was weird
Because her worlds didn't always **translate**



And it was very hard
For her to pay attention in school
And listen to her teacher
When the world in her mind was so cool



Because nobody could see inside her mind,
Teachers and students thought she was bad
But really she was thinking in a different way
So this made her very sad.

Her teachers and classmates
Just didn't understand
That Rosie could see things differently
And that her imagination was super grand!

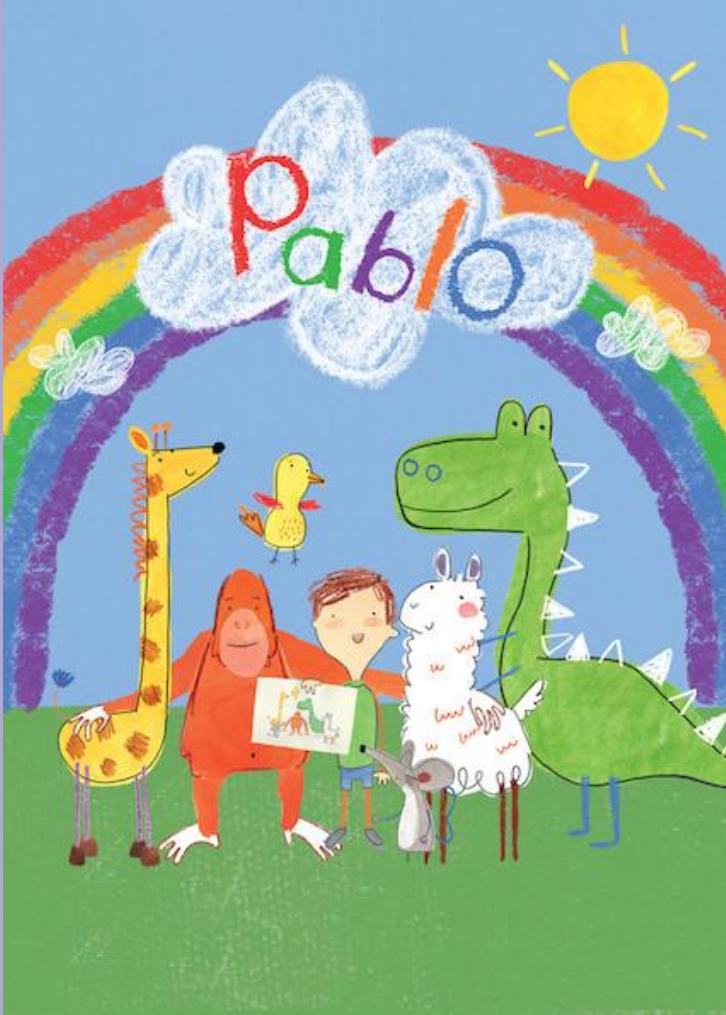


Despite the difficulties
Her autism found who was **genuine**
And which friends were true
And who really loved her from within



People admired Rosie King
For her ability to write
And explain her capabilities
And her imaginative **might**

When she was just seventeen
She helped write a TV show
About an imaginative boy like her
A little boy named Pablo



She decided to write *Pablo*
Because she wanted to share
That it's okay to be different
And together we must care



Rosie also spoke to thousands of people
About how being normal is no fun
Being yourself is so much better
And you can get so much more done

She talks about her love
For her sister and brother
They have autism too
But each sibling is different from the other



Her siblings are **nonverbal**
They don't speak to communicate
So together they wrestle...



And Laugh...



And make
funny faces...

And draw





In order to
relate



You can step outside of the box
You are extraordinary
Rosie reminds us,
Be yourself even when it's scary



Some people like math
Some people are tall
Some people are quiet
And we love it all

So when you see someone
Who is sitting alone
Or might think differently
Make sure they're known



Because human beings come
In all shapes and sizes
With different ways of reflecting
And we are all prizes



We are all born different
From each other
But it's important to celebrate
one another

The End



Glossary

Activism: the process of using your voice to make changes in the world

Autism: A brain condition that can make talking, learning, making friends, and dealing with changes, loud noises, or crowds difficult

Genuine: not pretend; honest

Might: power

Nonverbal: Not talking or using spoken language

Glossary

Positivity: happy, confident attitude

Reflecting: thinking carefully

Stim: repetitive actions to deal with overwhelming things like too much noise, people, colors, or changes

Translate: to say it in a way that people understand; to use language that people understand

Vivid: very strong and clear

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that makes you special?
2. Can you tell someone what you're thinking without speaking? Do you make faces or do something to let them know?
3. How can you make sure that nobody feels alone at recess?