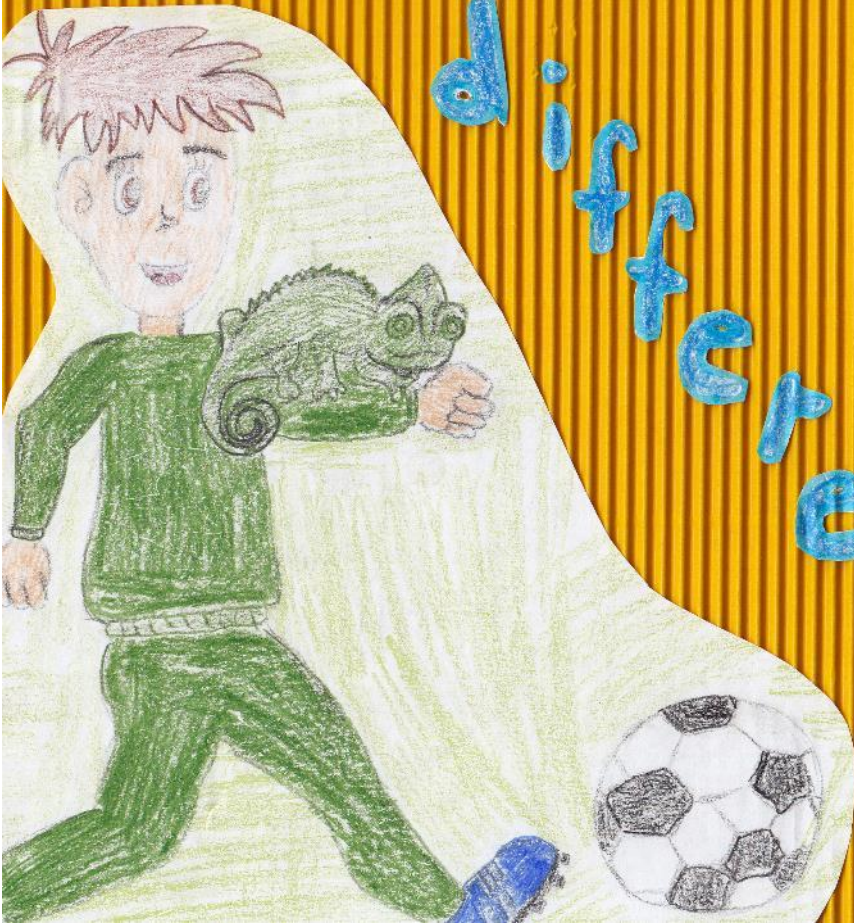


It's okay to be

different



Chapter 1

Jaime is an eight year old girl, who lives in a small village which is called Morona.

She lives there in a big house, together with her parents and Henry. Henry is her best friend and the only friend she has. They do everything together: playing football, eating, driving motocross ... absolutely everything!

Henry is very smart. He is very good at playing Hide and Seek and always wins in this game. He's a true master, because he can change his colours.

Right! Henry is a chameleon. But there is one problem, he cannot accompany Jaime to school. Jaimes life in school is very hard for her. Nobody wants to play with her or to even talk to her.

Everyone in school knows that Henry is the best friend of Jaime. Because of this, they think that Jaime is crazy to have a best friend like a chameleon.



Chapter 2

It's seven o'clock in the morning and it's time for Jaime to go to school. "Jaime, are you ready? Hurry up Honey, we're late!", her mother tells her with a loud tone. "I am not going to school today!", answers Jaime. Before she knows it, her parents are already standing in her room. "Come on Jaime, why do you want to stay at home?", asks her mother. "They do not like me in school and nobody wants to be friends with me!", says Jaime in a sad tone. "No Jaime. Stop! We have this discussion every single morning before we leave for school. Hurry up, my dear! You are not going to school to make new friends. Instead, you are going there to learn something! And we love you, okay Honey? I will wait in the car.", her mother gives her a hug and leaves the room. "Trust me, everything will be okay!", says her father and winks at her. Then he leaves the room. Jaime wears one of her favourite hoodies, blue jeans and her rubber shoes. "Bye Henry, see you later and have a nice day! Your day will definitely be better than mine!", whispers Jaime to her best friend. Then she runs down the stairs, puts her backpack on and walks out the door. Her mum was sitting in the car, waiting for her. She smiles when she sees Jaime. Jaime gets into the car without saying a word.



Chapter 3

Jaime arrives at school. She takes her seat in the second row, which she does everyday. 'It is pretty quiet today', thinks Jaime.

After she says this thought, her classmates begin to annoy her.

The children from the last row start to throw paper balls at her.

"Why are you crying Jaime? You're a boy! Big boys don't cry!", shouts one of them.

"I am a girl!", shouts Jaime angrily.

Jaime does not understand the other children. She cannot understand why she is being annoyed just because she is different.

Her classmates keep calling her names, emptying her school bag and breaking her pens and her pencil case.

Jaime often finds her clothes and things on the boys' toilet.

All of these things are making Jaime angry and sad.



Chapter 4

Jaime comes home from school and runs up to her room. Her mother watches her go with a sad expression on her face and goes back to the kitchen.

Jaime lays on her bed with tears in her eyes. She does not even hear the entrance door that opens and closes, which means that her father comes home now after work.

A few minutes later, her mother calls her to inform her that it is dinner time. She wipes the tears away and goes to the dining room.

"How was your day in school Honey?", asks her mother, while she is putting food on her plate. "How should it has been?", says Jaime with tears in her eyes. "Enough of it! We go on to great news!", says her father suddenly with a playful tone and winks just like this morning.

Jaime raises her eyebrows and looks at him expectantly. "Go on, Daddy. Do not make it so tense!", replies Jaime.

"So my two girls, I have a new job in a big city, which is far away. So we have to move and you have to change the school!", says her father.

Jaime looks at him with big eyes and is shocked. "A new school? New classmates, which are going to annoy her? No, never ever!", says Jaime.

"You do not have to be scared. I have already talked to the headteacher of your new school. Everyone is happy to get to know you!", says her mother.

Jaime gets up and leaves the dining table without saying a word. "On Thursday, we start with the movement. On Monday, you will go to the new school. I am sure you will like it!", says her father. "Oh, really nice that you're sure that I will like the new school.", says Jaime with a disappointed tone.



Chapter 5

'Here I am, in a new house, in a new town', thinks Jaime. Henry is sitting on her shoulder.

"I'm afraid to go to the new school. What if the new one is worse than the old one. I cannot handle it anymore!", says Jaime to Henry. She is very confused and unhappy.

"Honey!", shouts her mother. "Come on my dear! I will show you the way to your new school. You will love it there!"

"Why do you have to show me the way? Will you not come with me tomorrow?", she asks anxiously.

"My darling, do not be sad. I have to go to work earlier. It is my first day there and I cannot be late. That is why, I would like to walk the way to get in there together with you now. But I have ...", says her mother and she is not able to complete her sentence.

"NO!", shouts Jaime. "I don't want to go to school! And alone never ever!", says Jaime angrily.

"Calm down Jaime! I have not finished my sentence yet. I have talked to your class teacher. She is very nice! You can go to school with Henry! Your new classmates would like to meet the two of you. They are excited to get to know you two!", says Jaime's mother reassuringly.

"But I cannot...", answers Jaime. "You can do it! Let us go, I will show you the way. Hurry up!", says her mother.



Chapter 6

"Jaime, you have to get up! It's seven o'clock! I have to go now, have a nice day, Honey! Your lunch box is in the fridge, and something to drink too!", shouts Jaime's mother from up the stairs. Jaime gets up from her bed, rubs her eyes out of sleep and goes to the bathroom to brush her teeth. After she washes her face, she puts on her clothes for today. She chooses her blue jeans, her rubber shoes and her favourite green hoodie.

"Are you ready Henry?", asks Jaime. She packs her lunch box into her backpack and puts it on.

"Let us go, my friend!", says Jaime and lets Henry sit down on her shoulder.

The way to school takes only five minutes. She is really nervous but Henry is totally relaxed. She has an anxious feeling in her stomach.

"How can you be so relaxed? It is our first day! What if the children in this school are like the children in the old school? Maybe I am the reason, maybe I should change something about myself. What do you think, Henry?", says and asks Jaime at the same time. Henry shakes his head and his expression changes. He looks very angry at Jaime.

"Okay, okay, calm down my friend, I am already stopping! Oh look, Henry! We have just arrived at school. It looks different than the old one. What do you think? Okay let's go, wish us luck!", Jaime says and goes up the stairs of the new school.



Chapter 7

Jaime is very nervous, she waits in front of her new classroom. A tall, dark-haired woman enters the hallway. She looks very nice, but she does not look like a teacher. At least not like the one Jaime knows.

"Hello, nice to meet you! You must be Jaime!" greets the woman Jaime.

"Hello! Yes, my name is Jaime and this is my best friend Henry." answers Jaime.

"Hello Henry, nice to meet you too. My name is Mrs. Huckleberry and I am your new class teacher. The whole class is very nervous and excited to get to know you! Let us get into the classroom, I'm sure you will like it here!" , says Mrs. Huckleberry.

Jaime nods and follows her into her new classroom.

"Good Morning everybody! I would like to introduce you to Jaime and Henry. Do you have any questions for the two of them?" asks the class teacher.

The children ask Jaime a lot of questions and also want to receive general information about chameleons . After Jaime tells them everything, Henry gets an extra seat in the classroom. The time flies by and the break bell rings. It is dismissal time.

"So my dear pupils, today is an exciting day for everybody. We are closing up here for today. See you tomorrow, have a nice day!" says Mrs Huckleberry and leaves the room. The children walk out of the school building happily, including Jaime. Everybody is so nice to her. The children in this school are so different. It's not just about their behavior, but their looks too. Jaime realizes that it was never her fault, that the other children in school do not like her. They are afraid because Jaime is different from them. She just didn't fit in there and she realizes that she is something special. Her mother arrives and Jaime gets into the car.

"Hello Honey! How was your day?" , asks her mother eagerly.

"Hello mum! I have learned something really great in school today!", answers Jaime happily.

"Oh really? I am curious about that now, go tell me! What have you learned that is so exciting?", replies her mother excitedly.

"That it is okay to be different!", says Jaime with a smile and looks out the car window. Jaime does not see her mother at this moment, but she knows that she is smiling and that her eyes are filled with tears, with tears of joy. She strokes Jaime on the head and drives off to their new home, while Jaime looks happily out of the window and looks forward to tomorrow, which means another wonderful day in school.

