Kathleen Penly

Title: James Henry

Page 1: Hello! My name is James Henry, and I am this many years old. (Holds up 4 fingers) How old are you?

(Turn Page)

Page 3: Wow, that’s great! I like being 4 because I can do lots of things. I can ride a bike really fast. I can also build really tall buildings, and I can take my dog Rex for walks. What do you like to do?

(Turn Page)

Page 5: What I don’t like is when people say mean things to me, like...

“You are too small.” “Why do you look funny?” and “You can’t play with me.”

Do you know how that makes me feel?

(Turn Page)

Page 7:

Yes, those words make me feel sad, angry, left out, lonely, and embarrassed.

The worst part is I start to feel bad about things that I can’t change. Most of the things that people tease me about are about Down syndrome. Do you know what Down syndrome is?
Page 9:
Down syndrome is something that I was born with. It is a part of my body that makes me look a little different. You know how letters make up words? Well, some of the letters in my body got a little mixed up, which makes me a little different.

Illustration: James Henry with two thought bubbles. One will show the letters ABC and the other bubble with CBA with some of the letters upside down and backwards.
Do you see how these letters are mixed up?

Page 11: Not everyone with Down syndrome is exactly the same. I was born with very bad eyesight. I couldn’t see very well, but when I was a baby, I went to an eye doctor, and now I have cool glasses that make me see super good. Down syndrome also makes me a little shorter and look a little different, but it doesn’t make me feel different.

Do you know what you can do if you meet someone with Down syndrome or anyone who looks a little different than you?

Illustration: James Henry with a thought bubble with glasses and a second thought bubble with an eye chart.

Page 13: Give them a big smile and say “Hello!” and “Do you want to play?”

Do you know what I would say if you asked me to play?”

Page 15: I would say “Yes!”

I am just like you. I love to play, and be silly, and I like to make new friends.
Will you be my friend?

Oh,
I am so excited to be your friend! I am also happy to know that you don’t make people sad and tease them because they are little different.

Will you do me a favor?

IF you see someone making fun of a person with Down syndrome, or for any reason, will you make sure that the person is alright and be kind and friendly towards them?

Oh, thank you! I am so happy to have a friend like you! I hope to see you soon! Bye Friend!