

*By Elliott*

*Hi, my name is Diogo.*

*I was born with autism but that doesn't stop me. I still enjoy normal things like sport and hopscotch especially with friends.*

*On a day like no other, I went to the park with my mum and dad. I sat in my wheelchair and took a ride down the road when I started hearing children's laughter.*

*It just brightened up my day even more. Once I arrived, I turned to face the park and my heart raced up and down like a trampoline (I get really nervous sometimes).*

*The moment my wheel touched park boundaries, I knew I made a huge mistake coming here. All eyes pointed straight to mine and laughter and gossip were about me so I sat down and just took a sip of my apple juice. Just at that moment, I noticed two punks talking and laughing right behind my back. I was so angry that I started shaking and I dropped my juice as tears rolled down my cheeks. Attention and stares so I was so embarrassed that I just ran all the way to my mum and dad as they tried to calm me down.*

*My mum looked at me feeling bad that people were giggling about my autism condition. She said "It must be horrible having a condition."*

*"Actually it's got its advantages." I immediately replied. Then I saw the eyes. I hide myself and keep riding my wheelchair along the perimeter fence of the park. I hear children having more fun without me with their excited laughter and beaming smiles. I thought to myself 'why am I different from everybody else?' At that moment, I pulled the brake and told my mum who was pushing me "Wait!" My mum stood away and with all my might I pushed my wheelchair as fast as a cheetah and ram into the fence. I fell forward but stayed in my seat. Then something magical happened the fence just disintegrated into something smaller than a pixel. I walked through into the park and I got the stares but. not in a bad way. These were stares of amazement. Immediately I realise it's what's on the inside not the outside that counts. I may be different but I'm just as special as everybody else.*

