**2007**

**8-10 Years**

**1st Place**

**Renathur Noel**

WHAT IS THE BEST THING TO DO IF SOMEONE CALLS YOU A NAME YOU DON’T LIKE? GIVE EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU DID.

Some people are just plain mean as this girl in my story. Her name is ‘Herk’. She is a bully and since I am the smallest child in my class, she thinks that she can treat or call me all kinds of names as ‘Shortie’ or ‘Polly’.

Whenever she calls me Polly, I will shout and say ‘my name is Pauline’. But she continued to tease me and I tried my best to avoid her as much as possible. Things went ok for a while. Then one day our teacher made an announcement that we are going to have a new student and to my surprise there in the doorway stood Holly but everyone calls her Herk. We all settled down to do our work but I could not concentrate because my mind was on Herk who sat right behind me.

I gave up going on the netball court because she was there and would try to boss us around by taking the ball away from friends and I. My parents also noticed a change in my behaviour and began to question me as to what was the matter. My best friend Sandra would pay me a visit and I will refuse to go down to the court with her to play.

The next week, the teacher gave a Maths test and I had studied for it because I had more time on my hands since I gave up going down on the court to play. When the result came back I was happy to see A+ on my paper, but Herk glanced over and saw my score. She was very upset especially when the teacher announced that who did not do so well in the test had to stay in during recess and after school to do extra studies.

Herk did not like this at all because she loved the court just as much as I do. This was my time to show off what I can do on the court. Everyone was surprised and tried to find out why I did not come and practice anymore. Then one day the teacher announced a competition between the two grade V’s. I was happy when I remembered Herk was from the other Grade V and will now be playing us. I was then surprise when I heard our teacher say ‘Herk will be playing for her own class’.

On the court, Herk tried to make fun of me but I was prepared for her because I had talked to my dad and he had given me some advice about setting my boundaries dealing with hatred and raising my self-esteem. He also told me to ignore her even if she said the meanest thing to me then he told me to look at a monkey in a cage he cannot get out and no one could get in. Just so people can set their boundaries and use it as their cage.

I was taught by my parents that my body is my own and that no one had the right to touch it. I have the right to stop anything that makes me feel uncomfortable and that no one should control my life or make me feel sad or bad about myself. My dad had given me some good sound advice that I had never thought about.

I should be nice to Herk even though she is mean to me. At school, I went over to the Math teacher and asked her if I could stary for extra lessons. She was surprised but said yes. That afternoon I stayed back in school and to the teacher’s surprise, I told her I wanted to help someone. I was afraid but I slide beside Herk and took a seat. Her looked up and said ‘I thought you were an A student?’. I then told her I wanted to help her and to my surprise she accepted my help and then I understood why she could not pass the test because one one helps her at home.

The next day at school we were on the court with Herk as captain and the first person she picked was me, Polly and then on we became very good friends. Thus it pays to be kind and to do good to those who may try to hurt us along the way.