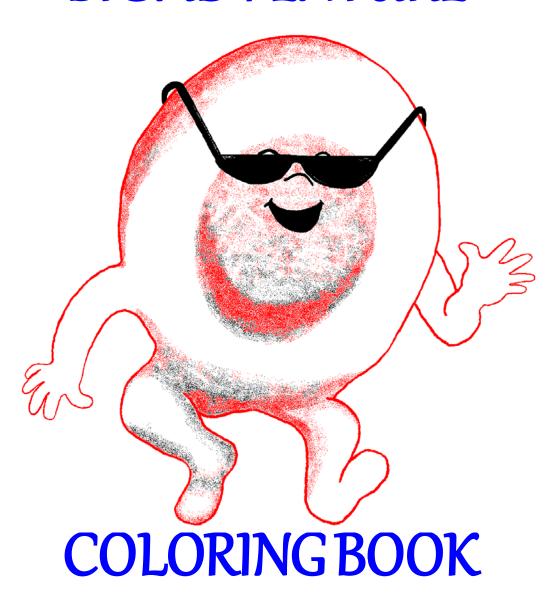
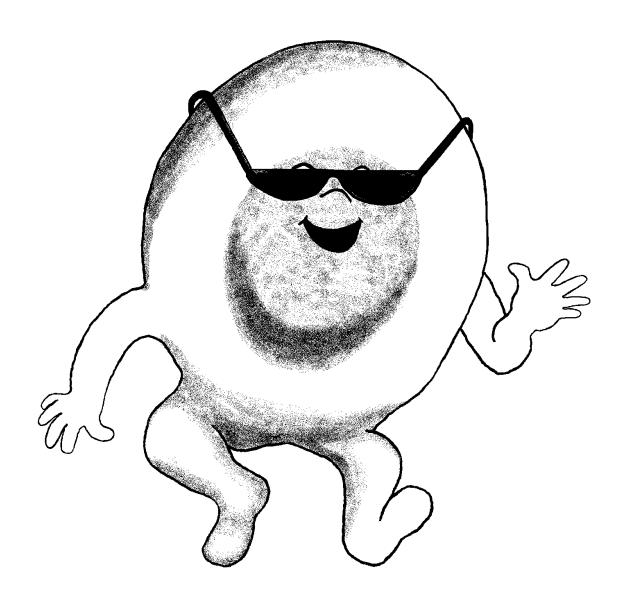
BOBBY BLOOD CELL'S BIG ADVENTURE



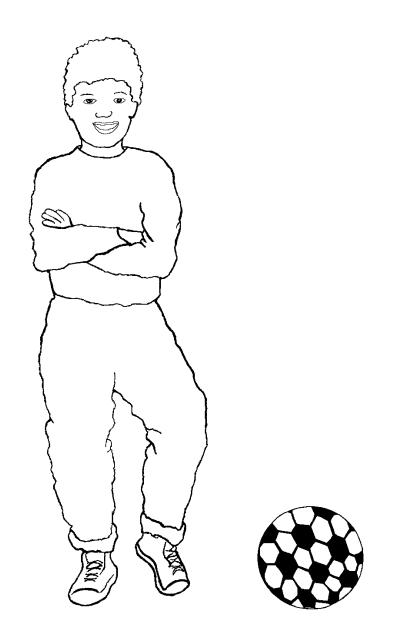
By Donna Dent Copyright 1998 DZD



THIS IS BOBBY.

HE IS A BLOOD CELL.

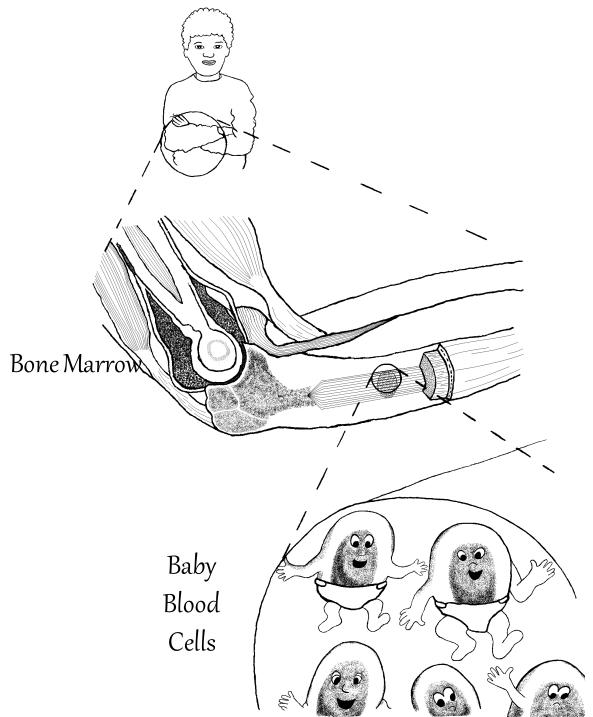
Blood cells help keep our bodies healthy. They live inside all people like you and me. Bobby lives inside a boy named Timmy.



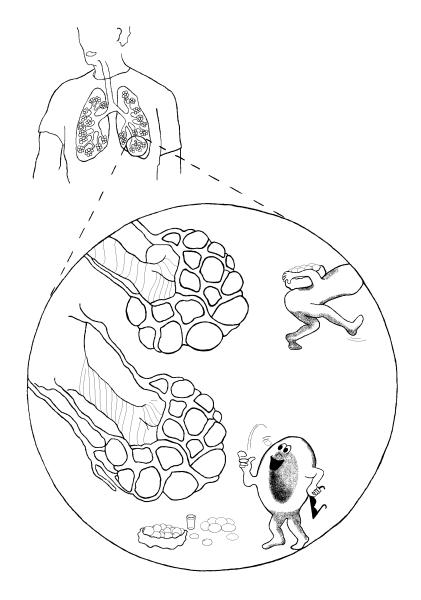
TIMMY is 8 years old. He has sickle cell disease.

The doctors told him he could play and do all the things he liked but that he should not over do it.

He should DRINK LOTS OF WATER AND GET LOTS OF REST to keep his blood cells happy and healthy.

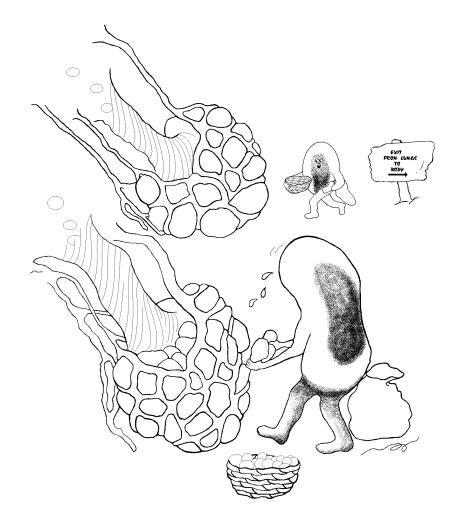


The middle of the bone is called the BONE MARROW. That is where all blood cells come from. Bobby was born in Timmy's BONE MARROW.



Blood cells grow big and strong by eating the oxygen bubbles (air) that you breathe in and by drinking the water that you drink into your body.

Your whole body needs oxygen to be strong and healthy. Blood cells carry the oxygen bubbles (air) to all the different parts of your body. They take the oxygen bubbles to your arms and fingers, legs and toes, heart, and brain.



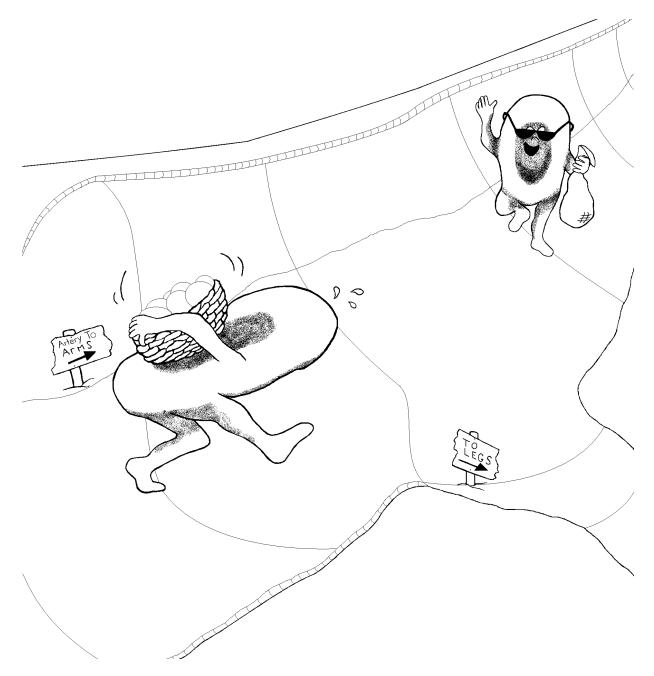
When you breathe oxygen (air), it goes in through your nose and down into SACKS IN YOUR LUNGS. The blood cells take the oxygen from the sacks and carry it to the rest of your body.

Bobby went to Timmy's lungs to get some oxygen for his big trip. He is packing a bag of oxygen to take with him to eat along the way and to give to the different parts of Timmy's body.

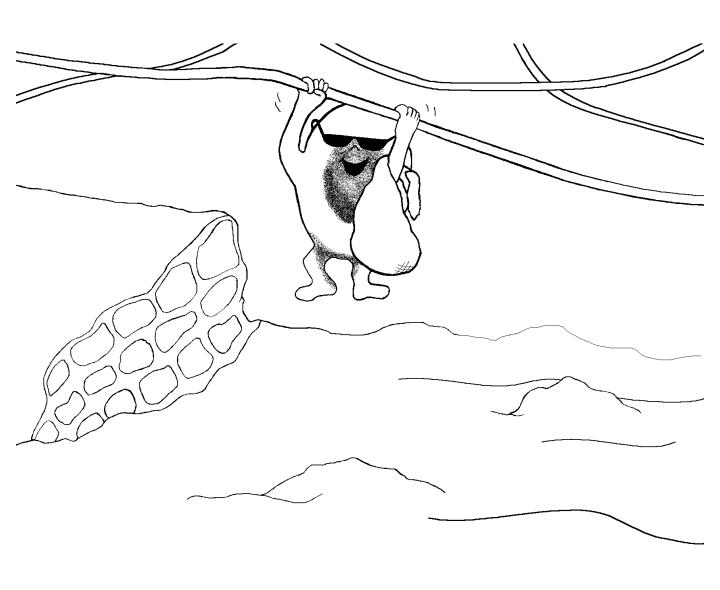


Bobby is very excited because he is going on a big adventure. He is going to carry oxygen from Timmy's lungs to all the different parts of Timmy's body.

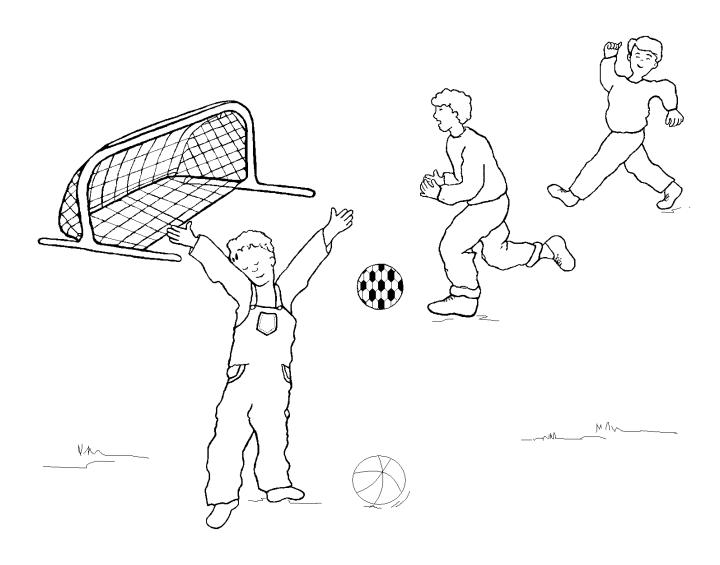
To prepare, Bobby is filling up on water and oxygen before he starts out on his big trip.



Bobby traveled through the arteries and veins in Timmy's body. The arteries are like roads that lead to all parts of the body, and the veins are like super highways that lead back to the heart.



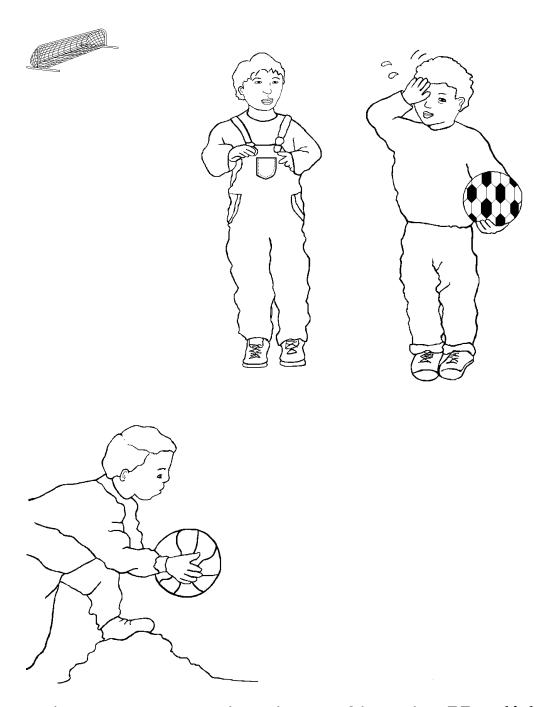
...he climbed over bubbling stomach gasses as he traveled through all the different parts of Timmy's body.



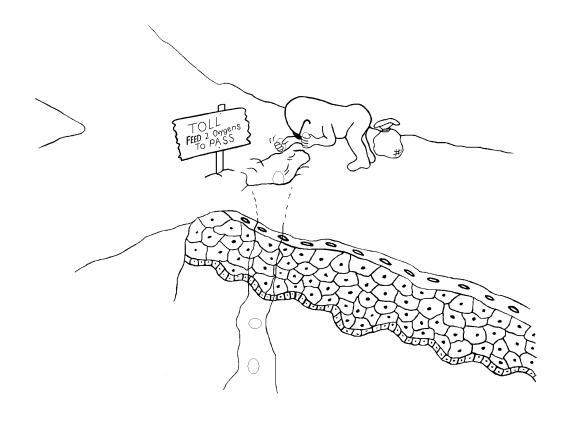
While Bobby the blood cell was making his trip through Timmy's body, Timmy started playing ball with his friends. He liked to play ball.



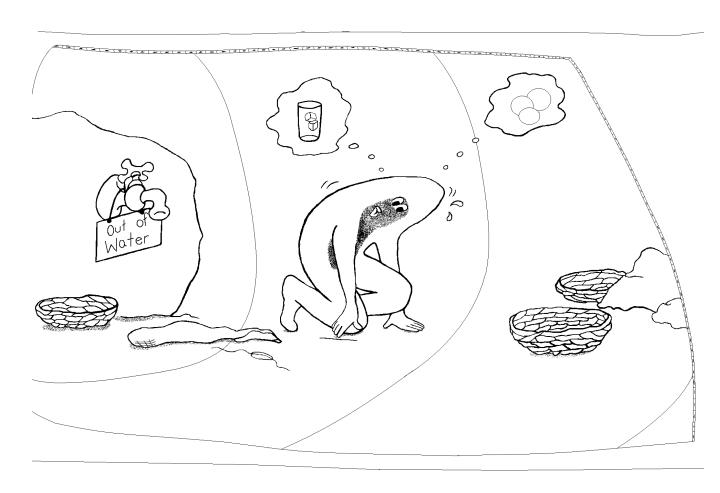
Bobby needed to sit down and rest when he got tired. He ate some oxygen for energy before he continued on his journey.



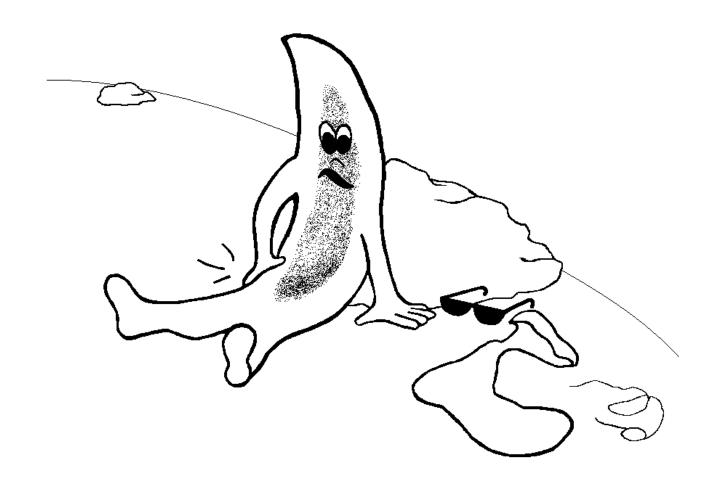
Timmy began to get tired and out of breath. He did not stop playing even though his body was tired because he was having fun.



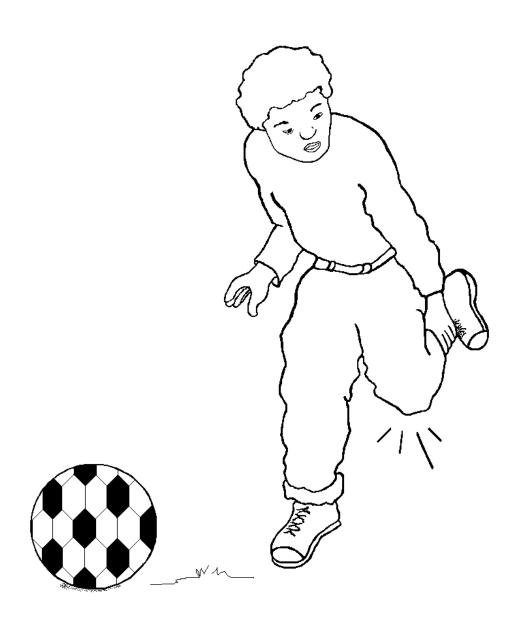
Bobby's bag of oxygen had run low. As he traveled, he had to share his oxygen with all the different parts of Timmy's body. And as Timmy played, his body used up more and more oxygen.



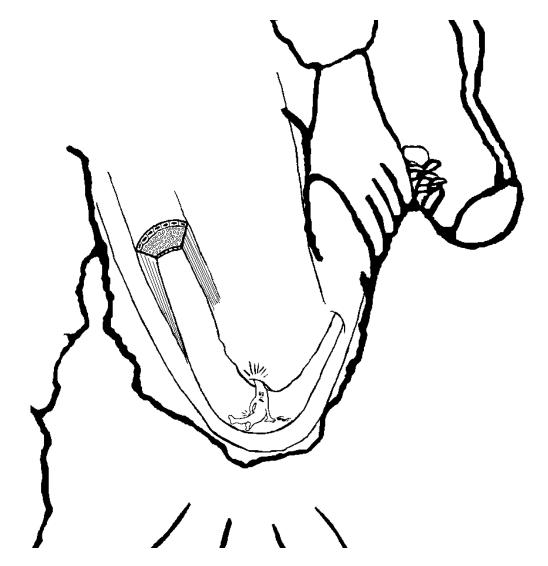
Bobby was out of water and oxygen. He looked around but he couldn't find any. By continuing to play after he was tired, Timmy's body had used up the oxygen and water it had.



Bobby began to collapse without oxygen and water. He could not straighten up to move through the arteries in Timmy's knee. Bobby started looking bent over like a sickle.



While playing Timmy felt a pain in his knee. He had to stop playing.



Timmy had a pain in his knee because his blood had sickled and gotten stuck in his knee.

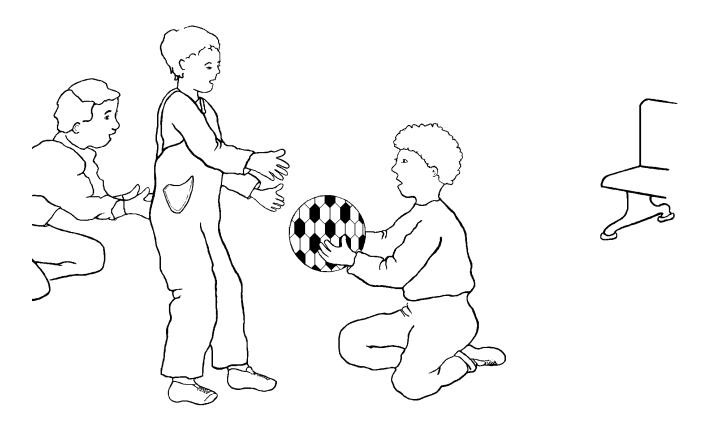
Without enough oxygen and water Bobby had sickled (flattened, bent over and got sharp pointy ends). He couldn't move without sticking and hurting Timmy.



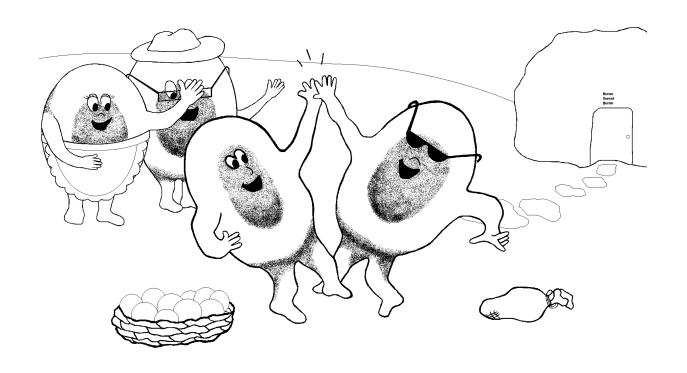
Timmy had to sit down and take deep breaths. As he breathed in slowly and deeply the oxygen filled his lungs again.



As Timmy breathed in the oxygen and drank water, it went into his body down to Bobby the blood cell. As Bobby got the oxygen and water, His sharp sickle shape plumped back out to a soft donut shape. Bobby and Timmy began to feel better.

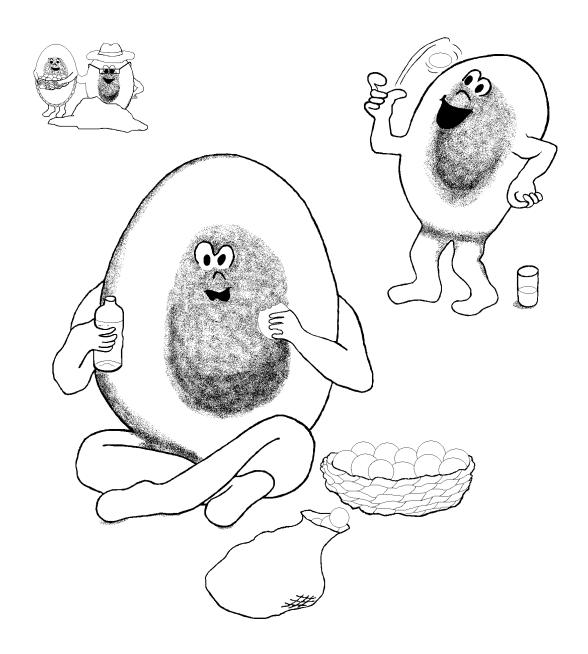


Timmy was feeling better too. He was able to play with his friends again but this time they sat down and played catch ball. Timmy was careful not to over do it and get overly tired.





Then Bobby was able to continue on his journey through Timmy's body and make it all the way back home.



Bobby was able to make it all the way back home. His friends and family were happy to see him again. He told them all about his big trip. They are oxygen and drank water and played happily ever after.

THE END ...

For more information contact
Grady Health System
Sickle Cell Center
(404) 616-3572