

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEN UNDERWOOD**

Ben Underwood was born a healthy baby. But Ben was only two years old when his parents got some sad news. Ben had cancer in both of his eyes.

Ben could no longer see. He was blind.

But he found something he could do. He could click his tongue on the top of his mouth.

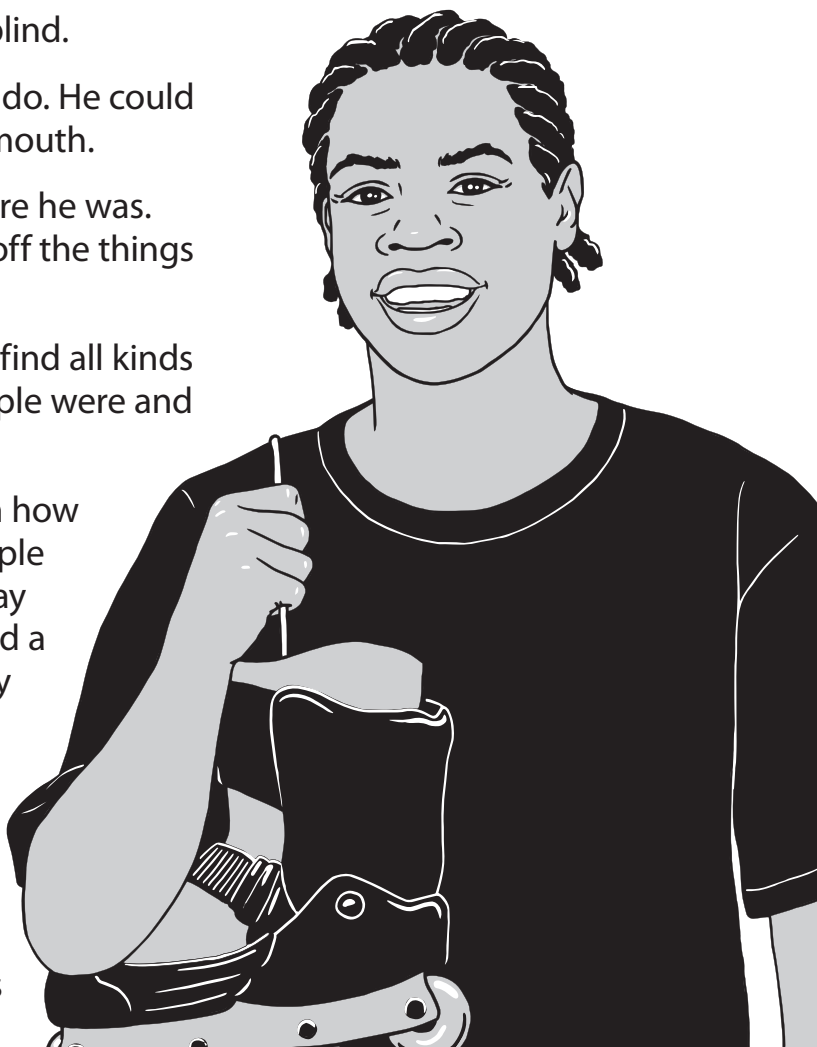
This clicking helped Ben hear where he was. He could hear the sound bounce off the things around him.

Ben used this clicking to help him find all kinds of things. He could tell where people were and find doorways, too.

Ben even used his clicking to learn how to do things most other blind people could not do. He could run and play basketball. He could ride a bike and a skateboard. And he could also play video games.

Ben said, "I'm not blind. I just can't see."

His parents treated him just like any other kid. His younger brother didn't even know Ben was blind at first!



Ben was able to teach himself how to do almost anything. He was never afraid of learning something new.

He traveled around the country to tell other kids his story. Ben told them to remember to never give up, even when it seems impossible!

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## NEVER GIVE UP

Even though Ben was blind, he could do many things. He was never afraid of learning how to do something new.

**Directions:** Think about what you learned about Ben. Then answer the questions below.

1. How did Ben "see" the world? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is one thing Ben could do? \_\_\_\_\_

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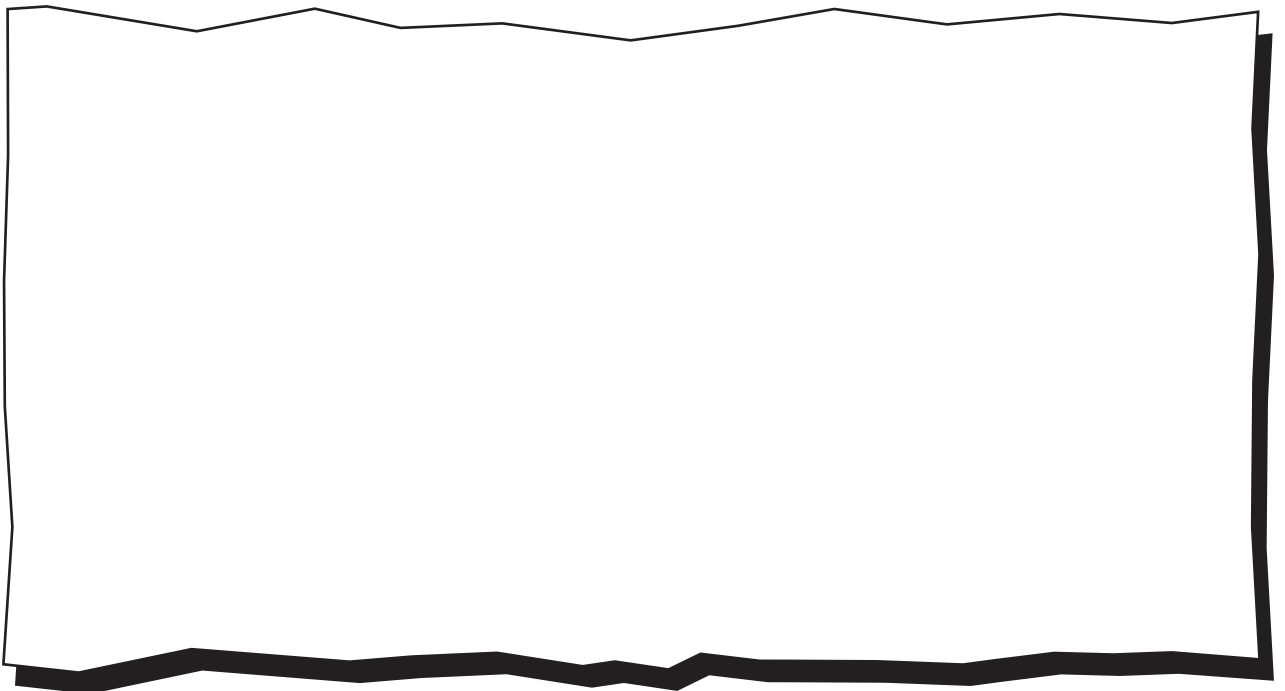
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3. What is something you learned from Ben's story? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is one thing you would like to learn how to do? Draw your answer below.



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..... **I CAN'T DO THAT YET** .....

When something is hard or new, sometimes we tell ourselves, "I can't do that."

But there is one word you can add to that sentence that changes everything: YET.

When you say, "I can't do that YET," you are saying maybe you CAN do the thing you want to do.

**Directions:** Ben taught himself how to "see" without using his eyes. He never gave up, even though it was hard.

As you think about Ben's story, make lists of things you can do and things you can't do YET. Then find a partner and share your lists.

**Things I Can Do**

**Things I Can't Do YET**

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..... **JUST NOT YET** .....

**Directions:** Choose one thing from your list of “Things I Can’t Do YET” (page 64) that you would like to learn.

Draw a picture of it in this box.

What are three things you could do to help you learn this?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What will it look like when you learn your “yet”? Draw a picture of it in this box.