



DECEMBER 2021

*I wish to have my drawings published in a comic series*

**James, 16**

Ewing sarcoma



**James' wish gave him the incentive to stay positive and finish his treasured drawings after he was told the devastating news, aged just 16, that he didn't have long to live. For James and his family, his wish created a legacy that would live on when James could not.**

James, from Scotland, was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, a rare bone cancer, in January 2020 after dreadful pains led to multiple trips to A&E. He was told it was sciatica, but James' mum, Tracey, knew something was off and refused to take him back to school. Sadly, her mother's intuition was spot on, and two days later, their lives changed unimaginably when they were told James had a tumour. He would go on to have nine cycles of intense chemotherapy.

Looking back at that time Tracey simply said:

*“It was intense. Devastating.”*

Old enough to understand what was going on, but far too young to be facing such a stark reality, James struggled to cope and was put on anti-depressants.

One of the darkest moments was when a hospital bed was put in the living room for him. Despite this, James strived to remain positive and continued to draw the pictures that took him into a fantasy world, away from illness and pain.



*“It was a conscious choice to be normal, you just have to, otherwise you couldn’t go on,”* Tracey explained.

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### James’ wish

James refused to be defined by his condition. He immersed himself in a world of heroes, strange abilities, monsters and the mythical. After developing a passion for drawing at school, naturally, his imagination led him to draw thousands of images his fantasies.

But sometimes, reality infiltrated his thoughts and when asked what his own superpower would be James replied:

*“My superpower would be the ability to control life cells. Either that, or time travel. Stopping my cancer would be the first thing I would do.”*

Nothing could stop his cancer, but his wish to have his drawings published into a comic was the light that gave James the incentive to continue with ‘100 years old’ - the concept he’s always wanted to see on paper. In his own words: “It kept me positive.”

James’ tragically died whilst his comic was still being created, however his Wishgranter, Eszter, worked hard to send him every step of the process so that he could see the progress that had been. James was amazed and excited by what he saw.

### Impact

When the final comic was published, we sent copies to James’ family for them to give to friends and family, just as James wished: for his memory to live on in his comic.

Tracey reflected: *“Receiving the comic was a bittersweet moment. We were so proud of it and what James had achieved, but sad that he never got to see it. Everyone was so proud and said they were honoured to have a copy of the comic. James would have loved the comic and would have been over the moon with it. There is something there that everyone can remember him by. His memory will live on in his comic.”*

