

Amongst Other Things.

A story about Tom by his Mum.



TOM



Tom likes to choose what clothes he wears, what food he will eat and what games he will play. Tom likes playing lots of different games but he loves 'let's pretend' best of all.



Tom is very brave being 'Pyjama Man', fighting crime and bad guys with his Monkey Crew.

But he always stops at ten o'clock so that he can eat his snacks.



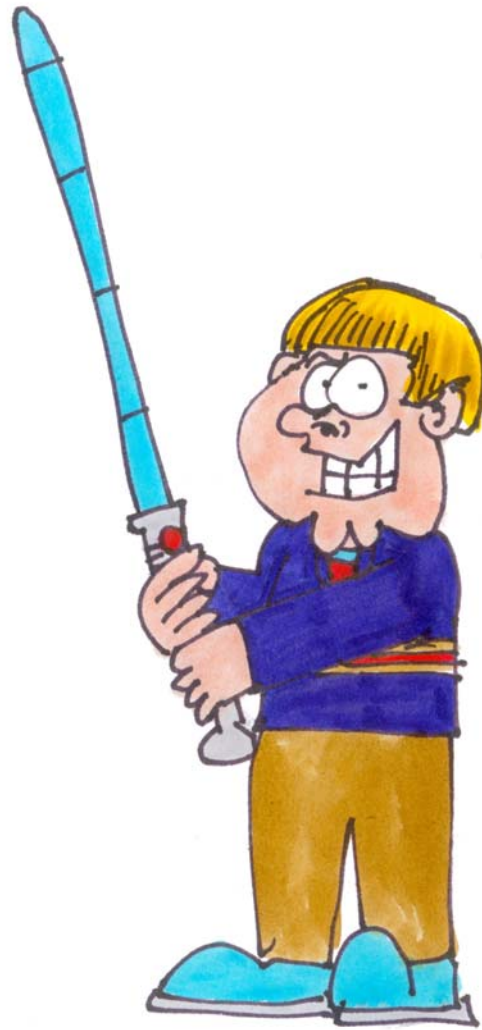
Tom sometimes dives deep under water in his one man submarine, on the look out for monstrous creatures.





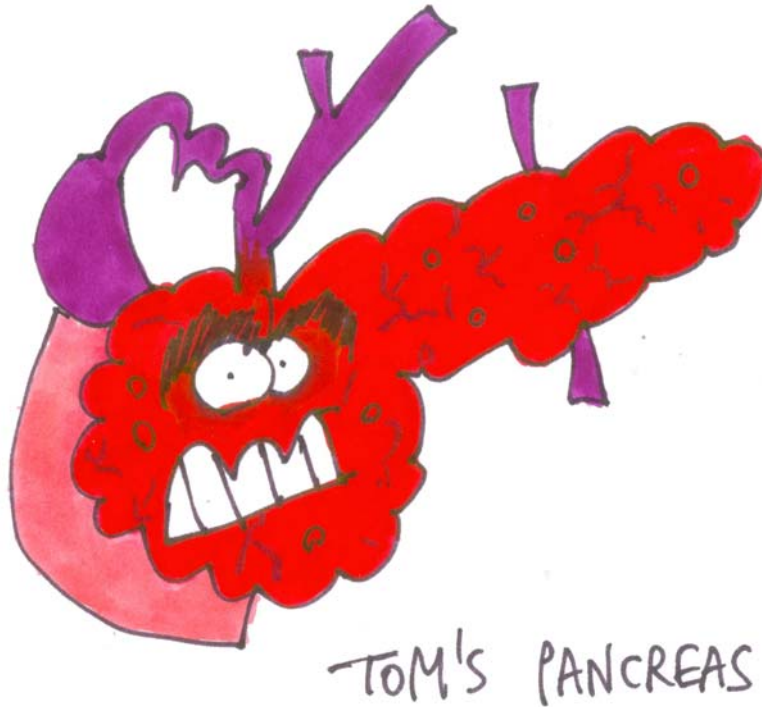
Yet he has to have his lunch at the right time, no matter where he is, what he is doing or who he is being. He might have a picnic under a tree or his sandwiches at school, but he always has his lunch at twelve o'clock.

Even if Tom chooses to fly in outer-space, boldly saving planets and fighting bad guy aliens, he has to stop from time to time.



TOM

Because, though Tom chooses to do lots of other things, he always knows he is diabetic.



One day Tom's pancreas got fed up. It decided to stop working. No one knows exactly why. It was supposed to make insulin for Tom's body. Without insulin Tom felt very poorly indeed. He just got worse and worse.



Tom stopped being Clothes Man. He gave up going underwater and didn't go into space at all. He just lay down feeling dreadful.

When Mummy realised she hadn't been peeling lots of bananas, swimming in the kitchen or flying in outer-space, she knew something was wrong with Tom.



MUM

So she took him to the doctor. The doctor looked at Tom's unhappy face, did some mysterious doctor-type tests and said, "Don't worry everyone. Tom is diabetic, that's all!"

Now Tom gets insulin from his pen injection.



He has to test a little drop of blood on a funky monitor. It looks like a walky-talky spy-machine!



It tells Tom if he has the right amount of insulin. If Tom gets high numbers on his monitor, he needs to have more insulin in his pen injection. If the numbers are too low, then Tom needs to have less insulin.

Tom has to eat the right food at the right time or he might have a hypo. A hypo makes Tom feel 'low'. It's not a nice feeling at all. It feels like when you are lost and can't find your Mummy or Daddy. You feel scared and shaky and tired.





To make Tom feel better when he is feeling low, he has glucose tablets, which are very sweet and tasty, and a snack like some digestive biscuits. Then, after a little time out, he feels ready for action again.

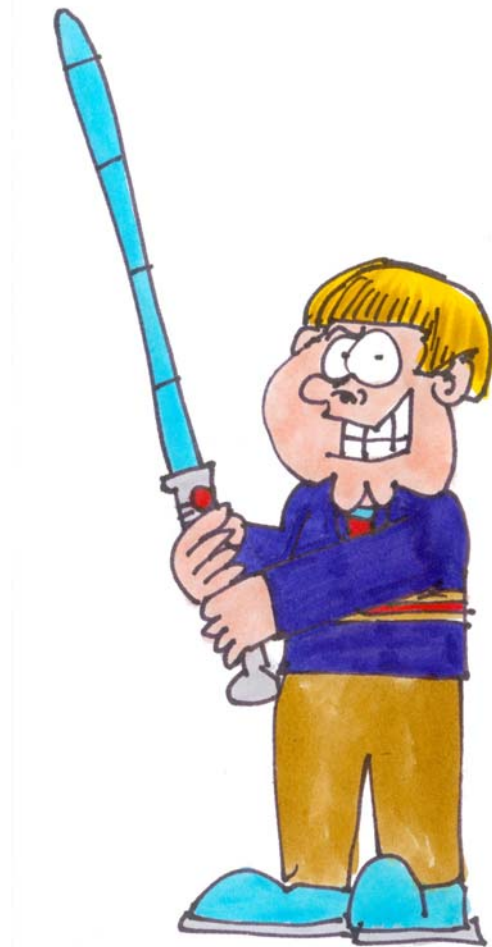
Tom can choose to be Pyjama Man, a brave crime fighter with his Monkey Crew.



Tom can choose to go underwater in his submarine and discover wonderful creatures.



Tom can even choose to go into outer-space and race shooting stars across the dark sky.



TOM

Tom didn't choose to be diabetic - he just is.
Amongst a lot of other very special things!

A story for Tom written by his Mum.

With illustrations by his Dad.

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