

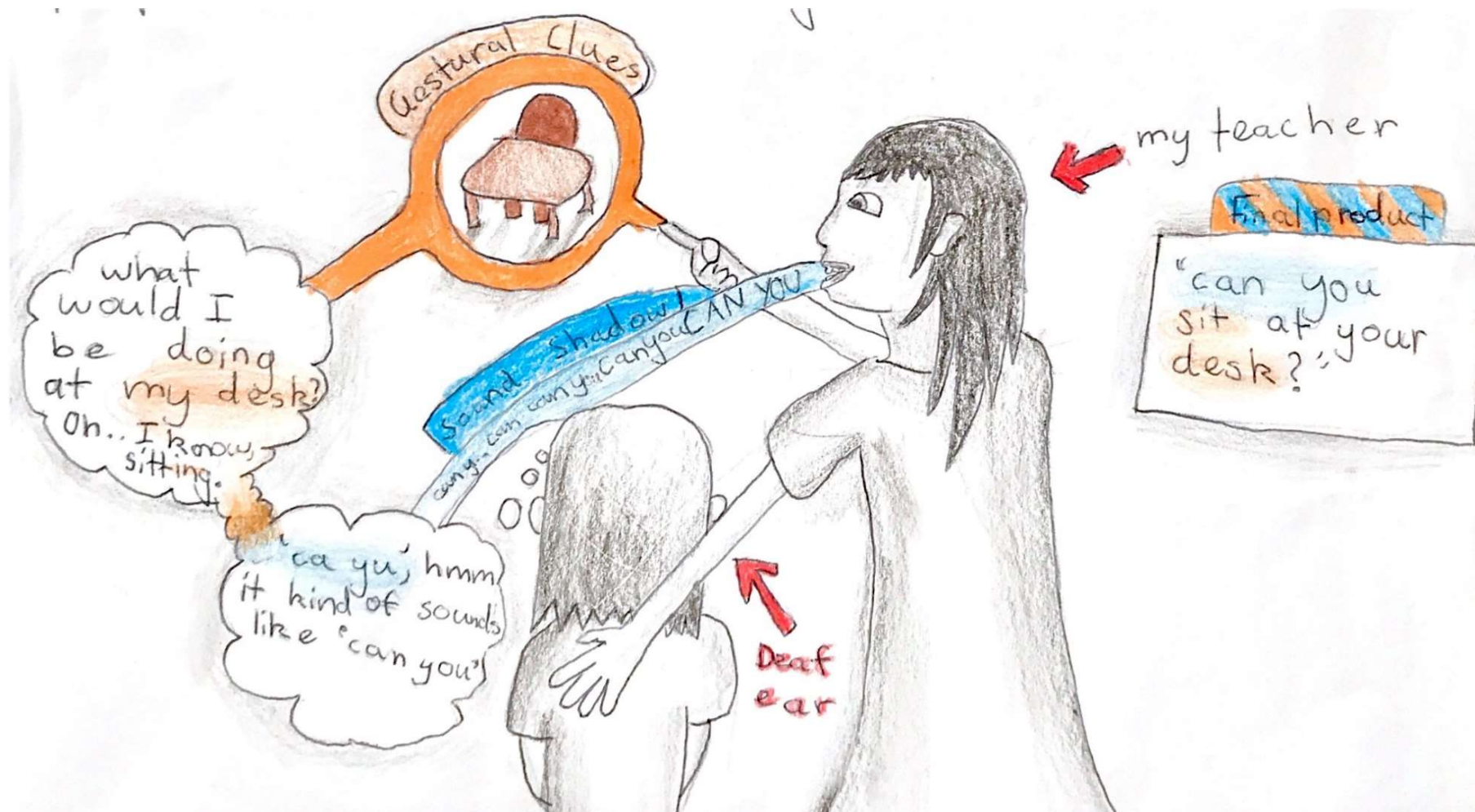
Ennasi and the Enemy

By Sienna Frewen-Lord

Hi, I'm Ennasi. I'm profoundly Deaf in my right ear and hearing in my left.



I live in a small city with very few Deaf people. But it was only in 2017, my first day of prep, that I realised my way of hearing people was different from everyone else...



Every day I was droopy and tired after school from having to listen all the time. I thought to myself "Why do I have to be hard of hearing?"

One day, as I was looking at the ground, my Mum asked, softly touching my shoulder, "Are you okay?" I shyly nodded but I was quickly interrupted by my Dad saying "Quick Ennasie! Hop in the car! Bye hon."

"Where are we going?" I wondered, peering out at the rushing trees through the window.

We finally arrived at a big white building that looked like a doctors' office. On the inside, it smelled like a doctors' office too. I had been here before a few times when I was younger, though the fear of the unpredictability always got me. As I shivered into the room, the audiologist ran some tests on me.



After my tests were completed, my Dad and the audiologist had a big conversation. I flicked my head back and forth trying to work out what they were saying.

Finally, the audiologist said something I understood, “Ennasi can hear fine...” But all of a sudden I had this weird feeling inside me. Something I’ve never felt before. “What’s that thing coming out of the audiologist’s mouth?” I wondered nervously.



“Hello Ennasi” a strange low voice said, “You have just made an enemy: The Great Assumption Enemy. I will turn all assumptions against you and use it to my advantage”

That night, before I fell asleep, I thought “Why is the Great Assumption Enemy after me?”. All of a sudden, as I drifted to sleep, these hands appeared. And though I didn’t yet now Auslan I still understood them.



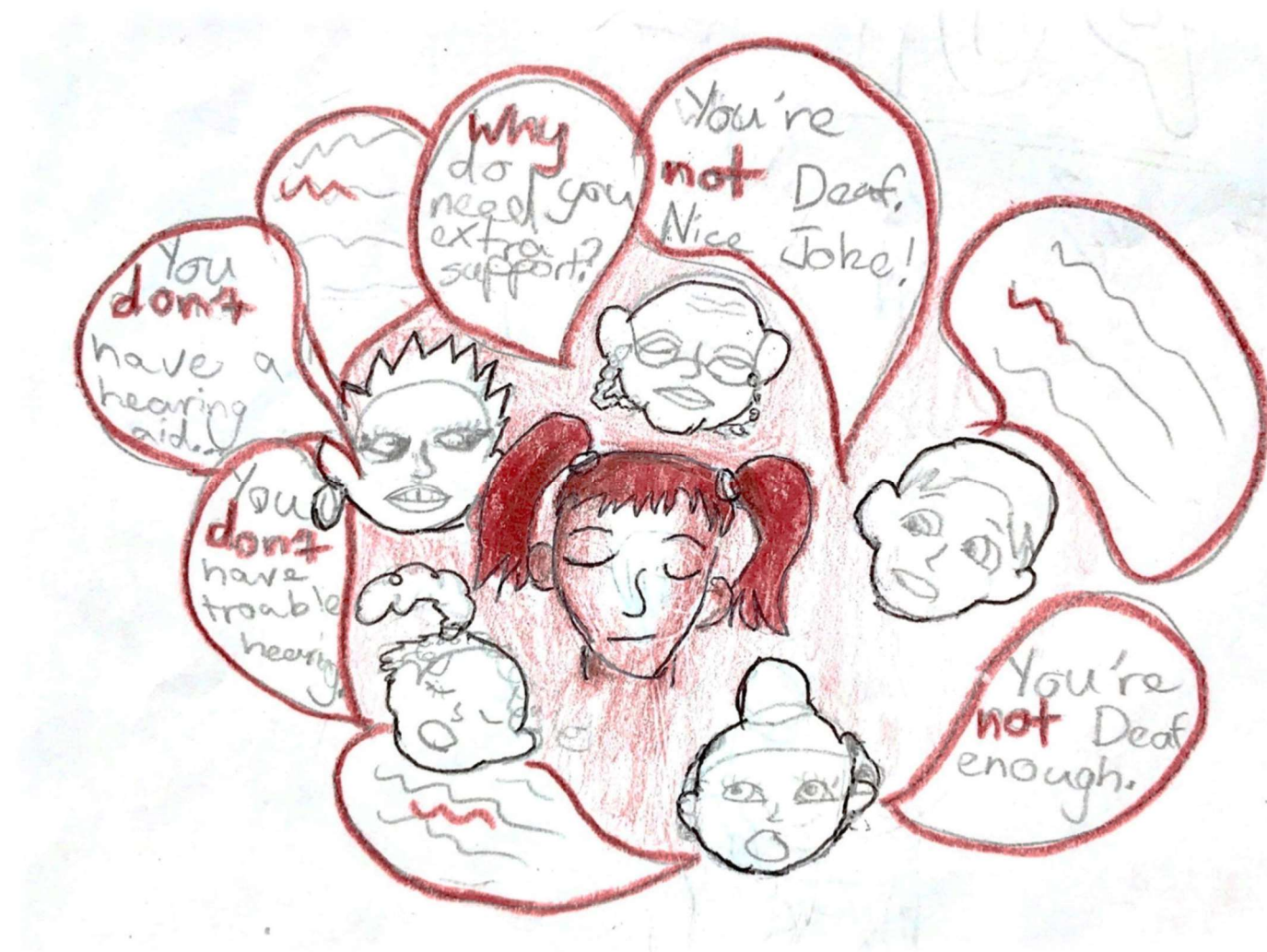
“Many Deaf and Hard of Hearing people have had to face the Great Assumption Enemy and have ended up miserable,” the hands said “You are our only hope. The Deaf community is counting on you. Ennasi, you are a superhero now.”

When I woke up the next morning, I heard people talking on the TV. As the news reporter ended his sentence, he stated “...well I’m sure glad that my children aren’t disabled.”

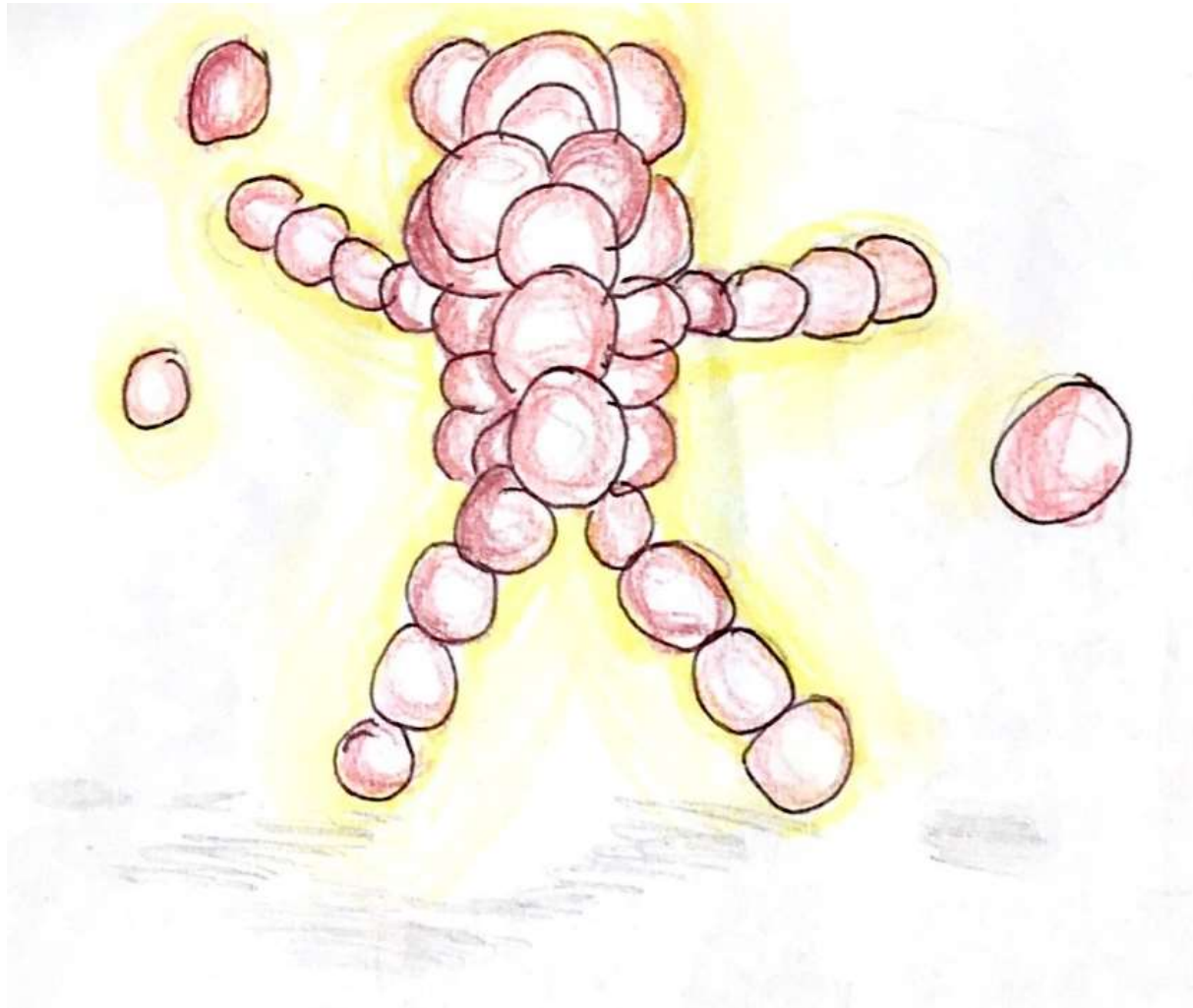


“Oh no!” I said, “It’s the Great Assumption Enemy! I didn’t know that it could come out of a screen! What am I supposed to do: I don’t feel very super.”

As the days went by, people made more and more assumptions and the Great Assumption Enemy got bigger.



One day it got too big that it was out of control



I felt completely hopeless. "How do I defeat it?"

As I was lying on my bed with a blanket full of tears, someone's heavy footsteps came into our house. I peered through the hallway and saw a lady with long brown hair and dangly silver earrings.

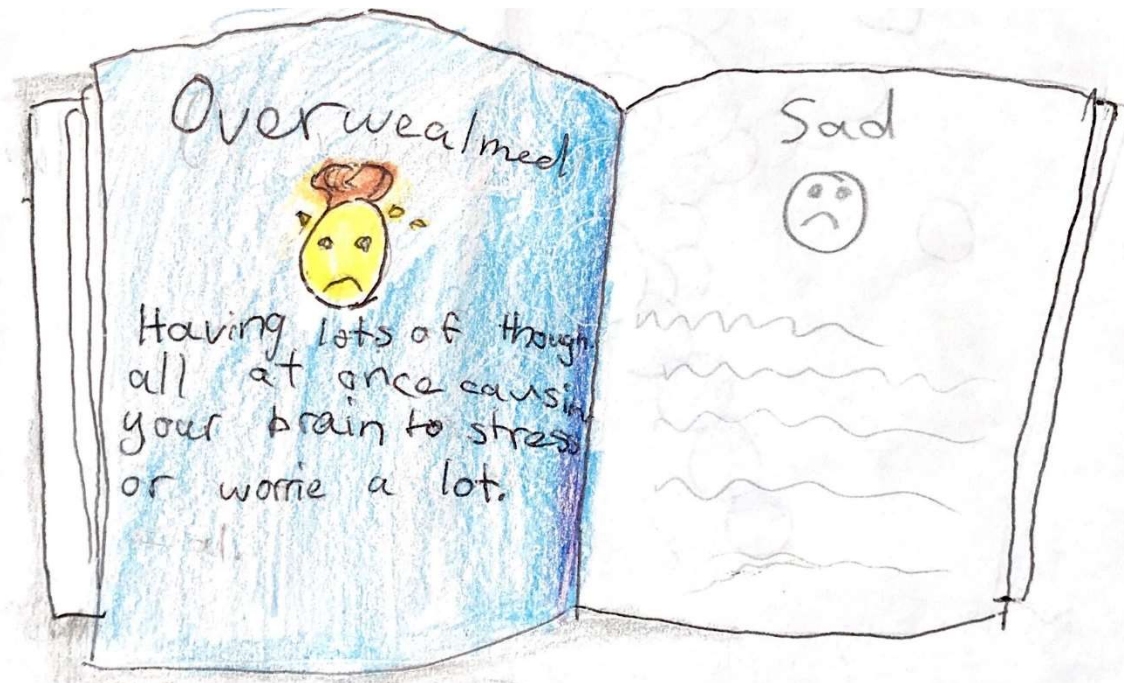
"She's signing," I thought to myself "and she looks so happy even though she's Deaf."

Inejust, our Auslan teacher, had been coming to our house every Wednesday afternoon to teach us Auslan. And after a couple of weeks, I started to get the hang of signing.

After a while, I started to appreciate my Deafness.

When I woke up the next day, I was shocked to the that the Great Assumption Enemy was leaking into my room. I panicked. "Oh no what do I do? If this is it, I want to read a book first!"

As my heart was pounding and my skin turned pale, I grabbed a book about feelings



"I am overwhelmed by the Great Assumption Enemy" I thought, rising from the floor. "And that must be why he is getting so big. But if he feeds off my emotions, then I can change the way I feel of people's assumptions."

All of a sudden, with a deep breath, I shouted, “I am blessed to be Deaf.” I suddenly gasped as I felt a vibrating feeling in my hands. I thought about all the advantages there are being hard of hearing and a huge ray of light bursted out of my hands, destroying the Great Assumption Enemy.



I have never felt so brave in my life!

As for now, the Great Assumption Enemy sometimes still comes, but I know how to fight it, because I am...



...Super Ennasi!

I have Deaf power and I am so grateful for it!

The End

