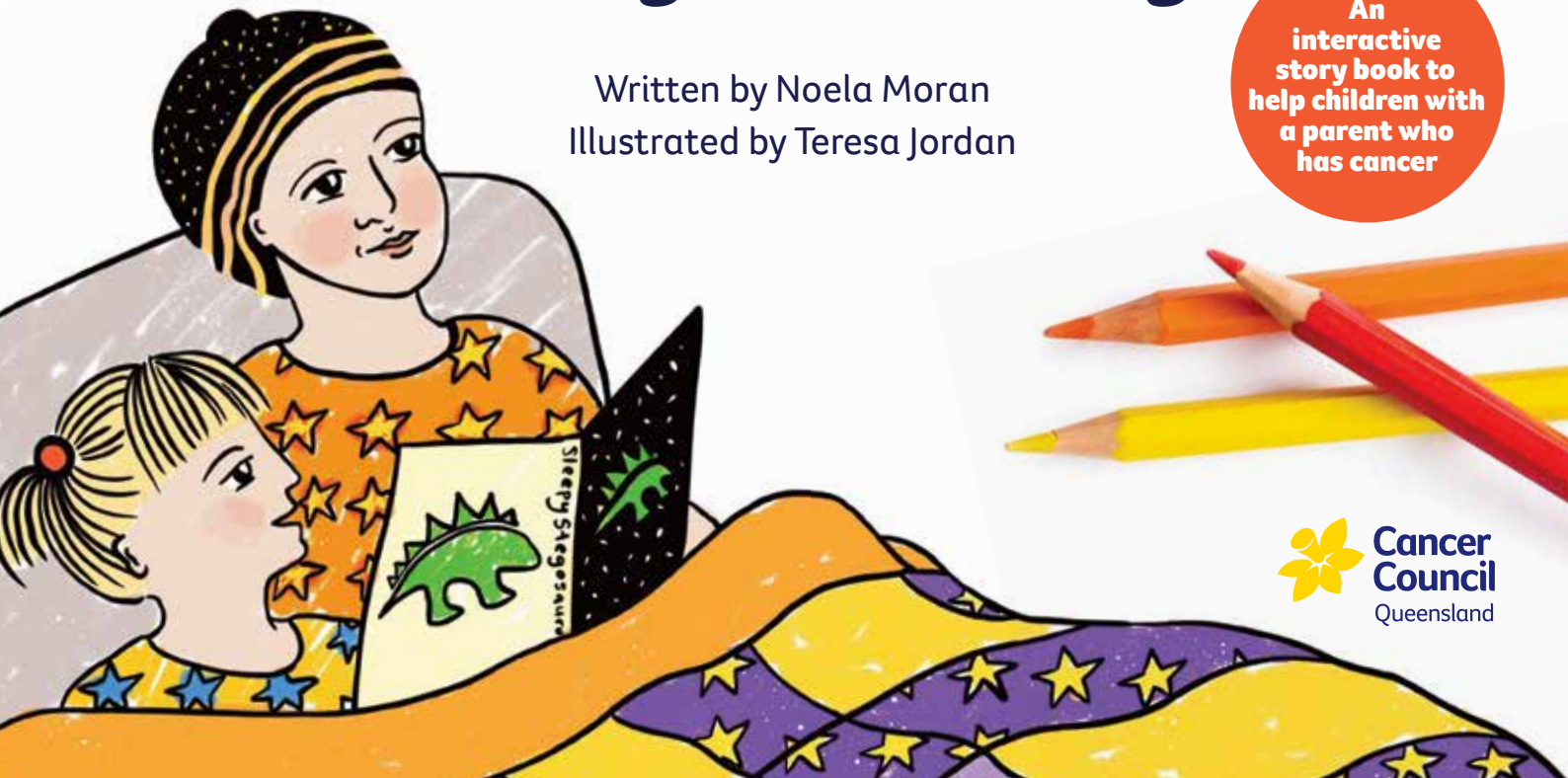


# What is happening to my Mummy

Written by Noela Moran  
Illustrated by Teresa Jordan

An  
interactive  
story book to  
help children with  
a parent who  
has cancer



## **What is happening to my Mummy?**

An interactive story book to help children with a parent who has cancer

First published 2002.

© Cancer Council Queensland 2002.

This edition 2019.

Illustrations digitised and coloured in 2019.

### **Dedication**

Without the art work of Teresa Jordan, the enthusiasm of Sally Graham (Breast Cancer Nurse, Mater Private Hospital, Brisbane) and the financial support of Cancer Council Queensland, this storybook would not be available to parents who are journeying with cancer.

I would like to dedicate this storybook to my children – Kate (who was the model for the illustrations), James, Ben and Lizzie, who along with my husband, Albert, make every journey worthwhile.

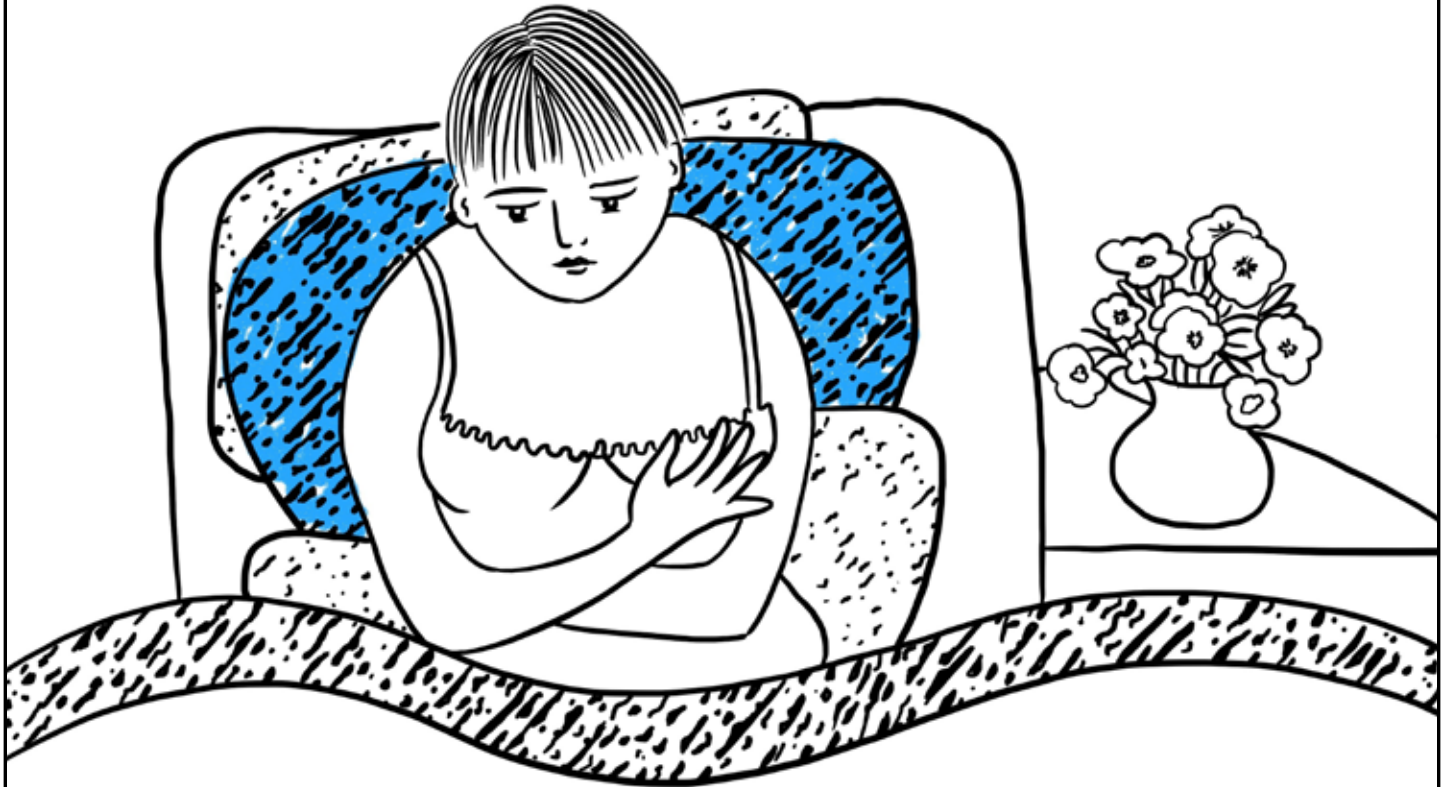
This colour-in story book is to help children with a parent who has cancer to understand about the cancer treatments. A useful way to use this book is for child to work through the book with a parent or other family member.

For further information and support contact:  
Cancer Council Queensland 13 11 20, Monday to Friday,  
9am to 5pm

Kids Help Line on 1800 55 1800

Cancer Council Queensland is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation that provides information and support to people with cancer, their families and friends throughout Queensland free of charge. These services are made possible through the generous donations of Queenslanders and we thank them for their continued support. If you would like to know more about these information and support services, call Cancer Council Queensland 13 11 20, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.

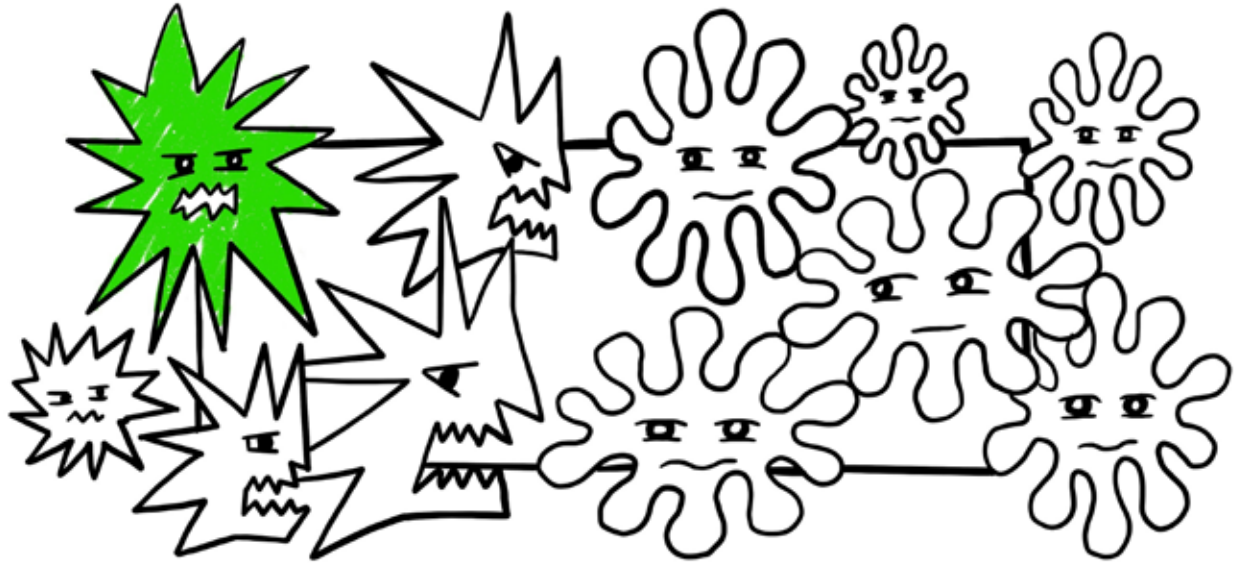
My Mummy had to go to hospital suddenly because doctors had to take away some bad lumps that were growing in her body.





Mummy said it was a good feeling to know the doctors had taken all the bad lumps away. Her whole body seemed happy that those lumps had gone.

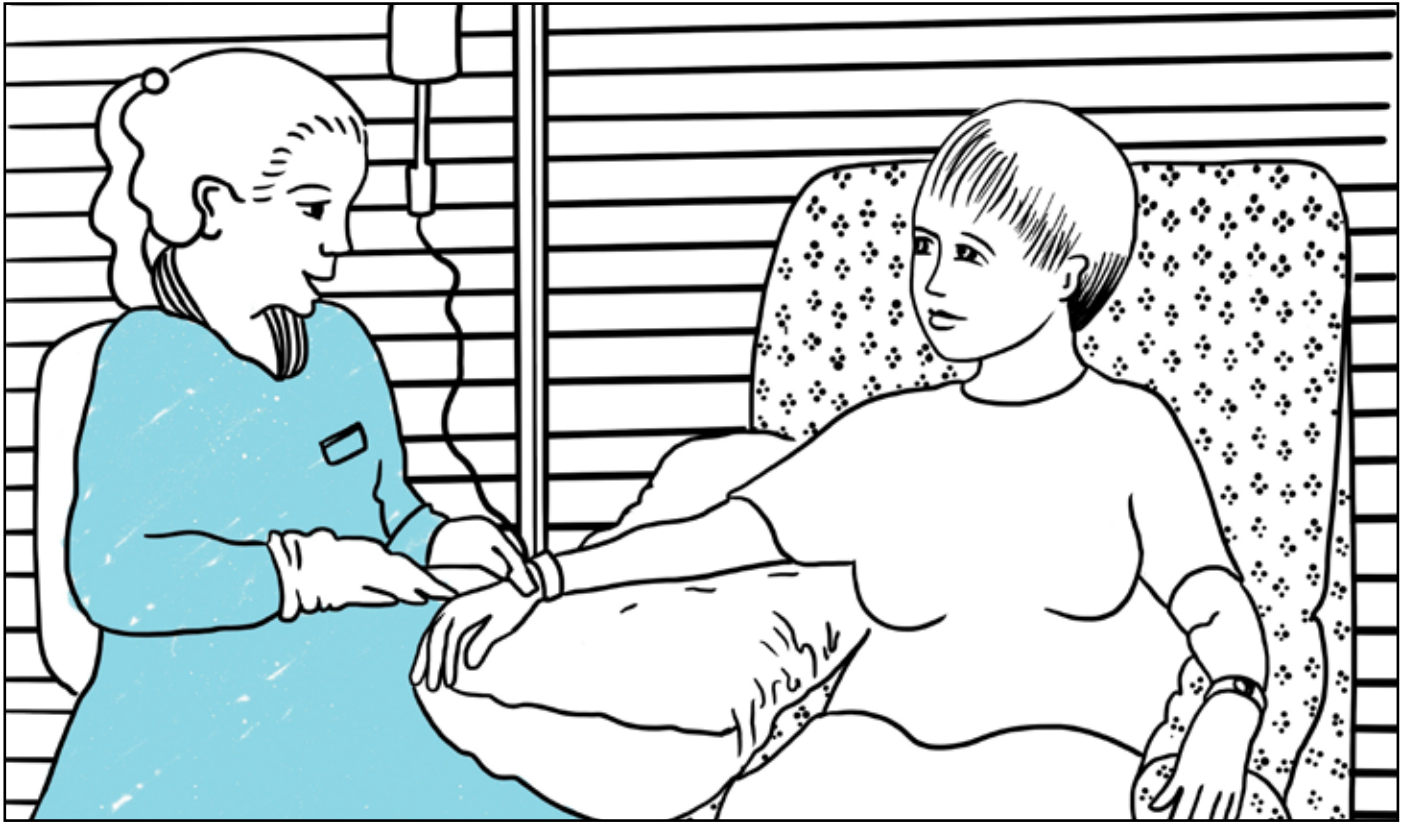




The doctor told her that those lumps were bad cells, small parts which make up our bodies, and that they could come back.

Those bad cells have a special name – cancer.

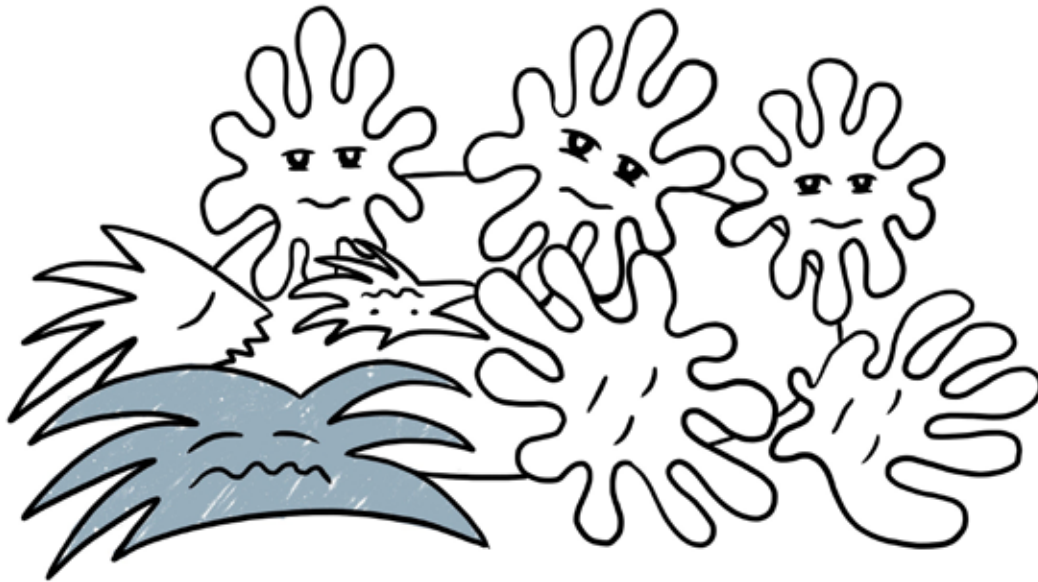
The good cells in her body do not want the cancer cells to come back.



Mummy will need to visit the hospital many times to be given special medicine to kill all the bad cells that may have been hiding in her body.

This special medicine will go into her arm through a tube which hangs from a bottle on a long pole.

This special medicine is very strong and it kills all the bad cells,  
but it also kills some of the good cells.



That is why Mummy doesn't always feel terrific  
after she has had her special medicine.  
The special medicine will also make Mummy's hair  
fall out so she will be bald like Grandpa!







She says when her hair grows back,  
it might be curly.  
It will be funny to see Mummy with curly hair!



She needs me to understand how she is feeling and wants me to know that she loves me very much. By next Christmas or maybe by my next birthday, all of the bad cells should be dead.





Mummy says she is scared at times  
because the bad cells are very bad,  
but she has to be happy  
and dream of wonderful things  
if they are all to be killed.  
I wanted to know what wonderful  
things she dreams of and  
this is what she told me.

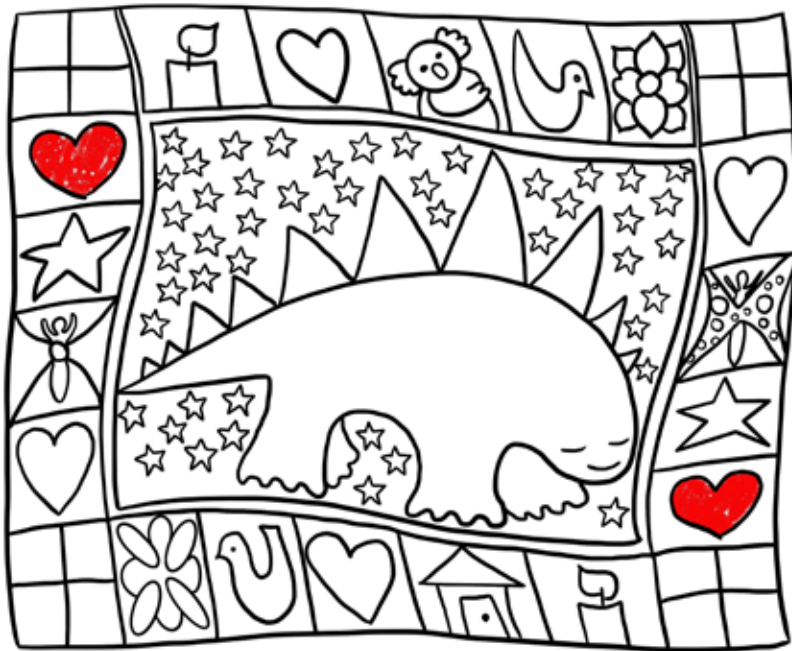
My Mummy dreams of  
walking me to school... reading me stories... swimming at the beach... cuddling me in bed



Christmas Day...  
going to Ireland for a long holiday...



taking me to Uluru...  
teaching me how to sew...



making a beautiful quilt...  
having wonderful birthday parties...  
seeing me finish school...  
watching me grow into an adult.



But most of all she dreams of  
being a grandma



and holding my babies in her arms.

**13 11 20**  
cancerqld.org.au



**For more information  
and support services**

Please contact Cancer Council  
Queensland **13 11 20**  
Mon to Fri 9am - 5pm