

THE VALUE OF FACING A CHALLENGE

The Story of Terry Fox



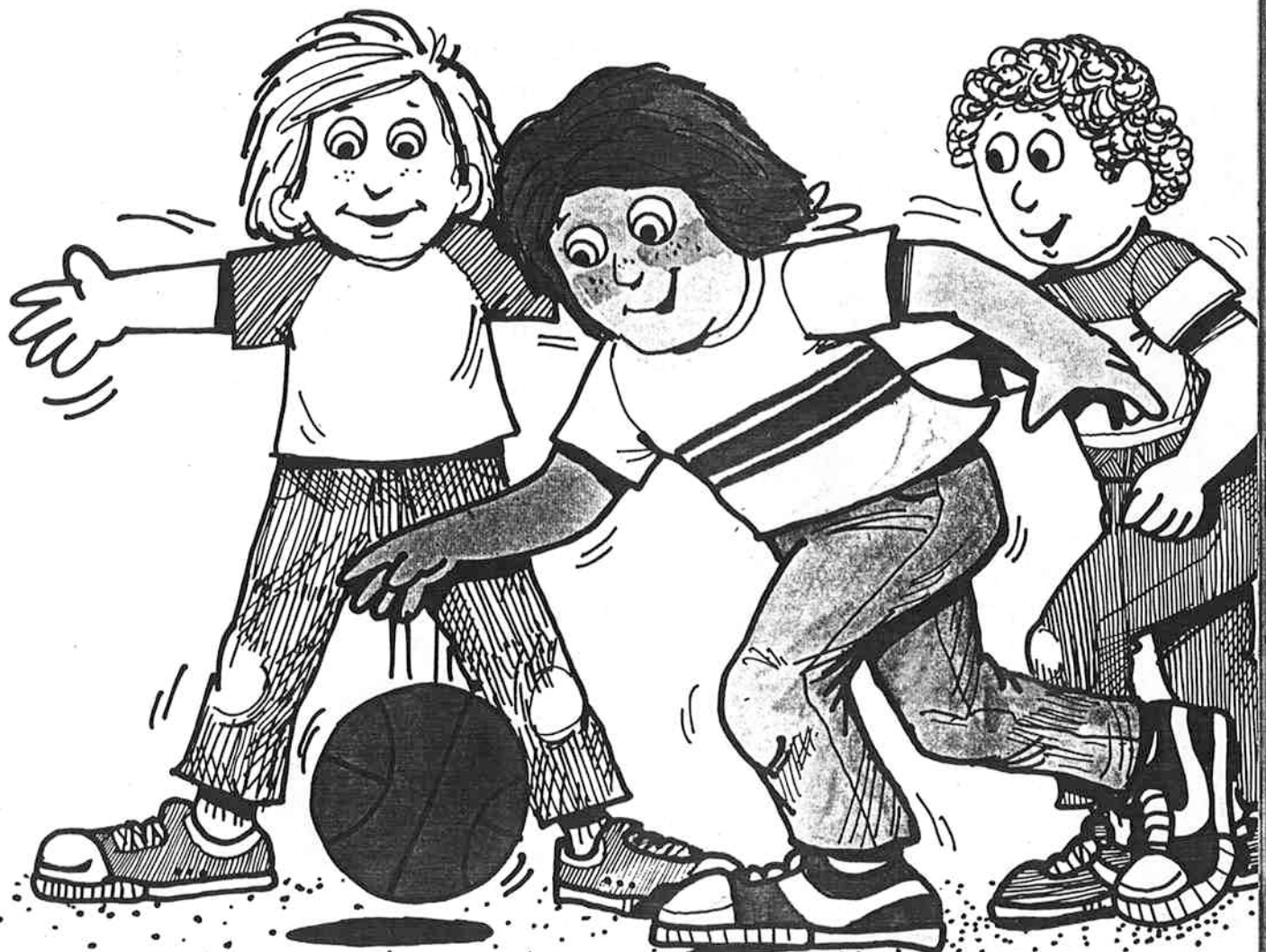
A **ValueTale**™ BY ANN DONEGAN JOHNSON

Once upon a time...

not very long ago, a boy named Terry Fox was growing up in Port Coquitlam, on Canada's west coast.

In most ways Terry was an ordinary boy. "An average guy," that's how he thought of himself. And like a lot of people, he expected to live an ordinary, average life.

As we shall see, however, that was not to be.



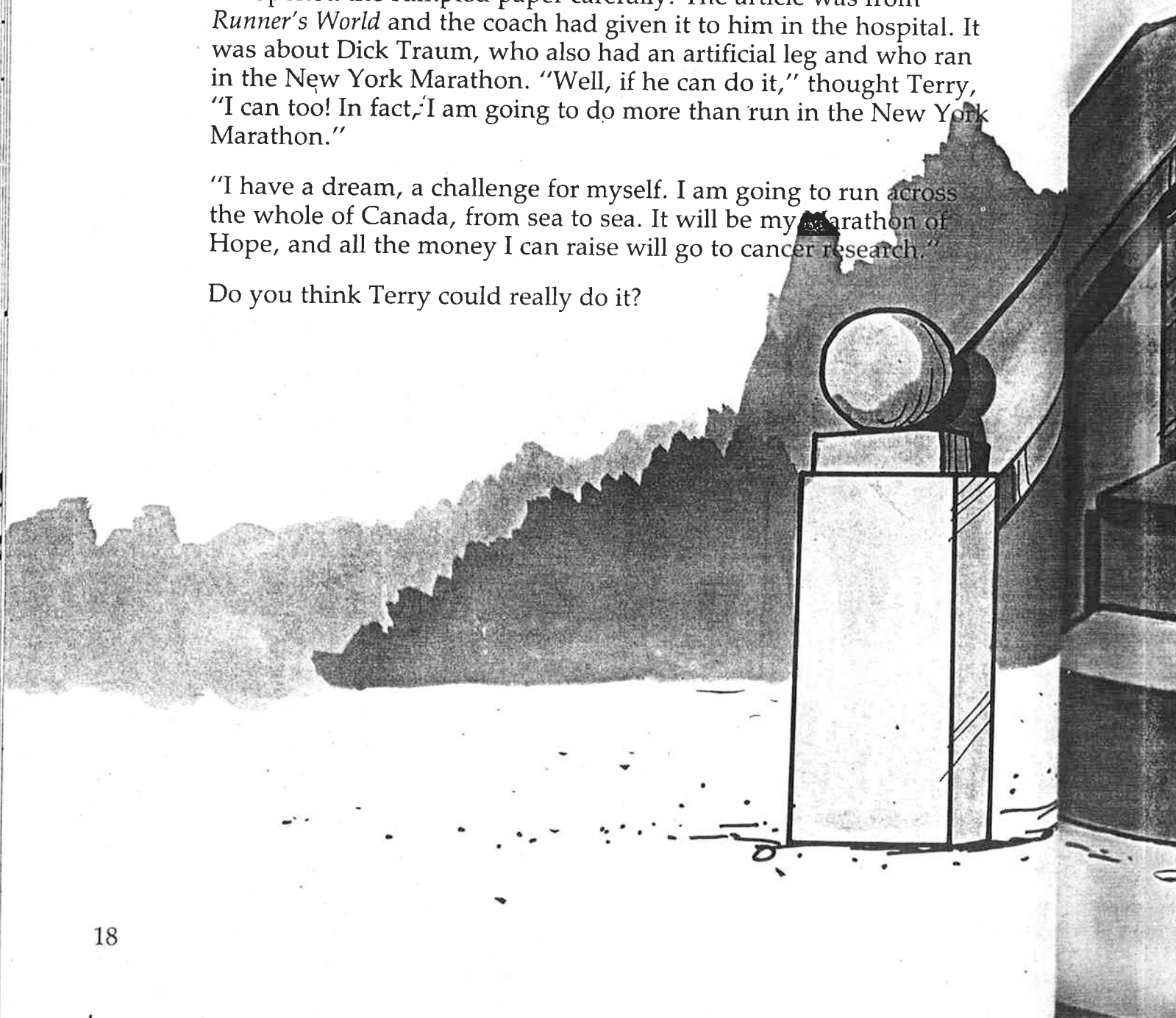
That same night, Terry thought about what had happened as he sat on the steps outside his parents' home.

"They're all really supportive," he thought, "but it's funny. I am the one who has to cheer everybody up. Even Terry Fleming, my basketball coach, was really down when he came to visit me in the hospital. They don't understand how I feel inside. This is a new challenge and a big one at that. But I can do it!"

Then Terry pulled out a folded magazine article from his pocket. He opened the rumpled paper carefully. The article was from *Runner's World* and the coach had given it to him in the hospital. It was about Dick Traum, who also had an artificial leg and who ran in the New York Marathon. "Well, if he can do it," thought Terry, "I can too! In fact, I am going to do more than run in the New York Marathon."

"I have a dream, a challenge for myself. I am going to run across the whole of Canada, from sea to sea. It will be my Marathon of Hope, and all the money I can raise will go to cancer research."

Do you think Terry could really do it?



n
y
he

It
n
y,
ork

MARATHON
OF
HOPE



Historical Facts •

Terry Fox was born in 1958 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. When he was ten years old the family moved to Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. There, in this suburb of Vancouver, Terry grew up with his brothers, Fred and Darrell, and his sister, Judith.

According to Terry's mother, he was "average in everything but determination." His great love was basketball. Although he was not very talented and his coaches considered him too short for the game, he earned himself a place on his school basketball teams by working hard and never giving up.

After graduating from high school, Terry enrolled at Simon Fraser University to major in kinesiology, the study of human movement. He immediately tried out for the junior basketball team and once again made the team by sheer drive.

In December 1976, during his first year at the university, Terry noticed a pain in his right knee. He thought it was the result of playing so much basketball and, for fear of having to stop playing, decided to tell no one about it until after the season was over.

In March Terry's problem was diagnosed as osteosarcoma, a relatively rare bone cancer. It was decided that he would have to be operated on and three days later, his right leg was amputated above the knee.

After the initial shock of hearing the diagnosis, Terry amazed his family and friends by his positive attitude. When his coach, Terry Fleming, showed him an article about a one-legged man, Dick Traum, who had run the New York Marathon, Terry decided there and then that he too could do it. In fact he decided to do even more, to run all the way across Canada, over 5,000 miles.

His idea of a cross-Canada run did not fade over the following months as Terry underwent treatments and learned first to walk, then to run, with an artificial leg. Rather, the idea grew and acquired a new purpose. Terry was deeply moved by the suffering and the courage of the other cancer patients he saw at the hospital. Terry decided that his run would be more than a personal marathon to prove that his physical handicap had not disabled him. It would be a



TERRY FOX
1958-1981

Marathon of Hope through which he would raise as much money as he could for cancer research.

Over the next two and one-half years Terry resumed his university studies and spent almost all his spare time building up strength and stamina and preparing for his run.

Finally, in the spring of 1980, he was ready. His parents, apprehensive at first, had come around and had even helped raise money for living expenses along the way. Several large companies had agreed to help by supplying a van and gas and running shoes.

Terry's Marathon of Hope began in St. John's, Newfoundland, on April 12, 1980. By the time it ended four and one-half months and 3,339 miles later, Terry had raised over \$2 million for cancer research. After the run ended, the figure climbed to nearly \$25 million, or more than the one dollar per Canadian that was his goal.

But Terry Fox gave the world much more than can be counted in dollars and cents. By his selfless response to his own misfortune and his conviction that the ordinary "little guy" can make a difference, by his commitment to his purpose and his faith in the human spirit, he taught us something new about facing the challenge of living life to the full. He became a symbol of hope and courage to millions in Canada and throughout the world.