

The Secret Life of Cancer Cells

Creating a Children's Book on Cancer Cell Development as a Non-Artist

Telling the Story Simply

I wrote this book with young readers (ages 5-7) in mind, taking into account their developmental stage and the sensitivity of the topic. My goal was to create an emotionally resonant story while also providing a reliable educational resource.

The biggest challenge was simplifying complex science without losing accuracy and engagement. I focused on what the child might feel and experience, instead of overwhelming them with detail.

To keep it from feeling scary, I avoided heavy medical terms and emphasized care, support, and understanding.

Not an artist? Not a Problem

Although I had no experience illustrating, I still wanted to be involved in every part of the creative process. This meant studying art techniques, learning how to use Procreate (a digital painting and art software), and undergoing many rounds of trial and error.

Instead of detailed drawings, I focused on structure, color, and clarity. The goal was to make the visuals enhance the message—not distract from it.



I started practicing by drawing family and friends in a children's-book style!



There are many people by my side to support me and a city of cells hard at work inside.

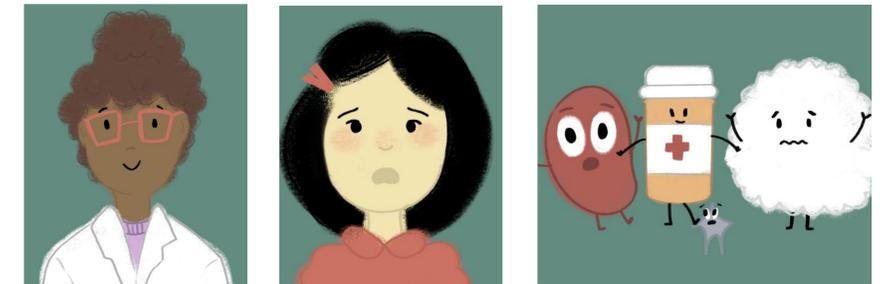
I might be fighting cancer, but I am growing brave.



Character Designs

I wanted the characters in my book to feel like companions—reliable, relatable, and emotionally supportive. I designed characters that children could trust. Their role is not just to explain, but to comfort.

It took many drafts for me to be content with my characters!



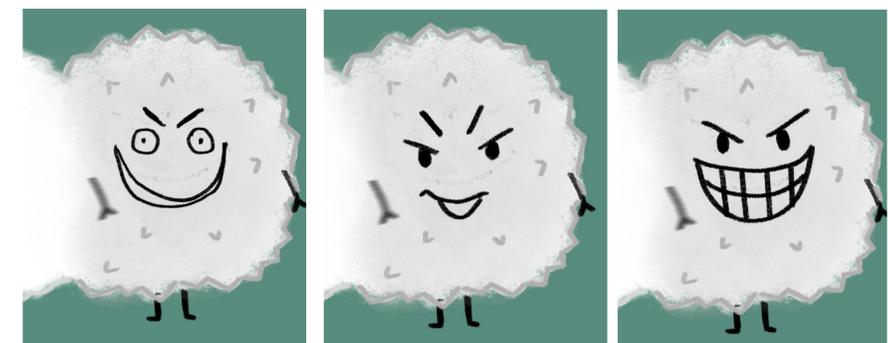
Doctor Lee

Mai

Blood Cells, Chemotherapy, & Platelet

Artistic Challenges

Designing cancer cells was challenging. I wanted to show that something was wrong, but without frightening or overwhelming young readers. To do that, I had to work with many expressions and designs!



Too Scary

Too Suave

Too Bold

Story Board Vs. Final Designs



Contact

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