TENSES

Next week I start fifth grade. Since _____ never _____ (be) to a real school before, I am pretty much totally and completely petrified. People _____ (think) I haven't gone to school because of the way I look, but it's not that. It's because of all the surgeries I _____ (have). Twenty-seven since I _____ (be) born. The bigger ones _____ (happen) before I was even four years old, so I _____ (not remember) those. But I _____ (have) two or three surgeries every year since then (some big, some small), and because I _____ (be) little for my age, and I have some other medical mysteries that doctors never really figured out, I used to get sick a lot. That's why my parents _____ (decide) it was better if I didn't go to school. I _____ (be) much stronger now, though. The last surgery I _____ (have) was eight months ago, and I probably _____ (not have) to have any more for another couple of years.

Mom _____ (homeschool) me. She used to be a children's books illustrator. She _____ (draw) really great fairies and mermaids. Her boy stuff _____ (not be) so hot, though. She once _____ (try) to draw me a Darth Vader, but it _____ (end) up looking like some weird mushroom-shaped robot. I _____ (not see) draw anything in a long time. I _____ (think) she's too busy taking care of me and Via.

I can't say I always wanted to go to school because that wouldn't be exactly true. What I _____ (want) was to go to school, but only if I could be like every other kid going to school. Have lots of friends and hang out after school and stuff like that.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

I _____ (have) a few really good friends now. Christopher is my best friend, followed by Zachary and Alex. We _____ (know) each other since we were babies. And since they _____ always _____ (know) me the way I am, they're used to me. When we _____ (be) little, we used to have playdates all the time, but then Christopher _____ (move) to Bridgeport in Connecticut. That's more than an hour away from where I _____ (live) in North River Heights, which is at the top tip of Manhattan. And Zachary and Alex started going to school. It's funny: even though Christopher's the one who _____ (move) far away, I still see him more than I see Zachary and Alex. They _____ (have) all these new friends now. If we bump into each other on the street, they're still nice to me, though. They always _____ (say) hello.

I _____ (have) other friends, too, but not as good as Christopher and Zach and Alex were. For instance, Zack and Alex always _____ (invite) me to their birthdays when we were little, but Joel and Eamonn and Gabe never did. Emma _____ (invite) me once, but I _____ (not see) in a long time. And of course, I always _____ (go) to Christopher's birthday. Maybe I _____ (make) too big a deal about birthday parties.

LIVEWORKSHEETS