



“Jackson lives in a group home. He’s never going to be completely independent, but he does have some independence. He does activities, and does volunteer work, and we pick him up every weekend. He loves to draw. I try to look at his drawings to understand his brain. I wish I could get in his head, even for a few minutes, so I could better understand his world.”

“What do you know about his world?”

“It’s a very cartoony world. He loves the same things now that he loved twenty years ago. He loves Disney characters, and muppets. There’s no war in his world. There’s no financial crisis, or crime, or unemployment. There’s no racism. No rich or poor.”

“What was the hardest part about raising a child with autism?”

“Not being sure if your child loves you.”

“Do you know now?”

“Yes.”

“How?”

“I know that he understands we are important to him. And I know that he understands he is important to us.”