

1

I don't want to die from internal bleeding. I want to live my life.

2

My young brother and sister are the best. I was worried that they would get hurt during the procedure.

3

They are too young to complain about having blood taken from them.

4

They play with me and hug me all the time. I am so lucky to have them.

5

I am lucky to have Suzy as a big sister too. She has been so supportive especially when Dad ignores me, but I worry she feels that she is left out.

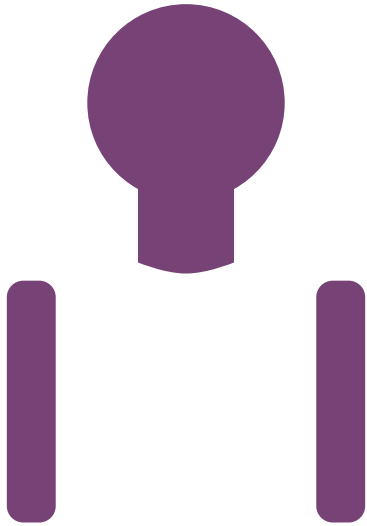
6

I think Dad wishes I had never been born. I don't think he knows what to do when I'm ill. It must be hard on him.



Cut along the dotted lines, and fold over so that each statement is covered by a flap. Each statement can then be revealed one at a time.

Older son, Mark



1

I'm happy for Mark and the twins, as it means everyone else is happy.

2

Not sure why I exist though. All the attention is on everyone else.

3

Don't get me wrong, I love the twins. And Mark. And mum and dad. Why wouldn't I? They're my family.

4

I wasn't good enough to help Mark, so mum and dad had to design new babies. Couldn't they just find a match from somewhere else? Mark's healthy anyway, and I now have two more brothers...

5

It's just not easy being 14, and no one noticing me. Everyone else can get away with anything because they're more special than me.

6

I do worry that the twins might feel bad when they grow up? Weren't they just 'made' to help Mark?



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Older sister, Suzy



1

I am so proud of our children and love them all dearly.

2

The twins are a bit spoilt, but then they are our saviours. Where would Mark be without them? It would take forever to find the perfect bone marrow match for Mark.

3

There is nothing more frightening than feeling helpless when your child is ill. Mark was bruising and bleeding and we could do nothing. Until now. Adding twins to our family and helping Mark...it's a win-win situation!

4

When I look at Mark, I think of those sleepless nights in hospital having to see him have powerful drugs pumped into him to suppress his immune system. It's a relief to see him so lively now.

5

Suzy has been so supportive to all the kids, but I do wonder what's going on in her head when she's so quiet. Guess that's teenagers for you.

6

IVF was very stressful with blood tests, daily injections and all, but my wife, Liz, and I would go through anything for the sake of our kids.



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Father, James



1

We always wanted a big family. I love babies, and having young children wanting me around. Suzy's grown older and doesn't seem to need me so much.

2

My husband and I wanted a designer baby.

3

Well, we needed another baby with the right genetic make-up, as our older child, Suzy wasn't a tissue match.

4

Our older son, Mark, suffers from aplastic anaemia.

5

Our new twins were selected embryos which were a match for their older brother. Blood from their umbilical cords was collected in case their brother gets ill. It is possible his condition could transform into acute leukaemia.

6

Seeing the twins grow, play and all...they are our kids too. Not spare parts at all. And they love their brother very much.



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Mother, Liz

