

SAMUEL'S STORY

When Samuel and his sister were babies they had suffered because they were not fed foods that kept them well-nourished. Sometimes they were not fed at all. When Samuel got into school, he was eager to participate and quick to learn, but he couldn't understand why the teacher marked his answers wrong.

Often the teacher would write an "S" or a "Z" and ask the students to copy it exactly. Samuel would look at it. His friend would look at it. They would both write exactly what they saw. Samuel's friend would write "S" and "Z". That was what he saw. Samuel would write "Z" and "S", that is what he saw.

One day the teacher wrote SAW on the chalk board and told the class to copy it. Samuel's friend looked at the word and copied it exactly as he read it: SAW. Samuel looked at the word and copied it exactly as he read it: ZAW.

The teacher gave Samuel's friend a smiley sticker and marked a big red 100% on the paper. The teacher gave Samuel a zero, or a failing grade, and made him stay in during recess. Samuel didn't understand. To him, his word looked exactly as the teacher's word looked.

Later, Samuel became a discipline problem and the class clown. It helped cover the hurt of what he perceived to be a teacher who didn't like him. Still later, Samuel was told by medical doctors he had dyslexia. It was also told that inadequate nutrition could have affected his eyesight.