SPIDER-MABLE
vs LEUKEMIA
I am from Edmonton, Alberta.

My favourite thing to do is to have lots of fun. I am usually running around, singing, dancing, swimming and looking for other kids to play with.

When I was four years old, I couldn’t wait to start kindergarten and make new friends. But after just two weeks at school, I found out I had leukemia, a type of blood cancer. I missed the whole year of kindergarten.

Even though leukemia made me really sick, I wasn’t going to let it stop me from having some fun.

Do you want to know how? Read on to find out.
Who’s Spider-Mable?

That’s because I helped to defeat an evil villain who captured a hockey player and wreaked havoc in our city.

I did this with help from the Edmonton police, city mayor and the entire community when they learned I was sick.

There were TV cameras and reporters that came to capture the action, too!

That was an unforgettable day.

Being Spider-Mable made me feel strong and courageous while I continued to fight leukemia.
Cancer happens when a cell starts making sick cells faster than healthy ones.

When cells in our blood divide and make sick cancer cells, this is called leukemia, a type of blood cancer.

This can happen in people of all ages and it rarely happens to kids. It cannot be prevented and luckily, it’s not contagious so other people cannot simply catch leukemia from someone who has it.
It's common for kids to get a blood cancer.  

Leukemia happens when:
1. A cell starts making sick cells slower than healthy ones.  
2. A child doesn’t behave.  
3. Cells in our blood divide and make sick cancer cells.  

Which one of these is a type of blood cancer?  
1. Melanoma  
2. Sarcoma  
3. Colon cancer  
4. Neuroblastoma  
5. Lung cancer  
6. Brain cancer  
7. Leukemia  

There are 3 types of blood cancers and related diseases.  

Answers: (A), (B), (C).
THE MAZE

Spider-Mable is on a mission to outsmart the villain and save the captured hockey player. To get there, she’ll need your help. Will you show her the way?
A symptom is a signal or a clue from your body when there is something wrong. Kids with leukemia may experience symptoms such as fatigue, pale skin, bleeding, weight loss or fever.

A side effect is a negative reaction to something, usually to medicine or treatment. Some side effects to treatment may include sore mouth, nausea, vomiting, muscle and joint pain. Kids can also lose their hair, but this doesn’t hurt, and their hair will grow back.
Find the symptoms and side effects to help Mable get better.

WORDS:
Bleeding
Bruising
Fatigue
Fever
Hairloss
Leukemia
Nausea
Symptom
Vomiting
Weight loss

Words go across, down, diagonally and backwards
Luckily, doctors know what to do when kids get leukemia. To treat my cancer, I was given a medicine called chemotherapy in three different forms: pills to swallow or a liquid that enters my body through a port or through a syringe.

Chemotherapy is a strong medicine that kills cancer cells and stops them from coming back.

There are 4 possible ways to treat leukemia.

Chemotherapy is a strong medicine that kills cancer cells and stops them from coming back.

Radiation therapy is a bit like high-energy laser beams that destroy cancer cells.

Immunotherapy helps your immune system find and get rid of cancer cells.

A bone marrow transplant replaces the cells damaged by the disease.
Leukemia affects the _______ in a person of any _______.

Doctors use _______________ to help a blood cancer patient get better.

A blood cancer can cause many different ___________.

Bone marrow transplant replaces all the cells damaged by cancer.

Radiation therapy is like high-energy laser beams that destroy cancer cells.

Cancer can affect how you feel; you can be ______ one day and ______ the next.

Hair loss can be a scary thing, but it does not ______ and hair will _______ back.

A ________ is a negative reaction to something, usually to medicine or treatment.

Thanks to research, there are many different types of __________ available to treat leukemia.
It took a whole team of medical experts to treat my leukemia.

Treating cancer is a team effort that usually begins with a pediatric oncologist who treats cancers in children. Nurses help to prepare the medicine and report back to the doctor on how the patient is doing. A social worker makes sure that kids in treatment can cope with how they are feeling, and other specialists can help different parts of their bodies recover after treatment.
It’s over when I say so!

I admire your courage, but I’m not going anywhere.
Emotions
FEELING BLUE

There were days when I felt sad, angry and completely alone.

I worried a lot and wondered why cancer had happened to me.

On other days, I felt hopeful and optimistic.

When I was feeling blue, I talked to my parents about it so they could report it to a nurse or doctor to make sure everything was okay.
### Multiple Choice Quiz

**Test Your Blood Cancer IQ**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. What is childhood leukemia?</strong></td>
<td>A. Cancer of the blood and bone marrow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. A condition when your body does not produce enough red blood cells</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. Another word for surgery</td>
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<td><strong>2. These are some of the possible treatments for leukemia.</strong></td>
<td>A. Chemotherapy and radiation therapy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. Immunotherapy and bone marrow transplant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. All of the above</td>
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<td><strong>3. This cancer specialist evaluates and treats kids with cancer.</strong></td>
<td>A. Physiotherapist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. Massage therapist</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>C. Pediatric oncologist</td>
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<td><strong>4. What is a symptom?</strong></td>
<td>A. Signal or clue from your body when something is wrong</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. Part of your leg that’s right below the knee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. Another word for headache</td>
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<td><strong>5. Some common symptoms of leukemia in children include...</strong></td>
<td>A. Being overly active and hyper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. Fatigue, lack of energy, weight loss, fevers or bruising</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Chicken pox</td>
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<td><strong>6. What is a side effect?</strong></td>
<td>A. Your body’s negative reaction to medicine or treatment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. The left side of your body</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. Dangerous chemical</td>
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<td><strong>7. Some common side effects of cancer treatment include...</strong></td>
<td>A. Headaches, dizziness and vision problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Toothaches and earaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Hair loss, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, muscle and joint pain</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Having leukemia was tough and I am lucky that I was able to beat it.

I love my parents for taking good care of me and for loving me even when I had a bad day.

Thank you to all the doctors and nurses for everything they did to make me better.

I am now cancer-free and I’m back to doing what I love most – being with friends at school and having lots of fun.
Find more information and resources about blood cancers

BLOODCANCERS.CA