

Boys Who Grew Up to Change the



Daniel Radcliffe

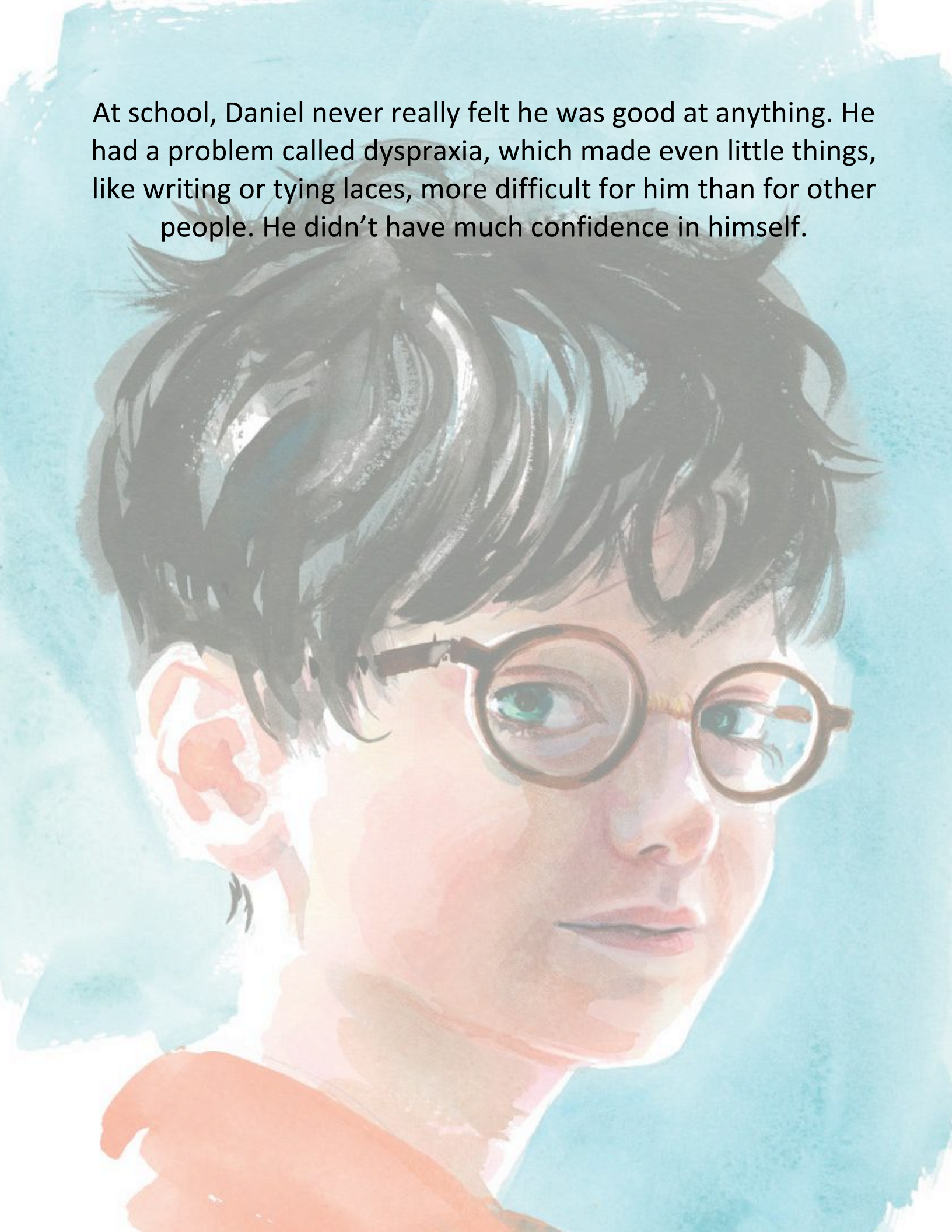


Daniel Tammet

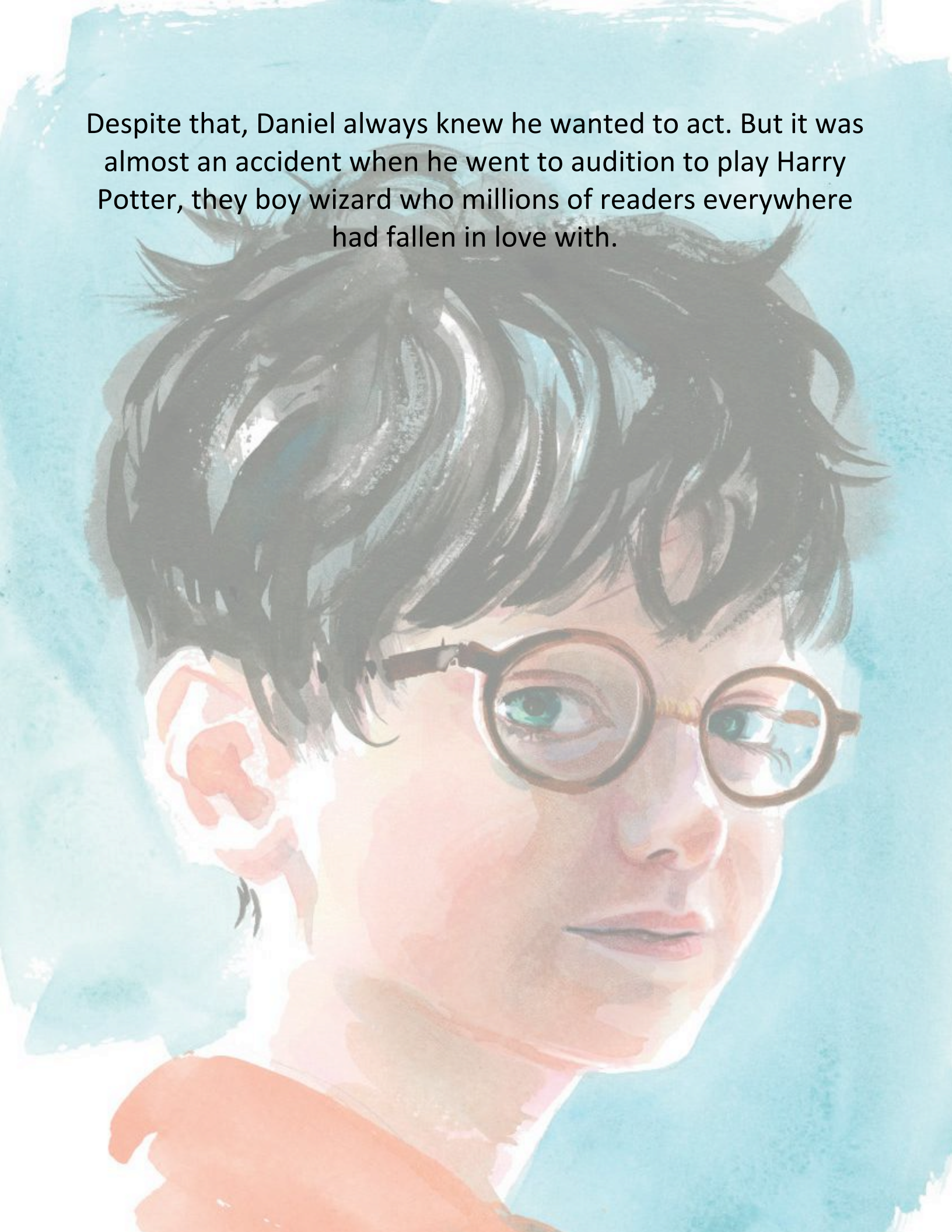
Daniel Radcliffe
(Born 1989)



At school, Daniel never really felt he was good at anything. He had a problem called dyspraxia, which made even little things, like writing or tying laces, more difficult for him than for other people. He didn't have much confidence in himself.



Despite that, Daniel always knew he wanted to act. But it was almost an accident when he went to audition to play Harry Potter, they boy wizard who millions of readers everywhere had fallen in love with.

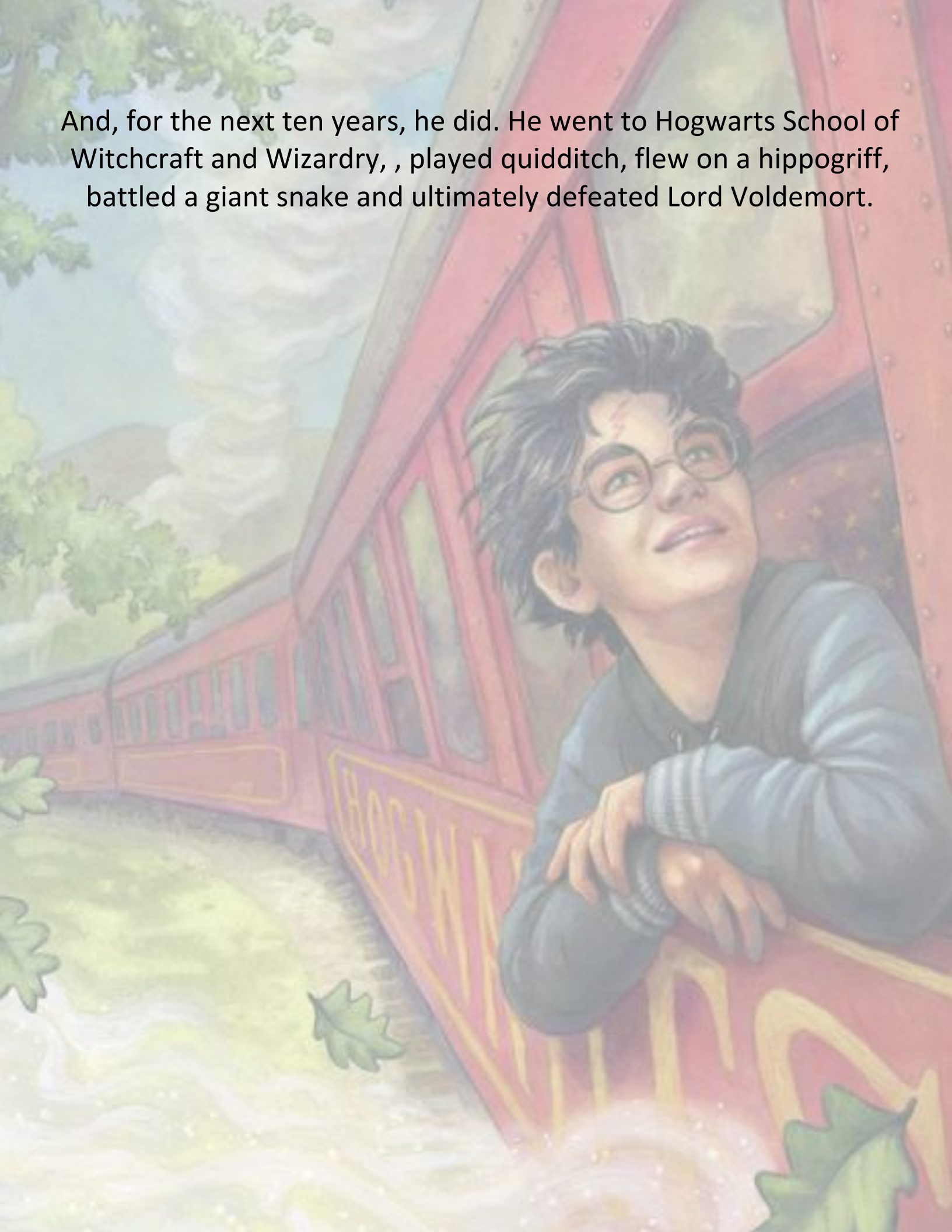


Daniel had wanted to give up acting completely when he was eleven. It was only because they couldn't find the right boy anywhere, that the director went and persuaded him to audition.

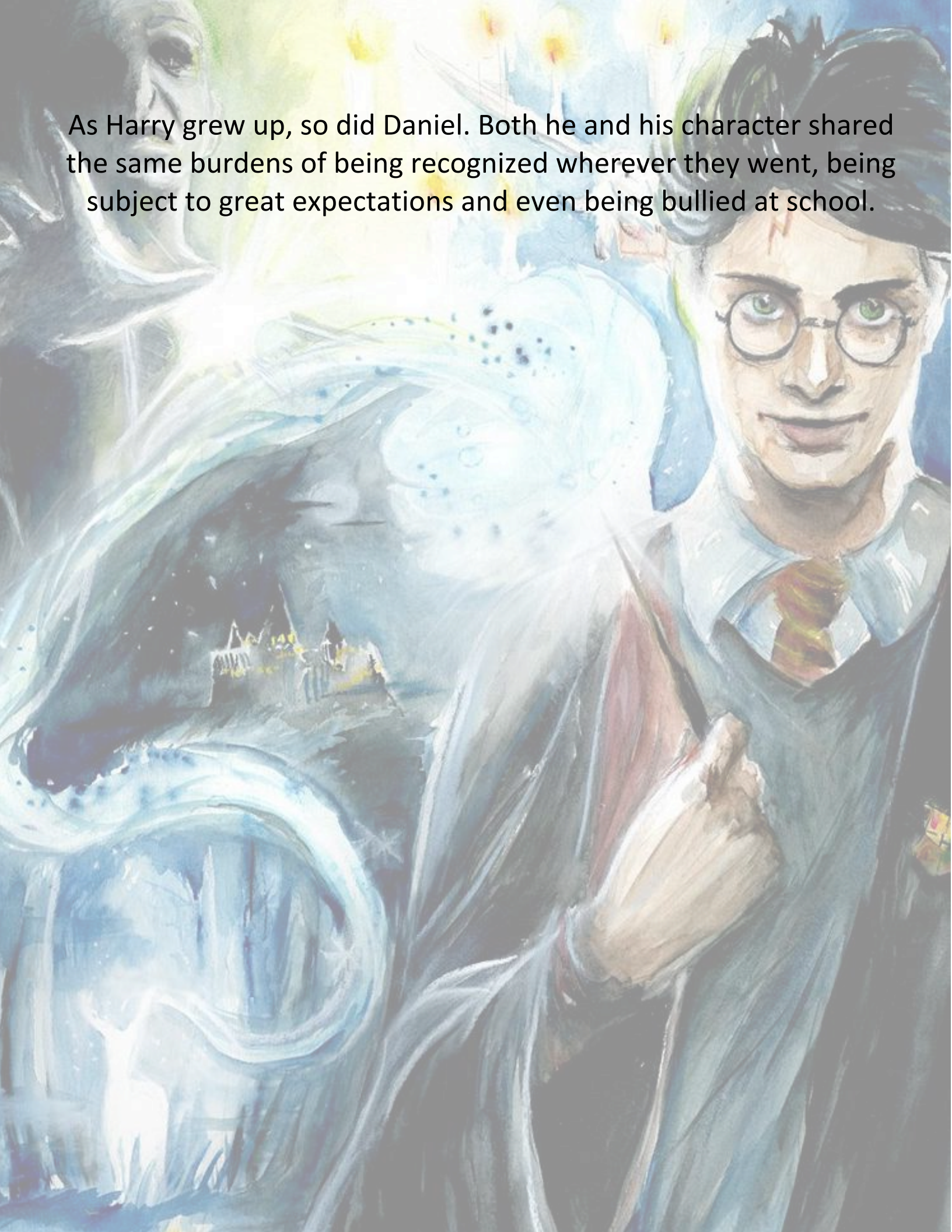
As soon as he walked into the room, everyone working on the film agreed; this boy must play Harry Potter.



And, for the next ten years, he did. He went to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, , played quidditch, flew on a hippogriff, battled a giant snake and ultimately defeated Lord Voldemort.



As Harry grew up, so did Daniel. Both he and his character shared the same burdens of being recognized wherever they went, being subject to great expectations and even being bullied at school.



Daniel's glad that he took the part in Harry Potter, not because it made him famous or rich, but because it meant he hadn't let the dyspraxia stop him from doing anything he wanted to. And now he has the chance to do good for others.



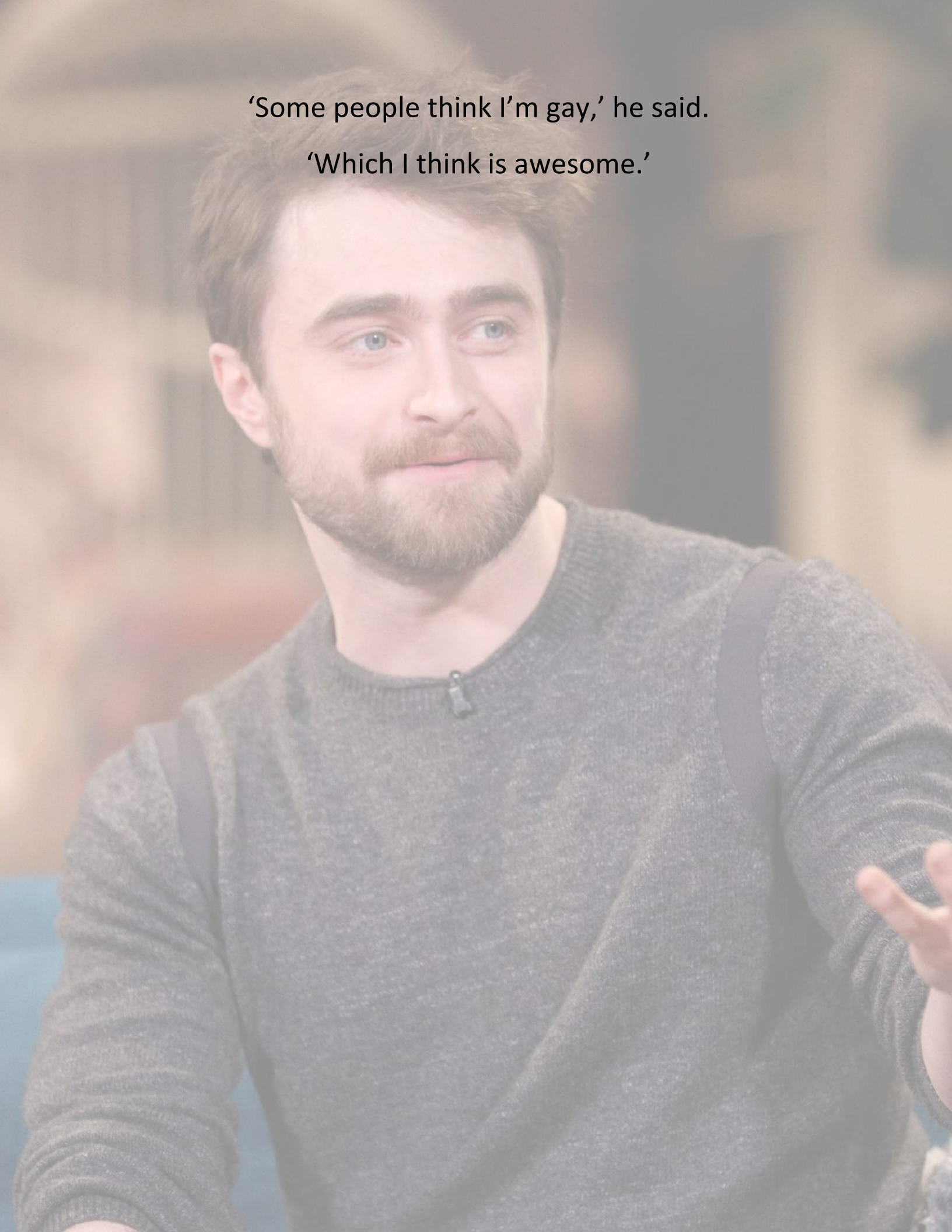
To help, he has supported the UK based charity Get Connected, now known as The Mix, which is a service for young people in need of advice.

Instead of buying him Christmas presents, he once asked fans to send money to a hospital for sick children. And, in the USA, he's worked in with The Trevor Project, a phone line that young LGBTQ people can call if they feel sad, alone or unsafe.



'Some people think I'm gay,' he said.

'Which I think is awesome.'



Daniel Tammet
(Born 1979)



As a baby, Daniel never stopped crying. He would bash his head against the wall until his mum picked him up and rocked him to sleep. No one knew what was wrong.



Then Daniel had an epileptic fit. Everyone was terrified because his grandfather had died of epilepsy. They thought his life was over.



Instead, it turned out that the fit had done something in Daniel's brain.

He first noticed it when his dad gave him a book about counting. Looking at the numbers, he saw more than just ones, twos and threes. He saw images for each number.



Images like crashing thunder or running water. Some numbers were lumpy, others were smooth. Some were loud and some were quiet.



As a joke, while they were playing, his brother asked him,
'What's $82 \times 82 \times 82 \times 82$?'

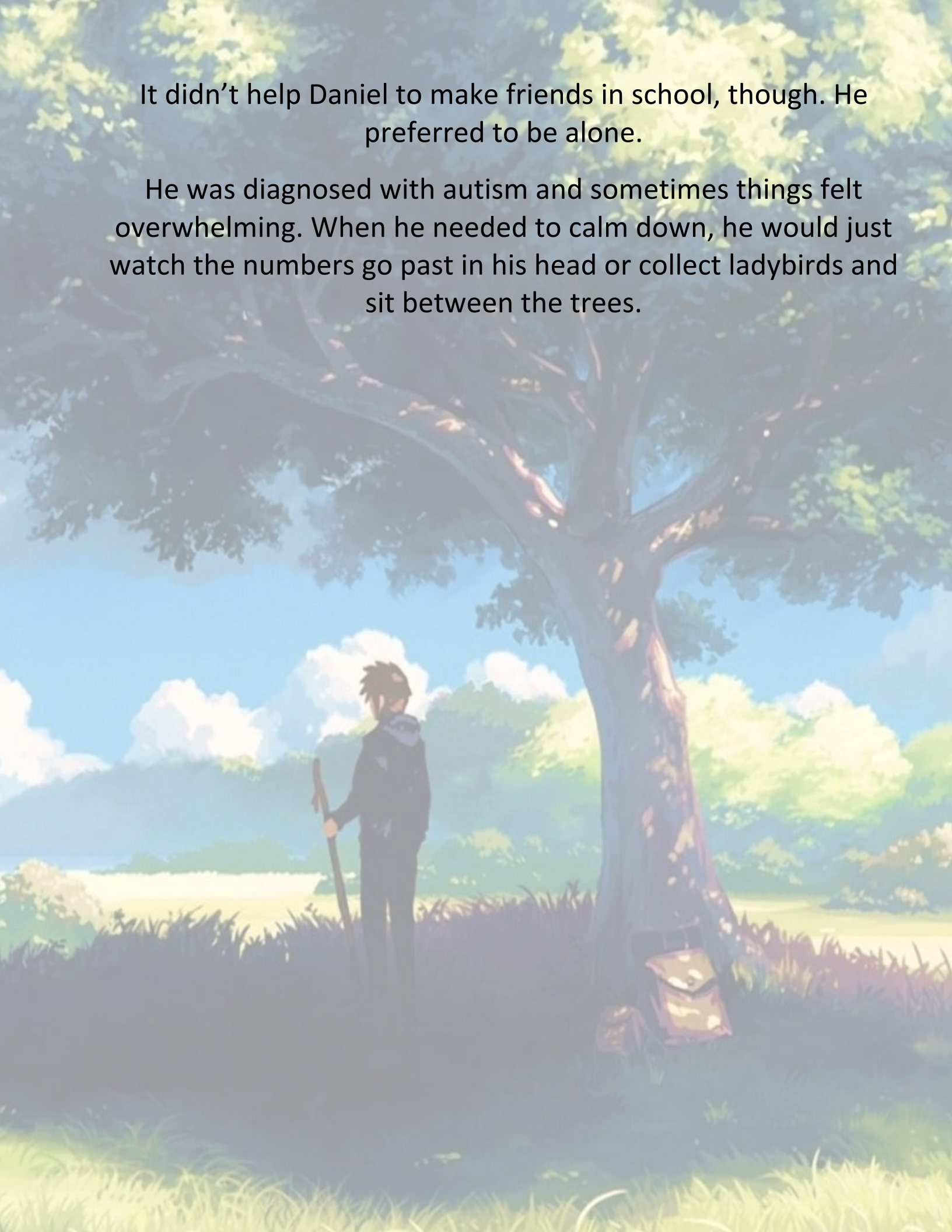
The images twirled and spun in Daniel's head.

'45,212,176,' Daniel said. And he was right.

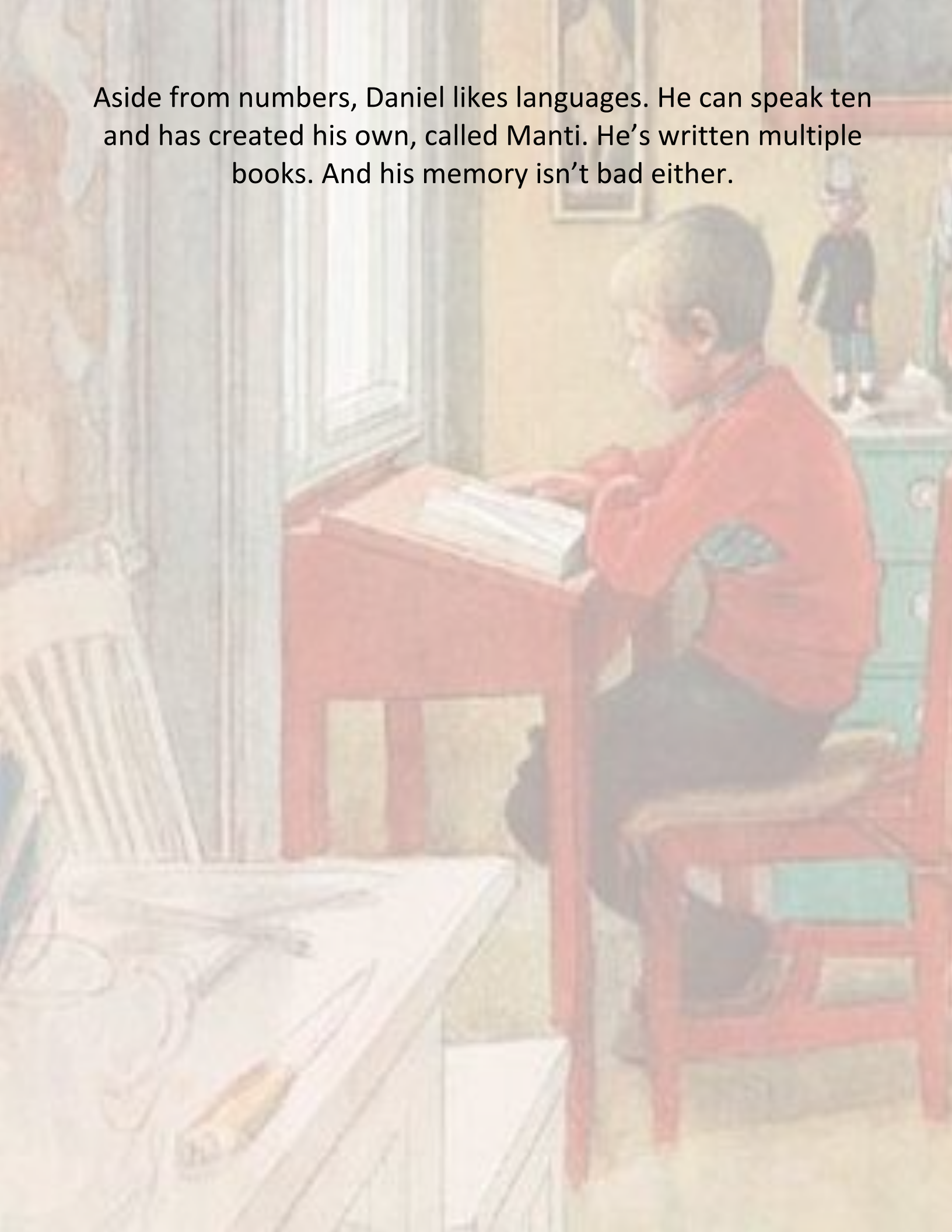


It didn't help Daniel to make friends in school, though. He preferred to be alone.

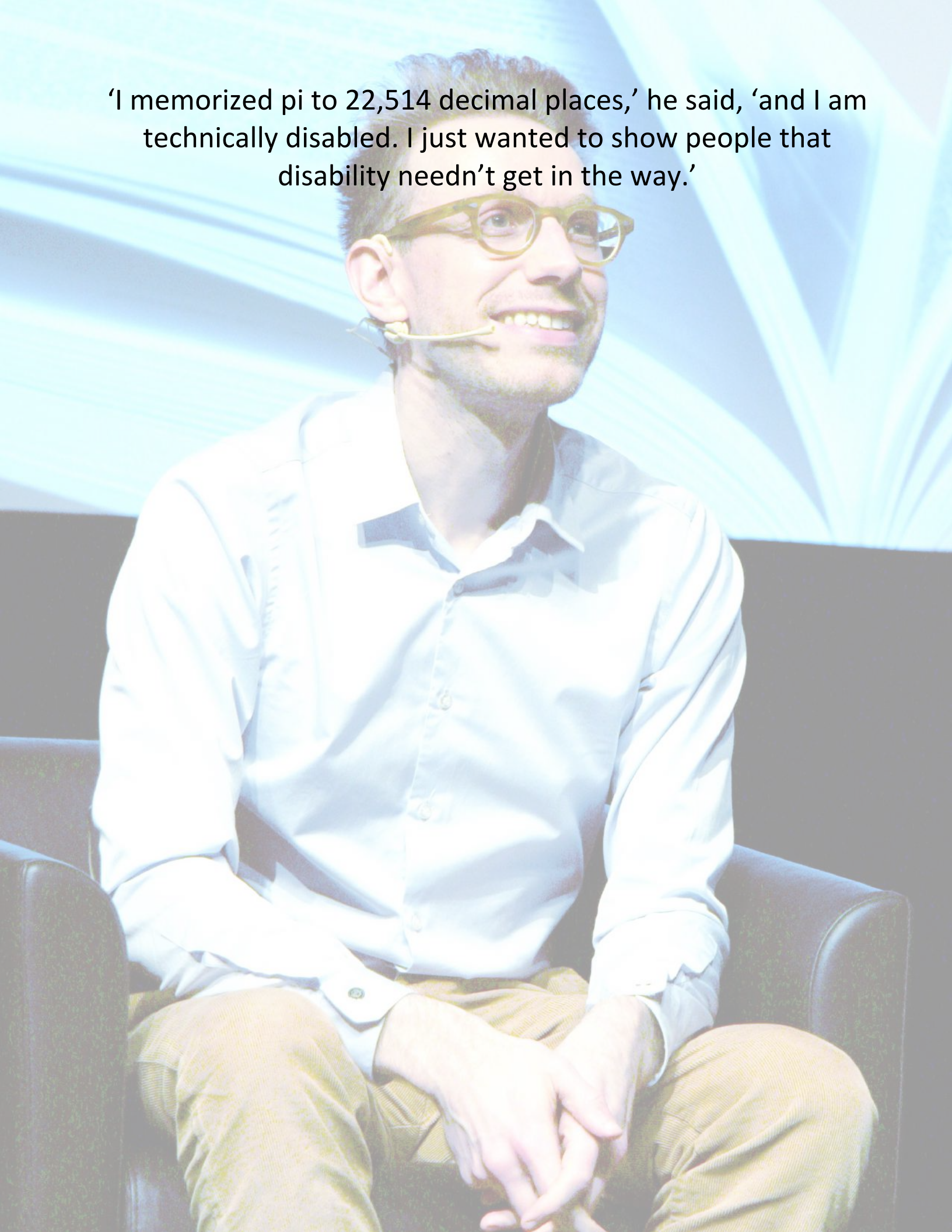
He was diagnosed with autism and sometimes things felt overwhelming. When he needed to calm down, he would just watch the numbers go past in his head or collect ladybirds and sit between the trees.



Aside from numbers, Daniel likes languages. He can speak ten and has created his own, called Manti. He's written multiple books. And his memory isn't bad either.



'I memorized pi to 22,514 decimal places,' he said, 'and I am technically disabled. I just wanted to show people that disability needn't get in the way.'





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