

## The Believer

By Sloan W.

### Chapter 1

Hi my name is Alley, I am ten years old. My mom, Lisa, stays at home and takes care of me, while my dad goes to work at the factory in town. I go to Black Jaguar Intermediate School. I don't have any friends at school or in my neighborhood, I'm guessing because of my clothes. My parents don't have much money so I don't have any clothes without holes in them.

So at school it's time for writing. I pull my black notebook out of my cubby and placed it on my desk. As I looked around I see that everyone had polka dot, star wars, and lots of other fun notebooks. I look back at my plain black one. The teacher says, "Everyone open your notebooks to the next blank page." I flip the pages of my notebook until I reach a blank page. "Then write about your favorite sport, it can be running, football, volleyball and lots of others." I raise my hand and ask, "could it be ice skating?" "Yes" she tells me.

I love ice skating! My parents were never able to sign me up for lessons. I started by writing. Hi my name is Alley, there are many sports out there but the one sport I love the most is ice skating. I would love to take lessons or maybe just try it one time but of course I can't because my parents can't buy lessons "umm", I whispered to myself as the bell rang. My teacher said "everyone please pack up while I talk to Alley." I walked out the door before my teacher and stopped beside the sign that said Mrs. Cay.

## Chapter 2

She was staring at me, it was quite scary! She told me about a writing contest with a 150.00 prize. She said I should enter the contest. I was surprised she thought that I could do a good job. All of my old teachers never seemed to like my writing. I told her I would think about it and go home to talk to my mom and dad.

My whole walk home I could not stop thinking about the contest. This could be my ticket to learning how to ice skate. I remembered the lessons cost 150.00. When I got home my mom was waiting for me. She said get your homework out and start working on it. I'm going outside to get carrots from the garden. Ever since my dad lost his oil field job we started growing our own vegetables. We had to save our money for rent.

While I was working on my math I told my mom about the contest. She said well that sounds like an amazing opportunity. I'm sure you could win. I told her the prize is 150.00. I know my family could use the money but I really wanted the ice skating lessons. I decided to sign up for the contest and I would worry about how to spend the money if I won. After I finished my homework I started writing and I was amazed how quickly I was able to decide on my choice of words.

My mom made me stop and take a shower but I started right back after. I had to take another break to eat dinner. I then wrote until my fingers hurt and I fell asleep.

## Chapter 3

The next morning my mom woke me up I was still at my desk. I quickly got ready for school and my mom handed me my sack lunch. I was on my way to school and felt so excited to share my story with Mrs. Cay. I quickly walked to my classroom. I showed Mrs. Cay my story and she seemed to love it but had some ideas on how

to improve the story. This process went on for a week until I was finally certain I was ready to submit my story for the contest.

I rushed up to Mrs. Cay's desk just as Melissa, the coolest girl in school, was also turning her story in. I began to lose confidence that I might not win, as Melissa glared at me.

I spent the next week so nervous I couldn't even eat. Today's the day they would announce the winner. I gathered my stuff and slowly walked to school. I was so nervous I felt sick. I even tried to convince my mom I couldn't go to school. I couldn't even pay attention in class. Mrs. Cay said "Now students you were all wonderful in creating fabulous stories, but we could only pick one winner". As she looked around the room and opened the paper with the results written on it. I couldn't breathe. She said "and the winner is .....Alley!!" I almost didn't hear her from the beating of my heart in my ears. I stood up and looked around the room. Everyone was staring at me especially Melissa with her glare.

That day I ran home as fast as I could. I busted through the front door and screamed for my mom. She came running worried I was hurt but realized I was just so excited that I won. Now I can finally get those ice skating lessons. My mother was so proud. I went to my room and started thinking about how much my family could really use the money. That night at dinner I made an announcement to my parents. I told them I decided to use the money to help the family. My parents were so touched and proud of me, they had tears in their eyes.

Little did I know that the judge of the contest was one of my favorite writers and he asked if he could mentor me. I spent years studying with him and eventually became a famous author and was able to take care of my family. I even got those ice skating lessons after all.