

## Aboudi's Wish Story



Seven year old Aboudi is very outgoing and makes friends easily. His friends are very protective of him, and are quick to defend him if anyone teases him about his physical limitations. After one of his many surgeries, the nurses did not want him to leave the hospital as he brought such a positive energy to the ward, and was constantly making everyone laugh.

At a very young age, Aboudi was diagnosed with scoliosis, so a life with physical limitations is all he has ever known. As a result of his condition, he has metal rods in his back to mitigate the extensive curvature of his spine. His Mom, Zubaidah, says that Aboudi's condition seems to be harder on her than him, as he always has a smile on his face, even after surgery.

Despite his positive outlook, Aboudi has a hard time understanding why he cannot participate in certain activities like running, and hates being left out. It hurts him when people laugh at him when he is not allowed to participate in gym activities with his friends, but finds other ways to be involved, such as helping his teacher. He is also helpful at home, helping his Mom cook and bake. He also helps by entertaining friends and family with impromptu music and dance performances!

Aboudi's wish was for a Disney cruise with his Mom and Dad. He really wanted to visit Disneyland but because of the rods in his back, he would be unable to go on any of the rides. The Disney cruise allowed him to meet all of his favorite characters and hang out with them for a whole week!

