Marvelous Marleigh

By Ruth I Hoffman & Marie-Dominique Verdier
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Hi!

My name is Marleigh.
My grandpa says I’m marvelous.

Are you marvelous too?
My doctor says I have cancer.

I go to the hospital a lot.
My doctor peeks in my ears.

Look at me hold still like a statue.
He looks in my mouth.

Look at me open wide like a hippo!
My nurse checks my blood pressure.

The cuff gives my arm a little hug.
She checks my temperature.

I hold the thermometer under my tongue.
I get weighed and measured.

I think I’m bigger today.
It’s time to check my oxygen.

Look at my finger glow.
The stethoscope listens to my heart.

It goes thump, thump like a drum.
After each test I get a Hero bead.

They remind me how brave I am.
Sometimes my mommy helps too.

I hold still for my finger poke.
I count to 5, then say, “Go!”

1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Done!
These are my tubies.

I call them Miss Blue and Miss Red.
Medicine goes in my tubies.

The medicine is to fight my cancer.
I take medicine in my mouth too.

I keep the syringes for later.
I like to play doctor.

My baby holds still just like me.
Sometimes I play on my hospital bed.

I like to make pictures for my friends.
Sometimes I play in the playroom.

There are lots of toys to have fun.
My animals come to the hospital.

I love to cuddle with them there.
Sometimes I feel sleepy and sick.

My stuffed animals sleep with me too.
I wash my hands carefully.

This helps keep the germs away.
I wear a mask when my counts are low.

Cozy the Port-a-Cat wears one too.
The medicine makes my hair go away.

My head is soft and tickley to touch.
I wear lots of hats.

They help keep my head warm.
My daddy always makes me giggle.

I love you daddy!
My mommy always makes me smile.

I love you mommy!
Aren’t I...

...marvelous?
Look at you!

You’re marvelous too!