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Well hi there kids. I've been waiting for you. Welcome back to Miss Robins place where "Different isn't bad" and kids can be themselves. This is a podcast just for you!

If you haven't met Stubby the cat go back and listen from the beginning. That way you'll find out just how different Stubby is and how much he is loved.

In today's original story Stubby faces some of his biggest fears as he accepts the help and comfort of two very special friends.

So now join me as we discover what keeps Stubby stuck in fear and who helps him feel safe again in the rainy dreary day.

Ready, Set, Here we go!

**The Rainy Dreary Day by Robin Marie Johnson**

The rain was pouring so hard Stubby thought it might never stop!

Shivering as he ran for shelter under the red car, Stubby was AFRAID.

BANG! CRACK! Stubby jumped. Thunder and lightning always scared him!

"I wish I was with my family," Stubby cried.

But they were nowhere around. All of them had scattered when they saw the big dark clouds gathering in the sky.

Mama had warned them but Stubby didn't always listen to mama!

Big BIG puddles filled the yard and the sky was lighting up like a Christmas tree!

Shaking and cold Stubby thought about his brothers and sisters all cuddled together in the shelter of the garden shed, with mama watching over them.

He could almost feel the soft blankets folding around him and smell the sweet scent of wet wood chips..

"Why didn't I listen to mama ?" Stubby cried

Stubby was unable to move. Unable to reach those he loved.

A dark gloomy cloud settled over Stubby's head as he rubbed his little stump leg against the shiny red car where he now found himself ALONE!

"I wish I had four legs so I could run fast, maybe then I won't be so afraid. I don't like being different." Stubby complained

But Stubby knew in his heart that he was different for a reason.

"You are Brave, you are kind and you are different Stubby, and different isn't bad it's just different." Stubby could hear his mama's voice, almost as if she were next to him.

"Don't be afraid, I'm here with you?"

It wasn't his mama at all, it was his sister Princess.

A smile came to Stubby's face. A smile that hadn't been there since this rainy dreary day started.

Looking into his sister's eyes, Stubby knew everything would be alright.

"Follow me." Princess said. I will keep you safe."

But I'm afraid" Stubby shouted as another loud BANG of thunder filled the yard!

"Stubby" Princess leaned close. "Storms aren't a bad thing."

Stubbies little cropped ear perked up as if to say "I'm listening"

"Look at how the ground soaks up the water." Princess continued. "It is as if someone knew the trees and bushes were thirsty. Rain does not have to be scary, it brings fresh water to the yard and helps things grow"

"But I am wet and cold, and the thunder is loud" Stubby replied

"You both look as if you could use a dry place to hide under"

Stubby and Princess turned towards the booming voice coming from high above them.

It was the big Oak tree, the one whose shade had covered their family during the hot summer months.

“I can be a resting place until you reach the safety of the shed” The Oak tree declared.

Knowing that Princess was by his side and the big Oak tree would protect them both, Stubby decided not to let the loud clanging of the clouds and flashing in the sky keep him away from his family.

“Let’s be brave together,” Stubby said as Princess turned towards him/

“ I promise to stay with you all the way Stubby.” she replied

Stopping halfway to rest under the big oak tree Stubby knew in his heart they would make it to the other side because:

Princess had been brave enough to venture out into the storm and find him.  
The Oak tree had been kind enough to provide shelter for them both.  
And Stubby? Well he had been different enough to accept their help.

Joining their family in the shed, Stubby could hear the purrs of his siblings and feel the warmth of his mama as she rested her head next to his.

Stubby was finally home!

Ok kids, it’s pop a question time. Pause the podcast after each question and talk about it with someone you love and trust.

1. What are some things you’re afraid of?
2. Who has helped you get over your fears?
3. What things can you do that will help you be brave?
4. How can you help someone else get over their fears?

Thank you for sharing your time with me. These short children's stories were meant to feel like the old time "Sit around the Radio" broadcast that were so popular during turbulent times in our past. It's a place my heart often yearns to return to. A place where families gathered together, listening to stories that made them laugh and cry! It was a simpler time.

So If you enjoyed this episode and want to hear more about the adventures of Stubby the cat, be looking for them every Friday. There you can sit down, connect and make a difference in the life of your child.

As always you can find me Miss Robin in many places. On Instagram, Facebook and my website at [www.robinmarie.org](http://www.robinmarie.org) where you will find all my podcasts with show notes for our listening impair friends.

I'd love to hear YOUR stories so again visit my website at [www.robinmarie.org](http://www.robinmarie.org) and share them with me.

There's a resource page full of things for families to look at and for families to do.

That's all for now.