

# PAULIE THE PLATELET

You won't believe that every day, within your body, there are billions of cells. These cells have special training and jobs to help keep your body alive and healthy.

Ok... maybe that part isn't THAT unbelievable, but, did you know that these specialized cells live together in a society much like ours?

Let's get to know some of these cells!

First there's Rico...a red blood cell. He works to deliver goods and supplies to each household in the community. He also takes away the garbage that isn't needed and is taking up space.



Waneta is a white blood cell. She is fierce and fights off the invaders that try to take over and damage the community. She and her friends are protectors.

Both Rico and Waneta's groups of friends are welcome and respected in the community. These two groups also get along well with one another.

Now we can't forget about Paulie, a platelet... even though most people in this community do. Paulie is short and not very strong and the community isn't really sure what he does every day.



Paulie feels this too. He floats around, without a purpose, and sometimes feels very sad. Paulie thinks that he should try to find his place. So one day he tries to join Rico on his deliveries.

This did not go well. Paulie falls behind very quickly because of his short legs and can't carry as much as Rico, who has lots of muscles.

The next day Paulie asks Waneta if he can join her for the day. Once again, this did not go well. Paulie soon realized that he wasn't

brave enough to fight alongside Waneta because he was too scared to join in the battle.

On the third day Paulie saw Waneta and Rico on their lunch break and went to sit with them. They ignored Paulie and acted like he wasn't even there.

This made Paulie even more sad. He couldn't find his place in the community and was lost. He also wanted to feel accepted by the others and be useful to the community like they are.

Paulie's only talent is knitting but he does so in secret because he is afraid that the others will pick on him even more. He knows that this isn't the 'coolest' talent and he already feels pretty uncool.

Things continue on like this until one day there is a huge alarm. This alarm has never gone off before and the community members all run to the town square.

No one knows what is exactly happening but it seems like their human has sprung a leak. The ground is cracking and the buildings start to crumble. It seems like there is a black hole that is absorbing both the buildings and the members of the community.

The remaining members of the community join together to come up with a solution. First Rico tries to plug the leak with bricks and pieces of wood, but no matter how fast he places these pieces, the leak continues. Waneta then tries to fight the leak but can't even find an enemy to destroy and is almost sucked into the black hole herself.

Paulie, sitting on the sidelines, thinks that he may have an idea but is scared to be laughed at. Quietly, he summons all of his courage and addresses the group. He explains his knitting and how this might be able to help stop the leak. Only Phoebe, Park and Padma seem to listen to him. Although they have not met Paulie before today, they immediately feel a connection with him. They have also felt a little like outcasts because they aren't like Rico and Waneta.

Together, they start knitting a web to cover the leak. They complete the web quickly and start to place it over the leak. The rest of the community watches as the leak begins to slow down. The area under the web becomes sticky and eventually hardens into a new road.

Everyone looks to these surprising four in awe and really sees them for the first time. They didn't realize how amazing and useful they were until this very moment. Rico, even with his strength and work ethic, wasn't able to plug the leak. Waneta, with all her courage and fighting ability, couldn't conquer the leak. Paulie and his new friends were able to use their different talents to save their community.

On this day, the community learned that differences are necessary and no longer excluded certain members for being different. Paulie and his friends found new confidence in themselves and no longer hid their differences but celebrated them.

THE END

Picture sources:

Rico: <https://depositphotos.com/58947181/stock-photo-red-blood-cell-mascot.html>

Waneta: <https://www.canstockphoto.ca/white-blood-cell-mascot-20964991.html>

Paulie: hand drawn

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