

## **IF I COULD EVENT SOMETHING NEW.**

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Early on a Saturday morning, my mum's phone kept buzzing while she was still asleep. I ran to pick the call and was joyful to hear my aunt from the Switzerland's voice. After exchanging greetings, she requested to speak with my mum. Few minutes later, my mum called to break a great news- my cousin Jayden will be traveling to Nigeria to spend some days with us! I haven't met her before and she barely speaks when we call. The excitement welled up within me and I began to prepare to receive her by decorating my room as well as making a list of games, movies and places she will be glad to see.

The day finally arrived! The doorbell rang, I was over the moon and I ran to open the door. My mum and her sister were filled with tears of joy. I embraced Jayden and quickly took her to my room. I did not realize her reservation but just kept showing her different colourful drawings, I presumed she will love. Few hours later, my aunt said goodbye and left for a while.

Jayden stood at the corner of the room and barely said a word. Nothing I did interested her. Could she be shy? I pondered. I felt so disappointed because I planned a long list of activities for us. I expected so much fun, but all I got was silent and reserved cousin. I became so bothered about her character and started charging a lot of questions at my mum.

My mother pulled me aside to tell me that Jayden is autistic and her character is due to the disease. Hearing this word "autism" for the first time, I became curious and started asking many questions from my mum. I couldn't just understand why someone will be so reserved. My quest for more knowledge brought about the disappointment that there is no cure yet for autism and it can only be managed. I came to realise this condition is on an increase and many homes are stressed from having autistic kids. As I watched my helpless cousin, I became ignited and asked aloud, can't I be the inventor of a drug or machine to cure autism? Can this drug just like antimalarial that cures malaria also be invented by me and be named antiautistic?

I have been studying about autism which is a neurodevelopmental condition with lifelong effects, characterised with difficulties with social interaction, repetitive pattern of thoughts and behaviour that clearly explains why Jayden chose to be reserved and throw tantrums at the dining table. I know what will be required for its cure is a drug that can halt this brain dysfunction and regenerate the damaged brain cells. How pleasant it will be, to be an inventor of autistic drug that will normalize my dear cousin, as well as many other autistic children all over the world.