**Max, the Jumping Flea**

Once upon a time, there was a little flea whose name was Max. He had many older and younger brethren, but none of them could jump close to the height he could. Every few days, he would jump out into the world; out of the shoebox where he and his relatives lived. When he came back, usually with numerous injuries, he was scolded and laughed at.

His worried mother put a cover on the shoebox. Max tried to jump high, but he hurt himself over and over. He found out that he couldn’t get to the outside world anymore and he was very sad. Soon he learned not to jump high, so that he wouldn’t hit his head and hurt himself. Finally, his mother removed the cover, but Max had forgotten the outside world and would not jump high.

One day, there was a Jumping Olympics for all fleas. Some remembered Max’s jumping abilities and tried to get him to jump, but his abilities were just not there. He tried very hard to get out of the shoebox, but he just couldn’t. Those who used to snicker at the injured Max now where disappointed very much. ‘Oh well, he couldn’t jump that high anyway.’

Finally, an invisible stranger came. He put invisible stools and books and chairs under Max. Max was still jumping low, but with all the boosts, it was comparatively high. He could see the world again! With a turbulent bright flash max remembered the world. His spirit soared and he jumped five times higher than he had ever jumped and won the Jumping Olympics with a titanic effort.

*Written by a nine-year-old profoundly gifted boy. In: Linda Silverman, Gifted 101, Springer PC, 2013.*