Pine Cones

by Malia
Jack was a boy who loved pine cones and had an abnormally large collection of them. One day, Jack’s mom told him that it was time for him to start Kindergarten and he worried that he wouldn’t make friends. He knew that “normal” people don’t have pine cones and he didn’t want to be labeled a “weirdo”.
The night before the first day of school, Jack went to his room. His mother tucked him in and he was extremely nervous for what the next day might bring. Jack heard a loud crash. He looked around and noticed that his pine cone collection had moved near an open window inside his room. The pine cones jumped out of the window and waddled across the lawn like penguins; away from his house and towards the woods. He was curious to see where they were going and followed them.
The pinecones didn't notice he was following them. They arrived at a meeting with thousands of pinecones. They were all trembling and scared. The leader explained that powerful storms arrive every 500 years and that during the first storm a brave pine cone opened up and released his seeds to try to blow away the storm. However, he was badly hurt. He suggested they should stay closed to protect themselves from the storm, as they always had.
One little cone suggested that if they all opened up together. Their combined seed dispersal could stop the storm for good! "That is not normal for us!" shouted another cone. The leader said it was too risky, and the little cone was embarrassed. Jack felt bad. He realized that being "normal" wasn't always the best solution.
Jack stood up for the little cone and explained that the plan would work if they wouldn’t be afraid to act differently. They listened to him. They dispersed their seeds together and they defeated the storm for good! Jack opened his eyes. It was a dream! It was a dream that gave him the courage to face his first day of school without the fear of being different.