

The Frozen Map

(Teacher-Read Narrative — safe for 12–13 years)

Sam's Story — A Future Waiting for Its Next Chapter

Sam, Age 13 — Life in Pause Mode

Sam is thirteen.

He loves soccer — proper soccer. The kind where he's sprinting down the wing, calling to his teammates, imagining himself scoring the winning goal in a championship game.

He's also the type of kid who always has a sketchbook nearby.

His drawings are full of stadiums, jerseys, team logos, and comic-style mascots. His future felt big, colourful, and full of movement.

But right now, Sam's future has slowed to a stop.

Why?

Sam has severe heart failure.

His heart isn't strong enough to pump blood on its own, so he's connected to a special machine in the ICU that does the job for him — safely and steadily.

It means Sam:

- can't leave his room
- can't go to school
- can't hang out with his friends
- can't run, jump, or play soccer
- can't join in the things that used to fill his days

He isn't in danger every second — the machines and nurses are keeping him stable and safe — but his life is paused.

His world is now one room, one bed, and one window.



The Frozen Map

Sam's Frozen Map

When Sam looks at his old Future Map, he sees:

- the soccer tournament he was training for
- the science project he planned with his best friend
- the family trip to the coast
- the weekend sleepovers
- the skatepark afternoons
- the dreams he'd sketched in pencil and colour

Now, those parts of his map are frozen.

Not erased.

Not gone.

Just waiting.

What Sam Hopes For

Sam is waiting for a donor heart — a heart strong enough to give him energy again, movement again, freedom again.

A new heart would mean:

- walking outside for the first time in months
- attending school in person
- laughing with his friends instead of texting them
- playing soccer again — maybe slowly at first, then faster, then as fast as he dreams
- a future that starts unfolding again, chapter by chapter

Sam doesn't want to be famous or heroic.

He just wants his Hourglass to turn over, so time can start flowing forward again.

He wants his map to unfreeze — and to start living, not just waiting.

