



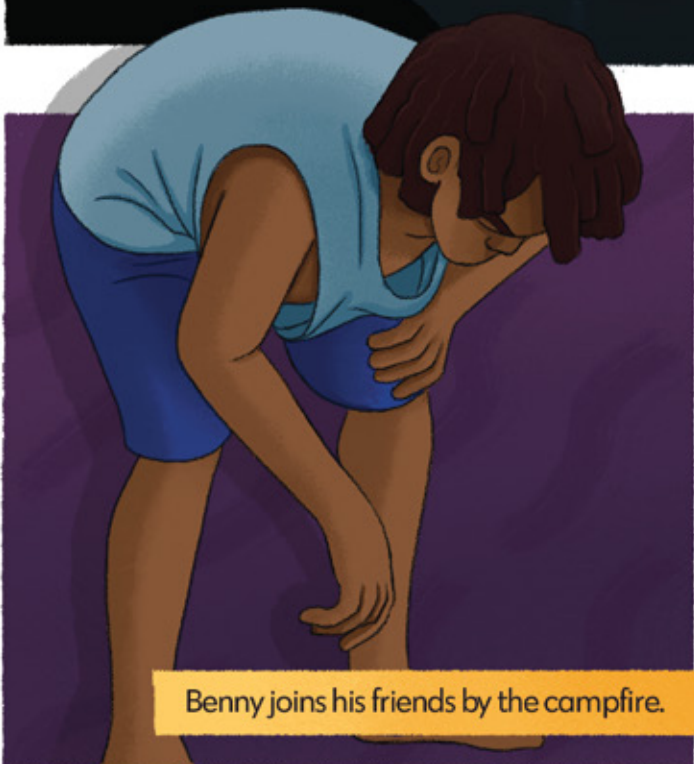
# NOTHIN' DEADLY

ABOUT A SORE THROAT

BE SMART  
PROTECT YOUR  
HEART



Benny! Where have you been? I heard you have been crook with Rheumatic Fever?



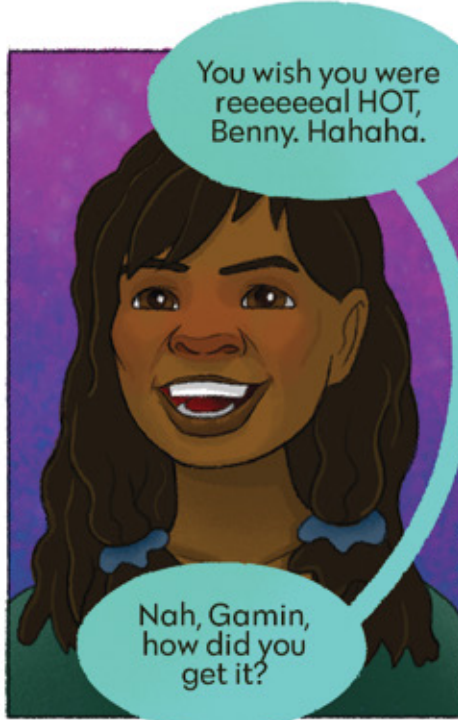
Benny joins his friends by the campfire.



You right now?



Yeah, much better now. I got real sick and real hot.



You wish you were reeeeeeeal HOT, Benny. Hahaha.

Nah, Gamin, how did you get it?



Hahaha...

Well, it all started two weeks back...



Out fishing, a few weeks earlier.

I was out fishing and crabbing with Thomas and I noticed I had a sore, scratchie throat.



Get anything?

Yeah, plenty. I am too deadly at fishing!

PFFFT, Gamin, bro. You'd be flat out catching a cold. Hahaha...



Ha  
Ha  
Ha

Haha. Too deadly. Big feed tonight.

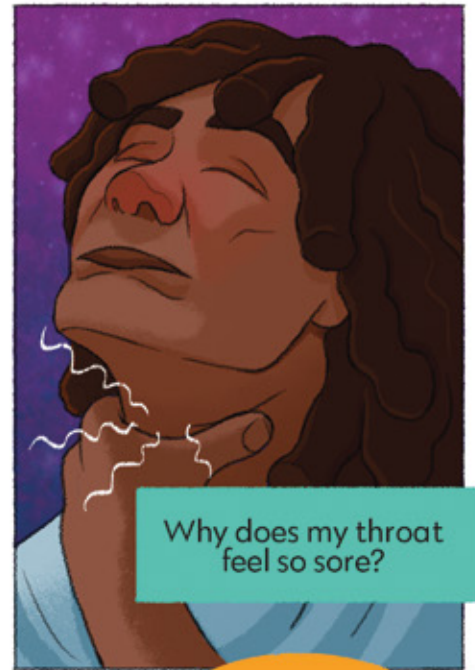
Back home after a day of fishing.



You right, Benny?  
You got a sore  
throat, ey?

Yeah!  
Might finally stop  
you from talking,  
bro. Hahaha...

Hahaha, Yeah,  
Aunty May  
thinks it's just a  
sore throat.



Why does my throat  
feel so sore?

Go doctors,  
Benny. Get it  
looked at.

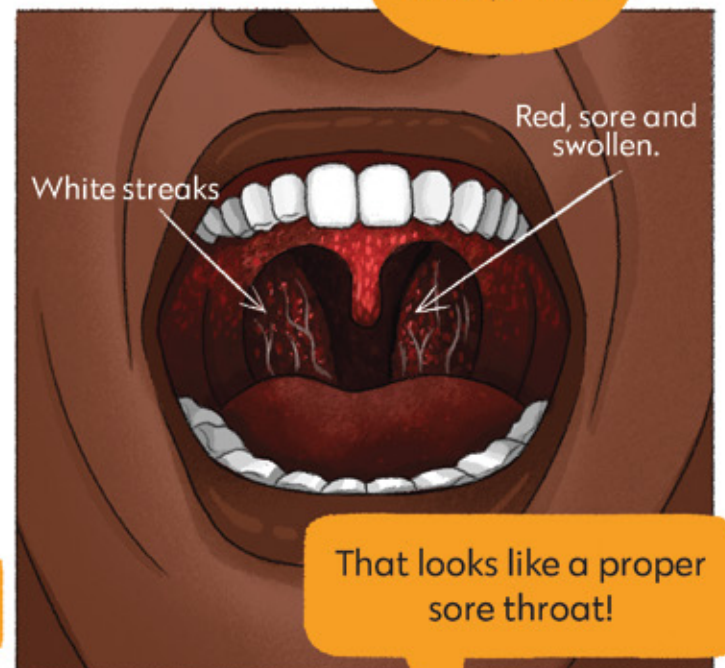


Yeah, I will.

The Next day at the doctors.



I went to the doctors. They checked  
my throat and gave me tablets.



Red, sore and  
swollen.

White streaks

That looks like a proper  
sore throat!

A sore throat can cause Rheumatic Fever!

Benny, you have a bad strep throat infection. You need to take all of these tablets like it says on the bottle. This will kill the strep germ completely, and will make sure you don't get Rheumatic Fever.



But I never finished taking them...



Bennnyyyy, why?!



Because I felt better, but I didn't know the germs were not all out of my body yet.



A few weeks later I got sick. My joints were very sore, and I was very hot. I couldn't do anything.



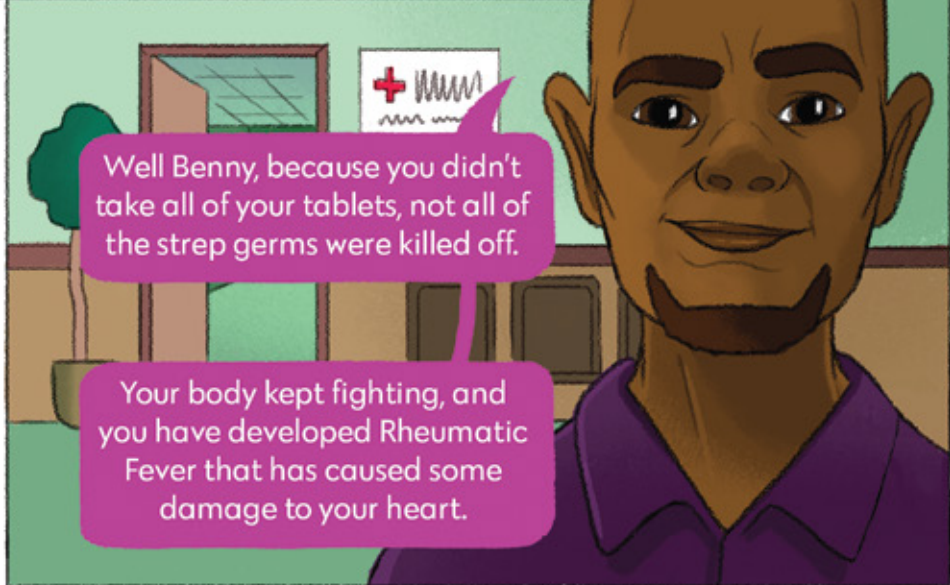


I called Aunty who took me to the health clinic.



When I got there, the doctor did some tests and did not have good news.

Rheumatic Fever can damage your heart!



Well Benny, because you didn't take all of your tablets, not all of the strep germs were killed off.

Your body kept fighting, and you have developed Rheumatic Fever that has caused some damage to your heart.



The valves of Benny's heart are now swollen and scarred making it a little harder for the blood to flow.

you will now need to have Bicillin injections every 21 to 28 days for at least 10 years to protect your body from the strep germ.

If you don't have your injection on time, you might get Rheumatic Fever again. This means your heart will get more damage, called Rheumatic Heart Disease. If you keep getting rheumatic fever your heart can get so sick you need surgery and some people can die.



Rheumatic Heart Disease can kill young people.



So guys, if you get a sore throat or sores on your body, make sure to go and get it checked, otherwise the same could happen to you.



Hey! You still sick? Can you give it to us?

Nah, I'm all good now.

How can we make sure we don't get Rheumatic Fever?

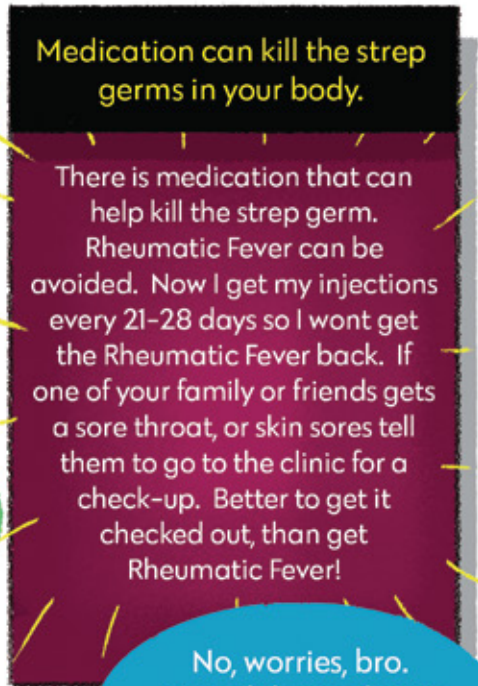


A clean body is a strong body.

The Doctor said to keep ourselves and our houses clean to reduce the Strep Germ.

Shower every day, wash your clothes regularly and brush your teeth twice a day. The strep germ in skin sores and sore throats can cause Rheumatic Fever.

Look after yourself, look after your family.



**Medication can kill the strep germs in your body.**

There is medication that can help kill the strep germ. Rheumatic Fever can be avoided. Now I get my injections every 21-28 days so I won't get the Rheumatic Fever back. If one of your family or friends gets a sore throat, or skin sores tell them to go to the clinic for a check-up. Better to get it checked out, than get Rheumatic Fever!

No, worries, bro. Us mob have always been good at cooking a good feed...



Food's ready. Come eat!

And it's good to eat healthy food.



I'm glad you are feeling better Benny, us mob can help remind you to get your needles on time to keep you well!

**THE END**



For more information contact

**Rheumatic Heart Disease Register and Control Program QLD**

Phone **1300 135 854** or email [ArfRhdRegister@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ArfRhdRegister@health.qld.gov.au)