Sickle cell disease

I am the gene that directs the production of the beta globin part of hemoglobin. But I have a defect. Somehow, I don’t do it right. Shouldn’t be too much of a problem, right? Dead wrong.

Both of this body’s parents had sickle cell trait. I know that’s harmless. But I’m different. They both produced beta globin right. But the combination of two sickle cell traits apparently didn’t go well, so here I am.

Since it was a baby, this body has had problems because of me. Dactylitis (swollen hands & feet), fatigue, jaundice, icteris (whites of the eyes turning yellowish), and that’s just the first few years of its life. Now, in addition to those, it has acute pain crises (usually in the lower back), chronic pain (which is somehow different from acute pain crises), and to top it all off, gallstones.

Despite all that, my body lives a fairly normal life. It goes to work, and generally goes about its drudgery just like everyone else.

Bibliography

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/stories.html>

[https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sca/signshttps://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sca/signs](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sca/signshttps%3A//www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sca/signs)

<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sca/causes>

The Making of *Mutation Story*

The questions I researched were:

 What causes sickle cell disease?

 What are the effects of sickle cell disease?

 What are some of the life stories of people with sickle cell disease?

The digital tools I used were:

 Microsoft Word

 Google

The process I used to investigate this topic was simple. I narrowed down the assignment to a list of questions, then researched each question.

I used only official websites (domain .org, .gov, etc.) to ensure that the information I used was accurate.

As to what I could have done better – I could have gotten the assignment in on time for one thing! I would also have liked to give the main ‘character’ more personality.