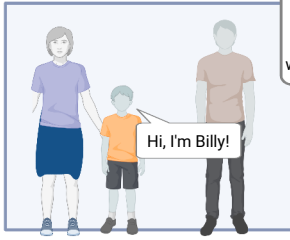


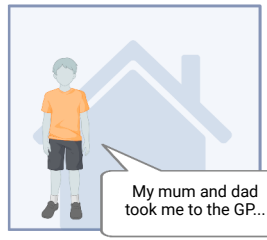
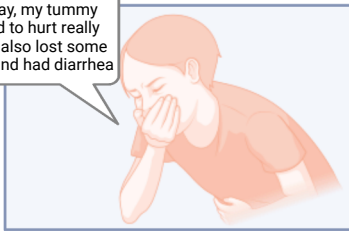
# The Gut Detective:

## Billy's Journey with Inflammatory Bowel Disease



Hi, I'm Billy!

One day, my tummy started to hurt really badly. I also lost some weight and had diarrhea

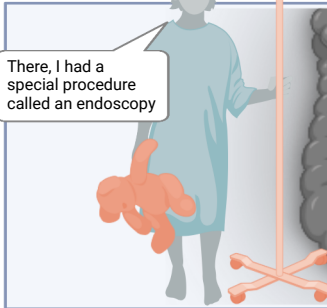


My mum and dad took me to the GP...



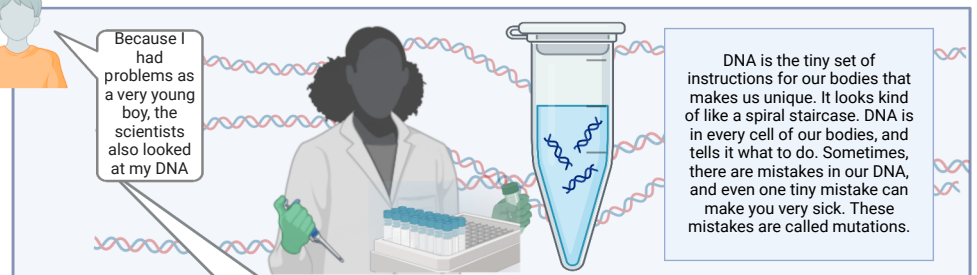
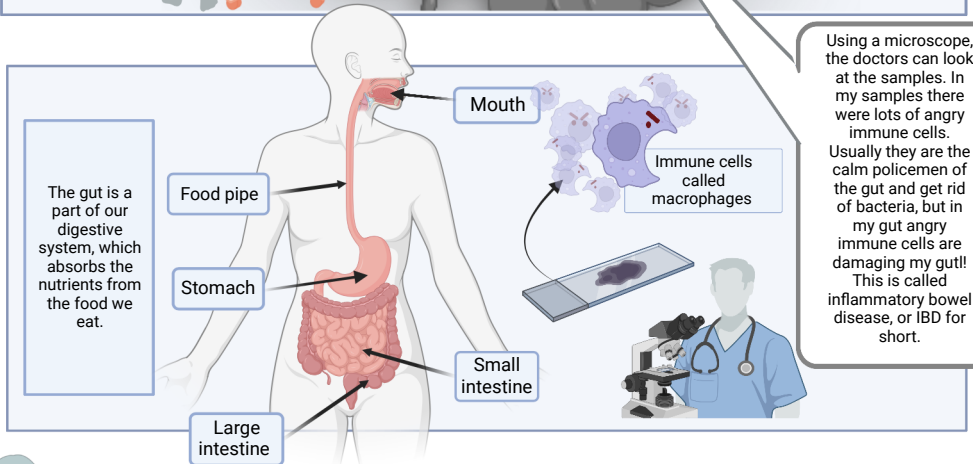
The GP suspected that there was a problem with my gut...

So I went to the Hospital.



There, I had a special procedure called an endoscopy

During an endoscopy, a tiny camera, which is attached to a tube, is used to look inside the digestive system. The endoscope can also take biopsies, which are small samples that can later be analyzed in a lab. For the endoscopy I got special medicine which made me sleep so I didn't feel a thing.

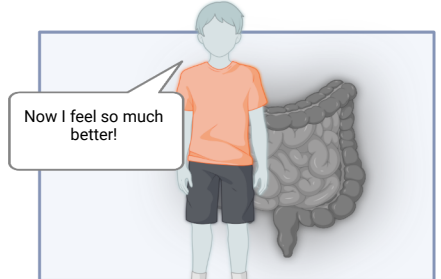


Because I had problems as a very young boy, the scientists also looked at my DNA

DNA is the tiny set of instructions for our bodies that makes us unique. It looks kind of like a spiral staircase. DNA is in every cell of our bodies, and tells it what to do. Sometimes, there are mistakes in our DNA, and even one tiny mistake can make you very sick. These mistakes are called mutations.



Once they knew what was wrong, the doctors could find treatment to help me!



Now I feel so much better!