# Justin seeks place in society (with his own voice) (as an animator-illustrator)

## Justin shoots for dream job (birth-sept 2010)

### Justin joins transition program (Sept, 2009)

#### Justin moves to Montclair

It was not until the Canhas moved from germany to fla. that they realized their son would not just “catch up.’’

##### Justin’s parents try to fix him

###### When diagnosed, living in Europe, believed Justin could “catch up,’’ esp because diagnosis was PDD. Paid for aide in classroom, but too expensive. Not until move to Fla., told J cannot be in regular second grade and even in the segregated class they have for autistic kids he is not as functional as many who talk and interact more.

###### In Fla, try x,y,z

##### Justin’s parents sacrifice

###### MT, depressed, wanted another child, Briant said was not up for “bonus package,’’ later regretted because fears all will fall to Julian, J’s older bro, who learns sign language to communicate with him.

###### Briant, who has an undergrad degree in intl relations and MBA gives up expat life w/MT to move to Florida

##### Justin wins art show at 9 years old competing against school age students through grade 12 , a bright spot. Not savant but can use it to communicate

###### Justin begins to draw obsessively at 5, mostly Disney characters. Hundreds of noah’s arks, dumbo with house burning down, later, scenes from his own life: .  The teacher got upset at him, and the teacher had this mouth that was like half the page.  (laughter)  And Justin is like, you see him, he’s terrified “teacher was mad at me,’’ in self-contained autistic class. Destroy telephone means no more calling my mother

###### Briant realizes that Justin can understand through video, for instance how he needs tickets to watch TV

###### Canhas try to get Justin to take class at International School of Cartooning, will pay for aide, turned down.

##### Moved one more time before landing in Montclair. Therapist moved, financial strain, moved closer to Briant’s mother in RI. The moves took a toll on J – who could be heard, later, ticking them off, as he ticked off the Disney movies that bombed in the box office, or the most successful of all time. “I want to stay home where it’s supposed to be.’’

I moved from brazil to Europe in 1990

I moved from Belguim to germ in 1993

We oved from germ to flor in 1997

We moved from florida in providence , rhodie island in august1999 to 2002

We moved from providence rhode island

To Montclair new jersey in august of two thousand and two. 2002.

Five moves. I hate it. I want to stay home where it’s supposed to be.

I’m sick of moving. When I move to the apartment I’ll miss my family. I prefer to move to the apartment. I’ll miss

##### But not to be last: RI school nominal inclusion - Series of court decisions had interpreted the IDEA to mean studs had to be educ in “least restrictive env.’’ And 1997 autism had been added to IDEA. But in practice, J sat in the back of classroom and did other stuff with an aide. When briant got a job offer in NJ, MT spent year researching a district that was willing to take J on and not send him out of district.

##### “We want J to be KNOWN in the community.’’

You learn in ur community with the goal being that when you exit you have a job. That made the most sense. We wanted just to have the skills in the cmmty if he’s one day goingt o live indep we wanted him to have those skills. Might miss out on more structured learning. But I made that choice to have him be with his peers and get to know the kids that will someday be his neighbors. It’s all the philosophy of inclusion which I was interested in. I want justin to be known in his community, to go to stores, to navigate his way in the community, to hopefully get employed in the community.

MT shows three districts J’s IEP, all say will send him out. Finally Scaloti wants to meet J. A bunch of activist parents a year ahead of J have fought for inclusion for DS kids.

#### Justin benefits from inclusion in middle & high school

##### Justin becomes something of a celebrity in middle school (Sept 2002-June, 2005)

###### J began saying he wanted to be a “famous animator and illustrator like Mr. Putrino.’’

Lessons were modified. Bigger print, 3-4th grade level academic, esp difficulty with math, star of art projects, evone wanted him in

Putrino, homeroom teacher in sixth grade, taught science and art, allowed J to incorp art in class work,

but told J he couldn’t draw Disney. So he drew Jickey and Fankey and Ginger the Cat.

###### J bens from the social piece, to a degree

Shouted out, “you’re fired,’’ to unpopular teacher, kids liked that

MT organizes zoo trips with 3 boys, Alex, Thomas & Scott, even had sleepover once

###### J uses comp book as a social tool

Cartooning and animal portraits had gained attn of Roger Ricco so J was included in Jan, 2005 Autism/Aspergers Art, star-ledger article led to more exhibits, like Montclair pub library a year later

But comp book was his true love (describe how, sharpens the pencil every two strokes. Shave it down on the paper. Mechanical pencil.

“Don’t be interested.’’

Kate suggests using it to show other kids. Sometimes: Hi, my name is Justin canha, I’m an artist and I’m famous becs of the newspaper

Hi my name os just cnaha I’m famous becs of the newspaper but I’m not arrogant

##### Justin raises some eyebrows when begins leaving HS for independent community time (Sept 2005-June 2009)

###### High school is harder socially

Friends abandon

. Do I think he felt the slight? Hey Thomas, remember that barney from the Simpsons said, ‘I like beer,’ he would click right back to that, as though no time would be erased at all. I think he did become more guarded. Kids would tell him to go away. They would say, ‘not now justin,’ becs they knew it would be a five minute conv about cartoons. So you could see him after awhile he’d have his book in hand, he’d go to a table of kids that he recognized and then he’d pull back

: friends abandon J, “they’re busy”

Kids from renaissance dropped him. Effort. I would be instructed by the teacher, such and such a student is going to meet justin for lunch today, that kid would never show. I kept saying I don’t think this is going to work out. Connor and justin had lnch a couple of times. But the more connor had on his plate. It was hard to exp kids of that age to take on that kind of responsibility. And it really was at that point a responsibility. The older they bcame, the easier it became. They found their place in life. I think renaissance was a place that was so small and so different. I still don’t know how we pulld off half of what we pulled off. 350 kids in the school, maybe 80 kids in the class.

Tried to get connor, who was int in art, to have lunch, didn’t show up

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Actual meanness: whispering “kill elmo’’

Why kill elmo? Why?! -- at the top of his lungs. Why did you say that? Why kill elmo? Over and over and over again. No matter what they said, his reaction was going to be loud and repetitive. Other kid is back at his seat and here’s justin screaming at the top of his lungs. Justin would take pleasure in teasing some of the kids he knew from renaissance. It seemed playful.

It was comical to these kids. Let’s say justin is quietly doing his own thing. U walk past him and say

They would say it becs they knew that would set him off. Their way of teasing justin was to get him agitated. It wasn’t like hey you dummy. Agitate justin for their entertainment. Very frsturating becs as the adult there. My job is to educate, protect. U feel like ur a mom. What they did was so subtle and so underhanded to even report it became v v difficult. If they said, homer simpson. Something that would make justin want to start ramling. They would do it so slickly I ‘d realiz j was perseverating about something. I would realize one of the kids had said something. They learn how to get away with stuff. There was a specific group of kids, they just got a kick out of it. Did on a regular basis. I encouraged. I worked at renaissance as well.

###### But continued to speak out

We were in social studies freshman year global studies learning about Africa, reading a book about apartheid. Mr. moore, I’m tired of learning about sad, black people. Teacher who happened to be black turned around and said, you know what justin, me too.

###### Cartoon club, run by art teacher

Why is it not ok to say mr. tucker is a sucker?

###### Comp book helped him to socialize

What’s ur favorite?

Pinocchio and fantasia

###### And also showed how discomforts of autism could be reduced: started out with air traffic controller headphones just to be in school. by time grad high school not even wearing earplugs. Learned to deal with the stimulation. Big orange. Freshmen year. Smaller ones. Then earplugs in freshman year. He had to learn how to filter.

###### Worked on behavior with therapist Justin draws “Jickey Goes to Behavior Therapy”

Dr. selbst was teaching him, when you come in here u have to focus. Focus on my words and give me eye contact. Fanky plays the part of the therapist and jickey. In those days it was like why am I here, I don’t want to come here. Justin would be disrespectful, raise his voice. We haven’t seen that for a really long time. I think his frustration with dr. selbst, hving to do all those things. Is what comes thru in the cartoon. Being respectful. Keeping his voice low. When justin gets exicted or upset he tends to raise his voice. Right now those things are second-nature to justin. He didn’t want to be told what to do,like any 17 year old. Now he often thanks dr. selbst at the end of the session. For his input. Dr. z. is always ext calm with him. Feels he is respected there. Now he unds more. Just like J used to do in middle school. and just has been seeing dr. s. maybe since 2004. Justin was still in middle school. when he didn’t like a teacher, he would tell the teacher, you’re fired. The kids thought it was great becs just was saying things they wished they could say but he couldn’t. those instances. He’s been taking notes. Pinnochio. Poking in the eye. Whatever he does with his brain. Oh no now I’ve got no brain. Out of cartoons. It’s called jickey goes to behavior therapy. As opposed to just not drawing them anymore. Jickey Goes to Behavior Therapy. First scene, looks a lot like Dr. S. Jickey’s sittingon a chair with a folder. Hello Jickey the Fox, I’m dr. fanky p. wolf. I need to tlak to you. (like justin looking at his comp book). Wolf says. Sit down jickey. Thought bubble in jickey’s head, blank. Fanky says, I need to work with u about good manners, no curse words and independence. I need you to focus on kind behavior and eye contact. Clos of fanky. I want to listen to my voice and my words. And I want you to be a serious guy. Jicky takes his two fingers, looking at his fingers, and fanky says, “lookat me when I’m talking to you. That’s distracting.’’ Then jickey makes this face like ooh, and puts the hands down. Fanky is getting upset, “you need eye contact to me!” immediately, the fingers go into the eyes. It says ‘poke.’ Fanky says, “ow.’’ Fanky says, you gouged my eyes, ow. Jickey says, ‘no fanky, I not like you. And now you must die.’ Grabs top of his head, pulls out his fur and takes out his brain. He says “hey give me back my brain.’ Jickey says, ‘shut up, u make me sick.’ Then he smashes him against a tree. He’s falling down. Jickey says, uh-oh. Fanky says, ‘my brain is gone.’ Jickey has brain in hands and points at fanky on ground and says ha ha. In every comic strip, jickey kills off fanky.talk things thru. Problem solving. Ipod. . self-advocacy. Senior year in high school. grad in june, 2009. Conf in early june. I am a famous artist because . my goal is to be a famous animator illustrator.

###### A seeming victory in art career is also a setback: Jan, 2008 outside art fair, Justin sold 13 pieces for $1200-$4000, great but means no social security, you can only have $2000 in your account. He was denied 2x. SSDI and Medicaid. Something like $800/month. And have Medicaid. Lawyer told her he has a good case. Now said, no way. Your disability interferes with u being gainfully e mployed. When ur 18 and don’t have a job and have a sig disabily

###### Julian warning\*\*\*

###### Justin kills off Jickey & Fanky

###### Justin does dare to dream

Dare to dream poster “single’’ – not sure where it came from, but “too complicated.’’

##### Justin graduates on “June 25, Two Thousand and Nine, the date that Michael Jackson passed away” Justin graduates from “real’’ high school, also all of kate’s kids graduated

Kate starts program, June 2008

4 years earlier, in 2004, reauthorization of IDEA put in first attempt at accountability for post-school outcomes. But districts could interpret it pretty much however they want. In 2007, strengthened it: In the new indicator, what it means to be enrolled in higher ed, what compet emp means. Natl post-school outcome dvped procedures and forms. We were hearing that some states were saying the student for even a week had been employed, or if they had a half a day a week. Or a month. They were counting. And along with activist parents, may have helped that they got “needs assistance’’ for another IDEA aspect, #13

At Montclair: . I was his cmmty-bseed transition teacher in the afternoon. They did coursework in the morning. Two other classrooms serve kids with dvmntal delays. One is self-cntained. 5 studs have autism, one on one aides, highly structured on behavior modification model, a lot of prompting to do specific targeted response behaviors. Another classroom that’s also selfcontained. Self contained class for kids with aut is in the basement. The other self-contained. Do cmmty based instruction. Have a wash machined, dryer, stove, do ironing. Functional skills. Age- inapp things in the room. Walking into mixture of preschool elementary. No guar going to transfer to home setting. KEITH BREIMAN – head of child-study team. Life-skills classroom. If parents interested in individualized cmmty based instruction, we would welcome that. Carol’s resp is these kids are functioning at a whole difft place. My studs are viewed as the higher functioning. I would debate that. Viewed as higher funcitong becs have higher expectations and we’re putting them in cmmty based settings. I don’t think her kids couldn’t achifeve sim outcomes. U lok difft hwne yr in a group of kids with disabs than when . self-contained. Severe autistic behaviors. There’s a lot that can be doned

Activist parents a year ahead of J contemplate options – class in the basement, or sue to get them out-of-district. 15 years earlier, Kate known for running similar program, activist parents draft her back (2007-8 school year)

Summer of 2008, Leslie and Kate sit in Kate’s kitchen and draft program. Do

Encountered obstacles immediately

Even Nanci, who watched “My SoCalled Life’’ with Justin and supported him in high school, undermined efforts – Kate did spot-checks, saw Nanci handing him $3 for change. {DON”T PUT THIS IN] She and I used to have battles. Nancy was a great TA. I would go and do an observation. She’d be standing with him at the cash reg and counting his money or telling him to take out a cert amt of money. In classroom roll playing j figuring out how to round up to the next dollar. V frustrating for me to see an aide saying ok j take 3 dollars out of yr wallet. So those are the kind of things we continue to battle with

Kate’s response:

Kate: there’s a prevailing phlsy that cert people can never funct in the cmmty. I just don’t think that’s ture. People with must more sig issues than our just. Are out there living and working in the real world. Do some people look at them and think their fams are crazy. One parent explains to people, there’s this whole safety network set up tat people can’t see. Chelsea, ev place she goes she’s been to 50 x. when goes from pont a to point b. not like people are being negligent. We’re systematically prep her to be out in the world. Teaching people in the community all the time. The more we can help them learn the more help the next pers and the next pers. Wow I didn’t realize she could do that. I don’t think there’s a single kid out there or parent. That would say. If I culd choose. I think people would choose to psend their day in integrated envs. It would help fams so much to see people working toward that too. Fams are alays trying to integrate. Easier for fams to take kids with disabs places. It’s about changing the way people view how people with disbas .

How is he going to get the help he needs if he runs into trouble. Comes back to the philosophy of being willing to take the risk. Knowing there are people out there who will help justin. Facilitate it. Model it. The more normal other people see u interact with thim the more normal thye’ll be able to interact with him

Inclusion in the real world??

at MSU

It’s in our commuty. On bus line. We will help u connect with people who are in charge of campus life. they weren’t comft with studs taking classes. Joan sticky, assistant provost. How about the high jump. It’s not for high school studs. Talented and gifted kids who could take college classes. I’m pretty certain its still run for high school studs. Esmir taran. Well I supervise esmir. And I’m telling u we don’t do 9-12 anymore. Called esmir. Are u still accepting apps for 9-12 studs to take classes. Marie sparks, in charge of community outreach. I’m in a really uncomft position. Joan specifically said it doesn’t exist. On the other hand, I want justin and Emily to be able to do this. She said kate, I would just do it. Don’t bring it to anybody’s attn. so we did it. I have no idea if joan knows to this day. Justin, Emily and gower. MSU does not have a formal proram for our studs to attend classes at this point for this population. We would love to see Montclair state to offer a program for studs with intellectual disabilities. College of NJ has one. Only 10 studs. But it’s a college prog for studs with itell diabs. A lot of grant money. That’s not the direction the univ wanted to go in. justin took these classes thru an est program. In the letter we did not say, he is cognitively impaired. I struggle with that all the time. I only highlighted justin’s gifts. And this is why we believed he should be allowed to take a class. When gower’s guidance counselor sent me leter of recc, she put in some info about gower saying are u comft with taking that part out. What the letter needs to say is why you would recommend him for the class , not what yr concerns. Emily took 2 classes related to her career goals, teaching gymnastics in elementary schools, physical fitness in the schools. All th. ROSE CALLEY, a Montclair community member. Music building just built on the cmpus. Prez board of nj coalition for inclusive education. JOAN FICKEY. “they’re not ready.’’ Rose said. “what would you hope that one of ur studs would get out of the class?’’ they weren’t buying it. I gave an example.being able to sit at a dinner table and have a conv with other adults at the table.on eof prev studs, becs was in literature class at high school had read Shakespeare, she was able to join in that conv. She wouldn’t have bene able to if in a self-contained classroom. If u don’t ever learn to be in that env. Not like we were going to be putting kids in class where didn’t have a strong interest in. OFF: in that meeting she said to me, those are some pretty big-hearted profs that took ur last group. I was like are u kidding me? Hd nothing to do with their big hearts. I thought it was a really unfair thing to say.

Justin’s senior year venturing into community had mixed results

He had a way of touching you and reaching you on such a base level. In spite of the autism. Every person you meet who is a little like justin. He teaches you how to take people where they’re at.

Justin shatters stereotypes for Gordley at MSU

Gordley:

april gordley: in some areas he may not ever have the means to und it like I would any more. People with autism don’t show personal emotion they are v focused on themselves. Kate would be in here with just pick up a book of my artwork and asay this is what prof gordely does he would look on it for about 10 seconds and then pick up his book and show. Some of that is never going to go away. I kept hearing that over and over people with autism don’t show emotion it’s not a mech they have. He’d say prof gordley, it’s so good to see you. Or say, prof gord I’m so sad that class is going to end. That was very touching to me. Of course i

### Justin gets dream job (Jan, 2010)

Gordley recommends another spectrum kid to get into MSU, did poorly on SATs, v talented.

### Justin gets laid off from dream job (summer, 2010)

#### TA’s are fired

##### Obama’s pledge to fully fund IDEA 40% -- about 2x as much to pay for special ed studs – does not materialize. Also, there is no teeth to IDEA, can theoretically withhold 17% of funding but that has only happened once.

## Justin hopes for real job at bakery (july 2010-feb 2, 2011)

### Kate finds bakery internship for Justin (late oct, 2010)

### Justin and Gower forge friendship (also mention Paloma) (nov – feb)

#### Justin can’t find illustrator course at Montclair State

### Justin & parents worry about paying job

#### Justin works at Northeast

#### Justin works on carnivorous plants

#### Tense scene at last IEP

## Justin cements friendship with Gower

### Justin gets bakery job (followed by Jerry’s)

### Justin says “ok Gower,’’ in sexuality class (inflection point)

#### When is the LAST day of ‘possiblities?’

### Justin tells Briant he still wants to be an animator illustrator

# Justin finds job and friend

## Justin tells Kate he is nervous

## Justin goes for walk with Gower

## Somewhere: savant this is a more extreme form of autism, having developmental, social and mental disorders but some extraordinary mental abilities.  The Dustin Hoffman film "[The Rain Man](http://www.mymultiplesclerosis.co.uk/misc/kimpeek.html)" was about a Savant.  For example, some can memories an entire telephone book.  There is also [Daniel Tammet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Tammet) who can recite Pi to over 22,000 digits.