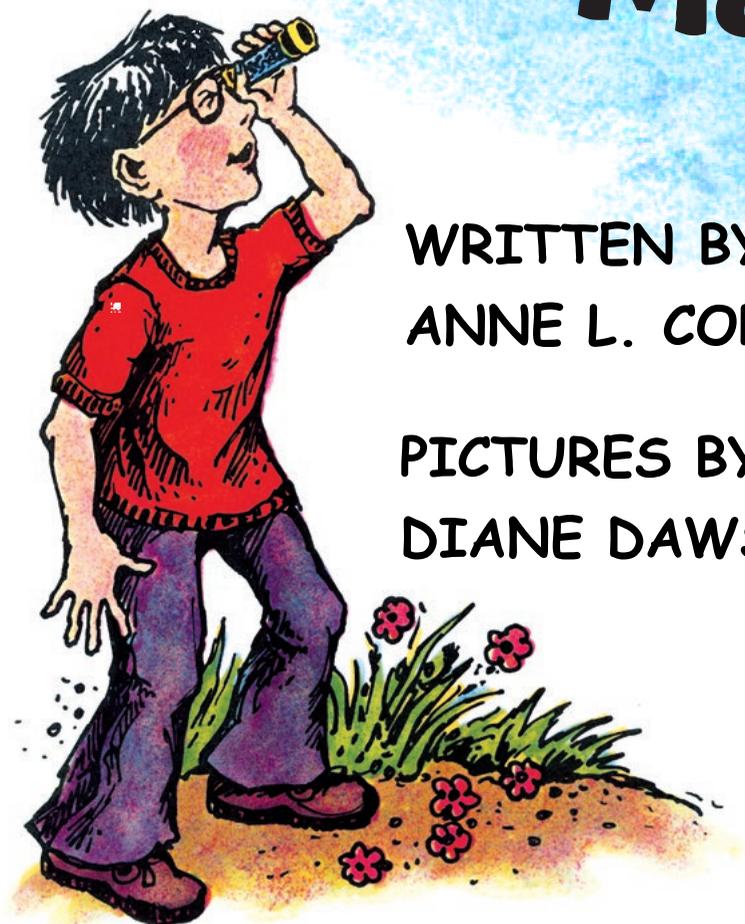


# Monocular Mac



WRITTEN BY  
ANNE L. CORN

PICTURES BY  
DIANE DAWSON



# **Monocular Mac**

This book is dedicated  
to children who have  
low vision and to their  
special helpers.

First printed in 1977 by the  
National Association for the  
Visually Handicapped  
in New York City

This edition is set and printed  
with the free  
Atkinson Hyperlegible Font  
by Braille Institute of America, Inc  
<https://brailleinstitute.org/freefont>

2021 Anne L. Corn

# Monocular Mac



**Written by Anne L. Corn**

**Pictures by Diane Dawson**

English 2<sup>nd</sup> edition







My name is Billy and I'm going into fourth grade.

My big brother is John but everyone calls him Jackie.

He's going to start Junior High when the summer is over. I also have a baby sister. She's too little to play with. She just eats and sleeps and cries a lot.



Mom and Dad are very busy with the three of us, especially when Jackie and I tease each other and run around the house.





Jackie tells me that I'm going to be a detective when I grow up. That's because I get my nose close to everything I look at.

When other kids tease me about how I look at things, they get me angry. Jackie knows my eyes just don't work so well.

I tease him back, too. Mom and Dad get mad at both of us and then we're friends again.





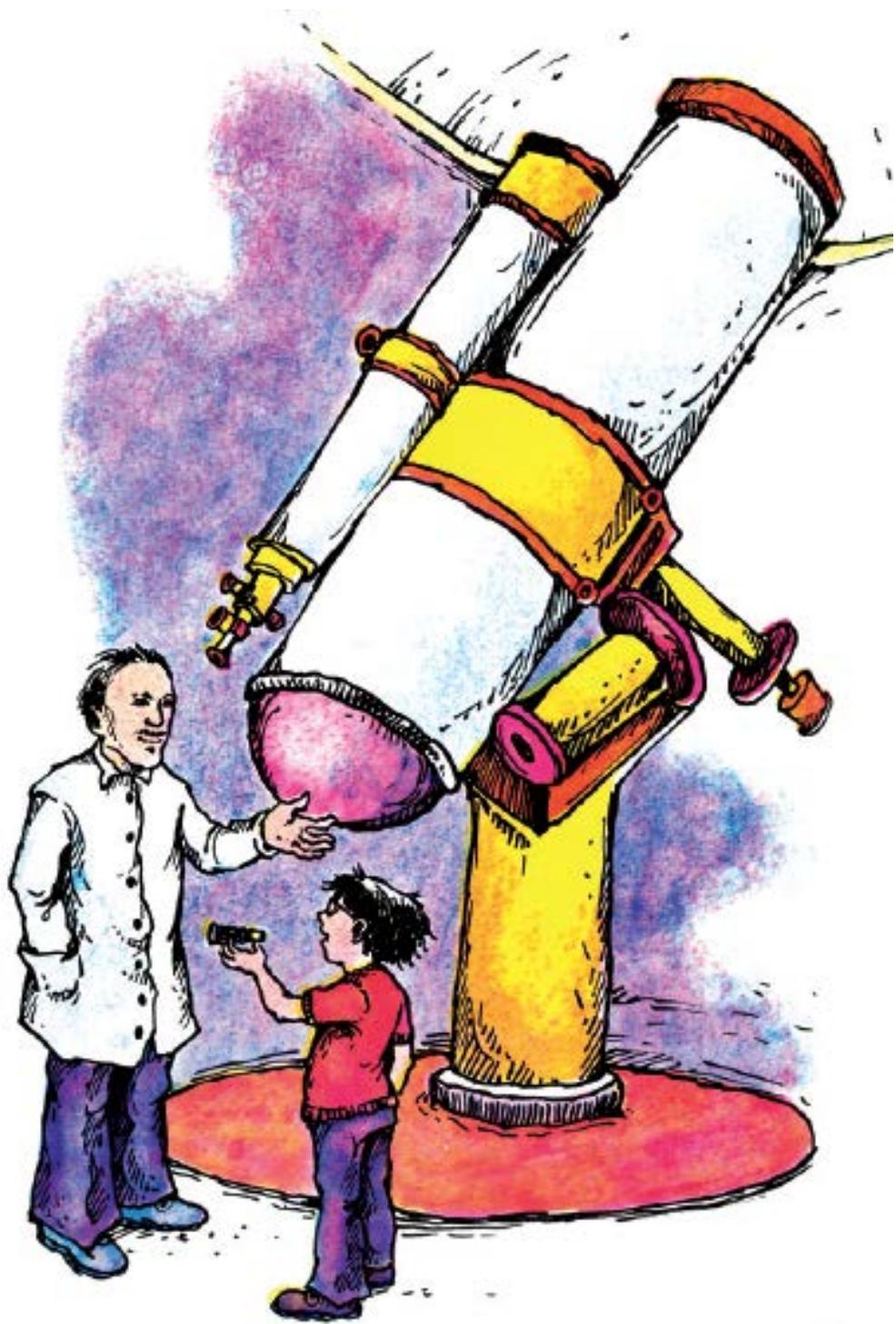
Sometimes Jackie likes to use some of the special things that help me to see better. He borrows my magnifier to make the bugs he finds in our garden look bigger, and he said he can't wait for a clear night to see the stars with my new monocular.

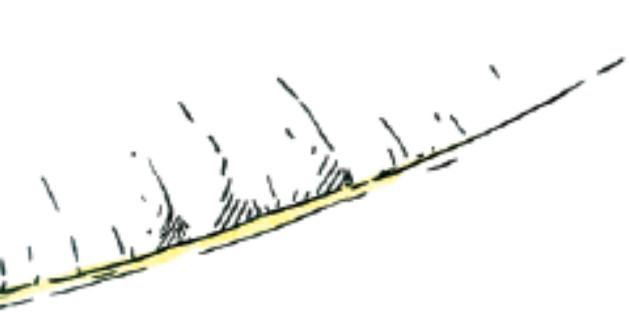


You may not know about magnifiers and monoculars. They're nice things to have, especially for me because they help me see better.

I call my new monocular,  
“Mac”

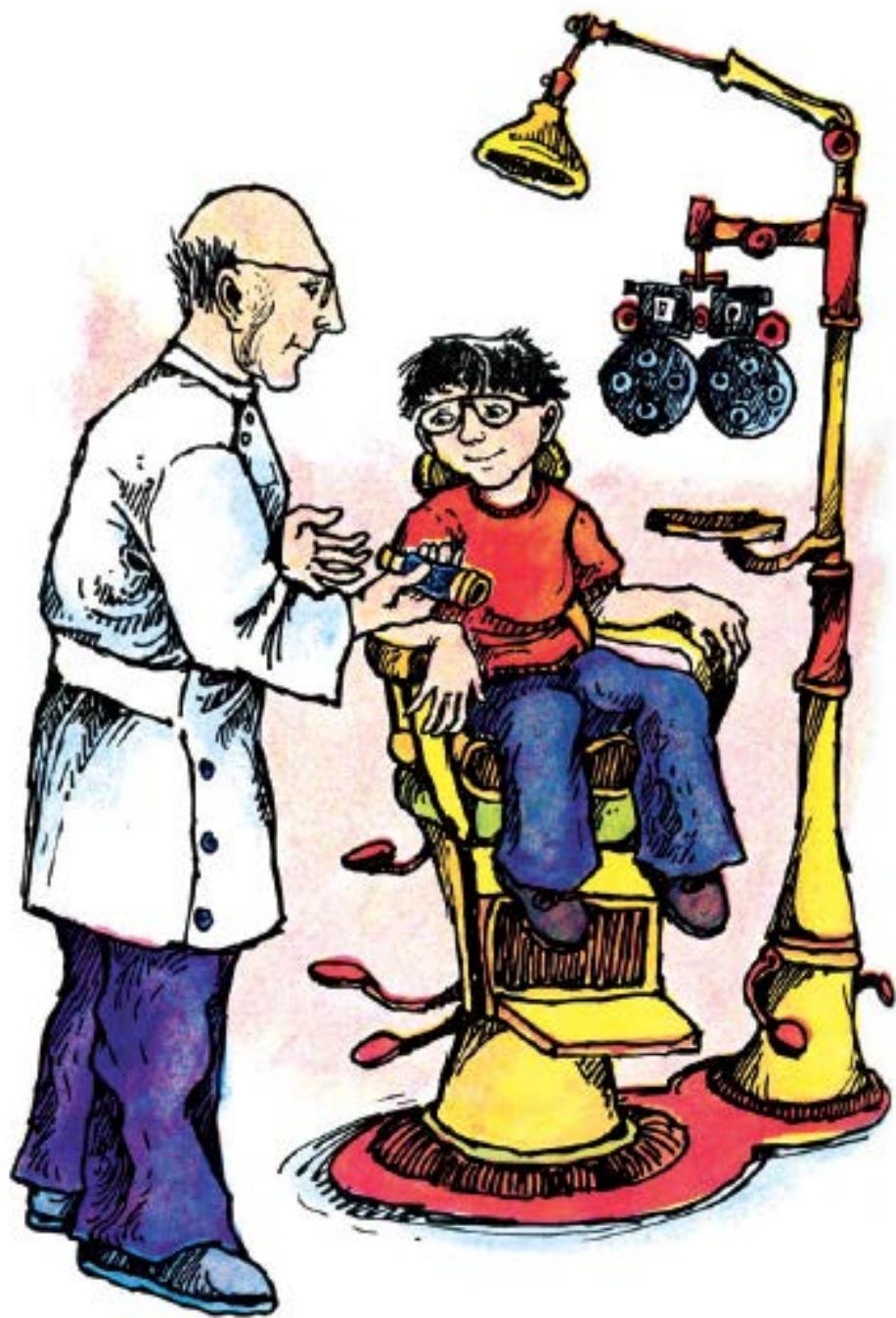






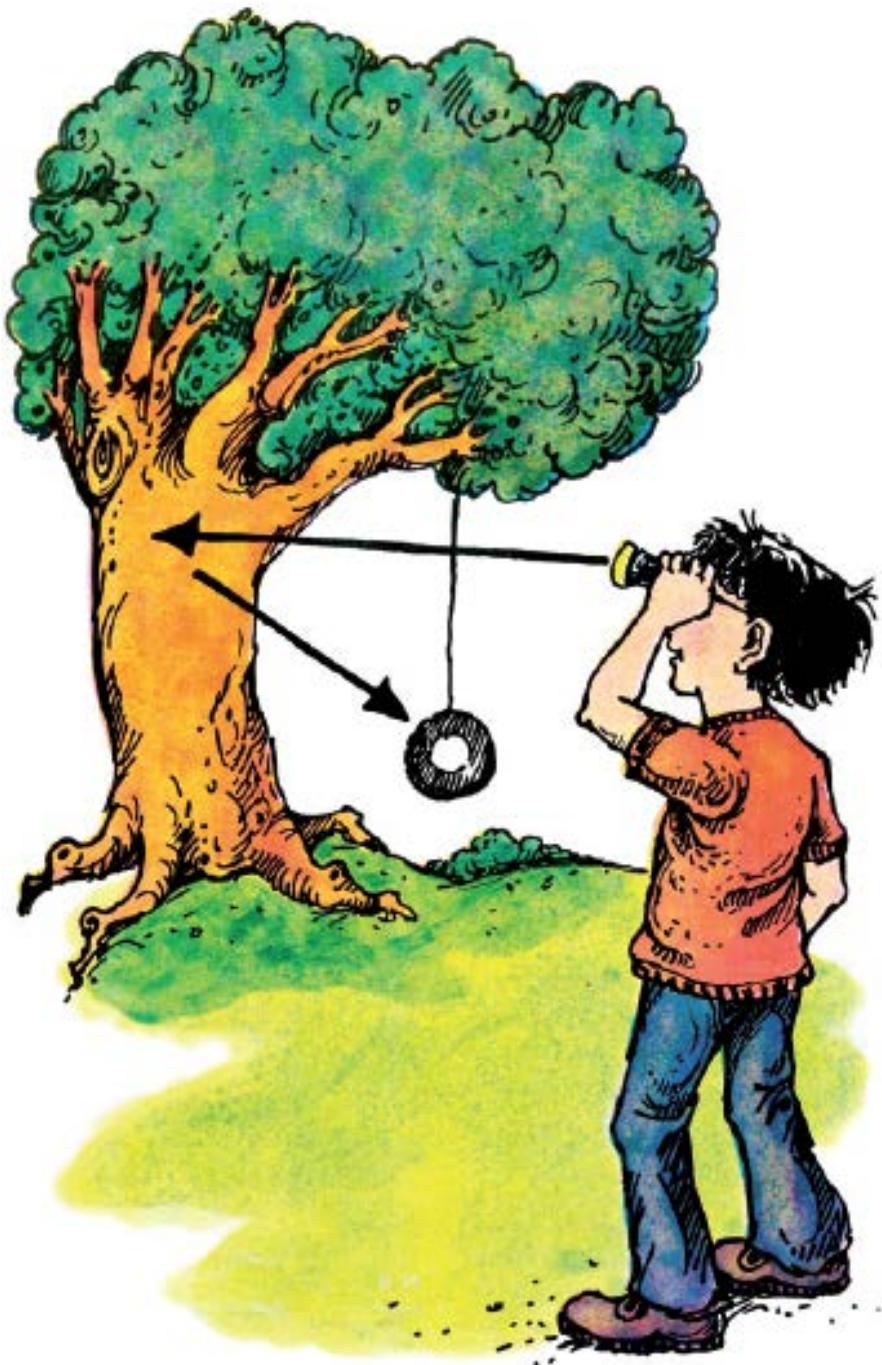
Monoculars are like little telescopes. They help me see things that are more than a few feet away.

We went to an observatory where there were telescopes which were even bigger than Jackie! The astronomer thought Mac was keen because I could fit him in my pocket.

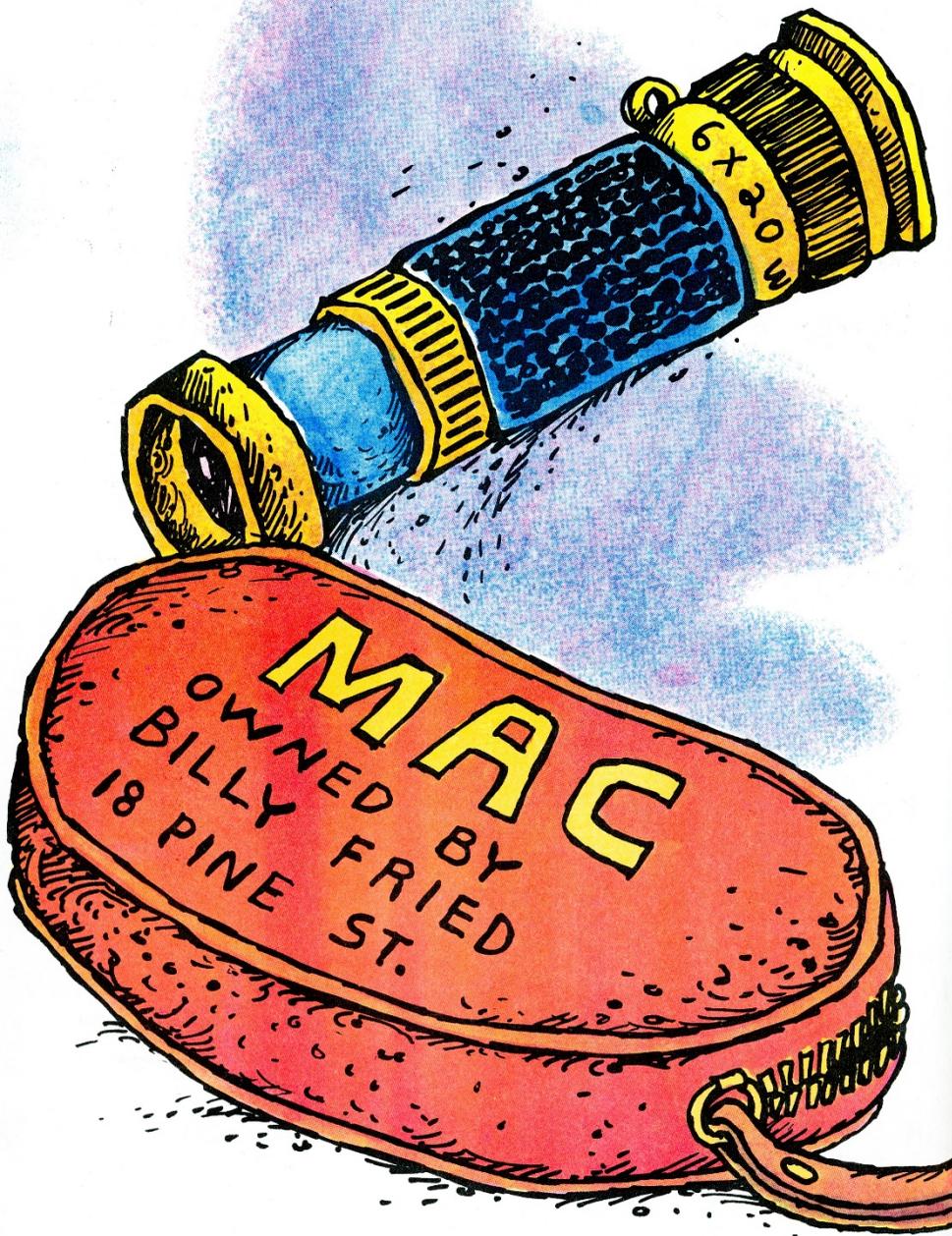


Last week Dr. Rogers gave Mac to me. He checked my eyes and said Mac may help me in school. Now I may be able to read the blackboard without leaving my desk.

I wonder if Dr. Rogers knows how many other things I can do with Mac? I can read street signs and help Mom pick out the right bus for us to take home.

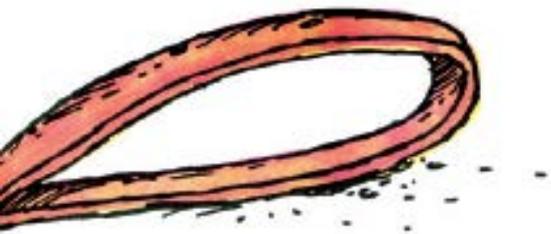


It is easy to use Mac. Dr. Rogers said I should try to hold Mac the same way each time I use him. I can also rest my hand on my cheek to help keep Mac steady. Then it's easier to "spot" what I want to see. If I can't find something small right away, I can first look for something big near it and then "track" to what I want to see. If I have any questions I can also ask Mrs. Martinez, my special teacher at school.



Dr. Rogers was funny when he told me to be sure not to feed Mac any chocolate, Mac would get too messy. He told me to remember to take care of Mac and keep him clean.

Mom found a case for Mac where he will be safe. I put my name and address on it so Mac won't get lost.





I took Mac with me to a ball game. Jackie hit a home run and I saw the bat swing! When it was my turn at bat, I didn't do so well, but it was a lot of fun.

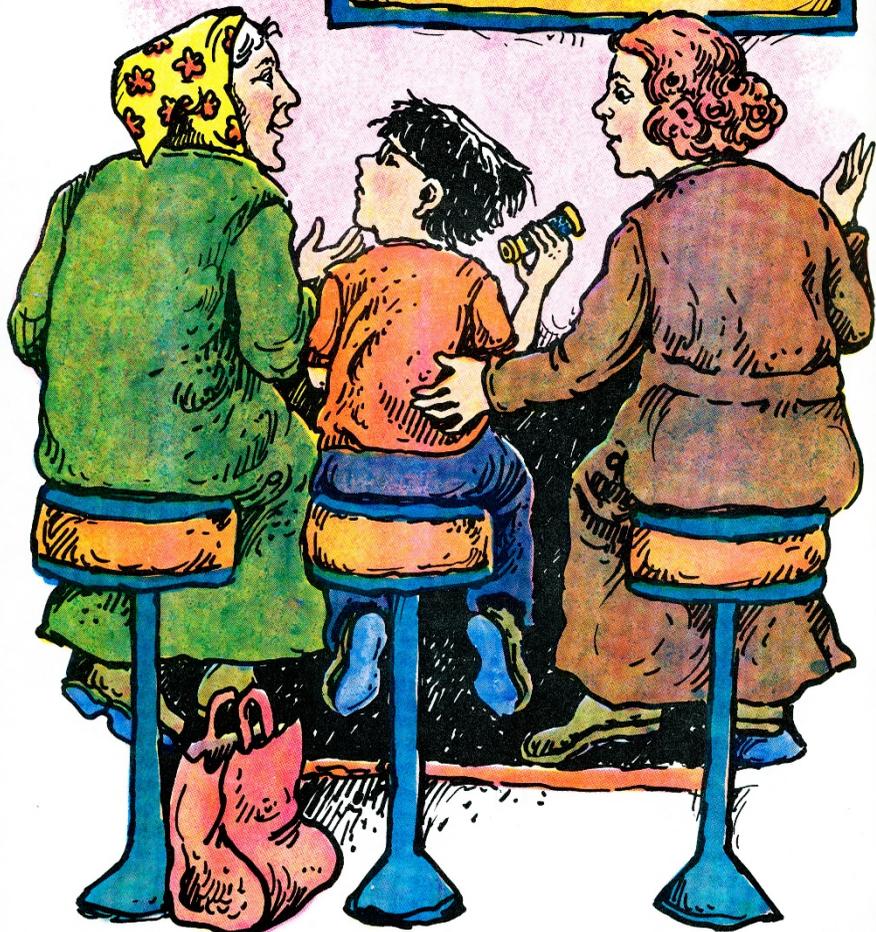






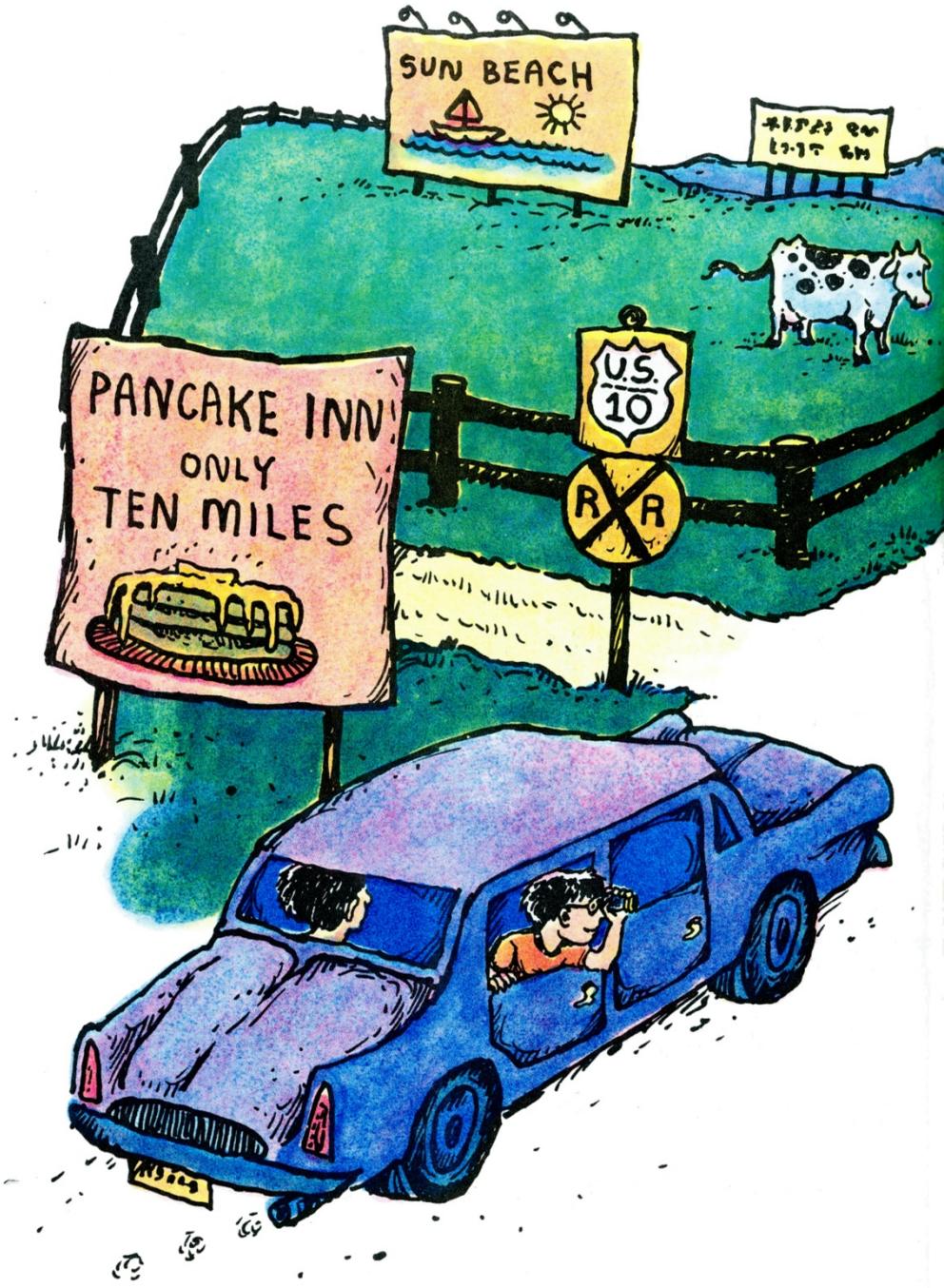
Yesterday I made a new friend, Karin. She was sitting next to me at the circus. She could see the lion's tongue with Mac! I don't think Karin knew about my eyes. We were just having fun with Mac.

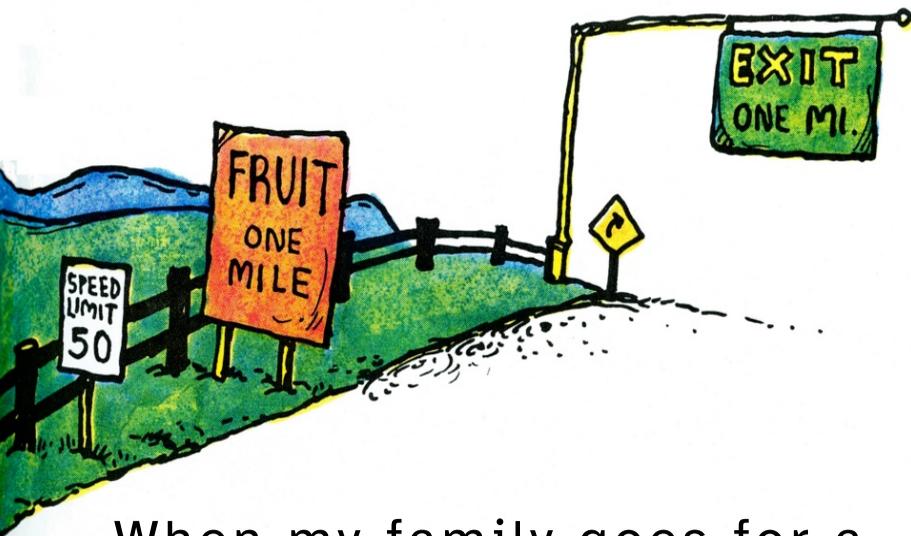
MENU	
SOUP	.80
HOT DOG	1.00
HAMBURGER	1.25
FRENCH FRIES	.45
SANDWICH	1.00
SODA	.35



After the circus we went to a restaurant and Mom said I could have anything I wanted for lunch. I pulled Mac out to see the menu sign and an old lady asked Mom if I couldn't just get stronger glasses. The lady didn't understand about Mac and me.

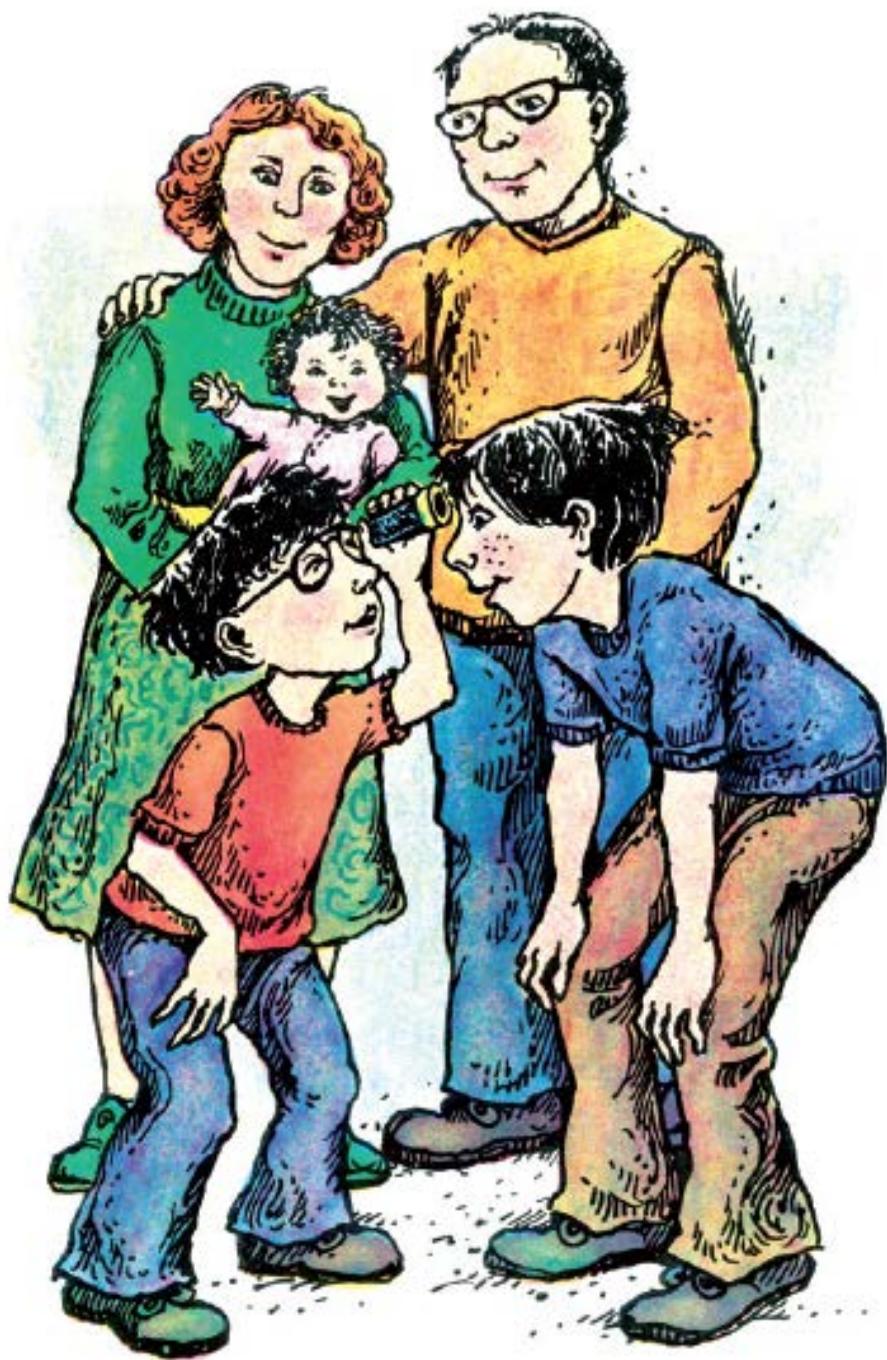
After she left Mom said the lady didn't want to make me unhappy. Next time someone says something about my eyes, I'll just tell how Mac helps me see.





When my family goes for a long car ride, I'm going to bring Mac along: It'll be neat to see the road signs for hills and turns before we get to them.

I can help Dad find the exit numbers too.



I know that Jackie, Mom, Dad, Dr. Rogers, my teachers and my friends are my big helpers. I'm glad that Mac is a helper too.

When school starts I can show Mac to my friends in the fourth grade.

# Afterword

## by Anne Corn

A seven year old boy named Jamie could see there was writing on the board in his classroom but he couldn't see the letters well enough to read. His low vision specialist gave him a monocular for him to be able to see the letters. The monocular didn't work for Jamie.

His teacher asked me if I could figure out why Jamie couldn't use his monocular. I saw that Jamie picked up his monocular in a different way each time he wanted to use it. When he looked through the monocular he wasn't able to align his eye with the lenses and the words on the board.

Within a few minutes of our working together, Jamie was able to "spot" what he wanted to see.

On my next visit to his classroom, I taught Jamie other skills with his monocular.

This was the beginning of my passion for providing instruction in the use of monoculars and other optical and electronic devices for young children with low vision.

## **The Book**

Monocular Mac tells the story of Billy, a child who has a monocular and who is learning to use it. He is learning about all the ways his monocular, which he names, Mac, can help him. He understands that other people may not know about monoculars and why Mac helps him to see. Billy's older brother, Jackie, is very much a part of the story and he is supportive of Billy using Mac.

In 1977 the original book of Monocular Mac was published by the National Association for the Visually Handicapped, an organization which no longer exists.

## **The Author: Anne Corn**

Anne Corn, Ed.D. is Professor Emerita from the Departments of Special Education, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Vanderbilt University in the United States. In her retirement, she volunteers as a research professor for the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Cincinnati and she lives in Austin, Texas, U.S.

## **The Artist: Diane Dawson**

In 1977 Diane Dawson Hearn was beginning her career as a children's book illustrator. She volunteered to illustrate *Monocular Mac* and she is pleased to see the book distributed again.

Since then, she has illustrated many her own children books and those written by others including *Dad's Dinosaur Day*, *The Little Pirate Ship* and illustrations for *Muppets* and *Sesame Street* magazines.

## **The Translator: Ulrich Zeun**

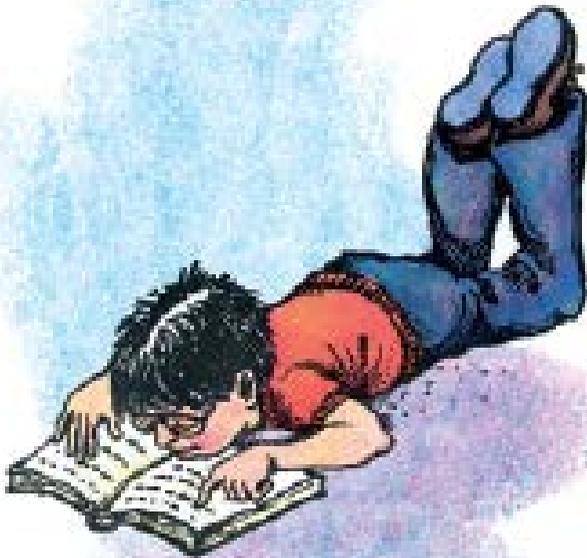
Ulrich Zeun is a special education teacher and teaches children with visually impairments in Dortmund, Germany. He is an expert for optical aids, especially monocular telescopes, and so is also known as Mr. Monocular. He found the book "*Monocular Mac*" in 2021 and decided it was still up-to-date and worth reading. With Anne Corn's help he gave *Monocular Mac* new life and with a few updates, it is now available for distribution in English and for the first time in German.

*Please direct comments and questions about  
Monocular Mac and about children with low vision to  
Anne Corn at: [Anne123C@gmail.com](mailto:Anne123C@gmail.com)  
or Ulrich Zeun at: [webmaster@monocular.info](mailto:webmaster@monocular.info).*

# Monocular Mac

**Anne L. Corn - Diane Dawson**

Told from the perspective of Billy, a young boy with a visual impairment. Billy talks about the different ways that he can use his new monocular, "Mac", to do everyday activities.



English 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2021