

# Alli Jablonski

As I began to open my eyes, the beaming lights and animal masks were staring down on me. I felt as if I were in a movie and nothing was real. I was 12 years old in 7th grade.

I turn over to see a scarecrow staring at me. It was Halloween, I was at Cincinnati Children's Hospital coming out of a 12-hour surgery. Months before, I discovered I had scoliosis and the only option was surgery with two rods and pins straight down my spine.

My parents came rushing back in the recovery room after I had been woken up from a nurse dressed as a dog and scarecrow.

I was thinking to myself, "I must've died. There's no way this can possibly be real".

I soon began to panic then I was moved into my room which I stayed in for 3 days.

I had to relearn how to walk and use the stairs. My world had been dramatically changed for months. I would have never expected to be out of school for four months and recovering for six.



While I was laying in the hospital bed I kept thinking about how I've never felt such pain as my whole body would cramp. I remember wanting nothing more than to get up and walk around so badly but I had to remain in bed after surgery.

This taught me that you always need a support system and your family to help you get through things.

