Tim’s Fear

Tim was an ordinary boy. He loved sports, video games, hanging out with friends, and like most other boys, he had a fear. He was 3 years old when he first saw a snake and 5 years later it still gave him the willies. His friends sometimes teased him, and he always felt a bit ashamed of himself when they did. One day his friends were making fun of him and Tim’s spirits were down once again. “Hey Tim make sure you check your closet for snakes tonight before you go to sleep” Tim’s friend Eric teased. “Yeah and check under your bed too” his friend Steve added with a sneer. You could tell that Tim wanted to crawl under the table and curl into a ball. Since he had nothing to say he just sat there and tried to ignore them.

That night when Tim went home he asked his mom what he should do about the situation. "Mom my friends keep bullying me at school because I'm afraid of snakes so what should I do about this?" His mother, always knowing how to comfort Tim, said, "Just try to ignore them sweetheart, and maybe they'll stop teasing you." "I've tried Mom, I really have. But they just won't leave me alone and I always feel ashamed about my fear." His mother looked at him. “Tim you should never be ashamed about your fear son. If someone makes fun of you, so what? If your friends tease you because of your fear, so what? Everyone has fears Tim, no matter how they act or what they say, everyone has some kind of fear. So always remember that when someone makes fun of you they always have their own fear that nobody knows about." Tim smiled and said, "Thank you Mom you always know how to make me feel better." "You're welcome son. Don't let your friends bring you down when they tease you a little."

A few weeks went by and everything was going well until one day Steve had to mention Tim’s fear of snakes again. “Tim did you know that they just discovered a new species of snake.” “Yeah I heard it sneaks up and bites you while you sleep” Eric added. They both snickered at Tim. Then he remembered what his mom had said to him. “I’m sure that you have your own fears Steve. You probably do too Eric. You guys can make fun of me all you want but I don’t care anymore. I won’t feel ashamed that I’m afraid of snakes because I know that everyone has fears that they are embarrassed about.” Eric and Steve just stared at him in disbelief. Finally Eric broke the silence. "I'm sorry man I didn't know that we were making you feel that bad." "Yeah we were just trying to have fun," Steve added. “I do have a fear of my own. I hate the dark." “I'm afraid of bees.” Eric revealed. From then on Tim and his friends pledged not to make fun of each other because of their fears. Everybody has one.