

Oh Peggy By Amber Hogue

Peggy Sue appeared to be the same as every other girl in her tiny town. They all wore pink ribbons in their pigtails, blue-checked dresses, white lacey socks, and black leather Maryjanes. Not only did every girl wear the same exact outfit but also had the same first name. There was Peggy Anne, Peggy Lu, Peggy Fae, and even Peggy Ray. But Peggy Sue was different, she didn't want to be just like every other girl.

They lived in a town where nothing ever changed and everything was exactly the same. Every house was painted the same color of Perry winkle blue, had three bedrooms, and a white picket fence that surrounded their perfectly mowed green lawn. Peggy Sue wanted to be different; she disliked the pigtails and Maryjanes. She wanted to wear red dresses and a baseball cap.

At night when all the little girls were asleep, Peggy Sue would sneak under her bed where she hid an ancient box full of forbidden knick-knacks. She would carefully drag the sagging box out from underneath her bed. In it was the baseball cap that she stole from her father 364 days earlier, a square of her brother's old blue jeans, and other scraps that she had collected in her long ten years of life.



Every night for almost 821 days Peggy Sue would sneak into her box of goodies and try on the different treasures that she found and then tuck them away in the withering box before falling into a deep slumber.

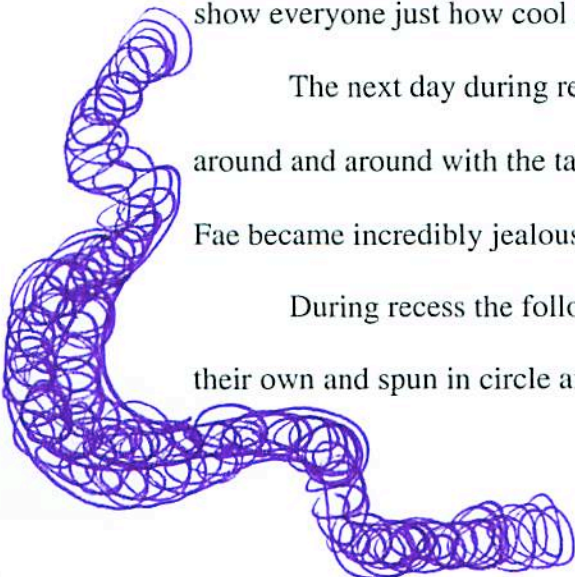
On one evening, Peggy Sue decided she was going to wear her most precious baseball cap to school the next day. She tucked it under her pillow for the night to keep it safe. When she woke up, her mother helped her comb her curly hair into straight pigtails tied with pink ribbons to match every other girl in town. Peggy Sue hid the baseball cap underneath her blue-checkered dress until she could no longer see her mom waving goodbye and wishing her well. As she turned the corner, Peggy Sue pulled out the wilted baseball cap and placed it on top of her perfect pigtails.

At school all the girls and boys pointed their fingers at Peggy Sue and doubled over in laughter at the sight of her in a baseball cap. Why would anyone wear anything but pigtails and pink ribbons. Tears streamed down her cheeks, but Peggy Sue refused to remove her favorite cap.

At home, Peggy Sue tucked the cap away under her bed, and then pulled out a beautiful woven scarf. Tomorrow she would wear the scarf, spin in circles with it on and show everyone just how cool it is.

The next day during recess, Peggy Sue pulled out her beautiful scarf and twirled around and around with the tails of the scarf trailing in the wind. Peggy Anne and Peggy Fae became incredibly jealous and wanted a scarf too.

During recess the following day Peggy Anne and Peggy Fae brought scarves of their own and spun in circle after circle with them. All of the other Peggy's became



extremely jealous and wanted a scarf as well. Soon every girl at Peggy Sue's school wore lovely scarves everyday.

Peggy Sue grew very irritated with this and decided to quit wearing her favorite scarf. This time she decided to throw away her ugly blue-checked dress and put on blue jeans and a t-shirt. Peggy Sue could play kickball and soccer in her jeans, since she didn't have to worry about her dress flying up. All the other Peggys watched in jealousy, their eyes following her every move. And of course, by the end of the week every Peggy was dawning jeans and t-shirts and playing games in the dirt.

Peggy Sue was irritated once again. This time she had to do something that no one could copy. At home that evening, Peggy Sue pulled out her pigtails and washed her hair. Instead of having her mother comb out her luscious curls, Peggy Sue let her hair dry naturally and went to bed.

The next morning when Peggy got ready for school, she slipped into a red dress and white sandals, placed one ladybug hair clip among her bushel of curls and headed out the door. All the girls at school stared at Peggy Sue in disbelief. Her hair was huge! Curls surrounded her tiny head and toppled down her back.

And of course each and every Peggy went home that evening to copy Peggy Sue once again. Peggy Sue arrived at school again with the exact same hairstyle, curls shooting out from every point on her head. The other Peggy's no longer had pigtails, but they did not look like Peggy Sue either. Limp curls hung from their heads, flattened to the sides of their faces. It looked nothing like Peggy Sue who was very pleased with herself. Finally she had something that no one else could copy. Her curly hair!



Days, maybe even weeks went by and still all the other girls still tried to copy Peggy Sue's mop of curls. Until finally, Peggy Ray decided to put her hair into a pony tail high on top of her head and to wear blue jeans with her maryjanes. Then Peggy Anne came to school with a dress on and her hair braided into a single French braid down her back. Slowly each and every Peggy learned to wear what they liked and do their hair how they wanted. And eventually all the Peggy's dropped their first name and just went by their middle names. Peggy Sue became Sue, Peggy Anne, just Anne, Peggy Ray went by Ray, Peggy Fae and Peggy Lu were called Fae and Lu.

Not only did the girls in Peggy Sue's small town change but each house is now painted a different color, some of the picket fences have disappeared, and each person

celebrates their differences