

Impact Statement

Jaci Hoyt, Grade 11

Hope, 2025

Watercolor, tempera on paper, 16 x 13 ¼ inches

Woodlawn High School, Rison, Arkansas

Unsung Hero: Terry Fox

Dreams should be chased no matter what the situation is that you're in or the obstacles you have to face. Terry Fox, born on July 28th, 1958, was a Canadian activist who did just that and became a national hero. He was just an ordinary human being all the way up until 1977 when 18 year old Fox lost his right leg to bone cancer (osteogenic sarcoma). On April 12th, 1980, Fox woke up, put his prosthetic leg on, went outside, and started his run across Canada called the Marathon of Hope, in hope to raise awareness and money for cancer research. 143 days, 3,339 miles, and 24.17 million dollars later Terry stopped his run on September 1st. He averaged 26 miles a day and went through 26 pairs of his Adidas running shoes. Fox was the youngest person ever to be named a companion of the order of Canada. On June 28th, 1981, Terry Fox passed away at age 22, due to the cancer spreading to his lungs. His last words were "If i don't make it, the Marathon of Hope must continue", and it did. Today the Terry Fox Foundation has raised over 850 Million dollars. Numerous buildings, roads, and parks were named in his honor across Canada. Terry once said "I just wish people would realize that anything is possible if you try" which is why i chose him to be my unsung hero. He changed many lives and has continued to even after his passing, including me today.

My painting of Terry has a lot of thought and meaning behind it. I used tempera paint for this project, and I have Fox running in front of a cop car with a whole crowd of people to the side of him. His face is not as detailed as the rest of his body to show it doesn't matter who you are or what's wrong with you anything is possible. He wasn't running for himself but for everyone else who was going through the same struggles. The rough strokes from the brush in the background are for people to see not everything was perfect, and it's okay that it wasn't because even though he only had one leg and was slowly getting worse he made the best out of what he had left and was determined to make others' lives better. I blurred the people's faces in the background to show it doesn't matter what people say or do you should always keep chasing your dreams. Fox ignored hundreds of people including followers, doctors, family and friends in order to succeed in his dream. I want my painting to inspire others and for them to know it's okay to not be okay, because in the end no matter what the outcome might be it will always be worth it. Terry Fox has made huge impacts on people's lives all over the world and I hope this inspires more people to spread his story. Terry Fox, gone but never forgotten.