

THE LITTLE PINK AXOLOTL

FROM AWFUL TO
ROLE MODEL



THE LITTLE PINK AXOLOTL

From Awful to Role Model

Written and created by Julian Dontay

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First Edition
2026

A story about trying again,
noticing your growth,
and learning that your journey
doesn't have to look like anyone else's.

For every little one
still learning how to try again.





Axolotl watches the other lizards exercising.

One lizard does a push-up.

Then another.

Then another.

"Whoa!"

A bigger lizard does ten.

"How did you do that?"

"Practice."

Axolotl gets into position.

"I can do it too!"

He lowers himself.

He pushes.

He shakes.

"One!"

He tries again.

"Two!"

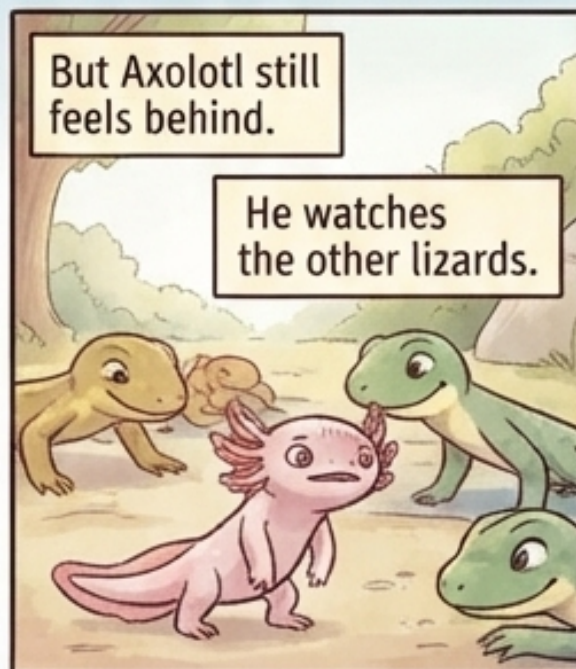
He drops onto the ground.

"Okay... maybe two."





The lizards continue training.
Axolotl keeps practicing.
"Three!" He rests.
"Four!" He rests again.
The bigger lizards seem to move effortlessly.
Axolotl looks at them.
"They're bigger."
He looks at himself.
"I'm smaller."
He watches another lizard do twenty.
"And they make it look easy."
His friend looks over.
"Easy for you?"
"Not yet."
"Then keep going."
Axolotl gets back into position.
"Okay."





Days pass.
Axolotl trains.
Push.
Rest.
Push.
Rest.
Try again.
"Five."
Next day.
"Six!"
Another day.
"Seven!"
But Axolotl still feels behind.
He watches the other lizards.
"I don't think I'm getting stronger."
His family watches him practicing.
"We see you."
Axolotl looks up.
"You do?"
"Every day."

Axolotl jumps into the water.



He swims downward.



He gets into position.



One...

Push.



Two...

Push.



He keeps going.

Five!



He keeps going.

Ten!





Axolotl jumps into the water.

He swims downward.

He gets into position.

"One..." Push.

"Two..." Push.

He keeps going. "Five!"

He keeps going. "Ten!"

Axolotl looks surprised.

"Ten?!"

He keeps going.

The water supports his body.

Without gravity pulling him down the same way,
the movement feels completely different.

"I can do more!" He smiles.

"A LOT more!"





Axolotl is stronger than he thought.



Axolotl smiles.



He gets back into position.



Axolotl returns to the shore.

His family is waiting. "We're proud of you."

Axolotl smiles. "Because I did ten?"

His family shakes their heads.

"Because we watched you keep trying."

The other lizards gather around.

"You've gotten so much stronger."

Axolotl looks at them. "I didn't notice."

"That's okay." Axolotl smiles.

He gets back into position. "Then I'll keep going."

Axolotl does another push-up.

"Not because I'm the biggest."

He pushes up. "Not because it's easy."

He smiles. "Because I'm growing."

A new day begins.

Axolotl keeps practicing.



He keeps learning.

And he starts helping others.



Try it like this.

You've got it.



A Little Note From the Author:

Thank you for going on this adventure with
The Little Pink Axolotl

Sometimes getting better is hard to see.

You may practice.

You may struggle.

You may watch someone else and wonder
why they seem so far ahead.

But growth doesn't always happen all at once.

Sometimes it looks like trying again.

Then trying again tomorrow.

And one day, looking back and realizing
you've come farther than you thought.

The Little Pink Axolotl is a reminder
to keep practicing, notice your own progress
and help others grow along the way.

You don't have to be the biggest.

You don't have to be the best.

You just have to keep going.

And when you grow,
help someone else grow, too.



Don't give up. Keep trying.

The Adventure of Trying Again

THE LITTLE PINK AXOLOTL

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Written and created by Julian Dontay

Story, character development, creative direction
and visual storytelling by Julian Dontay

Developed with the assistance of artificial intelligence
and digital creative tools under human creative direction.

All characters, story elements, dialogue
and original creative concepts in this work
are part of the author's original creative project.

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