

MY

LOUD

AND



QUIET

WORLD



# LIN



**LOUD**

**ALWAYS CARRIES  
GUITAR**

**LOVES TO SING**

**EATS ANYTHING**

**STAYS INSIDE  
(LOVES COMFORT)**

**SLEEPS IN**

**COLLECTS  
INSTRUMENTS**

**NIGHT OWL**

# JANIE



**QUIET**

**ALWAYS CARRIES  
EXPLORER PACK**

**LOVES TO WRITE**

**VEGETARIAN**

**STAYS OUTSIDE  
(LOVES NATURE)**

**WAKES EARLY**

**COLLECTS BUGS  
AND REPTILES**

**IN BED EARLY**



# SYNOPSIS





## Lin and Janie discover that differences make a friendship (and the world) more interesting.

New neighbors move in next door. Lin is surprised to find the new girl was born deaf. Janie can read lips, and teaches Lin the alphabet in ASL, which Lin picks up fast. “It’s like playing air guitar!” she says.

As their friendship grows, they find they have a few things in common. They both like to make their own movies (*Mohawk Raccoon* is their first co-production); they get annoyed with Tom (a good-hearted, scooter-riding but boisterous boy who has a knack for being the opposite of helpful); and they love to create “neighborhood art” (rocks painted with positive words, “Lost” signs not for dogs or cats but for gratitude and smiles, inspirational chalk messages on sidewalks, etc.)

In all other ways, Lin and Janie are *opposites*. For example, Lin loves to stay inside with the heater or A/C on (she hates weather) while Janie loves to be outside even in the heat and rain; Lin sleeps till noon on weekends while Janie never sleeps in; Lin is grossed out by cold-blooded things (insects, reptiles) while Janie collects them.



They pull each other out of their comfort zones — and find, in those unexpected moments, how special their friendship really is. Their differences challenge them to try new things, see in new ways, and solve problems they could never solve alone. It’s great having things in common, but maybe, they think, it’s the *differences* that make a friendship — and even the world? — more fun and interesting.

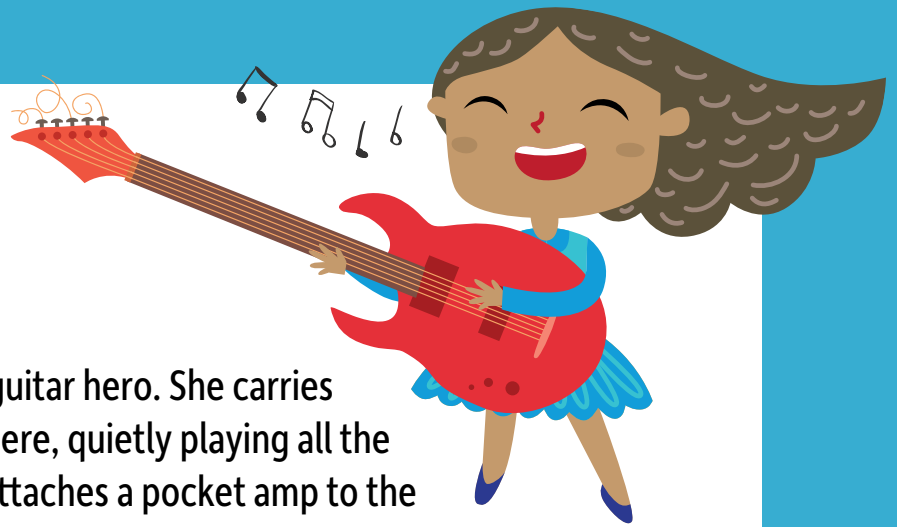
# CHARACTERS



# Lin

Lin dreams of being a guitar hero. She carries her red guitar everywhere, quietly playing all the time. Sometimes she attaches a pocket amp to the strap or her belt loop and cranks up the sound. She writes her own songs, with custom lyrics by Janie.

Lin loves comfort. She won't go out unless the temp is between 68 and 75. "Weather," she says, "is for animals. Wind, rain, cold, heat? No, no, no, no." But Lin also hates missing out on the fun — and Janie *always* seems to be having fun, forcing Lin to brave the discomforts of the natural world.



# Janie

Janie was born deaf. Her parents (both with full hearing) taught her ASL and became fluent themselves. Janie attends the Laurent School for the Deaf, which she loves, though she also enjoys having the summer off.

Janie always carries her "explorer's backpack" stuffed with tools and gadgets: magnifier, pocket microscope, digital camera, duct tape, string, glue, journal, etc. "Summer," according to Janie, "should be an adventure," and if an adventure doesn't present itself, she'll invent one — which is big a challenge for Lin since most of Janie's adventures happen *outdoors*.



# Tom

Tom is a high-energy and good-hearted kid who can't help getting into trouble. As far as Tom is concerned, everything should be done *right now* and *real fast* (which may explain why he rides a scooter everywhere).



For example, he wanted to help Janie catch a lizard. The lizard crawled over a fence, so Tom climbed over too, knocking out a board. He tried to nail the board back in place using a big stone, and broke the board. He tried to super-glue the pieces together and dripped so much glue on his shoes they stuck to his feet.

Tom is also known as the Cardboard King. He loves to make things out of cardboard and collects tons of it for later use.

# Sam

Sam is a service dog who has been trained to alert Janie to sounds and situations necessary for everyday safety. When there's something he thinks she should know, Sam will touch Janie's hand with his nose or brush against her legs. Sam is a calm dog — except when it comes to treats. He'll do *anything* for a snack. Janie loves to build hilarious obstacle courses for Sam, with many treats at the end.



# The Band

Ritchie, Lin's older brother, put together a high school band called The Dancin' Cacti. With Mary on keyboard and accordion, Keith on percussion, and Ritchie on guitar and lead vocals, The Dancin' Cacti play Tejano (Tex-Mex) with an irresistible beat.



They rehearse in the Alvarado's garage, which is also the home studio where Lin records songs she and Janie write. For block parties, The Dancin' Cacti just open the garage door and play.

# Uncle Dan

Janie's Uncle Dan is a haiku poet and pizza delivery man. He zips through town on his blue scooter, taking pride in the fact that every pizza is delivered hot — with a haiku written on the corner of the each box.



Dan has been everywhere in the city. He loves to take Janie and Lin (and sometimes Tom) to cool and little-known places: abandoned zoos, hidden tide pools, odd museums (like the Potato Museum). When Uncle Day shows up, anything can happen.



# Alvarados

Lin's dad (called Papa by Lin) played in a Mariachi band when he was younger. Since then, he has moved into a softer folk style. But he can play flamenco guitar when Lin's mom (called Mama by Lin) wants to dance.



Mama was born in Spain and immigrated to the US as a child. She teaches at a dance studio where she mixes Latin and American styles.

The Alvarados are a musical bunch. It's easy to see where Lin gets her passion and her talent.

# Roberts

Janie's Dad is an astronomer who works at the Observatory. He's absurdly absentminded, his "head in the stars," as Mom likes to say. Sometimes he forgets the day of the week, spending the morning with Janie before realizing he's late for work.



Mom is an elementary school teacher. She believes in making good use of your time, so if Janie can't find something to do, Mom takes out "The List" of self-improvement activities (chores). She taught Janie that deafness is not a limitation; it's just a difference. "The only limitations," she says, "are the ones you put on yourself."



# EPIISODES



# A Few Notes

## HOW LIN & JANIE COMMUNICATE

Lin is fluent in the ASL alphabet, and she's learning more ASL all the time. When Lin and Janie talk using ASL, Lin speaks the letters or expressions out loud. She repeats new signs back to Janie (it's like learning a new word). There's a sweetness and closeness to how Lin and Janie combine their different modes of communication.

## LIN & JANIE'S TITLE SCREENS

Each episode opens with Lin and Janie hinting about something fun in the episode. We then zoom in on Janie's hands. Lin speaks the letters in the title, Janie signs the letters, and the letters appear by her hands simultaneously. When they get to the end of a word, Lin says it aloud (titles are only 1 or 2 words long). We then zoom out as Janie points at the full title and Lin reads it aloud. While this is a fun, whimsical and even educational way to title each episode, the main goal is to always establish that Lin and Janie have different modes of communication yet still communicate.

## LIN & JANIE'S SHARED MOMENTS

In each episode, Lin and Janie experience a moment where they are so in sync they enter a private world. These Shared Moments, which last only 60 seconds, merge their inner landscapes, playing like mini-Fantasia movies. There's no dialog and no sound effects: that's Janie's inner landscape. At the same time, music plays over the visuals like a personal soundtrack: that's Lin's inner landscape. We'll use **bold font** to show where Shared Moments begin and end. These moments give us a unique window into their friendship — while offering a 60-second meditation on the theme of the episode.

## LIN & JANIE'S VIDEO DIARY TO THEIR FUTURE SELVES

Each episode ends with Lin and Janie making a new entry in their video diary. Lin begins, "Dear Future Me and You..." Each entry (a sweet mix of words and sign) allow Lin and Janie to put the episode take-away into their own words.



## Spelling Bee

Lin dreams of winning the class Spelling Bee, but she's a terrible speller: she confuses same-sounding letters and always misses silent letters. Janie is an expert speller, so Lin reluctantly goes outside on a windy day and finds Janie in a tree. Janie suggests Lin try a *different* technique: hand-spelling. As she hand-spells "Phone," Lin says the letters out loud, then hand-spells it herself a few times. Wow: it's like holding the words! **They slip into a Shared Moment: piano music plays as their hands letter-spell one word after another (text bubbling on screen), faster and faster, until they end up high-fiving.** Tom wants to help too. Using cardboard and markers, he makes "Spell It," a gameshow with Lin and Janie as contestants. He spells all the words wrong, but that helps Lin remember the *correct* spelling! Janie takes a rope out of her pack. They spell while jumping rope, turning practice into a game. Soon, the day of the big Spelling Bee arrives...

VIDEO DIARY TAKE-AWAY: When you get stuck, try something different.



# Fireflies

A perfect summer night. Even Lin is outside playing guitar! Dad uses words and ASL to point out constellations. Wait, are those stars moving? No, they're fireflies! Janie and Tom have so much fun chasing fireflies, Lin joins in. They put one in a plastic jar and use a pocket-scope (both from Janie's pack) for a close-up view (which grosses Lin out). A line of fireflies float over the fence, across a field, and toward the woods. Lin wonders where they're going. Tom says, "Let's find out!" and zips his scooter down the block. Dad drives Janie and Lin to the woods (picking up Tom on the way). Other cars are parked at the forest entrance. Tom zooms his scooter down the path, followed by Dad. Lin is scared but Janie encourages her. **They slip into a Shared Moment: holding hands, walking in the dark woods, the firefly jar like a lamp, music reflecting Lin's fear, then excitement, then awe.** Up ahead, a bright glow flashes through the trees. They hear Tom whooping with excitement. Dad says/signs, "Ready for nature's fireworks?" Curious, they move forward. The light grows brighter and brighter...

VIDEO DIARY TAKE-AWAY: A friend cuts fear in half, and half-fears are doable.

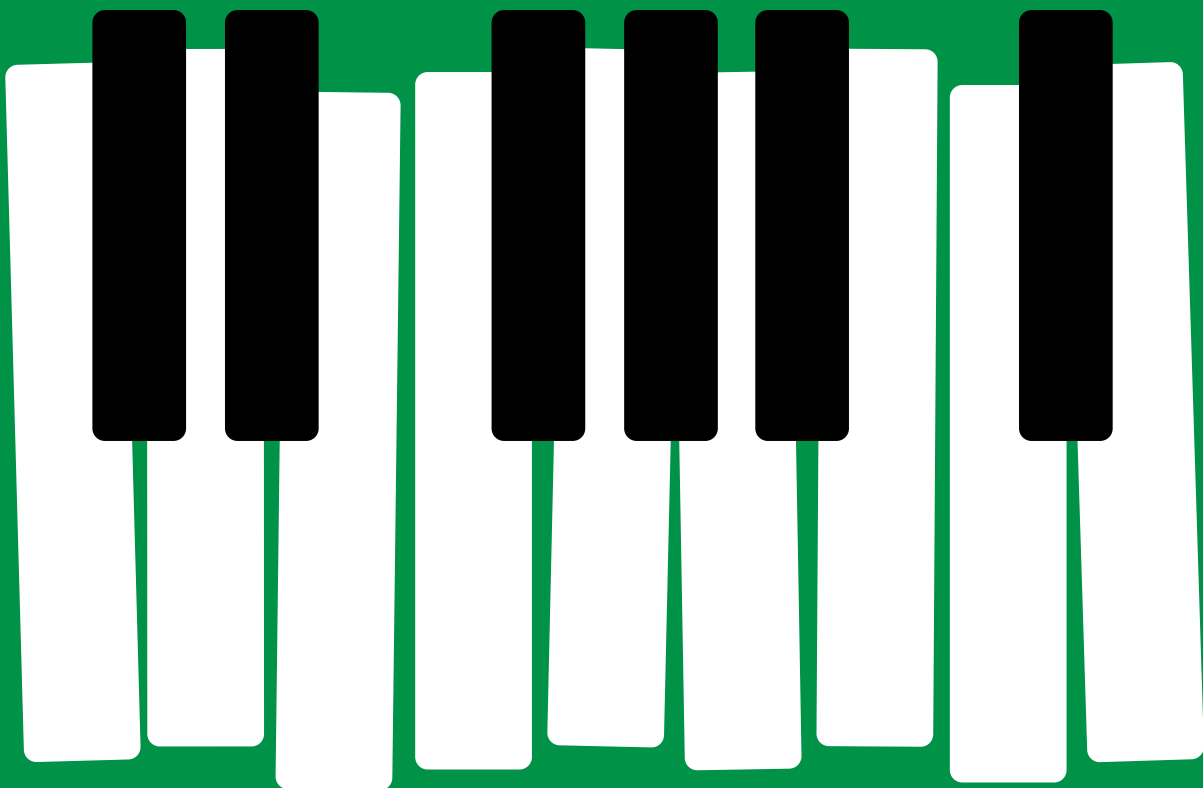




# Music Lesson

Lin plays guitar with The Dancin' Cacti. Janie dances by feeling the vibrations in the music. Later, Janie wishes she could be in a band. Tom, not realizing he's being insensitive, says, "But you're deaf." Lin does some YouTube research and finds all kinds of deaf musicians. Mary (the Cacti's keyboardist) agrees to help, and soon Janie is having a piano lesson! It's hard work. She has to keep time in her head, or by watching Mary, or by feel when Keith, the drummer, sets a beat. Alone, Lin and Janie write a song together. **They slip into a Shared Moment: awkward piano plays and Lin hums. She taps the melody out with her hand like Morse code and Janie writes words to match each tap.** Later, Janie's Mom and Dad are invited to the garage studio. Tom introduces "the latest sensation..." To Mom and Dad's surprise, Janie sits at the keys! Lin taps her foot to set the beat (which also sets the beat *visually* for Janie). Janie begins the lovely piano intro for the song they wrote...

VIDEO DIARY TAKE-AWAY: Instead of saying "Impossible," try "I'm possible."



# Dog Olympics

Janie wants to build Sam a doggy obstacle course. It's too hot for Lin, but Janie pulls chalk from her pack and sketches ideas on Lin's driveway. Lin calls ideas through the window but of course Janie can't hear her (and pretends not to see her signing wildly). Finally Lin comes out. Tom drops by on his scooter and adds a few Tom-ish ideas (like having Sam trampoline *over* the house). The finished plan looks like a Rube Goldberg maze! Sweating, Lin goes inside and sings a power chord ballad to A/C. Later, Tom brings cardboard over, and Janie takes duct tape and rope from her pack. She goes to get Lin but Lin says it's too hot. **They slip into a Shared Moment: emotional music plays as Lin and Janie argue. Janie leaves, slamming the door. At the sidewalk she turns and runs back only to find Lin opening the door. They hug and apologize.** Tom suggests they cool off first, and blasts them with the hose. The girls go in to change, but Tom gave Lin an idea. Later, a sprinkler sits in the corner of the yard. When hot, the kids, now in swimsuits, run through the sprinkler, then return to working on the course. They invite their neighbors' dogs over and soon the First Dog Olympics begin...

VIDEO DIARY TAKE-AWAY: It's OK for friends to disagree. You can compromise.



# Block Party

Block Party Night! The garage door is open, The Dancin' Cacti play, neighbors dance in the driveway, and there's food everywhere. Lin, Janie, and Tom bop near the speakers — until the power goes out! The entire block is in the dark. People bring candles, the band switches to acoustic guitar, accordion, and bongos, and the party continues — until it starts to rain! Everyone runs home. Tom scooters away. Janie tries to block Lin, but Lin dodges past and goes inside. **They enter a Shared Moment: rhythmic music plays as Janie dances in the rain. Lin watches from inside. Rain bounces on everything. Even the trees seem to be dancing! She runs out and joins her friend.** Tom returns with a pot and wooden spoon. He sets a beat. The band jumps in with buckets and drum sticks. What a racket! Both families come out and dance. Neighbors peek from doors and windows. Is the party over or just getting started...?

VIDEO DIARY TAKE-AWAY: Sometimes you need to go with the flow.





# Super Moon

Janie is excited about the Super Moon: this is the closest the moon will be to earth in 100 years. But it's only visible from 1 to 3 a.m. — Janie will never be able to stay up that late! Lin, a night owl, decides to put aside her love of comfort and help. On the chilly night of the Super Moon, she tries everything: snacks, exercise, jokes. By 10 P.M. Janie is fading. They play tag in the backyard, but Janie curls in a lawn chair and falls asleep. Tom drops by with a box of “stay away” stuff: water balloons, jalapeño peppers, his dad’s leftover coffee — Lin thanks him and sends him home. Lin opens Janie’s pack and searches for something to help. She finds Janie’s nature journal and a headlamp. She sits next to Janie. The journal is filled with cool animal sketches, dried flowers, a 4-leaf clover... Lin yawns. **They slip into a Shared Moment: dreamy music plays as Lin turns pages, eyes blinking. Trees sway. All is still. Lin slumps over, her head on Janie’s shoulder. They’re both asleep!** The sky grows brighter as the Super Moon begins to rise. Tom peeks over the fence: Time for Plan B...

VIDEO DIARY TAKE-AWAY: Some things are worth losing sleep over.



# BEYOND THE SHOW





## ASL Tutorials

Studies have shown that American Sign Language (ASL) has many benefits for hearing children. Signing offers another tool for remembering words, leaves a longer imprint on the brain, and improves small motor skills. In addition to teaching the ASL alphabet, these video tutorials can include conversational ASL.

## Video Diaries

Lin and Janie keep a video diary. At the end of each episode, they make a new (and very short) entry. Expanded entries can be included online, offering extra insights, outtakes, and bloopers. In addition, journal resources will be included to help kids start journaling in the way that works best for them: word, audio, art, video, or a mix.

## Diversity Resources

A central theme of the show is how our differences make us interesting to each other. But to get there, we need to be able to communicate: not just with people who have different modalities (such as Lin and Janie), but with people who are different in other ways: opinions, likes and dislikes, emotional development. We'd like to include self-paced video role playing and sample scripts to help children learn and practice communication skills such as *Nonviolent Communication (NVC)* and *How To Talk So Kids Will Listen*.



# THE WORLD IS A MIX OF YOU & ME



My Loud, Quiet World Written by Charles Duffie in Partnership with Renegade Animation