

# Nia and the New Free Library

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Characters (10) :

Narrator

Nia

The Builder

The Grocer

The Mayor

The Banker

The Distracted Mom

The Boy

The Detective

The Boat Captain

## Reader's Theater Script of Nia and the New Free Library

Narrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>For as long</b> as anyone could remember, the Littletown Library stood there.</li><li>- It was there so long...that people stopped paying attention. The building got old. The librarian retired. And nobody noticed.</li><li>- <b>Until one day</b>, a tornado came and carried the whole thing away.</li><li>- No one quite knew what to do with the empty space where the library used to be.</li></ul>
The Builder	We need a biiiig skyscraper. That will really put this town on the map. .
The Grocer	We need a parking lot. That would help my business.
Narrator	But Nia had a different idea.
Nia	We need to rebuild the library.
The Mayor	Rebuild it? What's the point? No one uses libraries anymore.
The Banker	Rebuild it? That costs money, and I can't spare a dime.

The Distracted Mom	Who needs it? My son and I get everything we want online.
The Boy	I'm on level ten!
Narrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- But Nia loved the library. She went every week to check out books. Her favorite spot to read them was under the tree in front of the library.</li> <li>- But it's hard to check out a book from a library that isn't there.</li> <li>- That's when Nia had an idea.</li> <li>- She got a desk and a chair. And a pencil and some paper. And a plate of orange slices for energy.</li> <li>- Then, she began to write. It took her all day.</li> <li>- It took her another day, too. From sunup to sundown, it took her a lot of days. And at first, no one paid any attention. But pretty soon, she had written an entire wagon full of books.</li> </ul>
Nia	Would you like to check out a book?
The Grocer	How? The library is gone.
Nia	This is the new free Library.
Narrator	The Grocer was cautious, so he picked up the book on top of the pile and began to read
The Grocer	There was an old lady who lived in a shoe. She lived in a shoe? PEE-YEW! Hey! You wrote this wrong!
Nia	I did? Well, maybe you can fix it.
Narrator	She handed the grocer a pencil. The grocer started to write.
The Distracted Mom	Excuse me. My son's phone just died. Could he look at one of your books?
Nia	Of course. This is the new Free Library. He can read any book he likes. This one is about Sir Wilbur, the bravest, most handsome knight around.
The Boy	This is terrible! I can draw better than that
Nia	You're probably right. Maybe you can fix it.
Narrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As they made more books, more townspeople became curious and stopped to look.</li> <li>- The town's detective saw the crowd forming and came over to see if there was any trouble. She picked up a book.</li> </ul>
The Detective	This was my favorite book growing up!
The Boat Captain	And this book is the reason I fell in love with the sea.
Narrator	But as they read, everybody noticed mistakes.
The Boat Captain	Arrr! Where The Wild Things Roam?! That's not the title!
The Detective	And that's not how Sherlock solved the crime!

Narrator	Every time, Nia simply said.
Nia	Oh. Well, maybe you can fix it.
Narrator	And she handed them a pencil.
Narrator	Pretty soon, half the town was writing alongside Nia.
The Grocer	Whaddya think?
The Builder	I've never built a house-shoe before.
The Distracted Mom	How are the sketches going?
The Boy	I'm on page ten!
Narrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pretty soon, there were enormous piles of freshly written books. Books of adventure and poetry, and filled with every idea ever imagined.</li> <li>- There were so many books that they spilled into the road and stopped traffic.</li> </ul>
Nia	Hmmmmmm. If only there was some better way to organize them.
The Grocer	I've got empty crates we could use as shelves.
The Builder	If it rains, the books will get wet. I'll make some walls and a roof to protect them.
The Banker	And we'll need lions. A good library has to have lions in front. I'll get the two from my bank.
Narrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pretty soon the entire town was lending a hand.</li> <li>- There were people writing and drawing and binding and building and sorting and stacking and slicing oranges for energy.</li> </ul>
The Mayor	What we need is an opening ceremony!
Narrator	So the Mayor fetched her shiniest ribbon and her biggest scissors and her fanciest outfit, and she was just about to cut the ribbon so the crowd could shout "Hooray!" when Nia said....
Nia	<b>Wait! We forgot one thing.</b>
The Builder	We did?
The Banker	We did?
Nia	We have a library. But we don't have a librarian.
The Mayor	Oh! Does anyone want to be the librarian?
ALL CHARACTERS but nia and the mayor	Raise your hand.
Nia	That should fix it.

Narrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Then the Mayor cut the ribbon. The whole town shouted “Hooray” And Littletown’s New Free Library was open.</li><li>- Everyone crowded into the library to admire what they had accomplished.</li><li>- There were kids in beanbags reading picture books. Kids with pencils writing new books.</li><li>- In one corner, there was a knitting class. In another, all of the grandparents were learning to use a computer.</li><li>- Everywhere there were people sitting together, enjoying the cozy quiet of a book-filled place.</li><li>- Meanwhile, Nia did what she had wanted to do from the very beginning. She quietly walked straight to her favorite section...and checked out her favorite book.</li><li>- And she sat down to read in her favorite spot underneath the library’s tree.</li><li>- At least she did... Until the tornado came back and carried the school away.</li></ul>
Nia	Sigh
Narrator	The End