

Title: Nia and the New Free Library

By: Ian Lendler

Scripted By: Carinne Reece and Emily Gray

PARTS(12): Nia Narrator #1 Narrator #2 Distracted Mom Grocer Boat Captain
Banker Builder Mayor Young Boy Detective Crowd (Everyone Except
Nia)

ACT 1

Narrator #1: For as long as anyone could remember, the Littletown Library stood beside the street.

Narrator #2: It was there so long...

Narrator #1: That people stopped paying attention. The building got old. The librarian retired. And nobody noticed.

Narrator #2: Until one day, a tornado came and carried the whole thing away.

Narrator #1: No one quite knew what to do with the empty space where the library used to be.

Builder: We need a BIG skyscraper. That will really put this town on the map.

Grocer: We need a parking lot. That would help my business!

Narrator #2: But Nia had a different idea.

Nia: We need to rebuild the library.

Mayor: Rebuild it? What's the point? No one uses the libraries anymore.

Banker: Rebuild it? That costs money, and I can't spare a dime.

Distracted mom: Who needs it? My son and I get everything we want online.

Young boy: I'm on level ten! *Holds up phone*

Narrator #1: But Nia loved the library. She went every week to check out books. She liked cookbooks the best. Her favorite spot to read them was under the tree in front of the library.

Narrator #2: But it's hard to check out a book from a library that isn't there. That's when Nia had an idea.

ACT 2

Narrator #1: She got a desk and a chair. And a pencil and some paper. And a plate of orange slices for energy. Then, she began to write. It took her all day.

Narrator #2: It took her another day, too. From sunup to sundown, it took her a lot of days.

Narrator #1: And at first, no one paid any attention. But pretty soon, she had written an entire wagon full of books.

Nia: Would you like to check out a book, sir?

Grocer: How? The library is gone.

Nia: This is the new Free Library. *Points to her wagon*

Narrator #2: The grocer was curious, so he picked up the book on top of the pile and began to read...

Grocer: *Reading* There was an old lady who lived in a shoe. She lived in a shoe? PEE-YEW!

Grocer: Hey! You wrote this wrong!

Nia: I did? Well, maybe you can fix it.

Narrator #1: Nia handed the grocer a pencil and he started to write.

Grocer: *Starts to write in the book*

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

Young boy: *Holding up book* This is terrible! I can draw better than that!

Nia: *Hands the young boy a pencil* You're probably right. Maybe you can fix it.

ACT 3

Narrator #2: As they made more books, more townspeople became curious and stopped to look.

Narrator #1: The town's detective saw the crowd forming and came over to see if there was any trouble.

Detective: *Picks up book* This was my favorite book growing up!

Boat Captain: *Looks at another book* And this book is the reason I fell in love with the sea.

Narrator #2: But as they read, everybody noticed mistakes.

Boat Captain: Arrr! *Where the Wild Things Roam?*! That's not the title!

Detective: And that's not how Sherlock solved the crime!

Narrator #1: And everytime someone responded, Nia simply said...

Nia: Oh. Well, maybe you can fix it.

Narrator #2: And handed them a pencil.

Narrator #1: Pretty soon, half the town was writing alongside Nia.

Grocer: *Talking to builder* Whaddya think?

Builder: I've never built a house-shoe before.

Distracted Mom: *Talking to young boy* How are the sketches going?

Young Boy: I'm on page ten!

Narrator #2: Everyone discovered the job was a lot harder than it looked. But they began to remember words and ideas that had inspired them.

Narrator #1: Pretty soon, there were enormous piles of freshly written books. Books of adventure and poetry, and filled with every idea ever imagined. There were so many books that they spilled into the road and stopped traffic.

Nia: *Looking at the pile of books* Hmmmmmm. If only there was some better way to organize them.

Grocer: I've got empty crates we could use as shelves.

Builder: If it rains, the books will get wet. I'll make some walls and a roof to protect them.

Banker: And we'll need lions. A good library has to have lions in front. I'll get the two from my bank.

Narrator #2: Pretty soon the entire town was lending a hand. There were people writing and drawing and binding and building and sorting and stacking and slicing oranges for energy.

Mayor: What we need is an opening ceremony!

Narrator #1: 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: Wait! We forgot one thing.

Builder: We did?

Banker: We did?

Nia: We have a library, but we don't have a librarian.

Mayor: Oh! Does anyone here want to be the librarian?

Several hands raised

Nia: That should fix it.

Narrator #2: Then the Mayor cut the ribbon.

Crowd: Hooray!

Narrator #1: And Littletown's New Free Library was open.

ACT 4

Narrator #2: Everyone crowded into the library to admire what they had accomplished. There were kids in beanbags reading picture books. Kids with pencils writing new books.

Narrator #1: In one corner, there was a knitting class. In another, all the grandparents were learning to use a computer. Everywhere there were people sitting together, enjoying the cozy quiet of a book-filled place.

Narrator #2: Meanwhile, Nia did what she had wanted to do from the very beginning. She quietly walked straight to her favorite section...

Nia: *Walks over to books*

Narrator #2: And checked out her favorite book.

Narrator #1: And she sat down to read in her favorite spot underneath the library's tree. At least she did...

Narrator #2: Until the tornado came back and carried the school away

Nia: *Sigh*

EVERYONE: The End.