How Well Can You Read My Lips?

A MinneStory™

Sophia & Linnea, sisters, talk about what's awesome and challenging about being deaf and how important it is to have a sister to share in the journey and support them along the way.

MINNE STORIES

Sophia: Okay, so my first question for you Linnea is what's the best part about being deaf?

Linnea: Probably the best part about being deaf is sleepovers because you get to actually sleep at the sleepover because…

Sophia: You can take them off.

Linnea: Yeah, yes, then you can actually get a good night's sleep.

Sophia: But then at the same time, wouldn't that kind of be like a worst thing cuz…

Linnea: Yeah, because then you…

Sophia: You miss out on some stuff.

Linnea: Mhmm, cuz it's like, in the morning, they're all talking about something that someone did last night. I'm like, "What are you guys talking about?" And they're like, "Oh, you took off your processor." And I'm like, "Oh man!"

Sophia: What would you say the worst part is?

Linnea: Pool parties, because you want to be with your friends, and you want to swim at the same time. And then like people are asking you, like, "Do you want to play this?" And I'm like, "I have no idea what you're talking about." And then it's like, after that they're like, "Oh, yeah, yeah. She can't hear me." And then I end up mostly swimming by myself.

Sophia: Yeah. Kinda sucks too. Sometimes when I'm in the waterproof case, that doesn't happen to me as much anymore. Do you ever play the game, "How well can you read my lips?" "Take off your processors. Let's see how well you can read my lips."

Linnea: Yeah. My friends do that with me a lot.

Sophia: Yeah.

Linnea: Especially at school. They're like, "Take off your processors. This person doesn't think that you can read lips that well."

Sophia: Mhmm.

Linnea: And I'm like, "I don't really want to take them off right now at school."

Sophia: Yeah. Or it happens to me a lot on the bus. "Okay, Sophie! Sophie! Look! Show them that you can do it! Take your processors off!" Okay, I mean you can guess what most of the time they're going to say. They're gonna say, "Hi, my name is blah blah blah, or, hi, what's your favorite color? Nice to meet you."

Linnea: It's never really something like gobbledygook. You know what I mean? It's never something really difficult. And it's like, I can read your lips. I can just read your lips. And sometimes they're like, "Yeah, right, you so heard me." I'm like…

Sophia: Oh I know! When Anna, our cousin, had someone over, she did not believe me at all that I couldn't hear. You know what? Never mind. Fine. Fine. Fine.

Linnea: Yeah. That's what I do sometimes. It's like, okay fine, whatever. Think that. I don't care.

Sophia: Like, guess I'm probably never going to see you again.

Linnea: Yeah.

Sophia: It doesn't really affect me too much if you don't believe me.

Linnea: I think you're a really nice person, and I like having another older sister who is deaf with me, so I can ask her about stuff.

Sophia: Mhmm. Yeah, I feel the same. I'm happy you're my younger sister, and I'm really glad that I have someone who is really close to me who is deaf too. It makes me feel better.

Linnea: Mhmm. Like if you weren't deaf, I'd probably be a lot more shy. I probably wouldn't do as much stuff as I do right now.

Sophia: Mhmm. Mhmm.

Linnea: And you motivate me.

Sophia: Oh, thank you. How come you never told me this stuff before? I feel the same way too. Like, you're someone I can go and talk to. Even though you're littler than me, that doesn't really matter that much, I don't think.

Linnea: Yeah.

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