Oakland, California—Nina G knows first hand what it means to meet the challenges of having a Learning Disability. Diagnosed in third grade as well as having a stutter, she has met the academic as well as personal challenges as person with a disability. Nina is considered the only female stuttering stand up comedian in the world and is also a disability awareness educator. She uses humor as a tool for activism and education.


“Many adults and children are diagnosed with Learning Disabilities (LDs) but don’t know what that means for them. They are expected to understand what their LD is, why they need accommodations and then advocate for themselves,” says Nina. “With all the excellent help I received as a kid from supportive parents and teachers, I don’t think I really understood my LD until my early 20s!”

Nina attempts to demystify what it means to have a LD in terms of the diagnosis but also explains what an accommodation is and why people with LD receive them. She states, “most people with and without disabilities are not taught about the histories of people with disabilities. As a result they don’t know how this history is connected to civil rights laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Some powerful activists fought for my right as a person with LD and I want kids with LD and adults who are newly diagnosed to understand this!”

Although the book is written so children can understand it, adults can also benefit from *Once Upon an Accommodation*’s story and campy humor. Many books about LD are difficult for children and even adults with Learning Disabilities to read. *Once Upon an Accommodation* was designed to address multiple modes of learning. The writing and illustrations are simple to understand while also conveying complex information.

*Once Upon an Accommodation* helps people of every age understand the process of being diagnosed with LD, why accommodations are needed and why advocacy is some important. Nina explains, “it is my hope that this is not only read by kids but also by parents, family members, teachers, and helping professionals so that they understand the context of what having an LD means.” Nina helps the reader see what it means to have a LD and to be part of a larger disability community.

Nina G is currently living in Oakland, California. She performs stand up comedy at colleges and clubs across the country and is a regular at the San Francisco Punchline. Nina is also part of the troupe, The Comedians with Disabilities Act who bring disability awareness to night club and college audiences. When she is not doing stand up she is educating people through workshops, keynote addresses, and trainings. Topics include universal design in teaching, disability awareness, and humor as a coping strategy. As her bio states, “Because of her Learning Disability she never thought she would be successful in school but now has her doctorate. Because of her stuttering, she never thought she could be a stand-up comedian, but is.”

*Once Upon an Accommodation: A picture book for all ages* was published by Create Space and is also available through Amazon.com. Contact your local bookstores and libraries to request that they include it in their collection.


There is also an effort to get *Once Upon an Accommodation* into the hands of children at schools and agencies. To donate go to [www.gofundme.com/LDhumor](http://www.gofundme.com/LDhumor).