

Sara - Dyslexia

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INT. CINEMA. MOVIE THEATER. DAY

You "wake up" in a movie theater with only the chair you are sitting on and some kind of box next to you. The lights fade off and a projection starts. A person appears on screen. SARA, 19 is looking right towards the camera with a nervous smile. She is swaying a bit. Behind her lies the main hall of The University of Applied Sciences of Sankt Pölten.

SARA

Hello, I'm Sara, nice to meet you!  
I'm 19 years old and I'm studying  
Digital Design at the FH. It's kind  
of a big deal for me because I have  
dyslexia. Many people don't realize  
this and think that it's just a  
minor inconvenience, but it's  
actually a learning disability and  
can be pretty tough depending on  
the person.

She stops for a moment before resuming.

SARA

In my case it has always been hard,  
this is not an evident disability  
and it can take a lot of time to  
detect. I was officially diagnosed  
only three years ago, but it  
affected my life since I started  
learning to read. I couldn't  
understand what I read, I could  
hardly understand what was often  
being told to me and I hated  
everything related to grasp new  
concepts. However, the worst part  
was not understanding what was  
wrong with me.

She shrugs.

SARA

Fortunately, I ended up developing  
some simple techniques to help me  
focus on what I read.

She lifts her arm.

SARA

For example, using a guide.

INTERCUT:

INT. FH. CLASSROOM. DAY

Sara is sitting at a table trying to read a book. She takes a deep breath and follows the text with her finger.

SARA(V.0)

It may seem obvious and dumb, but  
staying relaxed and using my finger  
or anything else as a reference  
while I read can be a huge help.

INT. CINEMA. MOVIE THEATER. DAY

Sara keeps calmly talking from the screen.

SARA

However, there's no magic solution,  
and dealing with dyslexia is often  
tricky.

She exhales.

SARA

And it does in fact not only affect  
your performance in school or work,  
but it can disturb your daily life  
and mess up your routine.

INTERCUT:

EXT. FH'S BUILDING B. ENTRANCE. DAY

Sara is standing right outside the door to the building B of the university.

SARA(V.0)

Take my first time here, for  
example. I had arrived to the  
entrance and was looking for  
building B.

She looks at a sign and reads what it says.

SARA(V.0)

I found a sign and checked on which  
building I was, but it looked all  
blurry.

The sign's words are blurry, but end up stabilizing and forming "Building D".

(CONTINUES)

SARA(V.0)  
It said I was on the wrong  
building, so of course, I went to  
the other.

Sara heads to the other building.

SARA(V.0)  
Of course, I got it wrong and got  
late to my first lecture.

INT. CINEMA. MOVIE THEATER. DAY

Sara exhales and laughs convalescently.

SARA  
Still, obviously having dyslexia  
does not mean that you must be  
miserable or that you won't be able  
to express yourself. In my case, I  
found a way of expressing my  
thoughts in art. Drawing is a great  
outlet to say what I may not be  
great at saying in other ways;  
that's exactly why I'm here right  
now.

SARA  
I'm also pretty good with puzzles.

She smiles and looks straight to camera.

SARA  
But enough talk for now. Why don't  
you try what it is like? Come on,  
put on those glasses next to you  
and find out!