

By Julia Willardson  
(Based on a true story)

*This story took place in the USA.*

Janie closed her book and sighed happily. This book was her favorite! She had already finished it three times. She loved to read!

"Do you think I could build a little library?" Janie asked Mom and Dad later that day. She wanted to help others by sharing books with them.

"What's a little library?" Dad asked.

"It's a box that you put outside with books in it," Janie said. "People can borrow them for free. Or they can leave books for others to read."

"I think that's a great idea," said Mom. Dad nodded. "We can help you build it." "Thanks!" said Janie. "Maybe we can have a bake sale to earn money for the supplies!"

Janie and her sister, Carli, made

# The Little Library

signs announcing the bake sale. They placed them around the neighborhood. Mom and Dad let people know about the bake sale online. Janie was so excited!

Janie had a lot of fun making the treats. She made cookies, crispy cereal bars, and snowball cakes.

Soon the day of the bake sale came. Janie, Carli, and their friend Bella put a table in the front yard. They sold treats to a lot of their neighbors. Some even donated extra money too. Janie put all the money in a special jar.

After the bake sale, Janie had another idea. She entered some of her favorite treats into a contest at the county fair and won a prize! She put the prize money in the jar with the other money for her little library.

Now that Janie had the money for the little library, she needed books to fill it with. She went from door to door and asked her neighbors to donate books they didn't need

anymore. Some friends came by to give Janie their books too.

It was finally time to build her little library. Janie used the money she'd earned to buy supplies. She drew a design of the box and made measurements. Dad helped her cut the wood, and Janie helped him put the pieces together.

Mom filled in the cracks and seams to keep the water out when it rained. Janie helped hang up a sign telling people to take a book or share a book.

Finally Janie and her family took the box out to the front yard next to their big, shady tree.

Dad put a post in the ground, and together they put the box on the post. They had made a little library!

Dad placed three heavy rocks around the post. "That should keep it from blowing over," he said.

"I love it!" Janie said. "Now we can put the books inside." They filled the little library with the donated books.

After that, Janie went to check the little library every day. She loved to see what books people added or took out. One day she saw a little girl choose one of Janie's own favorite books! She was so glad she could help her neighbors by sharing books in the little library. ●