Gabe Teaches His Classmates to Speak

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Illustrated by Morgan Gaetano
I watch Mrs. Sullivan teach the lesson, but the rest of the kids watch Ms. Dellatte.
Mrs. Sullivan translates Ms. Dellatte's words into American Sign Language (ASL).

I can read lips, but this makes it easier to follow.
Things only become a problem when it’s time for group work. The other students don’t know how to communicate with me, so I work with Ms. Sullivan.
She sits with me at lunch too.
But today she’s out sick, so I’m sitting alone.
Until a girl from my class sits down next to me.

She passes me a note.
You can
Can come
Sit with us!
I carry my lunch over to the table and sit down.
“Tori, Gabe can’t even talk or listen; he's just going to sit here, silent.”
I decide to write him a note.

You just don't know how to talk and listen like me. I can talk with my hands and listen with my eyes. You can learn too!