



# imaginary theatre company

2012–2013 SEASON

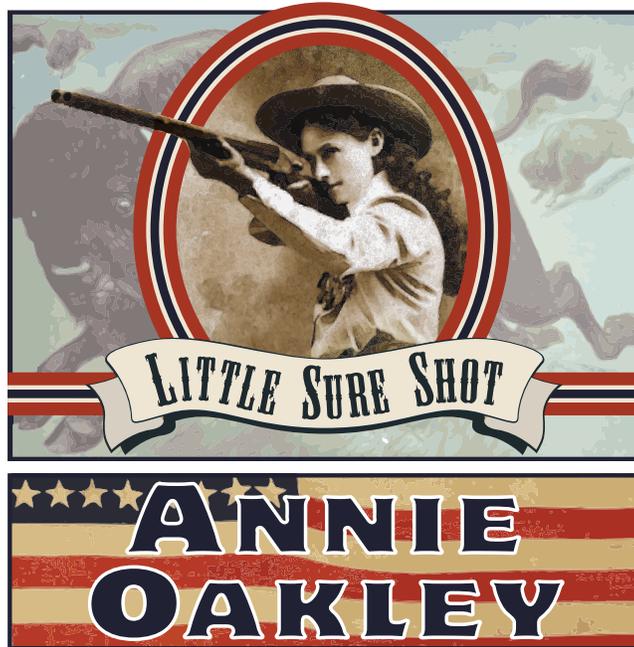
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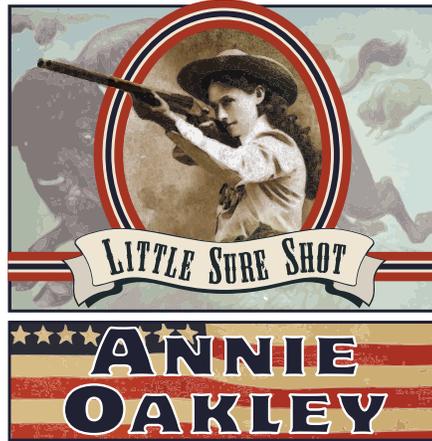
by Kathryn Schultz Miller  
Directed by Jason Cannon

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# Imaginary theatre company



by Kathryn Schultz Miller  
Directed by Jason Cannon

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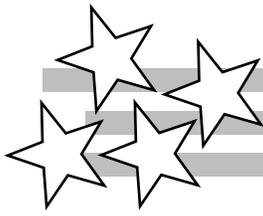
## The Company

Monique Hafen*	ANNIE
Alan Knoll*	PAP, BUFFALO BILL, SITTING BULL and OTHERS
Jerome Lowe*	JAKE, FRANK and OTHERS
Laurie McConnell*	JESS, MAMA and OTHERS

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



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# setting the scene

It's the late 19th century, and the legend of the American Frontier is in full swing. Annie Oakley, a young girl from Ohio, fears for her family because hunting has been especially difficult this winter, and with her father getting older, he can't bring home as much game as he used to. She begs her parents to let her help him hunt, but they tell her "women do the cookin' and the men do the shootin'." Seeing this as unfair and silly, Annie sneaks out with her father's rifle at night and becomes quite good at shooting a gun; she's a natural who rarely misses her mark. With a great deal more to eat, her family begins to accept that Annie's not like other girls.

But everything truly changes when Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show comes into town. Confident in her ability, Annie decides to join the tour to show off her sharp-shooting talent. She's met with much opposition from people who don't believe a woman can shoot as well as a man, and that she shouldn't even try because it's not her place. Can Annie overcome this prejudice and other big obstacles, such as being so far away from home, family and everything familiar? How can she show everyone that she was born to be a star?



# who's who?

**Annie Oakley:** A headstrong young woman from Ohio who's an extraordinarily talented sharpshooter

**Mama and Pap:** Annie's parents who don't understand her ambition at first but are supportive once they realize her unique skill and dreams

**Jake:** Annie's brother

**Buffalo Bill:** An American soldier and showman who runs "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show"

**Frank Butler:** A marksman who is quite taken with not only Annie's skills but Annie herself

**Sitting Bull:** A Native American chief who travels with the Wild West show in an attempt to help his people

**President Cleveland:** President of the United States who is fascinated by Annie's talent

## ANSWER KEY PAGE 9

1. B , 2. C, 3. B, 4. A, 5. A, 6. C, 7. B, 8. B, 9. B, 10. C

## PAGE 11

Cheese \$.10, rice \$.10, corn \$1.20, apples \$.25, dried figs \$.20 = \$1.85

Flour \$7.50, molasses \$.30, lard \$.09, butter \$.30, sugar \$.21 = \$8.40

2 packets = \$2.50;  
3 singles = \$2.25;  
\*1 packet & 1 single = \$2

April 1st

Yes; No



# what's the story?

Annie Oakley admits there are a lot of famous stories about her. Although flattering, she says they're mostly rumors. However, there is one thing she is "intolerable good" at. She decides to give the true story—straight from the horse's mouth!

The story begins during one brutal winter in Darke County, Ohio, when Annie is young. Because her father is getting old, she offers to help him hunt, but he tells her that it's not a girl's job. Her father and mother go to bed thinking that's the end of the discussion, but Annie sneaks out with her brother Jake into the woods. She admits to her brother that she's been practicing at night after everyone goes to sleep. She's learned that to become a good shot, you just have to "get your mind, your nerve and everything in harmony" . . . and BAM! Christmas supper is served!

Later on, Buffalo Bill, an American soldier and showman, comes into town. He tells an elaborate story of the Wild West, and announces that he's taking his show to Cincinnati. Annie says she wants to go with him and show off her shooting skills, but Buffalo Bill says no one wants to see a woman shoot a gun. However, the headstrong Annie decides to go to Cincinnati anyway. There she catches up with another show where famous sharpshooter Frank Butler bets \$50 he can beat the town's best shot. Annie steps forward and shocks the crowd by beating Frank at a shooting contest. Buffalo Bill has witnessed the entire thing and tells Frank and Annie that they're a match made in heaven!

Annie becomes a show star. She and Frank have a whole bag of tricks. Annie gets so good, she can shoot a pencil Frank holds in his teeth or a dime he holds between two fingers. She can slice a playing card held

edgewise from 30 paces away! Everyone falls in love with her—including Frank, who asks Annie to marry him. She warns him that she's not like other women; she's independent and wants to stay that way. He tells her that he would never survive if she were to change. Annie kisses him, and they become engaged, but she tells him to take back the ring because she's got no use for diamonds. She tells him to buy her horse instead.

With a lot of help from Annie, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show becomes a wild success across the country! However, something keeps bothering Annie. Sitting Bull, a Native American chief famous for helping his people win the Battle of Little Bighorn, participates in the show, but Annie feels he's just being paraded around like a zoo animal without getting much respect. Although Frank tells her not to worry so much, Annie asks Sitting Bull about it. Sitting Bull tells her he likes to be a reminder of the past for people, and he hopes to meet President Cleveland and ask him to help save his people's land. Annie understands his mission, and the two become close as he tells her she reminds him of his daughter.

Annie continues her fantastic career. She goes on a European tour with the show, which makes her one of the most famous women in the world; she is able to provide her family with everything they would ever need; she even gets to meet President Cleveland and introduce him to Sitting Bull! Annie eventually leaves the show as she gets older, but she makes sure to put her fame to good use by raising money for orphans and helping to put women through college. Although she visited the world's most exciting places, Annie decides to spend her last days in the place she loves most: home. She and Frank move back to Ohio and live out the rest of their lives there.

Please feel free to adapt these materials to suit your classroom needs and reproduce them for future use.



# words to the wise

**Hand-me-down:** A used item of clothing that's passed down from one generation to the next

**Stagecoach:** A horse-drawn carriage that traveled regularly over a route with passengers or mail

**Pony Express:** A system of delivering mail with riders on ponies who would travel between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California

**Intolerable:** Unbearable, awful

**Grub:** Food

**Straight from the horse's mouth:** An expression that means the information came directly from the source

**Out yonder:** Over there

**Pining:** Longing for something or somebody

**Trolley:** Street car

**Consternation:** A feeling of confusion and dismay, usually caused by something unexpected

**Respiratory:** The bodily system of breathing and taking in oxygen

**Stout:** Strong and substantial

**Commotion:** A scene of noisy confusion or activity

**Clay pigeon:** A clay disk hurled into the air from a machine and used as a target for shooting

**Gumption:** Strong common sense, presence of mind and the courage to act when needed

**Tall tale:** An unlikely story

**Gilding:** Decorations or embellishments

**Homestead:** A house and its buildings and land

**Queen Victoria:** The queen who ruled over the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 to 1901, a period longer than any other British monarch, which is known as the Victorian Era

**Golden Jubilee:** A celebration to commemorate a monarch's 50 years on the throne

**Prince Edward:** Queen Victoria's son who would become King after his mother's death; he ruled until his death in 1910, a period known as the Edwardian Era

**Kaiser Wilhelm:** The King of Prussia (1861-1888) who was also the first German Emperor (1871-1888)

**Unconstitutional:** Against the principles set down in a constitution

**Prudent:** Having good sense in dealing with practical matters

**Juncture:** A point in time that's important or critical





# A HISTORY LESSON

Plays based on real-life people or events can be a fun way to learn about history! Had you ever heard of Annie Oakley, Buffalo Bill or the Wild West Show before seeing the play? Whether you have or not, here's a little bit more info on the show and all the interesting characters you were introduced to!



## BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW

Conceived in the early 1880s, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show was meant as a spectacle to both entertain and educate crowds around the country. Incorporating cowgirls, cowboys, Native Americans and live animals such as buffalo, elk and cattle, the show demonstrated bronco riding, roping, shooting and reenactments of famous events, such as the Battle of Little Bighorn. Although some famous names of the time, such as Mark Twain and General William Tecumseh Sherman, praised the realistic details of the show, many since have questioned the authenticity of the facts it portrayed. The Deadwood stagecoach used for a robbery scene was apparently real, as was Bill's claimed history of growing up in Kansas during the Western migration. But as you probably remember from the play, the show claimed Annie was from the West when she was really from Ohio, and it also depicted Native Americans almost always as the aggressors, often attacking wagons, when in fact these attacks were rare. The show never mentioned the oppression of the Native American people, such as when the Sioux were kicked off their land when gold was discovered in the Black Hills. The Wild West Show embodied an image of the the time that many hold close to their hearts, but it unfortunately is responsible for encouraging negative stereotypes.

## BUFFALO BILL

Born in Scott County, Iowa in 1846, William "Bill" Cody's family moved to Kansas in 1857. As he grew up, Bill experienced both being a prospector in the Pikes Peak gold rush and working for the Pony Express. After the Civil War, in which Bill served as a Union scout, he married Louisa Frederici in St. Louis and continued to work for the Army as a scout and dispatch carrier out of Fort Ellsworth, Kansas. In 1867, he earned the nickname "Buffalo Bill" by hunting buffalo to feed the crews working on the Kansas Pacific Railroad. He first experienced fame after his alter ego "Buffalo Bill" was published as a heroic character in Ned Buntline's dime novels, which mixed fact and fiction. This eventually led to Bill starring in the stage play *The Scouts of the Plains*. A natural, Bill remained an actor for 11 seasons. This experience came in handy when he organized the Wild West Show in 1883, which was an enormous success and toured for three decades. Unfortunately, he lost most of his fortune due to mismanagement, but his legacy lives on. After dying in 1917, he was buried in a tomb blasted from solid rock at Lookout Mountain, a popular tourist attraction in Denver, Colorado.



## ANNIE OAKLEY

Born Phoebe Ann Moses in 1860 in Ohio, Annie grew up helping to support her family with her remarkable hunting skills, which helped to put food on the table and money in their pockets. Her skills were so sharp, she entered a shooting match with the touring champion Frank Butler in 1875. Butler was not only shocked to have been

beaten by 15-year-old girl, but he also fell hard for Annie, and they married the next year. Together they toured as a couple showing off their incredible marksmanship on stage. It was around this time that Annie adopted the stage name "Oakley." She joined the Wild West show in 1885 and performed for the next 17 years. She was a star, able to do many dazzling tricks such as splitting cards on their edges and shooting corks off bottles. During the show's wildly successful tour run, including a three-year tour in Europe beginning in 1889, Annie became one of America's first female superstars. Never forgetting her poor roots, Annie made it a point to never waste money, and she and Frank often donated to orphan charities and supported their families back home. After Annie and Frank were in a train accident in 1901, Annie left the show. Eventually, she enjoyed retirement with Frank, where she still performed in charity events and raised money for the Red Cross during World War I by giving shooting demonstrations at army camps. Annie died on November 3, 1926, and Frank, her husband of 50 years, died just 18 days later.

#### FRANK BUTLER

Although his life is considered distinctly American, Frank was actually born in Ireland in 1852. He moved to the United States at the age of 13. Because marksmanship displays were becoming popular in the 1870s, Frank developed a shooting act. When Frank traveled, he would often issue a competition challenge to any local shooting champions. His professional and personal life changed forever, when 15-year-old Annie Oakley took him up on it and surprisingly beat him. They soon married and traveled together showing off their skills. Very happy together, Frank once wrote of Annie in a poem. "Her presence would remind you of an angel in the skies. And you bet I love this little girl with the rain drops in her eyes." Frank often handled the business side of things while Annie flourished on the stage. He became her press agent and handled

finances. After spending their lives on stage, Frank and Annie eventually got to enjoy retirement and give to many charities. Frank remarked in a 1911 poem "Don't you know it's the part of a brother of Man to find what the grief is and help what you can?"

#### SITTING BULL

Born around 1831 in present-day South Dakota, Sitting Bull was given the name Tatanka-Iyotanka, which describes a buffalo bull sitting stubbornly on its haunches. A warrior from the time he was a young man, Sitting Bull fought in many battles. Due to his experience and highly respected wisdom and courage, Sitting Bull became head chief of the Lakota nation around 1868. He was instrumental in helping his people defeat General Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. His people were being forced off their sacred land, the Black Hills of Dakota Territory, after gold was discovered there, despite the fact that it was supposed to be protected under the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. During a sun dance ritual, Sitting Bull had a vision in which he saw soldiers falling into the Lakota camp like grasshoppers falling from the sky. Inspired by the vision, the Ogala Lakota war chief Crazy Horse led Indian warriors to surprise and defeat federal troops at the Battle of the Rosebud, which led to a later attack from Custer in the Battle of Little Bighorn. Being greatly outnumbered, Custer's troops were easily defeated. Sitting Bull continued to elude capture by moving to Canada for a few years before surrendering in 1881, due to his people's extreme hunger. He was forced to live on a reservation called Standing Rock, but received a brief break in 1885 when he joined the Wild West Show for four months. Unfortunately, Sitting Bull met a tragic end in 1890 when he was killed by Standing Rock authorities who feared he was taking part in an uprising. However, his legacy as an inspirational and fearless leader continues to live on.



# WHAT'S YOUR POINT OF VIEW?

These are the only facts that are certain.

☛ At 2:17 pm, there was a shot heard from inside the bank; everyone at the saloon, the general store, the stables, the clothes shop and out on the street heard it.

☛ At 2:20 pm, a masked individual ran out of the bank with a bag full of money and jumped on a horse to ride away.

☛ The bank teller Lyle Merks followed after the robber screaming that someone just stole \$34!

☛ Jimmie "Gunsmoke" Bronco is currently wanted for three bank robberies in the past month.

☛ No one was seriously injured from the gunshot.

Now choose a character from below:

Bank teller Lyle Merks

Accused bank robber Jimmie "Gunsmoke" Bronco

Sally Mae Martin, the clothes shop owner

Marty O'Brien, saloon bartender

Kimmie Jones, the new local newspaper reporter trying to make a name for herself

Milo "Ivories" Nelson, the saloon's blind piano player

Acorn, the robber's horse

Nickels, one of the horses in the stable

Belle Abbott, preacher's wife and mother of four who was a bank customer at the time of the robbery

Lulu Cartwright, the town snob

Ken "Lucky" Hendricks, cowboy whose adventures have made him a local hero

Abigail "Sureshot" James, the streetwise cowgirl

Casper Jones, the sleazy town mayor

Minnie Boyd, the town flirt

Mollie Houston, the new saloon singer

Danny Krieger, the general store errand boy

Maira Wuti, the town's Native American medicine woman, who was picking up supplies at the general store during the bank robbery

Curtis Black, the tough town sheriff

Dottie "Sweetheart" Jones, the saloon's pretty bar maid, known for her kind nature



*Pretend you're  
in the Wild  
West and  
there was a  
bank robbery!*

From your character's point of view, write your version of the events before, during and after the bank robbery. Feel free to write about the whole day leading up to the robbery or even just a few minutes before. Include as many details as possible: about your character, about what you think of the other townspeople, the bank, general store, saloon, stables and/or clothes shop, etc. When writing your version, consider these questions:

☞ Based on the given description, what would your character be doing on any normal day?

☞ Is the bank robber the obvious suspect, Jimmie "Gunsmoke" Bronco, or is it someone unexpected? Or perhaps it's your character?

☞ Does the bank robber get away on the horse or does he or she get caught?

☞ Does your character witness everything or do you get involved somehow, and if so, is it on purpose or by accident?

☞ Who does your character interact with and what do you think of everyone else?

Have fun!

## WHO SAID IT?

Did you pay close attention to the play? Surely you can tell who said each quotation below—just match the correct choice to each quote!

1. "Huntin's for boys, Annie, you know that. And a rifle is not a toy, there ain't no sport in it. We hunt in Darke County because we need the food."

A. Mama    B. Pap    C. Jake

2. "That turkey's too far off. She'll hear the shot and take off afore you're done pullin' the trigger."

A. Buffalo Bill    B. Frank    C. Jake

3. "Awe, no. Forget it. Nobody wants to see a woman sharpshooter, even if she is the best."

A. Pap    B. Buffalo Bill    C. Frank

4. "I always knew you'd go away someday Annie, you're too big for this county. I guess I knew it the day you was born."

A. Mama    B. Pap    C. Jake

5. "Come on, now boys. Don't be shy. I got 50 bucks says I can beat the fanciest shot you got in this hog town."

A. Frank    B. Buffalo Bill    C. Annie

6. "I just don't think it's right. Chief Sitting Bull ain't no act. He shouldn't be paraded around like he is, he deserves respect."

A. Frank    B. Buffalo Bill    C. Annie

7. "When I walk among Buffalo Bill's people I remind them that the past will not go away. I remind them that I walked here first."

A. Annie    B. Sitting Bull    C. Frank

8. "I have performed for the boys and girls of the United States! Kings, Queens and Presidents are no higher in my eyes than the children."

A. Frank    B. Annie    C. Buffalo Bill

9. "Little Lady, you are an American treasure!"

A. Queen Victoria  
B. President Cleveland    C. Kaiser Wilhelm

10. "What do you say Annie? We'll knock 'em dead one more time! Hot-diggety-dog?"

A. Frank    B. Sitting Bull    C. Buffalo Bill



Annie Oakley travels for her job almost all year. But she and Frank have a month off from the Wild West tour, and they desperately need to go shopping for clothes and groceries. Using the menus below, calculate the answer to each problem.

### SALLIE MAE'S CLOTHES SHOP

Undershirts: \$.75 for singles;  
\$1.25 for a packet of two

Men's cotton socks: \$1 for six pairs

Solid gold drop earrings: \$3

Silk parasol: \$1

Gold ring: \$2

Hoop skirt/bustle/  
hair braid set: \$1.25

Gold locket: \$1.50;  
enameled gold locket: \$2

Heavy plaid shawl: \$3.25

### OTIS BROTHERS' GENERAL STORE

Cheese: \$.05/pound	Butter: \$.15/pound
Corn: \$.40/bushel	Sugar: \$.07/pound
Rice: \$.05/pound	Fresh apples: 2 for \$.05
Wheat: \$1/bushel	Dried figs: \$.20/ pound
Flour: \$3/barrel	Fresh peaches: 3 for \$.10
Molasses: \$.15/gallon	Dried apricots: \$.15/pound
Lard: \$.06/pound	
Coffee: \$.12/pound	

Obviously, Annie and Frank, being the sureshots they are, will always have delicious game to eat for their main course over the next month. But they want to pick up some other yummy dishes. They buy two pounds of cheese, two pounds of rice, three bushels of corn, 10 apples and a pound of dried figs. How much will it cost?

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They also need to pick up some cooking basics, so they pick up two and a half barrels of flour, two gallons of molasses, a pound and a half of lard, two pounds of butter, three pounds of sugar. How much is their bill?

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Frank needs three new undershirts. They're sold individually for \$.75 or in packets of two for \$1.25. Which would be the least expensive option—buying two packets (and having one extra shirt), three separate single shirts, or one packet and one single?

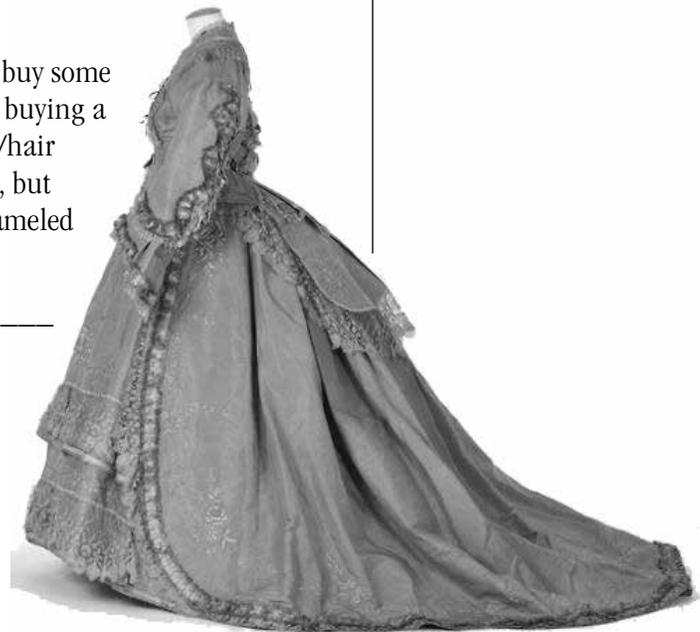
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Annie needs her caffeine fix every morning, so she buys six pounds of coffee. A pound and a half lasts her one month. Annie and Frank's schedule is home for one month, away for two months (where they won't be drinking the coffee), home for two months, away for one month, and then home for two months. If it's the first day of September, when will they need to buy more coffee?

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Now Annie doesn't have much need for rings, but she does want to buy some nice things to send to her mama. She has \$7 left to spend. She plans on buying a pair solid gold drop earrings, a new silk parasol and a hoop skirt/bustle/hair braid set. She would also like to buy a gold locket to match the earrings, but does she have enough? If she does have enough left, could she get it enameled too?

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*There weren't  
a nervous  
bone in her  
body.  
Annie had  
been born for  
this moment!*

Annie seemed destined for stardom. She loved being a sharpshooter and was thrilled to show off her skill to audiences around the world! Have you ever had a similar dream? What talent of yours would you love to showcase? Imagine you get the opportunity to be in a show just like Annie. Answer the questions below and dream big!

What talent of yours would you perform? Is it singing, acting, playing a sport or something totally unique and different?

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What would your set look like?

---

What would your costume look like?

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What places around the country or world would you like to visit?

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Buffalo Bill's Wild West tour involved multiple performers. Would you have other performers on your show as well? If so, who would perform with you? Why would their talents complement yours?

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