You have probably seen me before, but maybe you don’t recognize me. I must introduce myself: My name is Lyanne and although I am a high school student, I am also the typeface Futura. Please do not think I am having some sort of identity crisis. I know it seems peculiar comparing myself to a typeface, but it makes sense—allow me to elaborate. Futura and I live the same life. We share similar successes and achievements; we see the same roadblocks and overcome the same obstacles.

Futura is the classic underdog—it just isn’t as widely recognized as Helvetica, Arial and Times New Roman. Just like Futura, I am the underdog, too. I live in New Jersey and go to a small school with limited artistic resources. The odds of succeeding as a designer are stacked against me, but like Futura, I have paved a path for myself. I have managed to make my original designs stand out during critiques—proving my talent to professors and fellow design students. Futura and I are hard to overlook. We bring our originality and creativity to the table—we set ourselves apart with our unique characteristics and background.
Futura’s distinct features have taken the typeface to new and exciting places where typefaces have not been before. Futura’s been to the moon: It is the typeface on the plaque left on Earth’s moon by astronauts from the Apollo 11 mission. Like Futura, I also spend my time exploring new and interesting places. My individual interests have taken me places my peers have not been before. An appreciation of science, math, and technology has led me to the Union County Magnet High School. A yearning for an arts education compelled me to enroll in a variety of classes outside of my high school. I have studied as a pre-college design student at Pratt Institute, School of Visual Arts, and Carnegie Mellon University. I get involved on a personal level by volunteering and interning. I intern at the design agency Tritonic and volunteer at the City Without Walls Gallery in Newark. Additionally, a desire to help other students in their artistic endeavors has compelled me to teach. I work as an instructor at Art Lab Studios, an arts center for children. Like Futura, I am proud of the places I have been and want to discover new and exciting places where I can be just as influential as Futura.

Futura really wants to make a difference. Change Futura from 12 point to 72 point and it’s hard to miss. On the other hand, leave Futura at 12 point and it’s notable yet understated. Like Futura, my ultimate goal is to resonate with the general public. Futura just needs to be paired with a talented graphic artist to achieve its goals. In the same way, I need to be paired up with a design institution to achieve my artistic goals. I plan to develop my skills and establish my personal identity as a designer. I want to be a part of something greater, a community of artists just like me. Just like Futura sits alongside Helvetica, Arial, and Times New Roman on the page, I will sit in classrooms with my design contemporaries and guiding graphic artists.

Are you starting to see the similarities? Maybe Futura and I don’t look alike in person, but compare us both in personality and background and the resemblance is uncanny. Remember me the next time you’re looking at the printed page and you see the typeface Futura. Be sure to say hello and I’ll be listening.