

Sample Lesson #3

Read the passage before completing the items that follow.

Helen Keller was born a healthy child in Tuscumbia, Alabama in 1880. But when Helen was just nineteen months old, she became very sick. No one knows for sure what caused the illness, but Helen recovered, and her parents were relieved when she was well again. Shortly afterward, however, Helen's mother realized that the sickness had left Helen both deaf and blind. As Helen grew, her parents understood that they would need special help in order to teach her anything at all. Helen needed to learn basic table manners, how to care for herself, and most of all, how to communicate with her beloved mother and father.

The Kellers sought advice from a famous inventor, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Dr. Bell believed that all children, including deaf and blind children, could learn to communicate. He suggested the Kellers contact Perkins Institute, a school for deaf and blind children. The headmaster there recommended Anne Sullivan, a graduate of the Perkins Institute.

Together, Helen and Annie accomplished what most people considered impossible. Helen learned to communicate by finger-spelling and to read Braille. Later, she graduated from college with honors and received honorary degrees from renowned and prestigious universities. Annie was not only Helen's teacher, but also her lifelong companion. With Ms. Sullivan – later, Mrs. Macy – always by her side, Helen became a famous educator, author, lecturer, and humanitarian.



Helen Keller with Anne Sullivan

Photo courtesy of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

Source: "Hellen Keller." *Royal National Institute of Blind People*. n.d. web. 11. Oct. 2013.

- RI.6.2 1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
- A) As a baby, Helen survived a serious illness that changed her life drastically.
 - B) Helen's parents were relieved that Helen survived her illness.
 - C) No one believed that Helen would be able to live a normal life.
 - D) Table manners were very important for girls in the 1800s.
- RI.6.1 2. Which of these can you infer from the details given about Anne Sullivan?
- A) Dr. Alexander Graham Bell was a close friend of Anne Sullivan.
 - B) Anne Sullivan had a disability that had to do with sight or hearing.
 - C) The Perkins Institute did not have a teaching job for Anne Sullivan.
 - D) Anne Sullivan never married.

- RH.6-8.8 3. Sometimes the difference between a fact and an opinion is just a few words. Read each statement. Write F if the sentence is a fact or O if it is an opinion.
- _____ Helen gave Anne Sullivan credit for opening up her world.
_____ Anne Sullivan was truly a miracle worker.
- L.6.5a 4. Read the quote. What are two things being compared in the simile?
"Love is like a beautiful flower which I may not touch, but whose fragrance makes the garden a place of delight just the same." ~ *Helen Keller*
- _____
- RI.6.6 5. What is the purpose of the passage?
- A) to nominate Anne Sullivan for an award
B) to provide a short biography of Helen Keller
C) to convince the reader to study sign language
D) to raise money for the Perkins Institute
- RI.6.4 6. Helen "received honorary degrees from renowned and prestigious universities." The context clues let you know that these universities _____.
- A) were not very important C) were connected to the Perkins Institute
B) had a very high status D) did not accept students who were blind
- L.5.2c 7. Add a comma before the noun of direct address.
Would you care for some pastry Joan?
- L.6.1 8. Is the underlined word used as a pronoun or an adjective?
Why did you say that? pronoun adjective
- L.6.1c 9. Choose the possessive pronoun and direct object that agree with the antecedent. (*See* indefinite pronouns, Lesson #80.)
The townspeople returned to their neighborhoods after the flash floods, but only a few saw (her house / their houses) still standing.
- L.6.1 10. Underline the adverb. Circle the verb it modifies.
The boys completely destroyed that snow fort.