



# Helen Keller

## • Reading Comprehension •

### Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.  
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.

Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

A teacher comes into Helen's life. Helen kicks her teacher. Helen punches her teacher. Helen knocks out her teacher's front tooth.

**Stop and think:** Why do you think Helen wants to hurt her teacher?

The teacher is patient. The teacher's name is Anne Sullivan. Within weeks, Helen trusts Anne.

**Stop and think:** Why do you think Helen trusts Anne?



## Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Check the details  
that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

Good readers can find  
the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea.  
The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand  
and remember the main idea.

Main idea	Details
Helen loves to write.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ She writes books.</li> <li>✓ She writes for magazines.</li> <li>She loves to read.</li> </ul>
1. Helen has a temper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) ___ She wants her world to grow.</li> <li>(b) ___ She kicks people.</li> <li>(c) ___ She bites people.</li> </ul>
2. Helen improves the lives of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) ___ She fights for women's rights.</li> <li>(b) ___ She becomes famous.</li> <li>(c) ___ She raises money for the deaf and blind.</li> </ul>

## Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Read the writer's words.  
Figure out the invisible message.

Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read  
between the lines. Writers expect readers  
to figure out the invisible messages.

The writer's words	The invisible message
Later in life, Helen has a vaudeville career.	<i>Helen likes to act.</i> <i>Helen is not shy.</i> <i>Helen needs to earn money.</i>
1. Helen gets her college degree in 1904.	
2. Helen's world grows each day she is with Anne.	

## Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

1. Helen is a bright child. \_\_\_\_\_  
Helen uses 60 hand signs to communicate. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Helen gets her degree in 1904. \_\_\_\_\_  
Helen works hard to get her degree. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Helen dies in 1968. \_\_\_\_\_  
Life doesn't scare Helen. \_\_\_\_\_

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.

Facts can be proven.

Opinions are personal beliefs.

## Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
Where is Helen born?	Early Years	Alabama
1. When is Helen born?		
2. Why does Helen become blind and deaf as a child?		
3. When does Anne come into Helen's life?		

## Activity **6** Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.  
Make a connection to your life.

### Idea

Kate will not give up on Helen.  
Helen is lucky her mother is strong.



### Your Life

Describe a time when someone  
was strong for you.  
How did that person help you?  
How did you feel?

Describe a time when you  
were strong for someone.  
How did you help that person?  
How did you feel?

What helps us be strong for others?

Reading is more than understanding  
the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas  
to their lives.



© Courtesy of the American Foundation for the Blind, Helen Keller Archive.

# • Writing •

## Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about being strong.  
Use your ideas from Activity 6.

Your teacher will help you with spelling.

Good writers know that  
writing is a process.

Good writers think of ideas  
before they write.

Good writers check their writing.

### Paragraph 1

\_\_\_\_\_ was strong for me. He/She  
helped me by \_\_\_\_\_.  
Their help made me feel \_\_\_\_\_.

### Paragraph 2

I was strong for \_\_\_\_\_. I helped  
him/her by \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ helped me be strong.

Read each paragraph out loud.  
Which paragraph do you like better?  
Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

---

---

---

---

## Activity 2 Organize Ideas



Read the details for Idea Maps 1 and 2.  
Are the details about Helen's life before or  
after Anne became her teacher, or both?  
Copy the details into the correct box.

The first one is an example.

Good writers know  
that writing is a process.

Good writers organize their ideas  
before they write.

One way to organize ideas is  
to use comparison and contrast.

### Idea Map 1

#### Details

Helen is blind. ✓

Helen is like an alien.

Helen wants to see.

Helen learns about her world.

Helen is bright.

Helen is mad at the world.

**Helen's life  
before Anne.**

**Helen's life  
after Anne.**

**Different**

**Same**

**Different**

Helen is blind.

## Idea Map 2

### Details

Helen is deaf.

Helen learns signs.

People call Helen a monster.

Helen goes to college.

Helen writes books.

Helen uses all her senses.

**Helen's life  
before Anne.**

**Helen's life  
after Anne.**

**Different**

**Same**

**Different**

Choose details from Idea Maps 1 and 2 to complete the paragraphs.

### Idea Map 1

#### Paragraph 1

All her life, Helen is blind. She is \_\_\_\_\_. She wants \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Before Anne comes into her life, Helen is mad \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

She is like \_\_\_\_\_. Anne helps Helen  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Choose details from Idea Maps 1 and 2 to complete the paragraphs.

## Idea Map 2

### Paragraph 2

All her life, Helen is deaf. She uses \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Before Anne comes into her life, people call Helen \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

After Anne comes into her life, Helen learns \_\_\_\_\_.  
She goes \_\_\_\_\_. She \_\_\_\_\_.

## Activity 3 Use Capital Letters and Punctuation



Read these sentences.

Circle the capital letters and end punctuation.

1. Helen is born in Alabama.
2. When is Helen born?
3. Helen is born on June 27.
4. Anne Sullivan is Helen's teacher.

Read these sentences.

Add capital letters and end punctuation.

5. helen's parents are arthur and kate
6. when does anne come into helen's life
7. anne comes into Helen's life on march 3, 1887
8. what does anne teach helen
9. she has friends in new york

### In this activity...

#### use capital letters

at the beginning of a sentence,  
with names of people and places,  
with months of the year.

#### use punctuation

at the end of a sentence.



# • Word Attack Skills •

## Activity

# 1

### Predict the Word



Complete each sentence.

Use the pictures to predict the word.

Readers see new words all the time.  
They need to decode the new words.

Good readers decode words  
in different ways.

They use pictures to predict words.  
They use meaning clues to predict words.

These are two ways to decode words.

© Library of Congress, Prints and  
Photographs Division, LC-D420-2963.



1. Helen \_\_\_\_\_  
a woman's face.

© Courtesy of the American Foundation  
for the Blind, Helen Keller Archive.



2. Helen sits with her  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Complete each sentence.

Use meaning clues to predict the word.

3. Helen \_\_\_\_\_ her world through touch.
4. Touch, hearing, and \_\_\_\_\_ are senses.
5. If a person is \_\_\_\_\_, the eyes help the person hear.

## Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.

Each word has a common pattern.

Group the words under the correct pattern.

<i>will</i> ✓	<i>sight</i>	<i>bright</i>	<i>clear</i>
<i>light</i>	<i>fear</i>	<i>fill</i>	<i>fight</i>
<i>hear</i>	<i>hill</i>	<i>near</i>	<i>still</i>

Good readers look for common patterns in words.

This is another way to decode words.

**ill**

**ight**

**ear**

*will*

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Read the sentences in the box.

Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

**ill ight ear**

Many words have common patterns.

The patterns look and sound the same.

### Find the Common Patterns



- Kate thinks Helen will die.
- Helen's world is dark and still.
- Helen loses her sight.
- She sees no light and hears no sound.
- Anne is always near to Helen.
- Helen does not fear life.

## Activity 3 Divide and Conquer



Read these words.

Look for common endings.

Write the base word on the line.

healthy      health

years      year

1. passes      \_\_\_\_\_

2. loses      \_\_\_\_\_

3. hearing      \_\_\_\_\_

4. faces      \_\_\_\_\_

5. older      \_\_\_\_\_

6. lucky      \_\_\_\_\_

7. punches      \_\_\_\_\_

Many words have a base word with a common ending.

Good readers look for base words and common endings

This is another way to decode words.

8. bites      \_\_\_\_\_

9. teacher      \_\_\_\_\_

10. stays      \_\_\_\_\_

11. helping      \_\_\_\_\_

12. raises      \_\_\_\_\_

13. writes      \_\_\_\_\_

14. called      \_\_\_\_\_

Read each sentence out loud.

Circle the words with common endings.

15. Anne is healthy at two years old.

16. The fever passes.

17. Anne loses her hearing.

18. She faces a world with no light.

19. Arthur is older than Kate.

20. Helen is lucky because Kate is strong.

21. Helen punches her teacher.

22. Helen bites her teacher.

23. Anne stays with Helen, helping her.

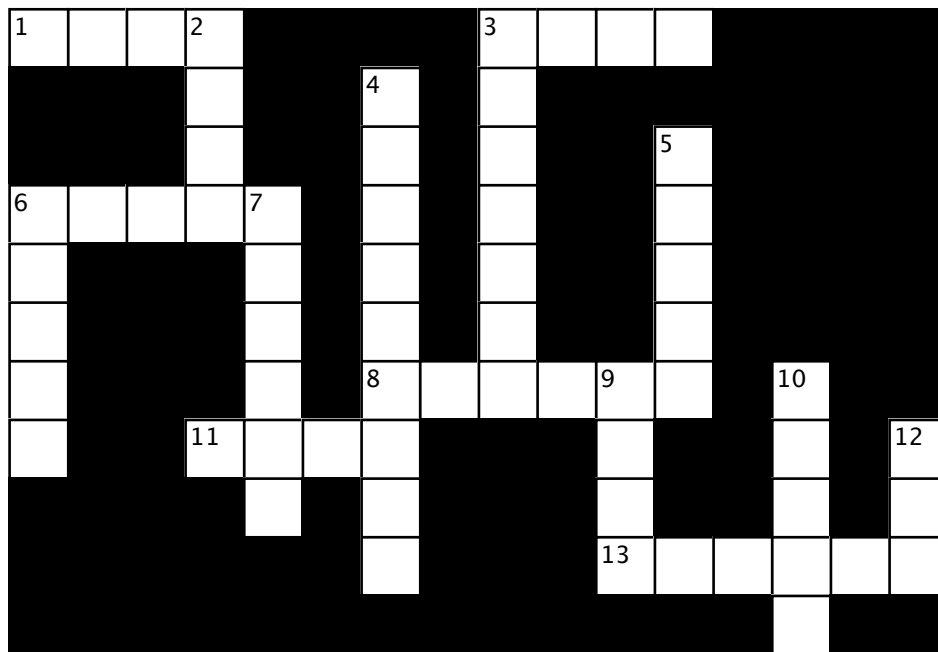
24. Helens raises money for blind and deaf people.

25. She writes a book.

26. The book is called "The Story of My Life."

# •Crossword •

Helen Keller



## Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Helen Keller's biography.

### ACROSS

1. we use these to look at things
3. this person has a husband
6. we read these
8. opposite of outside
11. not able to hear
13. having no sound

### DOWN

2. ill
3. we look through these things to see outside
4. opposite of ugly
5. the number after two
6. not able to see
7. taste, smell, sight, touch, hearing
9. we have these for pets
10. a creature from outer space
12. opposite of cold

## Helen Keller



1. **Main Idea and Details:** (1) b, c (2) a, c
2. **Invisible Messages\*:** (1) Helen is very smart. Helen is very determined.  
(2) Helen is learning a lot from Anne. Anne is a good teacher.
3. **Fact and Opinion:** (1) O/F (2) F/O (3) F/O
4. **Table of Contents:** (1) Early Years / 1880 (2) Early Years / She gets brain fever.  
(3) Helen and Anne / March 3, 1887
5. **Organize Ideas: Idea Map 1: Different:** Helen is like an alien. / Helen is mad at the world.  
**Same:** Helen is blind. / Helen is bright. / Helen wants to see. **Different:** Helen learns about her world.  
**Idea Map 2: Different:** People call Helen a monster. **Same:** Helen is deaf. / Helen uses all her senses.  
**Different:** Helen goes to college. / Helen learns signs. / Helen writes books. **Paragraph 1:** bright / to see /  
at the world / an alien / learn about her world **Paragraph 2:** all her senses / a monster / signs / to college /  
writes books
6. **Use Capital Letters and Punctuation:** (1) (H)elen is born in (A)labama. (2) (W)hen is (H)elen born? (3) (H)elen is  
born on (J)une 27. (4) (A)nn(e) (S)ullivan is (H)elen's teacher. (5) Helen's parents are Arthur and Kate. (6) When  
does Anne come into Helen's life? (7) Anne comes into Helen's life on March 3, 1887. (8) What does Anne  
teach Helen? (9) She has friends in New York.
7. **Predict the Word\*:** (1) touches; feels; reads (2) dogs; pets (3) feels; understands; learns (4) sight; smell; taste  
(5) deaf
8. **Find Common Patterns:** (1) will (2) still (3) sight (4) light (5) near (6) fear
9. **Divide and Conquer:** (1) pass (2) lose (3) hear (4) face (5) old (6) luck (7) punch (8) bite (9) teach  
(10) stay (11) help (12) raise (13) write (14) call (15) healthy / years (16) passes (17) loses / hearing  
(18) faces (19) older (20) lucky (21) punches / teacher (22) bites / teacher (23) stays / helping (24) raises  
(25) writes (26) called

\*Accept any answer that makes sense.

### Crossword Solution

