

# Helen Keller

## Review Key Words<sup>1</sup>

- silent** Silent means not having any sound.
- deaf** Deaf means not able to hear.
- communicate** Communicate means to tell or share information and ideas.
- blind** If you are blind, you cannot see.



## Write a Prediction

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## Read the Story<sup>2-4</sup>

7 Imagine what it would be like to  
 14 become **blind** and **deaf**. You would not  
 23 be able to see your parents, the birds, or  
 31 the trees. You would not hear the sound  
 38 of your own voice or the **conversations**  
 45 of people around you. You would feel  
 47 very alone.

47 Helen Keller did not have to imagine  
 54 becoming blind and deaf. When Helen  
 60 was 19 months old, an illness made her  
 68 **unable** to see and hear. Her world  
 75 became dark and **silent**. She struggled  
 81 to **communicate** with her family.

86 Then, when Helen was 6 years old, a  
 94 teacher named Anne Sullivan came.  
 99 Anne taught little Helen about the world

106 around her. She taught Helen the  
 112 meanings of words and how to spell out  
 120 words using fingers in the **palm** of a  
 128 hand. Suddenly, the world seemed  
 133 different to Helen. She **realized** that  
 139 she could tell people her ideas and  
 146 understand theirs.

148 Helen wanted to learn as much as  
 155 she could. She **attended** a special  
 161 school for deaf people. She even went  
 168 to **college**. She learned **subjects** that  
 174 were difficult for people who could see  
 181 and hear. People all over the world  
 188 **admired** Helen. She became famous  
 193 for her **courage**.  
 196

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
- number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

# Helen Keller

## Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
  - a. Helen learned about the world even though she was blind and deaf.
  - b. Helen learned subjects that were hard for other people.
  - c. Helen learned to spell out words using fingers in the palm of a hand.
2. What did Anne Sullivan teach Helen Keller?
  - a. She taught Helen how to hear.
  - b. She taught Helen to have courage.
  - c. She taught Helen about words.
3. What does the word **subjects** mean in this story?
  - a. things you study
  - b. parts of a sentence
  - c. people ruled by others
4. What was Helen Keller like before she met Anne Sullivan?
  - a. She wanted to study and go to college.
  - b. She struggled to share ideas.
  - c. She could spell words in the palm of a hand.
5. Why did Helen Keller become famous?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. Match each word with its synonym.

1. admired	a. ___ bravery
2. realized	b. ___ talks
3. conversations	c. ___ respected
4. courage	d. ___ understood

## Parent Tips

The key to fluency is NOT just speed! The key is being able to chunk groups of words together conveniently, use punctuation as a guide, and to use a 'reader's voice.' (Being able to also include character attitude and personality is a wonderful sign of comprehension too!) When a student does all of these things well, then his speed automatically increases!