



Title: Who Was Helen Keller Author: Gare Thompson Illustrated by Nancy Harrison

Helen Keller became deaf and blind at age two. She lived in silence and darkness and spent the rest of her life struggling to break through it. With the help of teacher Annie Sullivan, Helen learned to read, write, and do many extraordinary things. Young middle-grade readers will enjoy this biography, illustrations and additional support information opening up Helen Keller's world to one's imagination.

Let's Talk

Do you think Helen was brave? Share an example of something she did that was brave or not.

What is one thing you learned about Helen Keller that you didn't know before reading this book?

Why do you think it was important to Annie that Helen learn basic manners?

Why was Helen able to succeed at school even though she was blind and deaf?

Is someone who is deaf less smart than someone isn't?

Did you notice the timeline at the back of the book? When did Annie die?

What do you think life was like for Helen after she lost her teacher?

Try This

Blindfold a person in the group. Quietly point to another person in the group and have them stand in front of the blindfolded person. Ask the blind person to touch the person's face and guess who in the group it is. Rotate among people in the group.

Get a braille guide and type up a message in braille. Ask the readers to decode the message.

Use sign language bingo cards to play a silent game of bingo using only sign language. (Search online for cards to print)

Find pictures of Helen at various ages. Compare to photos today and the illustrations in the book.

Online Resources:

PBS Kids You've Got Braille
<http://pbskids.org/arthur/print/braille>

Helen Keller Online Kid's Museum
www.braillebug.org/helen_keller_bio.asp

DLTK Make Your Own Bingo cards
<http://www.dltk-cards.com/bingo>

Explore More in the Library

Helen Keller : A Photographic Story of a Life by Leslie Garrett (J 362.4109 KELLER)

Helen Keller : Rebellious Spirit by Laurie Lawlor (J 362.4109 KELLER Lawlor)

The Story of My Life by Helen Keller (371.911)

Dear Dr. Bell : Your Friend, Helen Keller, Judith St. George (J 362.4109 KELLER)

The Miracle Worker DVD, MIRACLE PENN 2001

Morris and Buddy : The Story of the First Seeing Eye Dog by Becky Hall (J 362.4183 Hall)

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