

Helen Keller – A Remarkable Woman

A Reader's Theatre Script by *Lisa Blau*

Reader #1
Reader #4

Reader #2
Annie Sullivan

Reader #3
Polly Thomson

- Reader #1:** Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama on June 27, 1880.
- Reader #2:** When Helen was a year old she had a very high fever. She was very sick.
- Reader #3:** The illness left Helen blind and deaf. She could not see. She could not hear.
- Reader #2:** Helen Keller lived in a dark and silent world.
- Reader #3:** Helen could not hear other people speak, so she could not talk.
- Reader #2:** Helen touched things to find out about the world around her.
- Reader #4:** Helen could not let others know what she wanted or how she felt. She would cry and scream in her silent, dark world.

- Reader #3:** Helen's parents took Helen to many doctors. No one could help them. One day they learned of a special teacher.
- Reader #1:** Helen's teacher was Annie Sullivan. She came to teach Helen when Helen was seven years old.
- Annie Sullivan:** I had to find a way to reach Helen. I needed to find a way to help Helen communicate.
- Reader #3:** Annie taught Helen a special alphabet.
- Annie Sullivan:** I would give Helen a doll. Then I would spell the word into Helen's hand.
- Reader #2:** At first Helen did not understand.
- Annie Sullivan:** Then one day we passed by a water pump. I put Helen's hand in the water. I spelled the word "water" into Helen's hand over and over again.
- Reader #2:** At last Helen understood what Annie was trying to teach her!
- Annie:** Helen learned very fast. She learned words for "mother", "father" and "teacher".
- Reader #4:** In later years Helen Keller wrote, "the day I learned the word "water" was the day I discovered light, hope, and joy."

- Annie:** I taught Helen thousands of words. I taught her to read by feeling a series of raised dots on a page.
- Reader #2:** This system of reading is called Braille. Helen learned to read very fast.
- Reader #3:** Helen Keller became famous around the world. Everyone called her “the wonder girl”.
- Annie:** When Helen was ten years old, she decided that she wanted to learn how to speak.
- Reader #1:** Helen could not hear any speech sounds. She could not hear the sounds that she was making.
- Reader #2:** Helen did learn to speak, but she could not always speak clearly.
- Reader #4:** When Helen Keller was twenty years old, she went to college.
- Annie:** I sat next to Helen and spelled everything that was said in each class into Helen’s hand.
- Reader #3:** Helen was an excellent student. She studied many long, long hours.
- Annie:** While Helen was in college, she wrote her autobiography entitled, *The Story of My Life*. Once Helen wrote, “Knowledge is happiness.”

- Reader #2:** Helen Keller graduated from college in 1904. By then she was even more famous. People wanted to meet this remarkable woman.
- Annie:** Helen and I traveled around the world. Helen lectured before large audiences. She told people about her life.
- Reader #3:** Helen Keller wrote many books and magazine articles about her life.
- Reader #4:** She worked hard to help other blind people. She worked for the American Federation for the Blind for many years.
- Reader #1:** In 1936, Annie Sullivan died. She had been Helen's teacher for more than fifty years.
- Reader #2:** Polly Thomson, Annie's secretary, became Helen's constant companion.
- Polly Thomson:** During World War II, Helen visited injured soldiers in the hospital.
- Reader #4:** Helen tried to help soldiers who had lost their sight. She gave them hope.
- Reader #1:** Helen Keller wrote that helping the wounded soldiers was the "crowning experience" of her life.
- Polly:** Helen Keller met many important people. She met kings, queens, and Presidents.

Reader #3: Helen Keller won many special awards. In 1964 President Lyndon Johnson gave Helen the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Polly: Helen Keller died on June 1, 1968. She was eighty-eight years old. She had lived a full and rich life.

Reader #1: Helen Keller could not see or hear. She did not let this stop her. She wrote many books and she even learned to ride a bicycle!

Reader #3: Helen Keller loved to read. She enjoyed learning. She also enjoyed swimming.

Reader #4: Helen Keller brought love and hope to millions of handicapped people around the world.

Reader #1: This remarkable woman was admired and loved throughout the world.

All: The end.

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Reader's Theatre resource books.
(NEED LINK TO THE "PRODUCTS" SCREEN)
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