

Ray Charles

*You have just studied the five senses.
Today you will learn about a man
who had challenges, because he
didn't have all five senses working
properly.*

Ray Charles

A biography is a true story about a real person's life written by another person. Reading about other people's lives can be very interesting.

Ray Charles

Biographies can help us understand both the difficult times or challenges that people went through, as well as the opportunities or good times they had. Today, you will listen to a biography about Ray Charles.

Ray Charles

Listen to the biographical story about one of the most famous musicians of all time: Ray Charles. Listen to the difficult times or challenges that he faced, as well as the opportunities or good times that he had.

Ray Charles



Ray Charles was a world-famous piano player, singer and songwriter. People all over the world recognize Ray Charles's face and still love the wonderful songs he wrote. He was a remarkable musician. But even more remarkable is the fact that he became a musician after he became totally blind.

Ray Charles



Ray Charles was born with normal eyesight and grew up playing and doing all the things other kids did. He liked exploring the countryside with his brother, pitching pebbles into streams, and picking juicy blackberries. But the one thing he loved more than anything else was music.

Ray Charles



He loved to sing in church on Sundays. He also liked going to a local restaurant where they had a jukebox, a big machine that plays music. Ray would listen to the jukebox for hours on end.

Ray Charles



But when Ray Charles was six years old, he became very sick with a terrible eye disease. A disease is a sickness or illness. His mother took him to a doctor, who told her that the disease would cause Ray to lose his sight and become blind. By age seven, Ray Charles was totally blind.

Ray Charles



If a person is completely blind, he or she sees no colors, no shapes, no light--nothing. If you turn out the lights and shut your eyes, you can imagine what the world looked like to Ray.

Ray Charles



His mother wanted him to be successful in life despite his blindness, so she sent him to a special school for children who were blind. Ray Charles was determined to learn and succeed in school. The teachers showed him all kinds of ways he could learn to live independently, without very much help from other people, even though he couldn't see.

Ray Charles



It might surprise you to know that blind people like Ray Charles can do most of the things that people with normal vision can do. How do blind people accomplish all these things? They can learn to use their other senses especially well, particularly if they go to a school for blind students like Ray did.

Ray Charles



Blind people learn to read with their fingers rather than with their eyes with a special form of writing called Braille. In Braille, there are raised dots on a page that represent words. A person can read those words by feeling the dots with their fingers.

Ray Charles



Ray Charles's favorite part of school was music lessons, so he learned to use his other senses to become an amazing, remarkable musician. Ray once told someone that, "my eyes are my disability, but my ears are my opportunity." That means that even though he couldn't see, Mr. Charles felt very lucky that he was able to hear!

Ray Charles



Using only his senses of hearing and touch, Ray Charles learned to play the piano. There are eighty-eight keys on a piano, each of which, when tapped, makes a different sound. For most people, it takes a long time to learn to play the piano really well. But Mr. Charles was able to learn to play the piano very quickly, as well as the saxophone and other instruments.

Ray Charles



Ray Charles's love of music was much stronger than his blindness. He once told someone, "My ears were sponges. (They) soaked it all up." By this, he meant that his ears were able to hear a new song just once, and he would be able to remember it and play it exactly the way he had heard it that one time! Ray Charles's strong sense of hearing helped him develop an ability to hear which notes sounded good together.

Ray Charles



In school, he quickly learned to write his own songs. By the time he left school, he knew he wanted to be a musician.

Ray Charles



Over the years, Ray Charles became world famous. He made many records of his songs and gave concerts all over the world. He even met a few presidents of the United States. He almost always had a wide smile on his face, and as he played he would stomp his feet to the beat of the music.

Ray Charles



He would sway back and forth as though the music was moving right up from the piano throughout his body. Nothing made Ray Charles happier than playing music. He once said, "Music to me is part of me...I look at music the same as I look at (my blood and my breath). It's something I have to have."

Ray Charles



Ray Charles

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

This read aloud was a biography about the life of Ray Charles. Tell me about his life as a young child. What did he like to do?

Ray Charles

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

How did Ray Charles become blind?

Ray Charles

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Ray Charles was totally blind. What did that mean?

Ray Charles

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

What do you recall about Ray Charles as an adult?

Ray Charles

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Why do you think music was so important to Ray Charles?

Ray Charles

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Do you think the things described in this read aloud are real, or do you think that they are fantasy, meaning pretend, and why?

Think. Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

Think. Pair. Share.



Evaluative:

Do you think Ray Charles would have been a musician if he were not blind? Why or why not? Do you think he would have still been a remarkable person?

Ray Charles

You heard, “**(Ray Charles) was a remarkable musician.**”

Say the word **remarkable** with me.

Ray Charles

Remarkable means wonderful or amazing.

I think Monica is remarkable, because she is a wonderful painter.

Ray Charles

Please tell me about someone you think is remarkable and why.

Use the word remarkable when you tell about it.

"I think _____ is remarkable because..."

Ray Charles

What's the word we have been
talking about?

Ray Charles

I am going to name some items. If you think what I say is wonderful or amazing and remarkable, give a thumbs up. If it is not remarkable, thumbs down.

Ray Charles



Thumbs Up = Remarkable

Thumbs Down = Not Remarkable



a glass of water



Ray Charles



Thumbs Up = Remarkable

Thumbs Down = Not Remarkable



a pencil



Ray Charles



Thumbs Up = Remarkable

Thumbs Down = Not Remarkable



*someone who knows the names of all
the teachers and students in the school*



Ray Charles



Thumbs Up = Remarkable

Thumbs Down = Not Remarkable



*Someone who ran faster than everyone
else in the race.*



Ray Charles



Thumbs Up = Remarkable

Thumbs Down = Not Remarkable



a wet towel



Ray Charles



Thumbs Up = Remarkable

Thumbs Down = Not Remarkable



*a building that is the biggest building in
the whole world.*

