

# **Five Senses**

*Helen Keller*

# Helen Keller

You heard a biography about Ray Charles yesterday. Does anyone remember what a biography is? A biography is a real or true story about a person's life. Who can tell me something about Ray Charles?

# Helen Keller

*Listen to a biographical story about the life of Helen Keller, who was both blind and deaf. A person who is blind and deaf cannot see or hear. Listen carefully to find out how Helen learned to talk, read, and write, even though she was deaf and blind.*

# Helen Keller



*Close your eyes and imagine sitting in a dark room with no windows, and earmuffs covering your ears so that you can't hear anything or anyone. Imagine that you can't see and you can't hear anything or anyone. Imagine that you can't talk either.*



# Helen Keller



*Now imagine that you've got to stand up and move around this dark and silent room using only your hands and feet to guide you. How would you feel if you had to stay in this room? You'd probably feel startled and frightened by everything and everyone who touched you.*

# Helen Keller



*You'd probably feel sorry for yourself and frustrated, or discouraged, that you couldn't tell anyone what you were thinking or what you needed.*

# Helen Keller



Well, that's what life was really like for a girl named Helen Keller. Helen Keller was born a long time ago, over one hundred fifty years ago. When Helen Keller was a baby, she caught a disease that made her lose completely both her eyesight and her hearing.

# Helen Keller



*For the rest of her life, Helen Keller was blind and deaf, living in a world of total darkness and silence.*



# Helen Keller



*Life was very hard for Helen Keller as she grew up. She became frustrated and angry because not only was she blind and deaf, she wasn't able to talk or communicate with other people. She felt sorry for herself and was often mean to other people.*

# Helen Keller



*When children tried to play with her, she broke their toys. One time she locked her mother in a room so she couldn't get out. At dinnertime, Helen walked around the table sniffing everyone's food. If she smelled something she liked on someone else's plate, she would grab it and gobble it up.*

# Helen Keller



Helen Keller felt her way through the world--groping and fumbling through the silent darkness. Her senses of touch, smell and taste were her only connections to the outside world. AS an adult, she remembered those days by saying, "I literally thought with my body." The only memories she had from those years were sensations.



# Helen Keller



*She remembers that when she was really upset, she used to run outside and bury her hot face in the cool leaves and grass. Guided by her sense of smell, she would make her way through the garden until she could smell the roses and violets that calmed her down.*



# Helen Keller



*Helen Keller's mother and father loved her very much. But because she could not understand the world around her, she seemed disobedient and hard to control. Helen did not do what she was told. When she was six, her parents hired a special teacher named Anne Sullivan to take care of Helen at home.*

# Helen Keller



When Anne Sullivan came to stay with the family, she figured out that Helen was behaving badly out of frustration and anger. Anne Sullivan knew that Helen could break out of her dark world if she learned to communicate with other people. But to communicate, Anne knew Helen would need to learn a lot of words.

# Helen Keller



Anne Sullivan knew that because Helen couldn't hear or talk, she'd never learned what a word was. She started teaching Helen Keller words by using her finger to "write and spell" them on the palm of Helen's hand. When Helen Keller splashed her hands with water, Sullivan took Helen's other hand and spelled out the letters in water, w-a-t-e-r.



# Helen Keller



*And when Helen Keller pointed to herself, Sullivan spelled out the letters in Helen, H-e-l-l-e-n.*



# Helen Keller



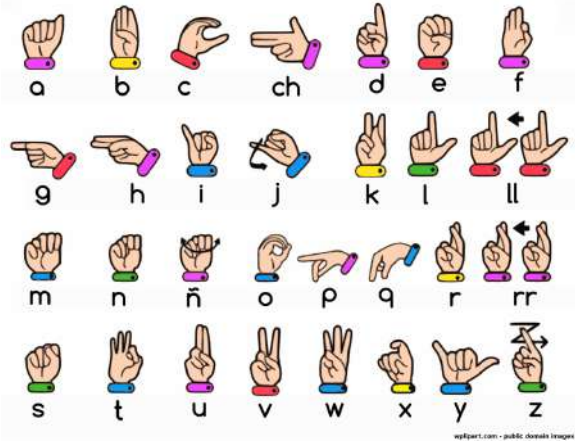
*To Helen Keller, learning from Anne Sullivan was like being born a second time. Suddenly, the world was not such a confusing, frightening place. Helen Keller later said, "I had been a little ghost in a no-world. Now I knew my name. I was a person. I could understand people and make them understand me."*

# Helen Keller



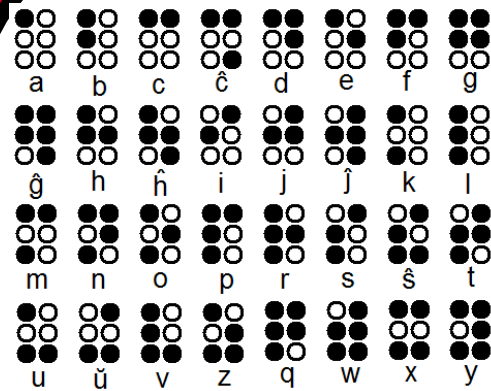
For the first time, Helen had a way to tell people what she was thinking. When Helen wanted to speak to Anne, she wrote words on Anne's hand. However, it took a long time to spell out a whole sentence. Eventually, Anne taught Helen sign language so that she was able to communicate more easily with others.

# Helen Keller



Sign language is a special kind of language in which a person uses only his or her hands and fingers to make signs for letters and words. People use sign language to speak to people who are deaf or hearing impaired. For Helen Keller, however, there was an extra challenge: since she could not see, she had to feel the other person's hand while they were making the signs in order to communicate using sign language.



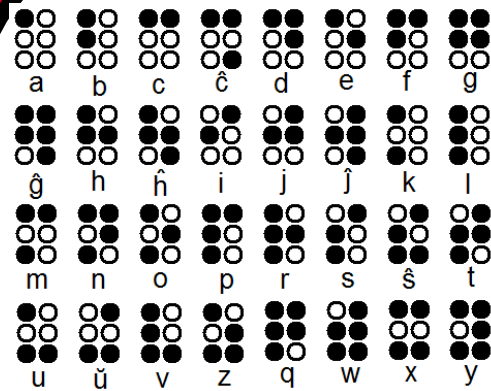


# Helen Keller

*Helen loved learning so much that Anne knew she would love reading books. Helen left home to go to a special school for blind children, and Anne Sullivan went with her.*

*She learned to read books in Braille, a special kind of writing that uses raised dots on the page. Using Braille, Helen was able to read the words by feeling them with her fingertips.*





# Helen Keller

*At school, she made a lot of friends and earned excellent grades. Helen was determined to succeed and, with Anne's encouragement, she graduated from both high school and college.*



# Helen Keller



Later in her life, Helen Keller became a famous writer and speaker. In her books and speeches, she told the remarkable story of her life. People were amazed that Ms. Keller never gave up and was able to overcome the challenges of being both deaf and blind.

# Helen Keller



# Helen Keller

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*This read aloud was a biography and told information about the life of Helen Keller. What details do you recall about her early life?*



# Helen Keller

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*Who was Anne Sullivan, and how did she help Helen?*

# Helen Keller

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*How did Helen communicate and read?*

# Helen Keller

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*What is Braille?*



# Helen Keller

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*What do you recall about Helen Keller as an adult?*

# 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:**

*In the last read aloud, you heard a biography about Ray Charles. In what ways were Ray Charles and Helen Keller similar or alike? In what ways were they different?*

# Helen Keller

You heard, “**The only memories she had from those years were sensations.**”

Say the word **sensations** with me.

# Helen Keller

**Sensations** are feelings caused by your senses.

*When it's hot, I like the cool sensations of a fan blowing on my face and water on my hands.*



# Helen Keller

**Please tell me about pleasant sensations or feelings you experience when you go to a favorite place.**

**Use the word *sensations* when you tell about it.**

*“When I go to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ are pleasant sensations.”*

# **Helen Keller**

What's the word we have been  
talking about?

# **Helen Keller**

I am going to name some items. If you think what I say is a good sensation, give a thumbs up. If it is not a good feeling or sensation, thumbs down.



# Helen Keller



Thumbs Up = Good Sensation

Thumbs Down = Bad Sensation



*the scents of roses and lilies in a garden*



# Helen Keller



Thumbs Up = Good Sensation

Thumbs Down = Bad Sensation



*The feelings of thorns and stings*





# Helen Keller



Thumbs Up = Good Sensation

Thumbs Down = Bad Sensation



*The tastes of cake and ice cream*



# Helen Keller



Thumbs Up = Good Sensation

Thumbs Down = Bad Sensation



*The sounds of people laughing*





# Helen Keller



Thumbs Up = Good Sensation

Thumbs Down = Bad Sensation



*The scents of garbage and old food*



