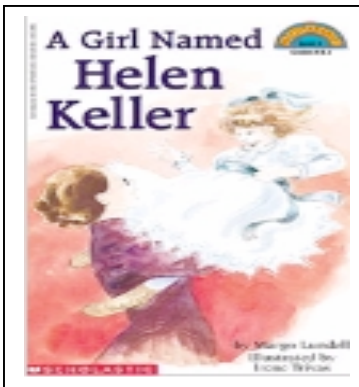


A Girl Named Helen Keller
By Margo Lundell
Illustrated by Irene Trivas



Grade/Class/Subject: 3-5 Language Arts

Content Standards:

LA.C.1.2 The student uses listening strategies effectively;
LA.A.1.2.3 The student uses simple strategies to determine meaning and increase vocabulary for reading.
LA.A.2.1 The student determines the main idea or essential message, identifies the main idea or essential message, identifies relevant supporting details and facts, and arranges events in chronological order.

Content Objective(s): Meets FL STATUTE 1003.42 - *Women's Contributions to the United States*

Students will identify the main idea and supporting details in each chapter of the story.

Language Objective(s): Students will summarize orally, and/or in writing, the main idea presented in each chapter.

Grouping Configurations: Whole class, partners

Story Synopsis: This is an easy chapter book to read and a wonderful tool for introducing children to Helen Keller. It tells about her struggles after becoming deaf and blind, and of her eventual triumph of learning words with the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan. It also gives a very brief summary of her accomplishments as an adult.

Key Vocabulary/Phrases

illness
deaf
blind
Alabama
Alexander Graham Bell
Perkins School for the Blind
Birthday of her soul
hand signs

Supplementary Materials

- Vocabulary/definition cards
- Copies of the One-Hand Manual Alphabet
- Chart paper or worksheet student will use for their Chapter Summaries

Lesson Sequence

Introduction: Building Background

1. Hold up a copy of the book and ask students to make predictions based on the title and pictures printed on the cover of the book.

2. Tell them the story is about a little girl who became blind and deaf after an illness.
3. Ask them to imagine what it would be like if they could not hear or talk.
4. Review key vocabulary or phrases from the list above by matching words with definition cards.

Modeling/Guided Instruction:

1. Show students that the book is divided into chapters.
2. Read the first chapter to students. Tell them to listen for information that tells what the main ideas are in Chapter One.
3. Together summarize the chapter by identifying the setting, the characters in the story, and the events that take place.
4. On chart paper, record the information under the following headings:

Setting:

Characters:

Events:

5. Divide the students into groups. Tell them each group will complete a story chart for one of the chapters.
6. Read a chapter of the book to the students before and after lunch each day. Place the book in the language arts station and have students read the chapter that has been assigned to their group.
7. Have students complete the review/assessment activity listed below.

Review/Assessment: Students will use chart paper to complete the summary for their chapter in the same manner the class completed the chapter one story summary. Each group will participate in sequencing the events of the story using the chapter summary they completed.

For additional activities:

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/search?query=a+girl+named+helen+keller>

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billington