A10

OBSTACLES

by Julian Conde

Read and choose the main idea.

Deaf and blind from the age of 19 months, Helen Keller faced extreme isolation as a child. Everything changed when her teacher, Anne Sullivan, helped her connect physical touch to the concept of language by spelling words into her hand. Driven by intense curiosity, Keller learned to read Braille, speak aloud, and ultimately became the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree, dedicating her life to advocating for disability rights.

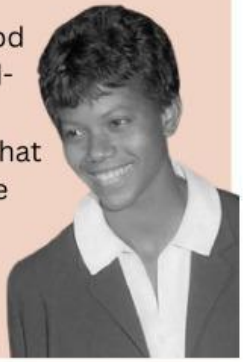
What is the main idea of this paragraph?

1. Helen Keller was born with severe hearing and vision disabilities.
2. Keller overcame total sensory loss through language to become an inspiring activist and scholar.
3. Anne Sullivan was the first person to invent the Braille reading system.

Diagnosed with polio as a child, Wilma Rudolph lost the use of her left leg and was told by doctors that she would never walk again. Through years of physical therapy and unwavering family support, she shed her leg braces by age twelve. Rudolph went on to pursue track and field, making history at the 1960 Rome Olympics by becoming the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympic Games.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

1. Rudolph conquered childhood paralysis to become a record-breaking Olympic athlete.
2. Polio was a common illness that affected many athletes in the 1960s.
3. Rudolph won three Olympic medals in her first year of running.



Long before leading the nation through the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln experienced a series of severe personal and political failures. Born into poverty and lacking formal education, he lost his mother at a young age, suffered business bankruptcies, and lost multiple elections for Congress and the Senate. Despite these relentless setbacks, Lincoln persevered, eventually becoming the 16th U.S. President and preserving the Union.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

1. Abraham Lincoln was elected to every political office he ever ran for.
2. Business bankruptcies were common for politicians in the 19th century.
3. Lincoln overcame financial ruin, personal loss, and political failure to become president.

At age 21, physicist Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with ALS, a degenerative disease, and given just two years to live. As he gradually lost the ability to move and speak, he adapted by using a motorized wheelchair and a specialized voice synthesizer. Refusing to let physical limitations slow his intellect, Hawking spent decades researching black holes and writing best-selling books that brought complex cosmology to the general public.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

1. Hawking pushed past severe physical disability to revolutionize our understanding of space and physics.
2. ALS completely prevented Stephen Hawking from communicating with other scientists.
3. Black holes were discovered by Stephen Hawking during his first year of college.

LIVEWORKSHEETS