

OPTIMISE 2ND TERM READING EXAM

A) Read the biography of Helen Keller. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence.

A remarkable life

Helen Keller was born in 1880 in a small town in the middle of the United States. It was immediately obvious that she was an intelligent girl because she started speaking at the age of only six months. 1) When she was one and a half, she came down with a mysterious illness that had tragic consequences: she was no longer able to see, hear or speak.

2) Her parents even considered sending her to an institution because they didn't know how to bring her up. However, when Helen was six years old, her mother employed a young woman called Anne Sullivan to teach her. 3) If Anne Sullivan hadn't come into Helen's life, her story would have been very different.

4) Nevertheless, she finally succeeded in teaching her to spell the names of objects with her fingers. When Helen was ten, she also started to speak. However, it took her 25 years to manage to communicate in a way other people could understand. Incredibly, although she couldn't hear, Helen was able to understand what others were saying by touching their lips with her hand. 5)

Despite her huge problems, she went to university and graduated with distinction at the age of 24. Helen's amazing story quickly made her a celebrity, first in the United States and then across the world. 6) She used it to advance the cause of people suffering from physical disabilities. Her life shows that, with courage and determination, anything is possible.

- A** However, she didn't exploit her fame to become rich.
- B** At the beginning, Sullivan found working with Helen very challenging.
- C** She had two sisters and a brother.
- D** But then something terrible happened.
- E** This turned out to be an extremely important decision.
- F** She also learned to read Braille and to type.
- G** In the next few years Helen became very bad-tempered and rebellious.

B) Decide if the sentences are (T) true or (F) false.

- 1) Helen showed from a very young age that she was bright.
- 2) Doctors didn't know why Helen got ill.
- 3) Helen wasn't sent to an institution.
- 4) It was always easy for Sullivan to teach Helen.
- 5) When Helen was 10, she could speak in a way other people could understand.
- 6) Helen could understand other people by looking at their lips.