DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

HELEN KELLER

Can you imagine what it would be like not to be able to see or hear? When Helen Keller was 19 months old, she became very ill. Doctors expected her to die, but she survived. Helen's mother soon noticed that Helen was not responding when the dinner bell rang or when she waved her hand in front of Helen's face. It then became apparent that Helen's illness had left her blind and deaf. She was born on June 27, 1880 in Alabama, where she lived with her family. She was frustrated and confused. She didn't know what was going on in her world. Her parents knew that they needed help. They hired a tutor for Helen. Her name was Anne Sullivan.

Success didn't happen right away. But one day at the water pump, a breakthrough happened. Anne spelled the word *water* in Helen's hand. Helen began to catch on. Suddenly, her brain was on fire. She reached down to touch the ground, and Anne spelled the word *earth* in her hand. She continued pointing and learning. She learned to spell 30 words on that day.

By the age of 10, Helen had learned to speak by feeling her teacher's mouth when she talked. Some people couldn't understand Helen, but she kept trying. She learned to read French, German, Greek, and Latin in Braille. Braille is a way for people who can't see to read. Raised dots are used to represent letters and words. Soon Helen could read, write, and speak.

Helen Keller went on to give speeches all over the world. Most of the money she earned was given to the American Foundation for the Blind. She met 12 U.S. presidents, wrote a dozen books, and went to college. Helen Keller lived to be 87. She continues to inspire many people worldwide.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Helen Keller so successful in life?
   a. People felt sorry for her and took pity on her.
   b. She eventually got her vision and hearing back.
   c. She learned to overcome obstacles and work hard.
   d. She was able to meet 12 U.S. presidents and speak worldwide.

2. What can you learn about Anne Sullivan from reading this passage?
   a. She traveled the world to give speeches.
   b. She was diligent in her efforts with Helen Keller.
   c. She was blind herself.
   d. She was placed in an orphanage.

3. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
   a. Helen Keller was unable to overcome great obstacles to do great things.
   b. Helen Keller didn't have to work hard to succeed.
   c. Helen's parents made the right choice in hiring Anne Sullivan.
   d. Blind people can be taught how to read Braille, but not deaf people.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS