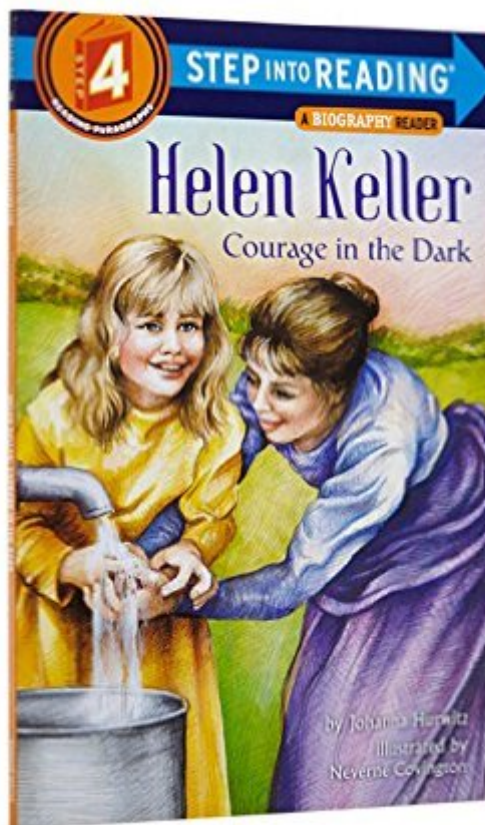


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# Helen Keller: Courage In The Dark (Step-Into-Reading, Step 4)



## Synopsis

When a childhood illness leaves her blind and deaf, Helen Keller's life seems hopeless indeed. But her indomitable will and the help of a devoted teacher empower Helen to triumph over incredible adversity. This amazing true story is finally brought to the beginner reader level.Â Â

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 520L (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; English Language edition (November 11, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679877053

ISBN-13: 978-0679877059

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (76 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,334 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #42 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical #100 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

I used this book with my second grade children in a unit on communications. They were fascinated by the story and learned a lot of new vocabulary words. The book's content was such that my children were able to try to imagine what it would be like to be deaf, blind, or both. The book was also a springboard for discussion on courage, perseverance, determination, and achieving goals, as it gave concrete examples of these abstract concepts. We also used the book to learn a little geography as we traced the path of Helen's travels on a map. It includes a picture of the Braille alphabet, which we used to write and "decode" messages, an exercise the kids loved! Contrary to the opinion of another reviewer, we really liked the artwork and the content. Obviously, I recommend this book.

I first read this book to my daughter when she was 5 years old, and she has been fascinated with Helen Keller ever since. We have read and reread this book numerous times, and she never loses interest. This led to buying other Helen Keller books and an interest in learning sign language. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has a young child. It's a great book for getting a child interested in true stories/biographies!

Because of my husband's work, we have unfortunately had to move around quite a bit. I was looking for English books for my 8 year old that would be at her reading level yet would be engaging. This fit the bill. My daughter eagerly read the book (and has read it several times now) and has begun to ask me many questions about Helen Keller, braille, blindness and deafness, etc. Marvellous! I was quite pleased with the results. I did not purchase this book as an historical treatise and so did not expect it to go at length into Helen Keller's life. But my daughter could relate to the story of a young girl who is presented with tremendous challenges and not only overcomes but succeeds in living a fruitful, rewarding and exemplary life. Because it is written in a "chewable" English, she didn't give up on the book. I found this book to be very positive. The "Step Into Reading" series on the whole I found to be very good. Historical topics tend to be chosen rather than "fairy" stories for content. The writing style is challenging but not out-of-reach. And the books are engaging. I do not hesitate to recommend this book for 6 - 8 year olds. Encouraging girls to read about positive female role models - - I do think Helen Keller would approve.

This book is great for beginning readers. All of the Step into Reading books do a really good job in promoting reading. Helen Keller is a most interesting person for young people to study. This book is an easy way to get students really hooked on biographies and just reading in general. It is fairly easy to read and enables kids to start understanding about specific disabilities. I have seen students go from this book to studying about Braille and reading more difficult Helen Keller biographies. This is one way to teach the love of reading to students and when you accomplish that you have won a great victory. I love the Step into Reading books for children.

I am currently buying books to augment my son's first grade history and I LOVE this one. It is factual without being overly graphic and depicts her whole life, thus giving scope of all Helen Keller overcame. I am looking forward to introducing him to Braille and sign language as mentioned in the biography. Excellent depiction of an amazing woman and the people who helped her.

After watching a cartoon on Helen Keller, my daughter (2nd grade) was intrigued by the story of Helen Keller. So I purchased this book for her. She finished it in a matter of minutes, but she did enjoy the read and pictures. Great starter book.

It was about a girl name Helen Keller. She was born on June,27 1880. She lived on a farm in Alabama. But one day she had a high fever and cause her to go blind and deaf. Her parents couldn't tell if she was hungry, tried, or thirst. When she wake up in the middle of the night she thought it was moring and cried for her breakfast. Finally her parents ask for help then this young lady ask name Anne Sullivan. Anne was once almost blind but she had several operations to help her see again. At first Helen gave her problems. Whatever Helen did to Anne she would do the same to her. Later Helen learned to listen to Anne. She also learned how to do sign language to deaf people or people that can see and hear. Helen's parents were very proud of her because she learned how to do many things that a person like her couldn't do. Helen later went to college and became famous. Then she passed away before eigth-first birthday. I recommend this book because it tells about how a girl can do something with her life even though she's blind.

Ok, I would have given this a 5. I don't have the same complaint that some do about it not having enough details. Look at the age range on the book: it's for ages 4-8, step into reading level 4, which is supposed to be for kids just starting to read complete sentences. How much longer or more detailed could/should a book for that audience be? I think it's a wonderful story to tell, with a message if courage and perseverance. I also like the idea of teaching kids at this stage, just learning to read, about Helen Keller's enormous struggle to understand words and to communicate. It kind of makes their own learning to read and write seem more valuable, and the challenges not as large. I gave it a 4 because my daughter had a specific comment when she compared this to another biography she read yesterday. She liked the other one better, because this one "didn't have as much detail about her family". She wanted there to be more about Helen's parents, any brothers or sisters, etc. I thought I should share that because it seemed like a pretty perceptive piece of information coming from a 6 year old... she complained that this just talked about what she did, her life, her school, and not her family.

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