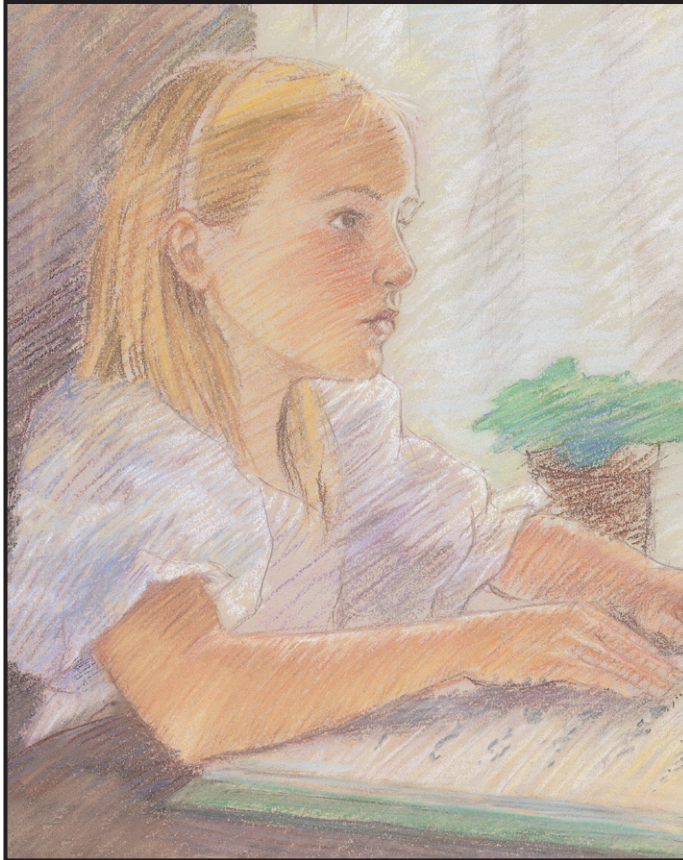


The Courage to Learn

The Story of Helen Keller



Written by Pamela Moody

Illustrated by Amy Barrett



A baby with curly, blond hair watched two robins fly to the ground. She laughed.

“Mama! Mama!” she said.

“I’m right here, Helen,” her mother answered.

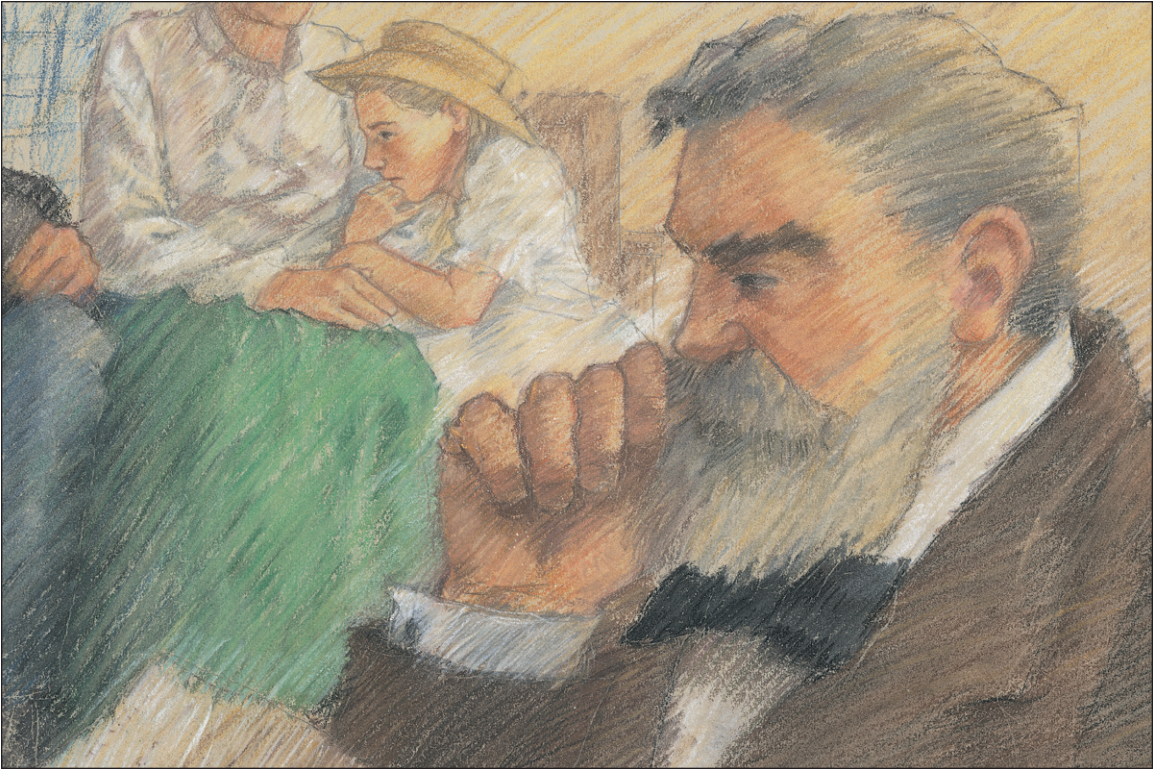
Baby Helen giggled.



That was one of the last happy days
Helen Keller knew for a long time.
Soon after, she came down with
a terrible fever. The doctors didn't have
the medicine we have today.
They couldn't help her.
Helen did get over the fever,
but she was never the same.
Her father would clap his hands loudly,
but Helen could not hear him.
Her mother would move a lamp
in front of her eyes,
but Helen could not see the light.



Helen drifted in a dark, lonely world.
She could still smell flowers and hot bread.
She could still feel with her hands.
But she could not see people or
hear them speak to her—
and because she could not hear,
she did not learn to speak.
Helen often threw temper tantrums
because no one could understand her,
and she could not understand others.
Her parents did not know how to help her.



One day, when Helen was five,
her mother heard about a blind and deaf woman
who had learned to read, write, and talk.
Mrs. Keller wanted the same thing for Helen.
Helen's parents took her
to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell.
"Your daughter is very clever," Dr. Bell said.
"All she needs is a teacher."



Helen's new teacher, Anne Sullivan, arrived at the Kellers' home on March 3, 1887. Anne gave Helen a doll.

She tried to trace the letters *d-o-l-l* into Helen's hand.

But Helen did not understand what was happening.

She broke the doll. Anne reached for Helen's hand again.

Helen jerked it away. Again Anne reached for Helen's hand and spelled *d-o-l-l*.

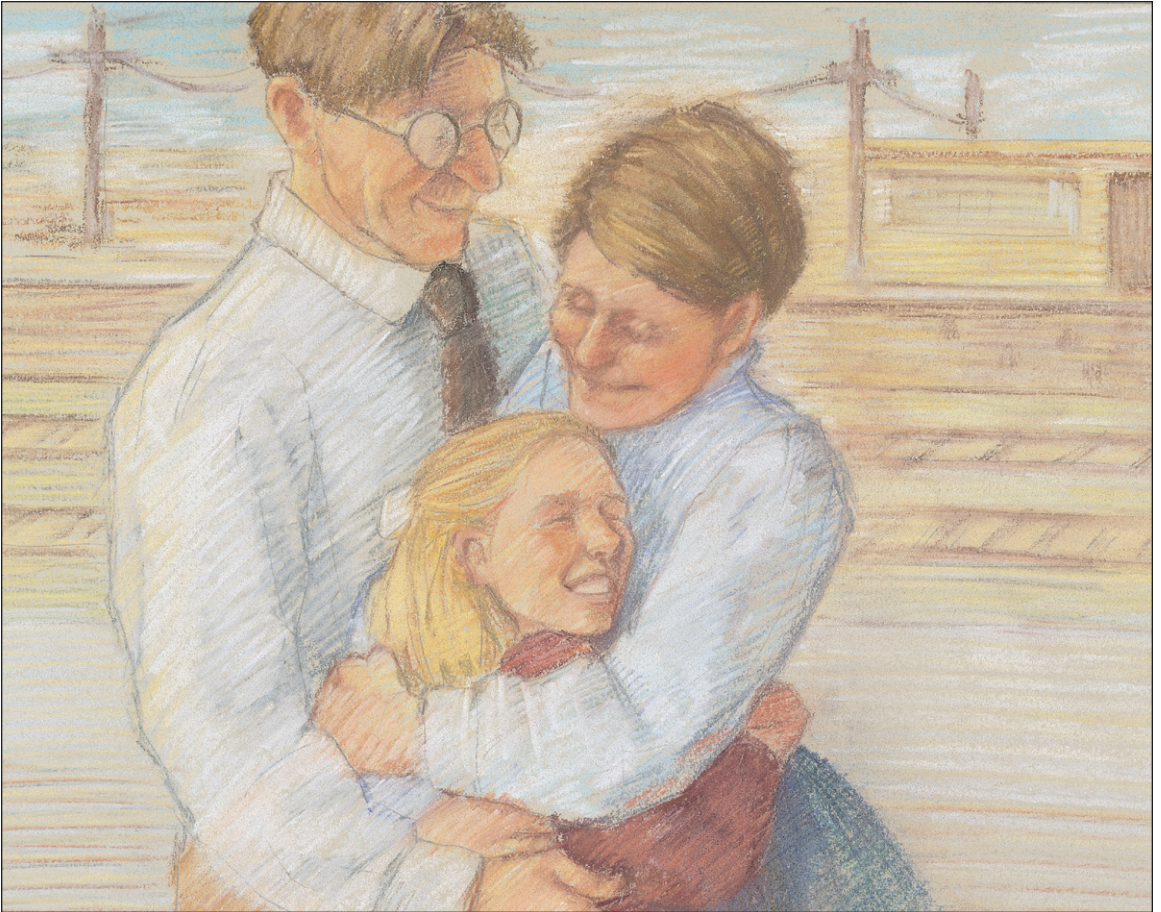
They fought like this for several weeks. Helen refused to learn. In her dark, silent world, she was afraid.

One day, Helen and Anne had a fight.
Helen jumped up and ran outside.
Anne followed her to the water pump
and began to work the handle.
Cold water splashed onto Helen's hand.
Anne took Helen's other hand.
She spelled *w-a-t-e-r* into Helen's palm.
Suddenly Helen understood.
She spelled *w-a-t-e-r* into Anne's hand.
Then she reached down and touched the ground.
Anne spelled *g-r-o-u-n-d*.
After that, Helen began to learn.
She learned and learned.



Anne began to teach Helen braille—
a way to read by feeling raised dots.
Helen loved reading, but it wasn't enough.
She wanted to learn more.
Anne took her to Perkins, a school for the blind.
At school, Helen also learned to speak.
She learned words by placing her hands
on people's mouths while they talked.
Helen worked hard at the school,
and even helped other children learn.



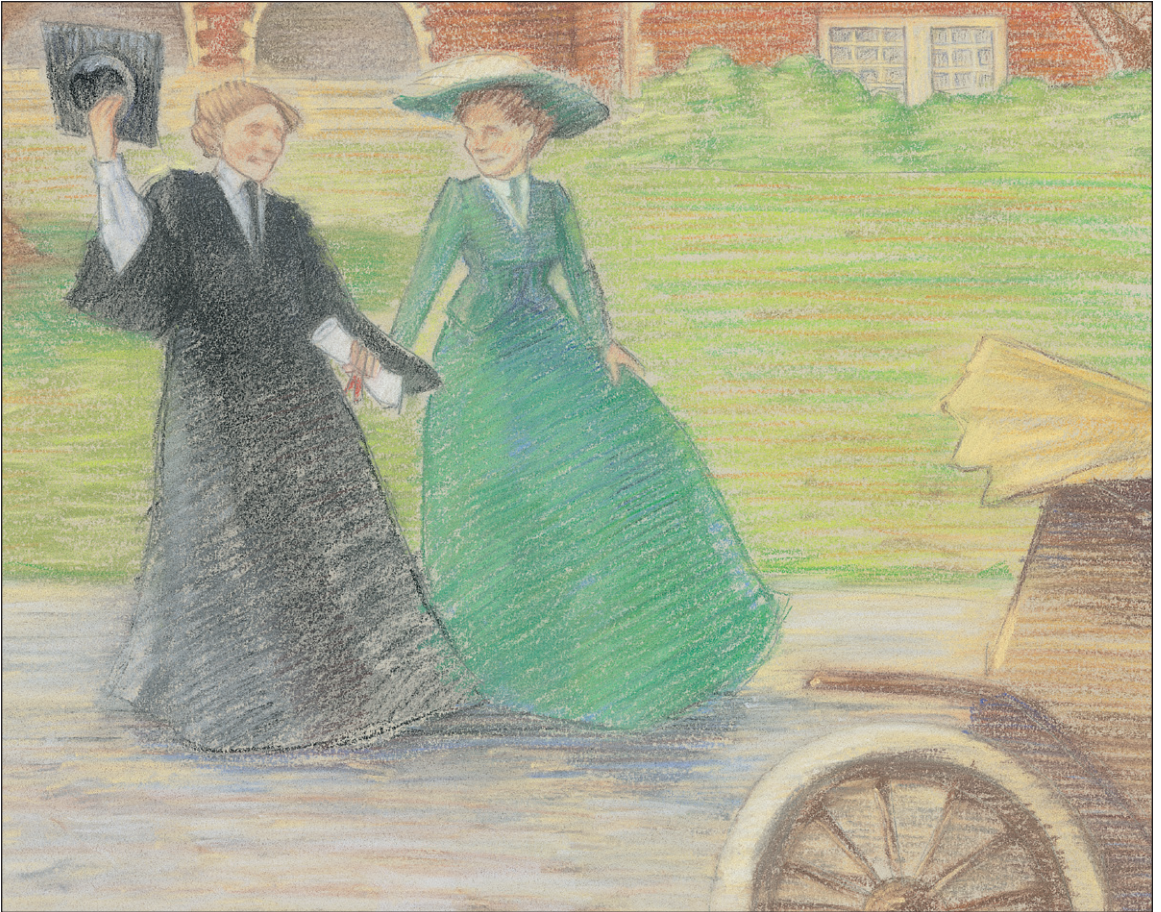


When Helen came home for the summer,
she ran to her parents.

“Mama! Papa!” she cried.

They hugged her.

Helen had not said those words
since she was a baby.



When Helen was 20,
she entered Radcliffe college.
Her best friend and teacher, Anne,
went with her.
In June of 1904, Helen graduated
with many honors.
But her work did not stop there.



During her long life she helped
many blind people.

Helen Keller had found the courage to learn.
She helped others find that same courage.

Reading

Read-along books are designed to be enjoyed together and to foster a love of reading. These books help children build comprehension skills and learn new vocabulary. It is helpful to develop these skills in any language!

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