

**K12ELA7: Unit 4**  
***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller**  
**Chapters 1 - 5 Reading Questions**

Directions: After reading each chapter, answer the chapter questions using complete sentences. Use details from the text to support your answers.

**Chapter 1**

1. Why does Helen find it difficult to write an autobiography?
2. Why does Helen find the garden to be a source of comfort?
3. How did Helen get her name?
4. How does Helen lose her sight and hearing?
5. What was Helen's life like before she lost her sight and hearing? What is it like after?

**Chapter 2**

1. How does Helen communicate after losing her sight and hearing?
2. Who is Martha Washington, and how does Helen treat her?
3. How do the two girls spend their time?
4. Why does Helen's behavior make her parents realize that they need to find a teacher for her? Is she a naughty child?
5. How does Helen feel about her father? Mother? Sister?

**Chapter 3**

1. How does Helen stay entertained on the train ride?
2. Who is Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, and how does he assist the Kellers? Do you recognize this name from history lessons? If not, do an Internet search and write a sentence or two about him.
3. Interpret the quote from the chapter: "Knowledge is love and light and vision."

**Chapter 4**

1. Why does Helen compare herself to a ship in a dense fog? Is this comparison accurate?
2. Describe Helen's first lesson from Anne Sullivan, her teacher.
3. Why does Helen lack sympathy or remorse for her bad behavior?
4. What incident makes Helen excited to start communicating?

**Chapter 5**

1. What is Helen's relationship with nature?
2. Interpret the quote from the chapter: "nature 'wages open war against her children, and under softest touch hides treacherous claws.'"
3. How does Helen overcome her fear of climbing trees?