

**K12ELA7: Unit 4**  
***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller**  
**Chapters 11 - 15 Reading Questions**

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

**Chapter 11**

1. How was the past summer life changing for Helen?
2. Describe the Kellers' summer home.
3. How is Helen able to describe nature so well, when she cannot hear or see?
4. How do family and friends entertain themselves at the summer house?
5. When they get lost, how do Helen, Anne Sullivan, and Helen's cousin find their way back to the house?

**Chapter 12**

1. How does Helen describe winter?
2. How is the snow both wonderful and frightening?
3. Why is "tobogganing" so freeing?
4. Does Helen have a happy, normal childhood? Discuss. How does her family contribute to this?

**Chapter 13**

1. How does Helen experience sound after losing her hearing?
2. Why does Helen want to talk rather than just use sign language?
3. Why do people try to stop Helen from learning how to talk?
4. Who is Ragnhild Kaata, and why is she such an inspiration?
5. How does Miss Fuller teach Helen how to speak?
6. How is Helen able to "hear" other people?
7. What is the manual alphabet, and how does it work?

**Chapter 14**

1. Why is the winter of 1892 a bad one?
2. How does Helen learn about plagiarism?
3. After believing that Helen is innocent, why does Mr. Aganos change his mind and conduct an investigation? Is he overly harsh?
4. How does Anne Sullivan solve Helen's plagiarism mystery?
5. Why doesn't Helen give up writing after this incident?
6. How is writing like "patchwork" or a "puzzle," according to Helen?
7. Although he claims that he always believed that Helen was innocent, why do you think Mr. Aganos still seems hostile toward Helen?

**Chapter 15**

1. How does the plagiarism episode affect how Helen writes?
2. Why does Anne Sullivan think that Helen should publish her life story at the age of 12?
3. What is Niagara Falls like, according to Helen?
4. What does Helen enjoy most about the World's Fair? How is visiting the fair like traveling around the world?
5. How does Helen transition from childhood to adolescence while visiting the World's Fair?