

K12ELA7: Unit 4
***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller**
Chapters 16 - 20 Reading Questions

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

Chapter 16

1. Why does Helen just ignore the grammar rules when learning French?
2. Helen is able to learn multiple languages while in school, despite her disabilities. What does this show about her character?
3. Why is Latin so interesting to Helen?
4. What is an author's "style"?
5. Why do you think that Helen finds language to be so beautiful?

Chapter 17

1. Why do Helen and her family choose the Wright-Humason School in New York City?
2. What are Helen's favorite subjects in school? What are her least favorite? Why?
3. What are Helen's and her teachers' goals as far as her learning speech? What is the reality?
4. What is Helen's attitude toward arithmetic? What does she mean by the "dangerous frontier of 'guess'"?
5. Why does Helen prefer Central Park to other areas of New York City?
6. What event saddens her in February 1896, and why?

Chapter 18

1. Why does Helen want to attend college so badly?
2. What is Helen's dream college and why? What school does she compromise with?
3. How is the Cambridge School different from other schools that Helen has attended? How does Anne assist her?
4. What challenges does Helen face at the Cambridge School? How does she overcome them?
5. What specific works of literature does Helen find inspiring? Why?
6. What special accommodations are made for Helen to take her examinations? Is she successful?

Chapter 19

1. What challenges does Helen face at the beginning of her second year? Why is geometry particularly difficult, and what does she do to deal with that?
2. Why does Mr. Gilman want Helen to reduce her course load and stay an extra year? How does Helen feel about this?
3. What decision does Helen's mother make? Why?
4. Why does Helen prefer tutoring with Mr. Keith rather than traditional school?
5. Helen states, "My stupidity would often have exhausted the patience of Job." Do you agree with this? Why or why not? How is this statement ironic?
6. What new challenges does Helen face with her examinations?

Chapter 20

1. Why does Helen wait an extra year before attending college?
2. How does Helen see herself like any other girl?
3. How is college different from Helen's fantasy of college?
4. Interpret the quote: "One goes to college to learn, it seems, not to think."
5. Why does Helen dread exams the most? Is this feeling familiar to you?
6. Why is patience so important to Helen?
7. Although the famous saying is "Knowledge is power," Helen feels that a more accurate statement would be "Knowledge is happiness." Why does she feel this way? Do you agree with her statement?