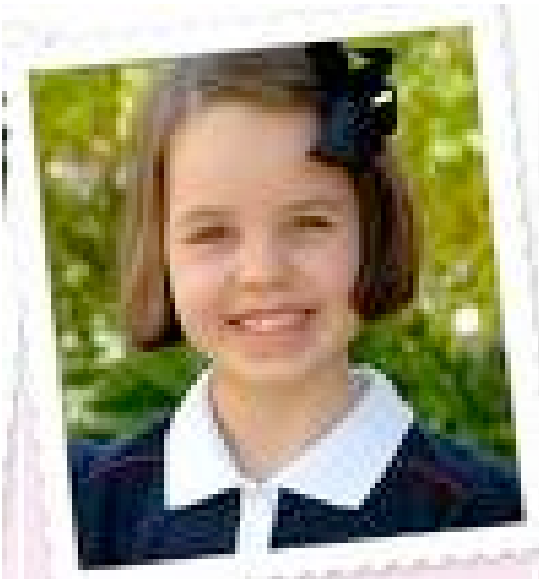


# Helen Keller



<http://www.helenkellerfoundation.org/images/child.jpg>  
<http://americangirl.files.wordpress.com/2007/08/girl31.jpg>

# By Savannah

## Helen Keller

Imagine not being able to hear. Imagine not being able to talk. Imagine not being able to see. Helen Keller never had to imagine. She was deaf, blind, and mute. But that never stopped her. Helen had an amazing life, very huge accomplishments, and a very nice legacy.

Helen Keller had a rough childhood, but her teacher, Anne Sullivan, helped her through it all. Helen was born on June 27, 1880 in a small town called Tuscumbia, Alabama. When Helen was a young baby, she got a terrible fever, which caused her to go blind and to lose hearing. Then because she couldn't hear any more words, she started to not speak. Helen's dad, Arthur, married a woman before he married Helen's mom. Arthur had two sons named James, who is as old as Kate, Helen's mom, and Will. When Helen was around seven years old she came up with about sixty signs to use around home to communicate. As Helen got older, her parents got her a teacher to help her learn how to write and talk. Helen's teacher was Anne Sullivan. When Helen was about 6 years old Anne wrote doll and cake in Helen's hand. Now I know why it was hard for her, but she had many accomplishments.

As Helen got older she learned more and more and also accomplished a lot! When Anne was teaching Helen the alphabet and to read and write in Braille, she learned within three years! Wow! During college, Helen learned how to talk from a deaf teacher. Helen Keller was the very first deaf-blind person to earn a bachelors of arts degree. Also, Helen received many awards, for the many grateful things she's done. Some of the awards include Chevaliers ribbon of the French Legion of Honor, Alumina Achievement Award of Radcliffe College and many others. Helen also gave lectures, appeared before legislatures, and wrote many articles and books. During World War II, Helen helped the soldiers that were blinded in the war. On September 14, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Helen the Presidential Metal of Freedom. Which is one of the states highest two civilian honors. I think Helen had so many amazing accomplishments but she also had a very strong legacy.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1968, Helen Keller's life was ended. She died when she was 87 years old. Helen's resting place is a very popular tourist site and her plaque to remember her life has the following written in Braille, Helen Keller and her beloved companion, Anne Sullivan Macy, are interred in the columbarium behind this chapel." So many people have visited Helen and touched the Braille dots; the

chapel has been replaced twice! Helen Keller may have not been responsible for the technologies and teaching methods, but with Anne Sullivan's help through her lectures, writing, and the way she lived her life, she showed millions that people of disability need to know it's not the end of the world. Also in Helens words, " The public must learn that the blind man is neither genius, nor a freak, nor an idiot. He has a mind that can be educated, ambitions which it is right for him to strive and release, a hand that can be trained, and it is the duty of the public to help him make to best of himself so that he can win light through work." It was a sad and wonderful life story and Helen was strong through it all.

Helen taught us all something very important in life; you can always learn no matter who you are. I think the most important thing about her was how she accomplished so many things in her hard life. The world wouldn't be the same if Helen Keller was never born.

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