

1. Symbols of Courage

Many of the significant civil rights victories in the last century have come from within the United States of America. From the gloom of recent reports from that country comes a truly inspirational story of two Americans, Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller, who urged for reforms in opportunities for the blind and underprivileged. On June 1, 1968, Helen Keller died after living an extraordinary and optimistic life.

Level

Upper Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Give each student a copy of Worksheet A and four minutes in which to read it. Students shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
2. After four minutes stop your students. Ask them to turn over their pieces of paper.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B. Divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to decide whether the statements are true or false.
4. When they have finished allow time for students to check their answers against Worksheet A and then check answers in open class.

Answers

- a) True. Anne was born in Massachusetts. Helen was born in Alabama.
- b) True
- c) True
- d) False. Anne did but Helen was taught privately by Anne and then went to Radcliffe College, which was not a special school for the blind.
- e) True
- f) False. Anne never completely lost her eyesight.
- g) True
- h) True
- i) True
- j) False. Helen's autobiography *The Story of My Life* was published during her time at college. Anne's biography *Anne Sullivan Macy* was published three years before she died.
- k) True
- l) False. Anne died in 1936. Helen died in 1968.
- m) True
- n) False. Anne married John Albert Macy in 1905.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.afb.org/braillebug/hkmuseum.asp>

Take a look at Helen and Anne's life in pictures and video

http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public_keller.hcsp

A fuller account of the life of these great women

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=1>

Helen's biography with links to other related sites

<http://www.afb.org/section.asp?Documentid=927>

Anne's biography with links to other related sites

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=1&TopicID=181>

Take a look at the gifts and artefacts Helen picked up on her world travels