

Assignment Checklist - 6th Grade

(March 30th - April 10th)

ELA

_____ Read your silent reading book or an informational text to complete your daily reading log.

_____ Week of March 30th: Read and complete the Main Idea sheet (front and back).

_____ Week of April 6th: Read and complete the Helen Keller activity.

Math

_____ Week of March 30: Complete the Fractions, Decimals, and Percents (powerpoint, independent practice, and task cards).

_____ Week of April 6th: Complete the Solving Equations (independent practice and task cards).

Science March 30-April 6th

_____ Complete the daily weather journal using resources.

_____ Complete the weather cycle TIC-TAC-TOE.

Social Studies

_____ Week of March 30th: Read "Mummies" article and answer questions.

_____ Week of April 6th: Complete "Challenge #1: Mummified Apples in Canopic Jars" packet.

Art

_____ Week of March 30th: Conceptual Art

_____ Week of April 6th: Art Choice board (pick 2)

Name : _____

Helen Keller: The Girl With the Vision

by Liana Mahoney

Over the course of her lifetime, Helen Keller achieved many things. She earned the Theodore Roosevelt Distinguished Service Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was elected to the Women's Hall of Fame, graduated with honors from Radcliffe College, and received honorary degrees from several universities. She wrote an autobiography, and traveled to more than thirty nations around the world to inspire people. These achievements are quite impressive. What's even more amazing is that she achieved all of this and more without being able to see or hear! From the time she was a young child, Helen Keller was completely blind and deaf.



Helen Keller was born in 1880 in Alabama. She was a healthy baby who began speaking her first words around six months old, and began walking around one year old. Before her second birthday, though, Helen got very sick and developed a high fever. A few days after her fever finally broke, her parents noticed changes in their daughter. She didn't seem to notice when they rang the dinner bell, or waved at her. It soon became clear that Helen had lost her ability to see and hear.

Helen became wild and uncontrollable. She kicked, hit, screamed, threw tantrums, and put her hands in other people's food at the dinner table. She wouldn't stay in her bed at night. Her parents decided it was time to get Helen some help.

The Kellers met with Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone. He was working with deaf children at the time, and also had a wife who was deaf. Bell

Name : _____

suggested they contact the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts to see if the teachers there might be able to help Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Keller took his advice and hoped for good news. On March 3, 1887, good news came indeed! One of the institute's most recent graduates, Annie Sullivan, arrived to the Keller home to begin teaching Helen. This was the beginning of a 49-year relationship between Helen and her teacher, and it changed Helen's life forever.

Annie was a strict teacher who worked very hard teaching six-year-old Helen how to behave and how to communicate with others. She brought Helen a doll as a gift, and on her very first day at the Kellers, Annie tried to teach Helen the word "doll." She used finger spelling to spell out the letters "d-o-l-l" in Helen's hand. She tried teaching Helen many words in this manner. Eventually, Helen learned to spell them back to Annie. But Annie could tell that Helen wasn't connecting the letters and their meaning. Many times, Helen threw tantrums and appeared angry. Still, Annie didn't give up.

One day, Annie had a big breakthrough. She taught Helen the meaning of the word "water" by holding her hand under a water pump and spelling "w-a-t-e-r" over and over again. Helen understood! She spelled it back to Annie, then pounded the ground to tell Annie she wanted to know its name. By the time evening came, Helen had learned over thirty words and understood their meaning! Now that she had discovered a whole new world, Helen's love for learning ignited. She wanted to know more. The little girl who never smiled and often went into fits of rage was now a happy child who was thirsty to learn.

Now Helen wanted the rest of the world to understand her just as well. She learned how to read Braille, a special alphabet for blind people. Then she used a Braille typewriter to type out stories of her own! She also spent the next twenty-five years of her life learning to speak so that others could understand her. She went to a school for the deaf in Boston. Here, she learned that she could use her hands to teach herself how

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to speak. She put one hand on a person's throat to feel the vibrations, while her other hand touched the person's mouth so she could feel how they formed the sounds in their words. This was very difficult, but Helen was determined. When she finally learned how to speak, everyone listened. She was very intelligent and inspirational.

With the help of Annie Sullivan and a vision to live her life to the fullest, Helen Keller grew up to become a truly amazing woman. She helped improve others' lives, too, by speaking up for their rights, and by helping to change the way the world viewed people who were blind and deaf. Although her own life was one of silence and darkness, Helen Keller was courageous and determined enough to bring light to others by encouraging them to never give up.

Name : _____

Helen Keller: The Girl With the Vision

- 1) What of the following best summarizes the central idea of the text?
 - a) How, despite some serious challenges, Helen Keller grew up to become one of the most inspirational women.
 - b) In a world blessed with scientific inventions, physical infirmities won't stop you from achieving your dreams.
 - c) The amazing parents of Helen Keller
 - d) Helen Keller and her great teacher.

- 2) Annie, the teacher, was instrumental in shaping up Helen Keller into the most inspirational woman that she later became. Analyze the introduction and development of Annie's character in the passage.

- 3) What does the phrase "a big breakthrough" mean?

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Helen Keller: The Girl With the Vision

4) Write a brief appreciatory note on the overall structure of the passage.

5) Do you know of a person who, in spite of physical challenges, became very successful in life? Explain what they have achieved.

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Annie Sullivan is introduced as the good news that happened in Helen

Keller's life. She is a thoughtful teacher, which is proven by her choosing to

gift Helen a doll. With the water episode, Annie ignites a fire in the heart of

the young Helen, and there had been no looking back since then. The

concluding part of the text is clear that if it was not for Annie, Helen Keller

wouldn't have had such a lofty vision in life.

- 3) What does the phrase "a big breakthrough" mean?

It means 'an important discovery or event'.

Helen Keller: The Girl With the Vision

4) Write a brief appreciatory note on the overall structure of the passage.

The text starts by listing the achievements of Helen Keller and we are surprised as we learn Keller, the ultra successful woman, was actually blind and deaf. The following paragraphs shed light on her early life, and how after the sudden fever, Helen becomes deaf and blind. With the introduction of Annie Sullivan, the passage becomes a celebration of how Annie helps Helen to learn and also empowers her to have a great vision of her own. The conclusion reiterates how Helen, despite living in darkness herself, strove hard to bring light to others' lives.

5) Do you know of a person who, in spite of physical challenges, became very successful in life? Explain what they have achieved.

Answers may vary.

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Main Idea

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fifty thousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch \$25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. Before you put on that skeleton costume and rove door-to-door pandering for candy, take a minute to reflect on this tradition. Halloween is believed to have come from an ancient Celtic festival dating back some 2,000 years. November 1st was the Celtic New Year and marked the end of summer to the Celts. They celebrated on its eve by wearing costumes made of animal skins and dancing around bon fires. Over the next two millennia, this primitive celebration grew to be the candy fueled costume ball that we know today.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. When one hears the term "reality" applied to a show, one might expect that the events portrayed occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted. This is not always the case. Many reality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. Such living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be "reality." Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of "reality" television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it's no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. It is estimated that over twenty million pounds of candy corn are sold in the US each year. Brach's, the top manufacturer, sells enough candy corn to circle the earth 4.25 times if each piece were laid end to end. That's a lot of candy corn, but that's nothing compared to the production of Tootsie Rolls. Over 64 million Tootsie Rolls are produced every day! But even Tootsie Rolls have got nothing on the candy industry's staple product: chocolate. Confectioners manufacture over twenty billion pounds of chocolate in the United States each year. Now that's a mouthful!

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. Screech! When a driver pushes on the brake pedal, it initiates a process that causes the vehicle to stop in motion. We literally trust braking systems with our lives every time we get into a vehicle or cross at a busy intersection. How does this life-critical process work? It begins when the pedal is pushed. At this moment brake fluid is released into the braking mechanisms. As the fluid collects, this creates a leverage, which causes a friction to be applied. This friction will create a force that will cause the wheels to stop and allow you to reach your destination safely. Beep! Beep!

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. There are many types of lethal venom in the animal kingdom, but perhaps no stranger carrier than the platypus. The platypus is one of few venomous mammals. Male platypus carry a venom cocktail in their ankle spurs. This venom incapacitates victims with excruciating pain. Stranger still, the platypus is the only mammal that uses electroreception. That means that the platypus uses its bill to sense the electricity produced by the muscular movements of its prey. Electroreception is a sixth sense different from seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling. Perhaps most odd, the platypus is the only mammal that lays eggs rather than giving birth to live young. What an odd creature indeed.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

7. Yellowstone National Park is mainly located in Wyoming, although three percent is located in the state of Montana. The Continental Divide of North America runs diagonally through the southwestern part of the park. The park sits on the Yellowstone Plateau, which is an average elevation of 8,000 feet above sea level. This plateau is bounded on nearly all sides by mountain ranges. There are 290 waterfalls that are at least fifteen feet in the park, the highest being the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, which falls 308 feet.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

