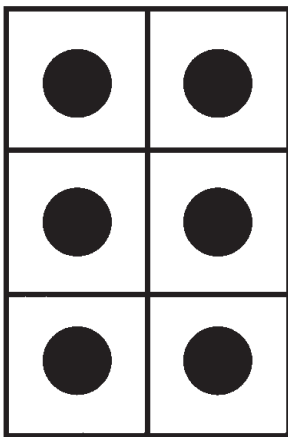


Braille's Brilliant Idea

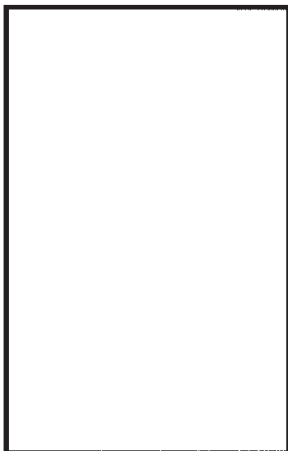
Helen Keller learned to read by using a system of printing for the blind called Braille. This system was named after the inventor Louis Braille from France. Louis was only fourteen years old when he started working on a system of reading. He stuck pins in a piece of paper to make the raised dots.



Braille uses a combination of raised dots to represent the letters of the alphabet. The reader "reads" with his fingers, touching the letters to identify each one.

The first ten letters of the alphabet (a-j) uses the top two rows of dots. The next ten letters (k-t) uses the top two rows plus one dot from the third row. The last six letters (u-z) uses all the dots, except for "w", which is a reversed "r". (The Braille alphabet is shown on page 21.)

Try making your own Braille system. Draw your series of dots in the box below. Then make up a combination of dots for each letter of the alphabet. Give the code to your friends and send them a message.



A =	<input type="checkbox"/>	E =	<input type="checkbox"/>	I =	<input type="checkbox"/>	M =	<input type="checkbox"/>	Q =	<input type="checkbox"/>	U =	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y =	<input type="checkbox"/>
B =	<input type="checkbox"/>	F =	<input type="checkbox"/>	J =	<input type="checkbox"/>	N =	<input type="checkbox"/>	R =	<input type="checkbox"/>	V =	<input type="checkbox"/>	Z =	<input type="checkbox"/>
C =	<input type="checkbox"/>	G =	<input type="checkbox"/>	K =	<input type="checkbox"/>	O =	<input type="checkbox"/>	S =	<input type="checkbox"/>	W =	<input type="checkbox"/>		
D =	<input type="checkbox"/>	H =	<input type="checkbox"/>	L =	<input type="checkbox"/>	P =	<input type="checkbox"/>	T =	<input type="checkbox"/>	X =	<input type="checkbox"/>		

BRAILLE CODE FUN

Decode the word below by using the Braille system of dots. Match the combination of dots above the blanks with the dots in the Braille Code Box and write the correct letter on the blank.

These dots are not raised as they would be in a Braille book, but they are in the same position.

You will discover the word that is a character quality that Helen Keller had. This word helped her to accomplish things that people thought were impossible for a deaf-blind person.

Braille Code Box

A •	B ••	C ••	D •• ••
E •• •	F •• ••	G •• ••	H •• ••
I •• •	J •• ••	K •• •	L •• ••
M •• •• •	N •• •• •	O •• •• •	P •• •• ••
Q •• •• ••	R •• •• ••	S •• •• •	T •• •• ••
U •• •• ••	V •• •• ••	W •• •• ••	X •• •• ••
Y •• •• ••	Z •• •• ••		
and •• •• ••	for •• •• ••	of •• •• ••	the •• •• ••

•• •	•• •	•• •• •	•• •	•• •• •	•• •	•• •• •	•• •	•• •• •	•• •	•• •• •	•• •• •	•• •• •
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Try writing your name in Braille! _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT & DO

NOTE TO THE TEACHER: These are activities for a group to discuss and think about.

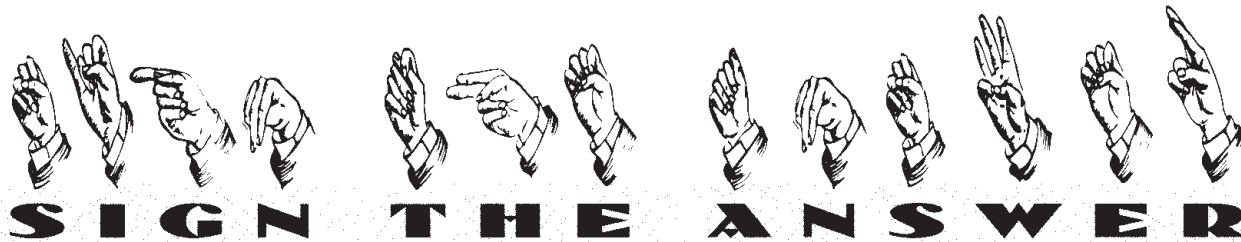
THINGS TO THINK ABOUT . . .

1. Helen Keller was born with sight and hearing, but a high fever left her deaf and blind. She was a very bright, intelligent child. How do you think she must have felt when suddenly she could not see or communicate with anyone?
2. Why was Mr. Keller's lack of discipline actually harmful for Helen? Why was Anne Sullivan so successful in teaching Helen?

THINGS TO DO . . .

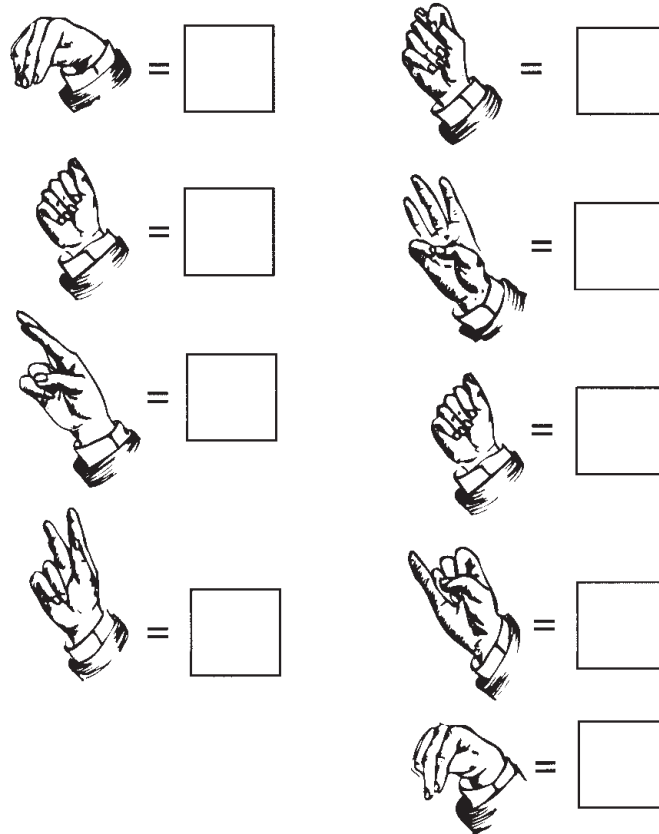
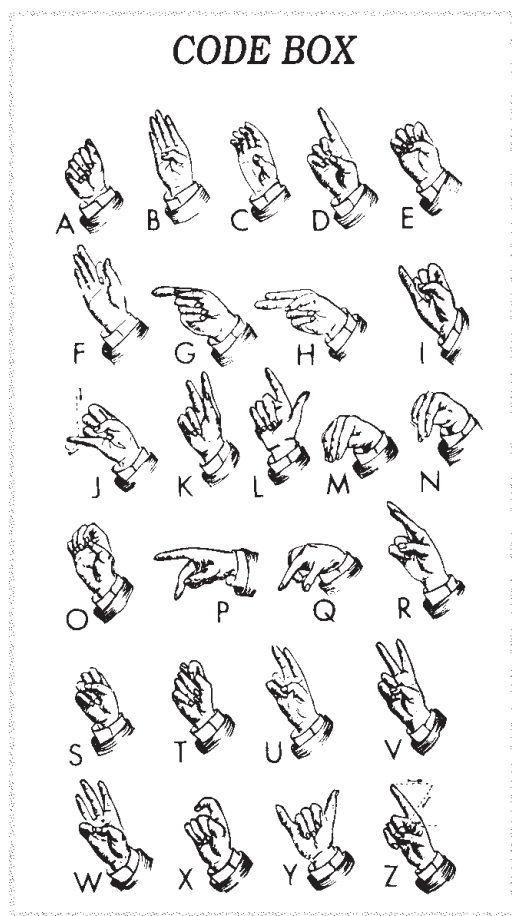
3. Purchase some sleep shades and industrial ear plugs. While someone is wearing the shades and the ear plugs, have someone else lead him around. Have the person try to take a drink of water. Take the person outside. Have him feel something. Can he identify the object? Invent your own methods of communicating. Try spelling words into the hands. Take turns leading each other around.
4. Plan a deaf-blind meal. Some of the group may be the helpers, and the rest wear sleep shades and ear plugs. The helpers should set up the food on the table and then guide the others to their chairs. All conversation should cease as soon as they enter the room. No one knows who they are sitting beside. The food can be simple things to eat with the fingers, such as sandwiches. Condiments such as mayonaise, mustard, and peanut butter should be placed on the table for the deaf-blind to use. Be prepared for interesting combinations! Have the diners try pouring from a pitcher. Try to communicate in some way without being able to speak, hear, or see. Mealtime is such a social time for most people that this activity will be difficult to do.





Helen Keller became friends with a very famous author. Discover who this author is by solving the code below.

Use the one hand manual alphabet symbols to help you decode the words. Match the hand signs below with the signs in the Code Box. Write the correct letter in the box.



BONUS QUESTION! CAN YOU NAME ONE OF THE BOOKS THIS FAMOUS AUTHOR WROTE?

Try signing your own name!