# Guided Reading Lesson Plan (Levels M-Z)

**Title:** A Picture Book of Helen Keller  
**Level:** M  
**ISBN:** 978-0823409501  
**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin

## Before Reading: (5-7 min.)

- **Summarize plot (M)**
- **Discuss pictures (M)**
- **Unfamiliar book language/character names (S)**
- **Draw upon students’ experiences (M)**

Look at the front cover and read the title. Write down in your journal what you know about Helen Keller and what you want to know.

Helen Keller was a great lady. She was born a healthy baby in Alabama, in the year 1880. She became very ill as an infant. While she did recover, she was left blind and deaf. Read to find out her many great accomplishments. Read about the wonderful people in her life who helped her overcome many obstacles.

### New or important words (V):
- p. 3 Tuscumbia, Alabama
- p. 12 mischievous
- p. 20 Braille
- p.30 handicapped

**Unusual aspect of text layout (V)** Review the time line of Helen Keller’s life at the end of the book.

## Suggested Teaching Point (Behaviors to Notice and Support) or focus on a Comprehension Strategy:

- **connections, questions, inferences, visualizing, summarizing, synthesizing, determining importance.**

Good readers think about (infer) what lesson the author might be trying to teach them. Good readers think about how the character changes throughout the story.

## During Reading: (10-15 min.)

Students silently read the text, or you may choose to listen to a few whisper read the text. While students are silently reading, you can start another group or conference with students.

## After Reading: (8-10 min.)

- **Discuss the story**
  - clarify confusion, revisiting parts of the text that posed problems for readers
  - acknowledge partially correct responses, seeking to understand students’ perspectives
- **Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)**

What do you think the lesson might be the author is trying to teach?  
How did Helen Keller change throughout the story?  
Talk about the many accomplishments of Helen Keller. Why were they important?  
Did you make any connections to the story? Do you know anyone who is blind or deaf? Talk about their challenges.  
Discuss specific problems and solutions Helen Keller faced.

## Writing Connection (optional):

Write down some questions you would ask Helen Keller if you could have known her.