

Insert Slam Dunk Title

1. Question & Research Task

Have you ever heard of Helen Keller? You may have heard the name, but do you know why she is famous?

Your class will be reading the play *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson and learning about the inspiring life of Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

But before we read the play, let's do a little background research in order to answer the question:



Picture retrieved from [Wikimedia Commons](#).

In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:

Why did the author title this play *The Miracle Worker*?

2. Information Sources

Use the following resources to learn more about Helen Keller, Anne Sullivan and what life was like during the 1890s in America.

- [The Miracle Worker at Broadway.com](#)
- [“The Miracle Worker” article. Click Plot Summary](#)
- [Life in 1890’s America](#)
- [American women in the 1890’s](#)
- [Helen Keller Biography](#)



Picture retrieved from [Wikimedia Commons](#)

3. Student Activity

Use the resources on the previous slide to complete this notes sheet about Helen Keller, Anne Sullivan, and the time they lived in.

You can record your information on either a digital or paper copy, as directed by your teacher.



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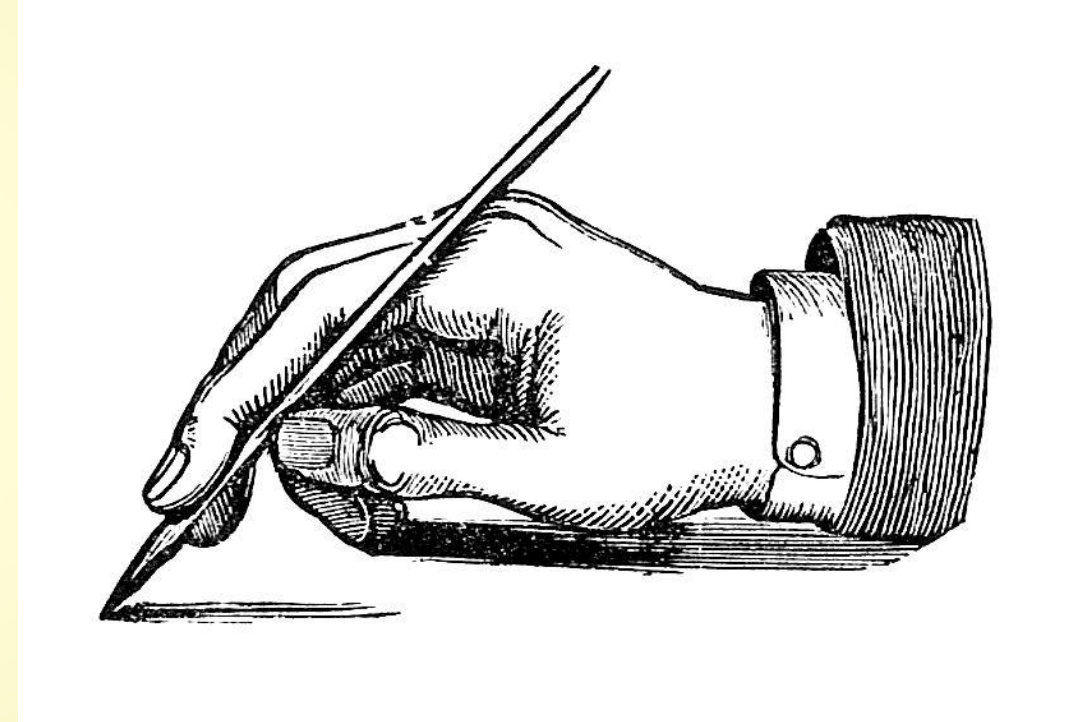
4. Assessment Activity

Why did the author title this play *The Miracle Worker*?

Now that you have read about Helen Keller, Anne Sullivan, and the time period in which the play takes place, you are ready to answer the question:

Why do you think the author titled this play *The Miracle Worker*?

- Use evidence from your research to support your answer.
- Use this [worksheet](#) to complete your answer.



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5. Enrichment Activities



Picture retrieved from [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Watch this [BrainPop](#) video about Helen Keller. Check out some of these features located right below the video:

- Take the quiz
- Try the activity
- Find some more cool facts in the FYI section
- Explore further with the questions in the Q&A section

6. Teacher Resources

Learning Standards Alignment

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy

Reading: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Writing: 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

AASL Standards Framework for Learners Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by:

I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:

I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:

I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:

I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

P21 Framework: 21st Century Student Outcomes

3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy: Access information efficiently and effectively; Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

ICT Literacy: Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

SLIDE NAVIGATION

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Grade 7 Ela

Objective: Students will develop background knowledge about the characters and setting of the play *The Miracle Worker* by gathering information from authoritative resources.

Time Frame: One 50-minute lesson

Differentiation strategies for this lesson:

- Have students use learning supports provided in BCPS Digital Content found in the [Apps Portal](#). Refer to [Digital Content Snapshot/Support pages](#) as needed.

Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Provide students with login information as needed to authenticate BCPS Digital Content. Login information is available on the **BCPS Digital Content** page found via the [Apps Portal](#)