

This guide to learning more about Helen Keller is divided into five sections, three of which are books: books about Helen Keller for adults, books about Helen Keller for children, and books written by Helen Keller. Because so much has been written about Helen Keller, books included are either the most recent or the ones considered the best and most interesting. A list of Internet sources is included.

## **BOOKS ABOUT HELEN KELLER FOR ADULTS**

*Anne Sullivan Macy. The Story Behind Helen Keller, 1934*

By Nella Braddy

This was the first biography of Anne Sullivan, written shortly before her death by a journalist who traveled with Annie and Helen; it includes Annie's personal recollections and interviews.

*Blind Rage: Letters to Helen Keller, 2006*

By Georgina Kleege

The author, blind since birth, writes a series of letters in which she addresses her resentment of Helen as a secular saint, her speculations about Helen's true motives, and her ultimate admiration of the real woman.

*Helen Keller, a Life, 1999*

By Dorothy Hermann

The most recent biography of Helen Keller. The author acknowledges "Keller's frustrations and some of her less-than-sterling qualities" and "gives readers a flesh-and-blood woman whose achievements are all the more remarkable" (Amazon review).

*Helen And Teacher: The Story Of Helen Keller And Anne Sullivan Macy, 1981*

By Joseph Lash

An excellent biography of the relationship between two women. Well researched, detailed, and highly readable.

*Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit, 2001*

By Laurie Lawlor

Captivating story of Helen Keller's life, illustrated with historical photographs and quotes. Includes plentiful historical information to place Keller in the context of the twentieth century.

*Beyond the Miracle Worker, 2009*

By Kim Nielson

Focuses on the "remarkable life of Anne Sullivan Macy and her extraordinary friendship" with Helen Keller. Based on the reminiscences of Helen and others, but somewhat fictionalized.

*The Radical Lives of Helen Keller, 2004*

By Kim Nielson

A scholarly examination of Helen's radical social and political ideas, focusing on her anti-war stance, her intense liberalism, and her adherence to the Swedenborgian faith.

*Helen Keller in Love: A Novel, 2012*

By Rosie Sultan

A fictional retelling of Helen's relationship with the young man who served for a time as her private secretary.

# BOOKS ABOUT HELEN KELLER FOR CHILDREN

*A Picture Book of Helen Keller, 1992*

By David Adler, John C. Wallner, and Alexandra Wallner.

Brightly illustrated, this book is an excellent resource and introduction to the life of Helen Keller for younger readers. Best for grades K-2.

*Helen Keller, 2003*

By David Adler and John C. Wallner

The author of *A Picture book of Helen Keller* retells the story as a chapter book for young readers. Best for grades K-2.

*Helen Keller's Best Friend Belle, 2013*

By Holly Barry,

Best for grades K-2

In this picture book of Helen Keller's early life, readers are introduced to her beloved dog, Belle, who is with Helen every step of the way.

*An Interactive Biography of Helen Keller, 2013*

By Charles Rivers Editors (digital publishing company)

This ebook includes video and audio clips. Grades 4-8.

*The World At Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller, 2002*

By Joan Dash

This biography continues the story for young readers past her childhood and formal education. All major events in Helen's life are included, as well as the famous individuals who knew her. Best for grades 5-8.

*Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher, 2015*

By Marfe Ferguson Delano

Focuses on Annie Sullivan's perseverance and triumph over her own barriers to learning. Grades 5 and up.

*Helen Keller: A Photographic Story of a Life, 2004*

By Leslie Garrett

Tells the "inspirational tale of the spirited crusader" and features full-color photographs of Helen's life, her travels, and the people most influential in her life. Two chapters focus on Annie Sullivan's life. Best for grades 4-8.

*Annie and Helen, 2012*

By Deborah Hopkinson, Illustrated by Raul Colon

Story of the early relationship between Anne Sullivan and Helen, written from Annie's perspective and quoting her letters. Picture book for all ages.

*Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller, 2018*

By Joseph Lambert

Dramatic graph-novel type illustrations with very moving text. Best for grade 7 and up.

*Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit, 2001*

By Laurie Lawlor

Captivating story of Helen Keller's life, illustrated with historical photographs and quotes. Includes plentiful historical information. Grade 5 and up.

*Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller, 2007*

By Sarah Miller

Entertaining fictional treatment of Annie Sullivan's first encounter with the six-year-old wild child who was Helen Keller. For grades 5-10.

*Helen Keller: The World in Her Heart, 2008*

By Les Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome

Lyrical prose celebrates the young Helen's discovery of the world through the five senses. For grades K-4.

*Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller, 2012*

By Doreen Rappaport, Illustrated by Matt Tavares

Beautiful full-page, full-color paintings invite children into Helen's World, beginning with her childhood and expanding to include her experiences at school and in championing social causes. Picture book for all ages.

*Helen Keller: Her Life in Pictures, 2002*

By George Sullivan

The use of primary sources is emphasized in this short biography for the "In Their Own Words" series. Grades 4-7.

*Who Was Helen Keller? 2003*

By Gare Thompson and Nancy Harrison

One in a series of easy-to-read biographies about inspiring individuals. Helen Keller's life is covered in a simple and straight forward manner. Grades 2-4.

# ONLINE SOURCES FOR LEARNING ABOUT HELEN KELLER

## 1. The American Foundation for the Blind

The American Foundation for the Blind is a nonprofit organization founded in 1921 and recognized as a leading resource for blind and visually impaired people. It is the organization to which Helen Keller devoted 41 years of her life and now maintains three separate online museums. Sites are well-designed and extensive, featuring historic photos and video as well as generous selections from her writings.

*The Helen Keller Archive*

[afb.org/helenkellerarchive](http://afb.org/helenkellerarchive)

The archive contains thousands of letters, speeches, press clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, architectural drawings, artifacts and audio-video materials relating to Helen Keller. It is searchable by subject and by series, using key words. The physical collection is housed at the American Printing House for the Blind.

*Helen Keller*

American Foundation for the Blind

[www.afb.org/helenkeller](http://www.afb.org/helenkeller)

AFB's Helen Keller site examines her legacy and provides a detailed biography. The Helen Keller Visual Archives provides a window into the social, political and cultural changes that took place during the nine decades of her life. Also included are full text of several of her letters, her essays, and her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*.

## *The Helen Keller Kids' Museum Online*

American Foundation for the Blind

[www.afb.org/about-afb/history/online-museums/helen-keller-museum](http://www.afb.org/about-afb/history/online-museums/helen-keller-museum)

The Helen Keller Kids Museum traces Helen Keller's life from her childhood and education under Anne Sullivan, to Helen's subsequent education in New York City and Massachusetts. The museum continues with Helen's early political activism and career as a leading advocate for those with vision loss in the United States and her eventual fame as a leading advocate worldwide.

## *Anne Sullivan Macy: Miracle Worker*

American Foundation for the Blind

[www.afb.org/annesullivan](http://www.afb.org/annesullivan)

Using her words, the viewer reads about her difficult childhood as a daughter of poor Irish immigrants in Massachusetts, her years in the Tewksbury Almshouse and subsequent removal to the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston. The viewer reads about her extraordinary success at teaching Helen in Alabama and her continued role as a stalwart supporter of her pupil until Anne Sullivan died, famous in her own right, in 1936.

## 2. YouTube

A search on YouTube for Helen Keller results in thousands of hits, including the complete footage of the three movie versions of *The Miracle Worker*, clips from the documentary *Deliverance* (filmed in 1919), clips from another documentary, *My Daily Life*, filmed in the 1950s, and various footage from newsreels from five decades. Many of these have been gathered together on a site called "Helen Kellers."

Not to be missed are the following:

Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan: 1928 Newsreel

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdTUSignq7Y>

Amazing newsreel footage in which a charming Helen Keller demonstrates while Annie Sullivan explains how she taught Helen to talk.

Helen Keller Speaks Out

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ch\\_H8pt9M8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ch_H8pt9M8)

A later clip of Helen talking about her greatest disappointment in life—that she could not speak as clearly as she wanted.

3. The Perkins School for the Blind

<http://www.perkins.org/>

<http://www.perkinsarchives.org>

<http://www.perkinsmuseum.org>

Helen Keller attended the Perkins School for the Blind, in Massachusetts, for four years. Her teacher, Anne Sullivan, was a graduate of the Perkins School. Perkins celebrates both its alumni with a FAQ page, the text of Anne Sullivan's valedictory addresses, biographies of Helen and of Anne, plus an extensive collection of photographs of both Anne and Helen. Related sites, the Perkins Archives and the Perkins Museum, include letters, newspaper articles, and an extensive collection of photographs.

4. Helen Keller Birthplace – Ivy Green

[www.helenkeller.org](http://www.helenkeller.org)

Maintained by the Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation, this website is intended to prepare people for a visit to the birthplace of Helen Keller, Tuscumbia, Alabama. Sections include the ground, house and artifacts. The Miracle Worker is performed at Ivy Green every summer as outdoor theater, around the well where Helen learned the word water.



## 5: MEET AMAZING AMERICANS: HELEN KELLER

The Library of Congress

[www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/keller/aa\\_keller\\_subj\\_e.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/keller/aa_keller_subj_e.html)

Intended for children in upper elementary and middle school, this site is easy to navigate, contains lots of illustrations, and gives children the historical context as well many interesting details about Helen and her influence.

## 6. HELEN KELLER PHOTO ARCHIVE

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog

[www.loc.gov/pictures/](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/)

Hundreds of rare photos are stashed in the Library of Congress's photo archive. Go to the home page and do a search for "Helen Keller."

## 7. THE HELEN KELLER FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

[www.helenkellerfoundation.org](http://www.helenkellerfoundation.org)

This organization undertakes global efforts to end blindness and deafness in an effort to continue the work to which Helen dedicated her life. A special section on Helen's life includes a video, photographs, and biographical materials.

