



**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 6-8**

# **The Miracle Worker**

William Gibson

**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# The Miracle Worker

William Gibson

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**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your novel test.

*\* = thought question, no right or wrong answer*

*\*\* = prediction, no right or wrong answer*

**Act I (pp. 1-15)**

1. How did Helen become deaf and blind?
2. Why does Percy ring the bell?
3. What does Captain Keller mean, "The house is at sixes and sevens from morning till night over the child..." (p. 13)?
4. Why does Helen pull off Aunt Ev's buttons?
5. To whom does Aunt Ev want Captain Keller to write?
  - \* How would Helen's life have been different if she had been born into a poor family? Do you think she is better off in any way than a child who was born without sight or hearing?
  - \*\* James seems to feel a lot of anger toward his half-sister, Helen. Do you think he and Helen will warm to each other as the story progresses?

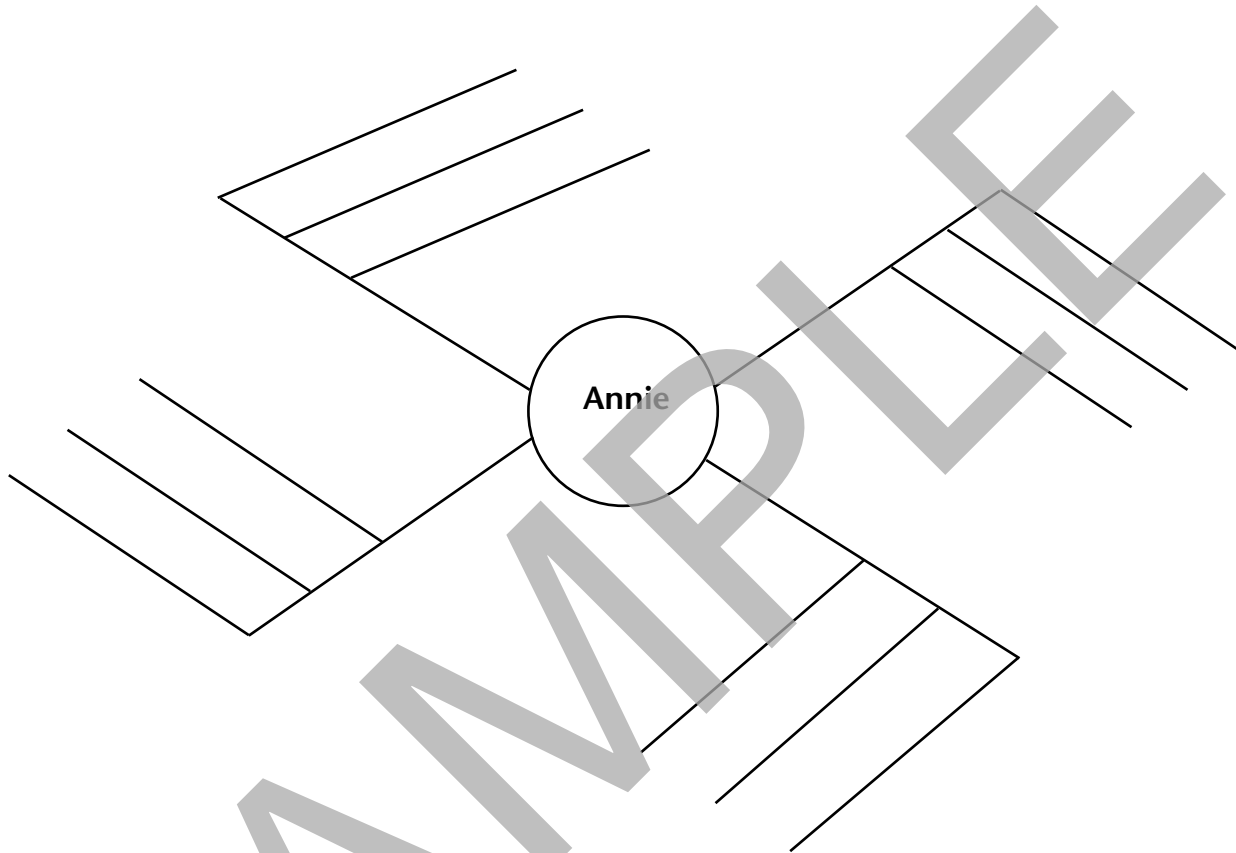
**Act I (pp. 16-30)**

1. Where is Annie before she comes to the Kellers?
2. According to Anagnos, what was Annie like when she came to Perkins?
3. What do the girls and Mr. Anagnos give Annie?
4. How does Annie get to Alabama and why does it take her so long?
5. Why is Kate let down by Annie's appearance?
6. What three advantages does Annie claim to have over others who might try to help Helen?
  - \* Why do you think Annie was chosen as the one to send to the Kellers?
  - \*\* How do you think Helen's father will treat Annie Sullivan when he meets her? How do you think Helen will get along with Annie?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions**

On each “spoke” of the wheel below, place a word or phrase that describes Annie. On each “flag” place a detail that supports that descriptor. (Try to use page numbers.) Some descriptors you might use are: tactless, stubborn, witty, energetic, honest, intelligent.



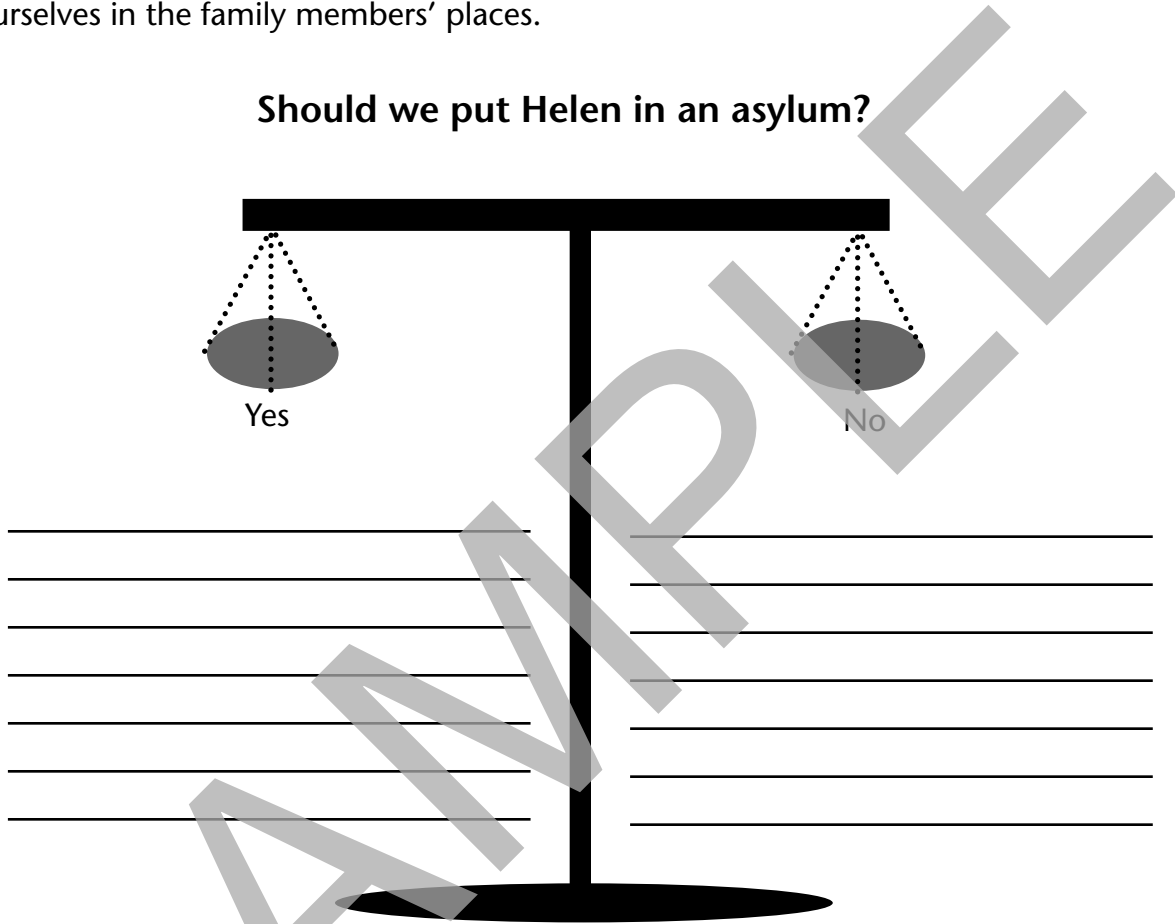
Use the graphic you create to help organize your thoughts for a discussion about Annie’s character or for writing a character sketch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions**

The Kellers apparently have discussed the possibility of sending Helen to an asylum. With a group, discuss the pros and cons of such a decision—those mentioned in the play and any others you can think of. Take turns jotting reasons why Helen should or should not be placed in an asylum. You can use key words and phrases. Try to put yourselves in the family members' places.

**Should we put Helen in an asylum?**



Now weigh your pros and cons and try to come to an agreement.

Our conclusion is: \_\_\_\_\_  
The best reason for our conclusion is: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Imagine the scene in which the Kellers discuss the asylum, before Annie arrives. Use the graphic to help you organize your thoughts as you improvise (act out) the scene or write the dialogue for it.