READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

Helen Adams Keller was born in 1880 in Escumbria, Alabama. At the age of two, she had severe fever. Helen's mother noticed that she could not hear or see after the illness. As a child, Helen was very short tempered because of her disability. At a young age, a playmate and Helen made up a sign language of about sixty signs to communicate with each other.

Mrs. Keller took Helen to a doctor who suggested that they should meet the famous inventor, Alexander Graham Bell as he was working with the deaf. Mr. Alexander Bell sent them to meet the Director of the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston. The director wanted Helen to begin studying under the guidance of Anne Sullivan.

Anne was almost totally blind. She began teaching Helen. Both of them lived together in a separate cottage. Anne taught Helen to speak, read and write. Helen attended schools for the deaf in Boston, Massachusetts and New York City. She wanted to pursue higher education at college and Anne went with her. Being a successful American author and educator, Helen spent the rest of her life working to provide aid to the deaf and the blind. Helen wrote an autobiography titled – The story of my life.

Helen's life shows us that no matter what problems or disabilities one may have, they can be overcome through focus and hard work.

Exercise I

A) Answer the following questions:

1. Where was Helen born?
2. Was she blind from birth?
3. Who was Helen's teacher?
4. How did Anne help Helen?
5. What inspires you in Helen's life story?

B) Choose the correct alternative for the following:

1. Who wanted Helen to study under the guidance of Anne Sullivan?
   a. Mrs. Keller
   b. Director of the Perkins Institute for the Blind
   c. Alexander Graham Bell

2. An autobiography means _____
   a. when someone writes about their own self
   b. a research paper on biology
   c. when someone writes about a person who has inspired them

3. Helen Keller was an _____.
   a. painter
   b. author
   c. author and educator

©Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam, 2023

READING COMPREHENSION

© Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini

4. What did Alexander Graham Bell invent?
   a. Computer
   b. Telephone
   c. Printer

5. Where did Helen attend the school for the deaf?
   a. Alabama
   b. India
   c. Boston, Massachusetts and New York

Exercise II

A) Find the words in the passage which mean:

a. To follow someone or something
b. Inability to do certain activities
c. Person who gets angry very quickly

A) Think and answer

1. Who are the characters mentioned in the passage? Whom do you like the most and why?

2. What is the script used by the blind called? Search the Internet and gather some information about it.

©Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam, 2023