

Helen KELLER

Defining
MOMENTS
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

*Break Down
the Walls!*

by Margaret Fetty



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Helen KELLER

Break Down the Walls!



by Margaret Fetty

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and title page, New York Times Co./Getty Images; 4, Used by permission Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA; 5, Library of Congress; 6, American Foundation for the Blind; 7, Larry Gillentine; 8–9 (all 3 photos), American Foundation for the Blind; 10, Larry Gillentine; 11T, Used by permission Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA; 11B, American Foundation for the Blind; 12–14 (all 3 photos), Used by permission Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA; 15, American Foundation for the Blind; 16, ©Craig Hammell/CORBIS; 17T, Used by permission Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA; 17B, American Foundation for the Blind; 18, Used by permission Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA; 19, Library of Congress; 20–21 (both), American Foundation for the Blind; 22, Used by permission Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA; 23–26T (all 4 photos), American Foundation for the Blind; 26B, LBJ Library Photo by Unknown; 27, Bettmann/CORBIS.

Publisher: Kenn Goin
Project Editor: Adam Siegel
Creative Director: Spencer Brinker
Original Design: Fabia Wargin

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Fetty, Margaret.

Helen Keller : break down the walls! / by Margaret Fetty.

p. cm. — (Defining moments. Overcoming challenges)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-271-5 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-271-X (library binding)

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-299-9 (pbk.)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-299-X (pbk.)

1. Keller, Helen, 1880–1968. 2. Blind-deaf women—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. I. Title. II. Series.

HV1624.K4F48 2007

362.4'1092—dc22

2006005855

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc.,
101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003.
Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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An Amazing Speech

Helen stood before a crowded room in Montclair, New Jersey. She was 32 years old. For the first time in her life, she was giving a **lecture** to a large group of people. Helen was terrified. Her voice was rough. She spoke in a whisper. At times, it was hard to understand her. The audience had to listen carefully.

The First Appearance on the Lecture Platform of

HELEN KELLER

And her Teacher Mrs. Macy (Anne M. Sullivan)



SUBJECT

“The Heart and the Hand,” or the Right Use of our Senses

TREMONT TEMPLE, Boston
ONE NIGHT ONLY
MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 24th, at 8:15 P. M.
SEATS, 25c. to \$1.50. NOW ON SALE

A poster for Helen's first speaking tour in 1913

Helen's speech amazed the audience. It was the first **public** talk given by Helen Keller, a woman who had been **deaf** and **blind** for most of her life.



Helen could tell when the audience liked her speech. Their clapping hands would cause the floor to **vibrate**. She could feel the vibrations with her feet.

Helen Keller around 1914, a year after she gave her first speech

A Mysterious Illness

It took great **courage** for Helen to speak in front of a crowd. Yet Helen had an important message to share. She wanted people to know that blind and deaf people should get an education. Not being able to see or hear was something Helen knew a lot about. After all, she had been blind and deaf since she was 19 months old.



Helen could see and hear when she was a baby.

Baby Helen

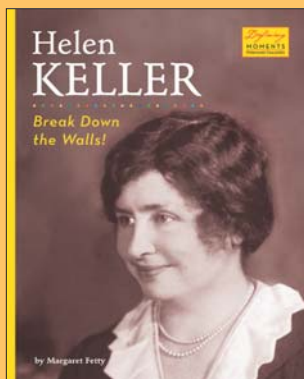


Helen grew up in this house in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

When Helen was born on June 27, 1880, she was a healthy baby. Then, in February 1882, a mysterious illness made Helen very sick. She had a high fever. When the sickness ended, Helen was not able to see or hear.

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About the Author

MARGARET FETTY has been a writer and editor of educational materials for more than 15 years. She has written many books for young readers.

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MOMENTS
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



Helen Keller stood before the crowd. She was speaking to a large group of people for the very first time. Helen was terrified. She had been blind and deaf for most of her life.

She couldn't hear how people talked. She couldn't see how they moved their lips. Yet that didn't stop Helen from learning to speak. After all, she was used to doing the impossible. From writing books to graduating from college, Helen had always been determined to break down the walls that held her back.

Ray
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DRISCOLL

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BEARPORT
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www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-271-5
ISBN-10: 1-59716-271-X



9 781597 162715