

From the one act play:

Out of Darkness

Adapted by Tracy Wells from the autobiography, *Helen Keller, The Story of My Life*

HELEN KELLER, *a blind and deaf woman reflecting on her childhood and how she grew to understand language and the world around her*

VOICE OF HELEN KELLER

That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, and set it free. I was eager to learn. Everything had a name and each name gave birth to a new thought. Every object I touched seemed to quiver with life. I learned a great many new words that day. I do not remember what they all were but I do know that mother, father and teacher were among them.

In the summer of 1887 that followed my soul's sudden awakening I did nothing but explore with my hands and learn the name of every object I touched until I was ready to learn more about the world in which I lived. Miss Sullivan took me by the hand and taught me lessons about the beneficence of nature.

I learned how the sun and the rain make to grow out of the ground every tree, how birds build their nests and live and thrive from land to land, how the squirrel, the deer, the lion, and every other creature finds food and shelter.

As soon as I could spell a few words my teacher gave me slips of cardboard on which were printed words with raised letters. I quickly learned that each printed word stood for an object, act, or quality. I could arrange the words in little sentences and I used them to make sentences with the objects in my life.

As my knowledge of things grew I felt more and more the delight of the world I was in. I now had the key to all language and I was eager to learn to use it.

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