

Mrs. Goldberg

The Miracle Worker
Act I Study Guide Questions

Answer the following questions using complete sentences on a separate piece of lined paper. There will be a set of questions from each Act. There are 3 Acts. Your final grade will be an average of all three. I will take off points for lateness, sloppiness, and incomplete answers. You may type your answers.

1. Give a description for each of the following characters and describe how they react to Helen:
 - a. Kate Keller
 - b. Captain Arthur Keller
 - c. Annie Sullivan
 - d. James Keller
2. What causes Helen's blindness and deafness?
3. How does Mrs. Keller realize what has happened to Helen?
4. Describe Helen, both her positive and negative qualities (list at least 3 for each)
 - a. Positive:
 - b. Negative:
5. a) What causes Helen to become so frustrated in the scene with Percy and Martha? b) What does Helen want to be able to do?
6. a) In dealing with Helen as she grows up, whose approach do you think is better, Kate's or Captain Keller's? b) Why do you feel this way?
7. How does the playwright show Helen's intelligence and her difficulty in communicating at the same time?
8. Why is Annie glad that Helen is given to tantrums?
9. Identify the three gifts that the children at the Perkins Institute for the Blind and Mr. Anagnos give to Helen and Annie and what significance they hold.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

10. Who is Jimmy? What has happened to him?
11. What does Annie believe are three advantages that she has for teaching Helen?
12. When Annie first arrives at the train station, how does Kate feel about her? Why does her attitude change?
13. What will Annie try to teach Helen first, last, and in between?
14. Why does Annie not show up for dinner on time during her first day with the Kellers?
16. How does Captain Keller feel about Annie? Use lines from the first act to support your answer.
17. Describe which four people bribed Helen with food and what their purpose was for giving her the food:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
18. Where do the Kellers live?
19. Consider the problems Annie faces at the end of Act I. Which do you think will be the hardest to overcome? Explain why.

Consider:

 - Helen's reaction to her
 - Captain Keller's attitude toward her
 - Annie's memories of her past
 - James's actions and words at the end of the act
20. 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?