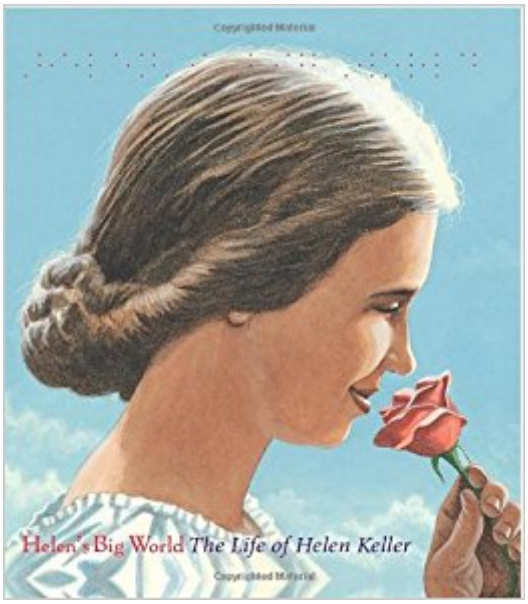
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Helen's Big World: The Life Of Helen Keller (Big Words)



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Synopsis

This picturebook biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world’s most influential luminaries. With her signature style of prose laced with stirring quotes, Doreen Rappaport brings to life Helen Keller’s poignant narrative. Acclaimed illustrator Matt Tavares beautifully captures the dynamism and verve of Helen Keller’s life and legacy, making Helen’s Big World an unforgettable portrait of a woman whose vision for innovation and progress changed America-and the world-forever.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What’s this?)

Series: Big Words

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion; Teacher’s Edition edition (October 16, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 078680890X

ISBN-13: 978-0786808908

Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #676,842 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities #488 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > Women #635 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 4-In a format similar to Martin’s Big Words (Hyperion, 2001), Rappaport uses quotations from Helen Keller to provide the framework for this picture-book biography. A great design, incorporating the words in large type, makes this book visually striking. Large scale paintings, rendered in watercolor, pencil, and gouache, are presented on one and a half or double pages. The full images, without borders, invite children into Helen’s world, while showing how big it truly became. The opening endpaper showcases the pivotal "water" moment, with teacher Annie Sullivan’s and the child’s hands accompanied by the quotation, "We do not think with eyes and ears, and our capacity

for thought is not measured by five senses." The narrative begins at Keller's childhood home, but expands out to describe her experiences at college, with public speaking, and in championing social causes. A series of excerpts from letters demonstrates her growing proficiency in writing. A dramatic spread shows the pupil and teacher in a boat, majestically cresting a wave, emphasizing what the youngster does experience more than what she does not. While there are many books available about Helen Keller for this age group, this title offers a unique and beautiful perspective on her life.-Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VAÃ Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Reprising the format of Martin's Big Words (BCCB 1/02) and subsequent titles, Rappaport offers a picture-book biography of Helen Keller, distinguished by carefully chosen and integrated quotations from Keller herself. This is an effective introduction to the blind and deaf woman whose life story has perennially held strong appeal for children, most of whom will be particularly interested in her breakthrough tutelage by Annie Sullivan: "Annie gave Helen a doll and with her fingers traced the letters D-O-L-L on Helen's palm. Helen thought Annie wanted the doll back, so she kicked and screamed." After describing the misunderstandings and tantrums between teacher and student, Rappaport quotes Keller's summative comment, "In the still, dark world in which I lived, there was no tenderness." Figures appear stiff and waxen in many of Tavares' mixed-media scenes, and poses are frequently sentimentalized. The oversized format, however, allows him to feature hand movements, Braille reading, and grooved writing board techniques, which will assist readers in understanding the many ways Keller communicated with and studied the world around her. Author and illustrator notes, a list of important dates in Keller's life, a list of sources, and a manual language chart are included. No guide, however, is provided to decipher the Braille title embossed on the dust jacket, but libraries' ubiquitous mylar covering will probably render this point moot. EB
BCCB"Helen's Big World: Ã¢â ¬Â¨The Life of Helen Keller Doreen Rappaport, illus. by Matt Tavares. Disney-Hyperion, $17.99 (48p) ISBN 978-0-7868-0890-8 Punctuating the narrative with excerpts from Keller's own writing, Rappaport and Tavares, previously paired on Jack's Path of Courage, take a sweeping approach to their picture book biography, beginning when Keller was a healthy baby ("The beginning of my life was simple and much like every other little life") and ending with her death at 87, when she had long been a national icon and social activist ("my love for America is not blind. Perhaps I am more conscious of her faults because I love her so deeply"). While Annie Sullivan remains a pivotal figure (many key scenes from The Miracle Worker are replayed), it's refreshing to see Keller granted a greater sense of agency, even if the book leans

toward hagiography. There is one exception: a single image that appears right before Sullivan’s arrival, in which Helen’s mother struggles to comfort her writhing, disconsolate daughter. Dark and almost demonic, it conveys instantly both the catastrophic nature of Helen’s disabilities and the steely will that raged to be unleashed. Ages 6 8. http: //www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-7868-0890-8 PW"Though different in scope, these picture book biographies both give powerful introductory looks at the huge challenges Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan, faced and surmounted. Beginning with an excerpt from one of Annie’s letters to a former teacher about first meeting Helen, Annie and Helen provides a more detailed look at Helen and her teacher’s early years together. The text considers Annie’s point of view as much as Helen’s, and Annie’s strength of character is highlighted. Peppered with excerpts from Annie’s letters, the book comes full circle by concluding with the first letter Helen writes home on her own. Meanwhile, Helen’s Big World covers the whole span of Helen’s life from birth through her many years with Annie and after. Rappaport characteristically uses quotes to extend and heighten the emotion. A timeline at the end helps put important dates in perspective. Though this book focuses more on Helen than on Annie, readers get a more acute awareness of how much Annie sacrificed for Helen: "Teacher read many books to me. In spite of repeated warnings from oculists, she has always abused her eyes for my sake." In contrast to Col n’s rather too-sedate line and watercolor pictures for Annie and Helen, Tavares’s illustrations (ink, watercolor, and gouache) for Helen’s Big World are, per the title, big and bold and often in intense close-up. Stirring and awe-inspiring, both books are appended with acknowledgments and further reading and include a chart of the finger alphabet Annie used. In addition, Annie and Helen’s endpapers provide real photographs, and the back cover has a raised Braille alphabet; the cover of Helen’s Big World includes the title in Braille. -julie roach Horn Book"K-Gr 4 In a format similar to Martin’s Big Words (Hyperion, 2001), Rappaport uses quotations from Helen Keller to provide the framework for this picture-book biography. A great design, incorporating the words in large type, makes this book visually striking. Large scale paintings, rendered in watercolor, pencil, and gouache, are presented on one and a half or double pages. The full images, without borders, invite children into Helen’s world, while showing how big it truly became. The opening endpaper showcases the pivotal "water" moment, with teacher Annie Sullivan’s and the child’s hands accompanied by the quotation, "We do not think with eyes and ears, and our capacity for thought is not measured by five senses." The narrative begins at Keller’s childhood home, but expands out to describe her experiences at college, with public speaking, and in championing social causes. A series of excerpts from letters demonstrates her growing proficiency in writing. A dramatic spread shows the pupil and teacher in a boat, majestically cresting

a wave, emphasizing what the youngster does experience more than what she does not. While there are many books available about Helen Keller for this age group, this title offers a unique and beautiful perspective on her life. Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA SLJ"This oversize picture book about Helen Keller focuses primarily on her innovative education by Anne Sullivan, but the presentation goes beyond Keller's youth to include her later work supporting pacifism, workers' unions, women's suffrage, civil rights, and opportunities for those with disabilities. The book's design makes good use of the spacious format. Appearing beside broad, horizontal illustrations, Rappaport's narrative is spaced out in poetic form. Each double-page spread also features a well-chosen quote from Keller's writing. Created in watercolor, pencil, and gouache, the sometimes dramatic illustrations show just how big Helen's world could be, picturing her in a college classroom, in a tree, on a stage, and in a factory with child laborers. The back endpapers illustrate the alphabet of hand signs that Sullivan taught Keller by making them within her hand. Readers intrigued by the Braille alphabet can feel the raised red dots on the jacket, which spell out the book's title. A worthwhile addition to biography shelves. - Carolyn Phelan Booklist"Helen Keller's transcendent leap across the barriers of her blindness and deafness continues to inspire. Rappaport recounts the well-known events of Helen's childhood-the illness that left her blind and deaf as a toddler, her wild willfulness and the advent of Annie Sullivan's companionship and tutelage with liberating results. The wide and tall trim size of this work allows Tavares' full, close-up, edge-to-edge paintings to bring readers into the story and helps convey Helen's passion, energy and delight as she defeats her limitations. Generous white space given to the text and the large font for Helen's own words in every spread invites readers to come close to the subject, to understand Helen's thrill at learning about the world and to taste some of her intense purpose and passion. What Rappaport adds to the familiar story about Keller is that this determined woman was never inclined to be pigeonholed. Keller continued to hunger after information, to learn about the world and to talk about it: "She spoke against war and for the right of women to vote and for justice for black Americans." Rappaport reveals that Keller had her critics, but once given a voice, she used it. There, one begins to realize, is the real story of Keller's impressive life. A magisterial account. (author's & illustrator's notes, timeline, sources) (Picture books/biography. 6-10) Kirkus"

Helen Keller's story is fascinating, moving, and inspiring. I've read this twice with my 8 year old granddaughter and know that she will ask for it again and again. She was reluctant the first time because it "sounded boring." However, the book gave us oodles of opportunity to talk about what was happening to Helen, how difficult it must have been, what it would be like to be blind or deaf

ourselves. We had some terrific conversations. She really absorbed it. I found "The Miracle Worker" movie on t.v. a few days later and we watched it together. That really brought home the emotional and physical realities of Helen's early life. (Caution: I'd forgotten Annie's back story--living in an asylum as a child with her brother, who died in the asylum. These scenes can be disturbing to children. I was able to skip lightly over the explanations of what was going on.)I love that the title of the book is in braille on the cover, that quotes from Helen occur frequently so we "hear" her own words, that the sign language alphabet is illustrated at the back, and that the book covers her whole life. She was an indomitable, incredibly talented woman. A worthy role model for all children.

It's wonderful to find a 'kids' book of Helen Keller that goes beyond the "water incident". My 5 year old niece has recently become fascinated by Ms Keller but keeps asking me what happened after she started to learn. I'm SO excited to share this book with her. Also, the artwork is beautiful.

It was one of the lists for my daughter's "Battle of Books" competition for high elementary school graders.

The most beautiful book written about Helen Keller for children!!! Very sensitive, very well versed, and consistently aware of the times she lived in. A very moving children's book that is very helpful to show how thankful we are for Helen Keller and the person who helped her so much in her life.

A wonderful book about Helen Keller!

I volunteer occasionally to do activities in health care and memory care, and I read it to them. They loved it, and it generated to much conversation.

We checked this book out at the library and it sparked our 5 yo girl's imagination and now she wants to know more about Helen Keller. I think it is also helping her learn empathy for others.

Great book. I love the format and illustrations. My students enjoy reading it. It's a must for classroom use. Thank you.

Download to continue reading...

Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller (Big Words) Una niÃƒÂ a llamada Helen Keller: (Spanish language edition of A Girl Named Helen Keller) (Hola, Lector!) (Spanish Edition) Helen's

Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher (Photobiographies) Helen Keller (In Their Own Words) Helen Keller: A photographic story of a life (DK Biography) I am Helen Keller (Ordinary People Change the World) Prayers That Changed History: From Christopher Columbus to Helen Keller, How God Used 25 People to Change the World MY RELIGION: HELEN KELLER'S ASTOUNDING TRIUMPH OVER DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS. Who Was Helen Keller? Helen Keller: Courage In The Dark Helen Keller: From Tragedy to Triumph (The Childhood of Famous Americans Series) Who Was Helen Keller? (Who Was?) Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark (Step into Reading) A Girl Named Helen Keller (Scholastic Reader Level 3) A Picture Book of Helen Keller (Picture Book Biographies) I Am #3: Helen Keller National Geographic Readers: Helen Keller (Level 2) (Readers Bios) Helen Keller's Teacher (Scholastic Biography) Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller (Center for Cartoon Studies Presents) Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller

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