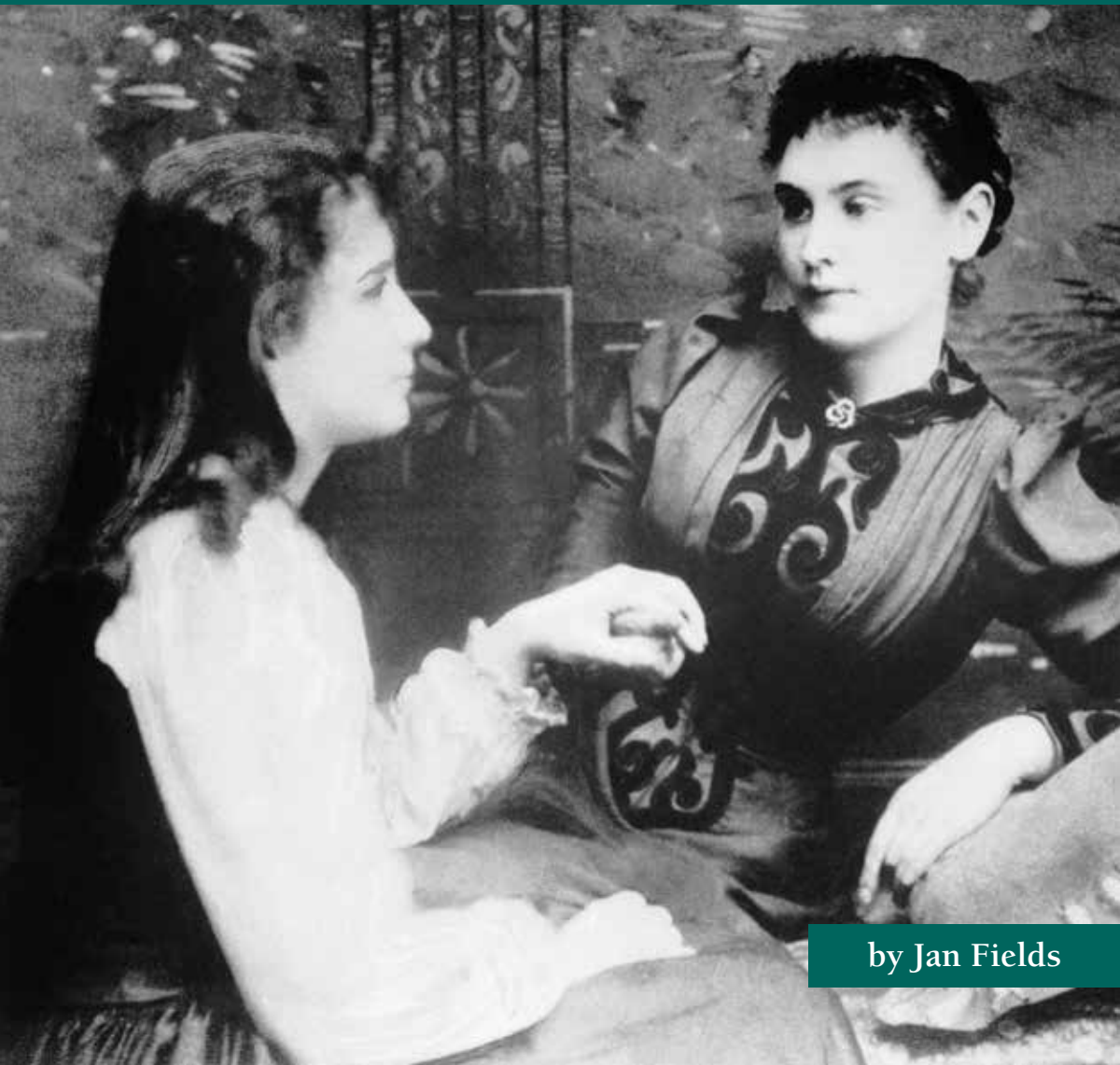


Anne and Helen: The Story of Anne Sullivan



by Jan Fields

N

Amplify Atlas™

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On a hot August day in 1886, Anne Sullivan hurried to see the head of the school where she had been a student. She was 20. This meeting would change her life.

The **director** told Anne about a letter from the Keller family in Alabama. In the letter, the Kellers explained that as a baby, their daughter Helen had been very sick. The illness left her **deaf** and **blind**. Helen could neither hear nor see. Her family wanted someone who could teach and care for the young girl. The director offered the job to Anne.



Helen Keller as a young woman

Amplify Atlas™

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Level N

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At first, Helen was difficult to work with.

Anne had once been almost blind herself. In fact, the school she had gone to was for blind children. Now she could see well enough to read. She accepted the job.

In Alabama, Anne met Helen Keller. Helen couldn't speak, but she could yell and kick and bite. Everyone but Anne was afraid of the wild child.

Anne wrote about Helen in a letter to a friend. She described her young student as bright and active. Anne wanted to help Helen learn.

Anne had learned in school how to move her fingers to spell words. She put her hand inside Helen's hand and moved her fingers. Helen could feel Anne's fingers move, but she didn't understand what the **movement** meant. Then one day, Anne spelled the word *water* in one hand while running water over Helen's other hand. Helen's face lit up. She understood!

Helen began to learn very quickly. She used her **senses** of touch, smell, and taste to understand the words Anne spelled for her. Helen learned so fast that people wanted to meet her. They wanted to meet her teacher, too.



The finger spelling for *water* changed Helen Keller's life.



Anne (left) and Helen (right) stayed together all their lives.

Anne knew Helen found joy in learning. As Helen grew up, Anne stayed with her. She helped Helen become the first deaf-blind person to finish college. Helen told people that Anne Sullivan was the reason for her success.

Glossary

blind (adj.): unable to see

deaf (adj.): unable to hear

director (n.): a person who is in charge of a business, school, or group

movement (n.): a change or changes in place

senses (n.): ways to experience one's surroundings, mainly touch, smell, taste, sight, and hearing

Level N

Informational

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of Anne Sullivan

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