



JUNIOR SUMMER READING 2026

Honors and College Bound

The Miracle Worker, A play by William Gibson; ISBN: 978-1-4165-9084-2

- Students will take a quiz during the first week of school.
- See the reading guide below. The completed handwritten reading guide is due on the first full day of school.
- May be purchased online:
<https://www.amazon.com/Miracle-Worker-Play-William-Gibson/dp/1416590846>

Honors Only

Unbroken by Lauren Hillenbrand

- Students will take a quiz during the first week of school.
- See the reading guide below. The completed handwritten reading guide is due on the first full day of school.
- May be purchased online:
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/unbroken-laura-hillenbrand/1100045446?ean=9780812974492>



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Reading Guide for *The Miracle Worker*, A play by William Gibson; ISBN: 978-1-4165-9084-2

These questions will guide you through the text. The quiz will be taken at some point during the first week of school. The completed handwritten reading guide is due on the **FIRST** full day of school.

Characters/People: Describe each person's significance to the text and/or the life of the main character.

1. Helen Keller
2. Annie Sullivan
3. Captain Keller
4. Kate Keller
5. James Keller
6. Anagnos
7. Aunt Ev
8. James "Jimmie" Sullivan
9. Viney
10. Percy
11. Martha
12. Mildred

Answer the following questions:

Act 1

1. Describe the Keller family's home life.
2. What is the time and setting of the play?
3. Why is the doctor at the Keller homestead?
4. What does Kate discover after the doctor leaves?
5. What disease did Helen contract as a child, leading to her blindness and deafness?
6. How do Kate, Viney, and Captain Keller treat Helen?
7. What examples of intelligence does Helen show?
8. What is Kate's first impression of Annie?
9. How does Kate's impression change toward Annie?
10. What three things does Annie say are advantages to working with Helen?



JUNIOR SUMMER READING 2026

Act 2

11. What conflict is revealed between Kate and Captain Keller?
12. How is the conflict resolved?
13. How does Annie hope to educate Helen?
14. Are Annie's initial attempts to educate Helen successful? Why?
15. What personality traits do Annie and Helen have in common?
16. What does Annie indicate that Helen must first learn?
17. What does Annie write about obedience that indicates exactly how important she feels this is?
18. In Annie's view, are blindness and deafness Helen's worst handicaps? Explain.
19. Why is Kate so moved when she learns Helen folded her napkin?
20. How does Annie say her experience in the state almshouse has affected her?
21. To what important agreements do Kate, Annie, and the Captain come to?
22. Describe Captain Keller's attitude toward Annie.
23. What use does Annie make of Percy?

Act 3

1. What traits does Annie show that suggest she might be an effective teacher for Helen?
2. How has Annie's brother's (Jimmie) death affected her?
3. What does the battle between Annie and Helen reveal about the character of each?
4. How is the estrangement between James and his father explained?
5. What favor does Annie ask of Kate and Captain Keller?
6. What is the response to Annie's request from Kate and Captain Keller? Why?
7. What has Annie taught Helen in the 2 weeks?
8. How are Annie's fatigue and desperation suggested?
9. What advice does Kate give to her stepson?
10. Is the advice Kate gives to James the advice he needs? Why?
11. What does Annie mean by saying to Captain Keller, "obedience without understanding is blindness, too," and "to let Helen have her way in everything is a lie to her?"
12. How does Helen's behavior at the dinner table renew the central conflict of the play? What seems to be Helen's purpose of behaving this way?



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Characters/People: Describe each person's significance to the text and/or the life of the main character.

1. Louis Silvie Zamperini
2. Cecile Perry
3. Sueharu Kitamura
4. Pete Zamperini
5. Cynthia Applewhite Zamperini
6. William Harris
7. John Fitzgerald
8. Don Lash
9. Mutsuhiro Watanabe
10. Louise Zamperini

Places/Things: Describe each item and its significance to the text and/or the life of the main character.

1. Torrance, California
2. Berlin 1936
3. B-24 Liberator
4. Radio Tokyo Studio
5. Superman
6. Eugenics
7. Nauru
8. Kwajalein
9. Mt. Misumine
10. B-29 Superfortress

Discussion Questions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Explain how Louise Zamperini's career as a child scofflaw contributed to his success in surviving WWII.



JUNIOR SUMMER READING 2026

2. Analyze how the Japanese notions of racial superiority combined with the Japanese “culture of honor” contributed to the treatment of POWs during WWII.
3. How and why does Louie manage to escape the downed aircraft that was on the rescue mission to Palmyra? To what forces does Louie later attribute his escape? Discuss/entertain other explanations for his escape.
4. Explain how and why a choice of attitude may have contributed to the survival of two of the men on the life raft and the death of the third man on the life raft in the Pacific Ocean.
5. Explain how the cultural, educational, and military indoctrination of Japanese soldiers made it likely that each soldier would rather fight to the death than be captured and held as a POW.
6. Explain how the advancement of the military career of Mutsuhiro Watanabe may have contributed to his attitude towards and treatment of prisoners in his camps, and particularly his treatment of Louie Zamperini.
7. Louie refuses the opportunity to become an “enemy propagandist” (pg 266-267) and therefore suffers even more when he is returned to the POW camps. In your opinion, why did he do so, and what would you have done in a similar situation, and why? Was Louie’s decision foolish or heroic? Explain.
8. Describe the “guerrilla war” (page 248) waged by the prisoners in several Japanese camps. How and why did the prisoners continue to take chances with their lives in pursuing this course of action?
9. How and why has Louie’s life changed and been redeemed by listening to Billy Graham? What seems to be the most crucial lesson that Louie learned from this speaker, and how do these lessons affect the rest of his life?
10. How is Louie’s story of his post-war experiences both typical and atypical of an American soldier who survived Japanese prisoner-of-war camps in WWII?