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Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller

Hannah Webb

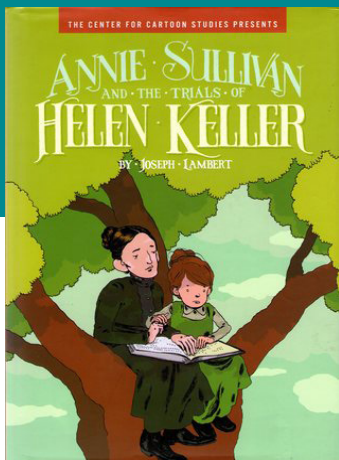
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Book Review

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller

Author

Joseph Lambert

Illustrator

Reviewer

Hannah Webb

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary, Intermediate,
Young Adult

Pages

96

Year

2013

Publisher

Hyperion Book CH

ISBN

9781423113362

Annie Sullivan grew up a visually impaired, lonely orphan. But that didn't stop her from changing the life of Helen Keller, or changing the world. *Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller* is a graphic novel by Joseph Lambert that explores the life of the famed teacher and her relationship with Helen. Through illustrated panels, we learn of Annie's winding road that brought her to the Kellers. Things didn't always go smoothly as Helen and Annie worked together, but as they worked hard and persevered, Helen saw remarkable growth, including the ability to communicate through hand signing, read, write, and eventually speak. Through trials, confrontations and accusations, Helen and Annie grew closer and formed an unbreakable bond.

This book does a remarkable job of telling the story of Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller in a detailed, yet interesting way. The graphic novel format allows for seamless changes in the narrative. There are many flashbacks into Annie's early life, which are apparent because of the pictures. Perhaps most fascinatingly are the illustrations that portray Helen's changing perspective. At the beginning of the book, we see darkness with only a vague silhouette to represent Helen in her world of darkness. As the book goes on and Helen learns from Annie, we see Helen's dark landscape transform into one filled with labeled surroundings to show her deepening understanding of the world around her. Lambert has done a brilliant job of depicting this inspiring story in a unique and meaningful way.