

# AWESOME STORIES

## VISUAL VOCABULARY BUILDER

### HELEN KELLER

Braille / condescending / consciousness / domineer / finger spelling  
incorrigible / odorous / persimmons / poignant / stroke

# Braille\* - system of writing for blind/visually impaired individuals

- Braille – noun  
Louis Braille was still a French school boy when he invented a reading/writing system which bears his name.
- Braille – noun  
The Braille system uses raised dots which people read with their fingers.
- Braille – noun  
Nearly every country in the world uses a Braille code which is adapted to its own language.

## THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

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## NUMBERS

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\*Braille – See [Chapter 9](#) (Helen Keller in Words and Sound)

# Condescending\* - acting in a superior manner to someone else

- Condescending – adjective  
Children often dislike the condescending attitude of some adults.
- Condescendingly – adverb  
The teenager wondered: "Why did he have to act so condescendingly?"
- Condescend – verb  
It isn't helpful when you condescend like that!



\* Condescending – See [Chapter 9](#) (Helen Keller in Words and Sound)

# Consciousness\* - being aware

- Consciousness – noun  
Helen Keller remembered what it was like when she first realized the meaning and power of language: “Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten.”
- Conscious – adjective  
Conscious thought is one of the truly great gifts of life.



\*Consciousness – See Chapter 5 (The Miracle Worker)

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# Domineer\* - acting with overbearing or arrogant control

- Domineer – verb  
The co-worker asked his colleague: “Do you always have to domineer every undertaking?”
- Domineering – adjective  
Before she learned how to fairly play with others, Helen Keller had a domineering attitude over her friend, Martha Washington.
- Domineer - verb  
Annie Sullivan did not allow her student, Helen Keller, to domineer their relationship.



\*Domineer – See [Chapter 3](#) (*Child of the Silent Night*)

Note: Larry Gonick math cartoon. Copyright, Larry Gonick, all rights reserved. Image provided as fair use for educational purposes.

# Finger spelling\* - communicating with finger signs

- Finger spelling – noun  
Annie Sullivan used finger spelling to help Helen Keller understand the meaning and power of language.
- Finger spelling – verb  
Finger spelling into Helen Keller's hand, Annie Sullivan taught her pupil the meaning of words.



\*Finger spelling – See [Chapter 4](#) (Anne Sullivan)

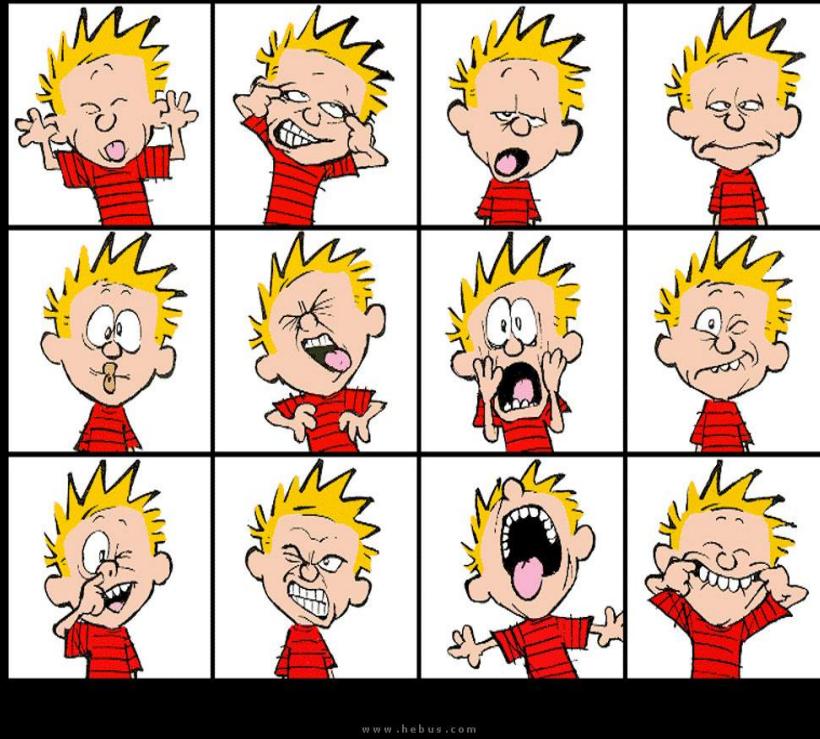
# Incorrigible\* - unruly; unmanageable

- Incorrigible – noun

Before Annie Sullivan became her teacher, Helen Keller was an incorrigible.

- Incorrigible – adjective

Incorrigible children show their unruly, unmanageable behavior in many different ways.



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\*Incorrigible – See Chapter 5 (*The Miracle Worker*)

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# Odorous\* - producing a distinctive smell

- Odorous – adjective

Babies who need a diaper change create an odorous atmosphere.

- Odorously – adverb

Every day the mother was odorously challenged!



\*Odorous – See [Chapter 9](#) (Helen Keller in Words and Sound, Part 2)

# Persimmons\* - fruit (usually orange in color) edible only when ripe

- Persimmons – noun (plural)

When she was a girl, Helen Keller loved to hunt for persimmons while on vacation in the mountain foothills near Tuscumbia, Alabama.

- Persimmon – adjective

The fruit of a persimmon tree is edible *only* when it is ripe!

- Persimmons – noun

Persimmons, like those in the picture, also grow in Japan.



\*Persimmons – See [Chapter 8](#) (Helen Keller in Words and Sound)

- NOTE: Photo of persimmon trees – growing in Nanyo City, Japan – by Geomr. Photo License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

# Poignant\* - Touchingly meaningful

- Poignant – adjective  
A handmade headstone - in a Manchester, England cemetery - is a poignant tribute to someone's father.
- Poignantly – adverb  
A handmade headstone, at Weaste Cemetery, poignantly tells visitors that Thomas Taylor died in 1937.

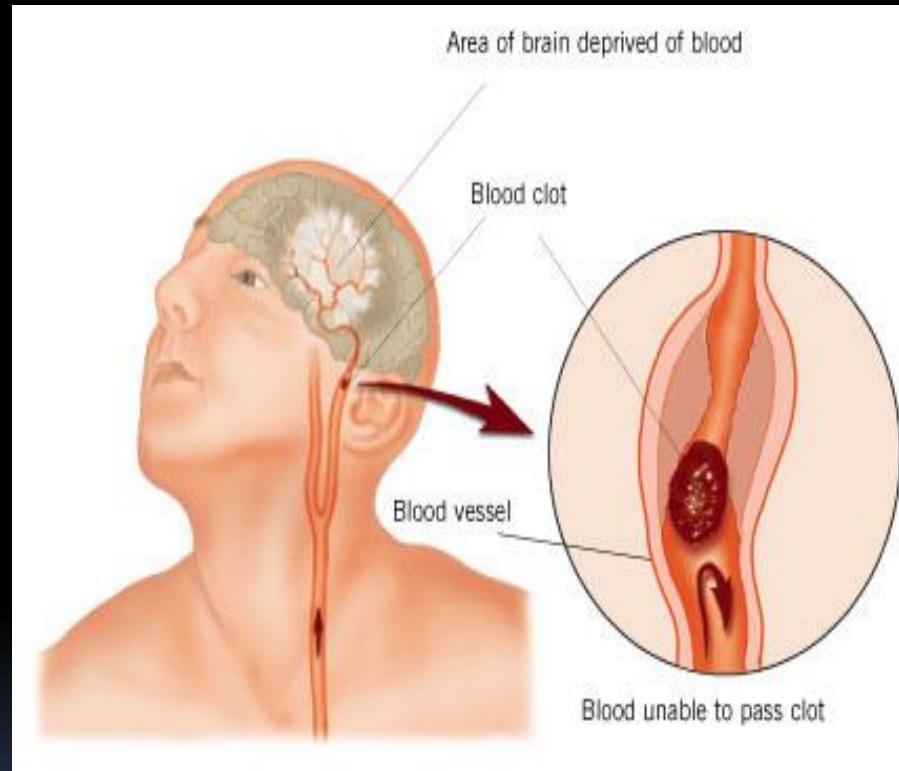


\*Poignant – See [Chapter 7](#) (*They Did not Take My Soul*)

Note: Image of gravestone – in Weaste Cemetery, Salford, Manchester, UK – by Tony Worrall. Copyright, Tony Worrall, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

# Stroke\* - a “brain attack” - when blood stops flowing to a part of the brain

- Stroke – noun  
A stroke can occur when oxygen in the blood cannot get to the brain. A blood clot is one cause for this condition.
- Strokes – noun (plural)  
Helen Keller suffered the first of several strokes in 1961.



\*Stroke – See [Chapter 7 \(They Did not Take My Soul\)](#)

Note – Drawing of clot-impacted blood flow by Scheermed. Copyright, Scheermed, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.