

0. Her Disability Will Not Stop Her - Story Preface

1. The War That Saved Ada's Life

2. Operation Pied Piper

3. Her Disability Will Not Stop Her

4. Keep Calm and Carry On



Helen Keller was a woman who, like Ada, was disabled. She didn't have a club foot, but she was deaf and blind. Unlike Ada, Helen's parents made sure she got an education. Helen Keller learned to read, write and speak. She became a famous American, visited wounded American soldiers during World War II, spoke out for the rights of disabled people and did not believe that disabled people needed pity. 1 Like Helen Keller, Susan thought Ada's disability should not stop her. She said Ada's foot was a long way from her brain. She believed Ada was smart and needed an education.

Ada had other ideas. At first, she did not trust Susan's care. School was fine for Jamie, but Ada believed she could learn on her own. Susan gave Ada crutches to help her walk more easily and let Ada take care of her pony named Butter. Ada fell in love with Butter and taught herself to ride. On one ride that Ada took, she helped a girl who was in trouble. The girl got thrown by her horse and Ada gave her a ride home. The girl was Maggie, Lady Thornton's daughter. This was the start of a special friendship for Ada.

The friendship was good for the girls and good for Susan and Lady Thornton. Lady Thornton was a member of the Women's Voluntary Service, or WVS. When World War II spread deeper into England, women all over England volunteered to help keep others safe. 2 Life became a daring adventure for everyone.



Even in the countryside, there were dangers due to the war. Everyone had a bomb shelter to hide in when they heard sirens during an air raid. At first, Ada didn't want to go in the shelter. It was scary and dark. It made her think about the many times Mam put her in the dark cabinet. For safety reasons, Susan had no choice but to make Ada go into the shelter. Ada screamed and was so afraid in the bomb shelter. Susan held her gently and wrapped her in a blanket to stop her fears. Susan loved Ada and Jamie. She felt responsible for their safety and knew that what Franklin Delano Roosevelt said about fear during World War II was true: **"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."** 3

Footnotes:

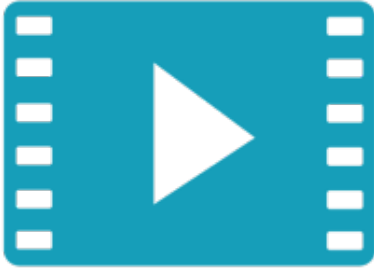
- 1) Wolfe, Kathi, Helen Keller was more than just an advocate for the disabled, The Progressive, Oct/15/2009, Oct/27/2015, <http://progressive.org/mpwolfe101509.html>
- 2) Royal Voluntary Service, Our History, Royal Voluntary Service.org, Oct/16/2015, Oct/27/2015, <http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/about-us/our-history>
- 3) PBS, Fear Itself, PBS.org, Oct/16/2015, Oct/27/2015, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/bonus-video/presidents-enemy-fdr/>

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Her-Disability-Will-Not-Stop-Her-World-War-II-Words-and-Love>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Her-Disability-Will-Not-Stop-Her-World-War-II-Words-and-Love>



Helen Keller - Documentary Feature

Clip from *Legends, Icons and Superstars of the 20th Century*.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Helen-Keller-Documentary-Feature>