

## DRESS THE PART

You did such good job on your set design, that the theatre company has decided to let you do the costumes for the play, too. The company has sent you to the costume shop to find the costumes needed for Act III, scene 2. Just as with the set design, one of the first jobs of a costume designer is to research the historical period in which the play is set, so that you don't choose clothes that are too old or too modern for the play. Make a list of the costumes needed for Helen, Annie, and Mr. Keith. Keep in mind which character has been outside and will need a hat and coat, and remember you also need to find shoes for the actors. Circle the items that you think will be right for the scene.

### MR. KEITH'S COSTUMES



**Helen:** Wa-ter! Wa-ter!

**Annie:** (*Rushes to Helen and puts Helen's hand to her cheek. She nods her head.*)

Yes! Yes! It's water. (*spelling into Helen's hand*)

W-A-T-E-R, water.

(*Helen anxiously spells water into Annie's hand, as Annie interprets.*)

W-A-T-E-R, water. (*Annie puts her hand on Helen's cheek and nods her head.*)

Yes! Yes! Water, good girl, good girl. (*Helen pauses, thinking, and then she touches Annie and holds out her hand, waiting. Annie spells into it.*)

T-E-A-C-H-E-R, teacher. (*Helen spells teacher into Annie's hand, and Annie puts Helen's hand on her cheek and nods her head.*)

Yes, teacher. Good girl.

(*Annie hugs Helen in her arms, and Helen hugs her back. The lights fade on the yard and come up on Helen sitting at her Braille machine writing.*)

**Helen:** I left the well-house eager to learn. Everything had a name, and each name gave birth to a new thought. As we returned to the house, every object I touched seemed to quiver with life. That was because I saw everything with the strange, new sight that had come to me.

I learned a great many words that day. I do not remember what they all were; but I do know that mother, father, sister, teacher were among them—words that were to make the world blossom for me, "like Aaron's rod, with flowers."<sup>26</sup> It would have been difficult to find a happier child than I was as I lay in my bed at the close of that eventful day and lived over the joys it had brought me, and for the first time longed for a new day to come.

(*The lights fade out.*)

<sup>26</sup>like Aaron's rod, with flowers" is an allusion, or reference, to a story in the Bible. In the story, a wooden rod miraculously blooms with flowers and fruit.