

Student Example

Mrs. Magel

English 11, Hour 3

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Annie the Great

**Introduction:** Label the **Attention Getter**, the **Bridge**, and the **Three part Thesis**.

Throughout the play, The Miracle Worker by William Gibson, an eight year-old miscreant named Helen Keller wreaks havoc on her home and family. The tyranny in the household is finally brought to an end when Annie Sullivan is hired by the Kellers to teach Helen. The undisciplined imp had never been shown any discipline or punishment by her family due to her handicaps. When Annie is finally able to bring Helen under control, she is considered a miracle worker because she is able to accomplish something that everyone thought was impossible. By working miracles not only with Helen but also with the Keller family and even herself, Annie proves she is a true miracle worker.

**Body Paragraph 1: Label the Topic Sentence (TS), Primary Supports (PS1, PS2, PS3, PS4), and Concluding Sentence (CS).**

First, the most obvious but most challenging way Annie works miracles is with Helen Keller. Annie, unlike any before her, is able to teach Helen discipline. Helen's family, before hiring Annie, thinks that it isn't fair to punish Helen due to her handicaps. Their argument is "She doesn't know any better." Annie can't believe the chaos that erupts in the Keller home whenever Helen is around. After the first lesson, Annie refers to Helen as "you little wretch" (Gibson 41) after getting hit with a doll by Helen. With patience, tolerance, and some agility, Annie becomes the first person to gain control of Helen's behavior. Once Annie gets control over Helen, the difficult task of teaching her begins; Annie starts showing Helen activities that she hadn't been aware of prior to Annie's arrival. Helen learns to crochet and makes a seemingly endless chain of wool. Outdoor activities such as tree climbing are also introduced to Helen, and she even gets to have a baby bird hatch in her hand. Annie not only shows Helen some of the thrills of the great outdoors but also manners such as proper eating etiquette. Before Annie sets foot in the Keller household, Helen, during meals, eats with her hands and takes food from other people's plate. Annie is able to change all of this and after a particularly violent first lesson in manners, is able to get Helen to fold her napkin and eat with a spoon. Annie, most importantly, teaches Helen to communicate. At first, Helen doesn't realize everything has a name. Eventually, Annie teaches Helen language, words, and meanings. This is the start to Helen being able to communicate with the world. These examples, along with many others, show how Annie Sullivan is a real miracle worker.

**Body Paragraph 2: Label the Topic Sentence (TS), Primary Supports (PS1, PS2, PS3), and Concluding Sentence (CS).**

When Annie moved in with the Keller family, she was there to work with Helen and teach her what the Kellers could not; however, Annie manages to work miracles with the entire Keller family as well. One member of the Keller family that Annie works miracles with is James Keller. Growing up, James basically let his father walk all over him. However, during the first month of Annie's stay, she talks with James and helps him get the courage to stand up to his egotistical father. A second member of the Keller family that Annie works miracles with is Captain Keller. Before departing for the Keller household, Annie makes a promise to be ladylike and behave at the Keller home. Unfortunately, Captain Keller makes this task very difficult. Since he is used to running his home, Captain Keller is shocked when Annie moves in and starts taking control. He despises this and goes as far as to tell Annie, "You are here only as a paid teacher. Nothing more!" (Gibson 75). By the end of the story though, the two of them put aside their differences and try to help Helen. By doing so, Captain Keller learns that he isn't always right as he previously thought. Finally, Annie also works with the Keller family as a whole and teaches them that they shouldn't baby Helen just because of her handicaps. As Annie starts to try to gain control of Helen, the Keller family thinks that Annie is being cruel since Helen doesn't know any better. With passing time, they change their minds as they realize that Helen should be treated as a normal child and should not always get her way. This is most obviously shown when the family allows Annie to discipline Helen at the dinner table when she returns from the garden house. Within a month, Annie is able to miraculously take control of Helen and change a family that desperately needed it.

**Body Paragraph 3: Label the Topic Sentence (TS), Primary Supports (PS1, PS2, PS3), and Concluding Sentence (CS).**

**Lastly but not least importantly, Annie is able to work miracles with herself.** Even with great patience and determination, Annie needs help as well, and she works miracles on herself even if she didn't try. **The most important way she works miracles with herself is by learning to love.** Annie faced many hardships as a child living in a building overflowing with death and disease. At a very young age, Annie had to face the death of her brother, Jimmie. After this, in order to keep herself from not getting hurt that badly again, Annie stops herself from getting too attached to people. She claims that she is only moving in with the Kellers for the money, but by the end of the story, Annie signs, "I, love, Helen" (Gibson 124). **Another subtle way Annie works miracles with herself is she overcomes the flashbacks that haunt her all her life.** Throughout the story, Annie goes into "trances" in which she will hear the voices of Jimmie and those at the state almshouse where she grew up. However, by the end of the story, Annie no longer hears those voices. Gibson writes, "She waits, waits, listening with ears and eyes both, slowly here, slowly there, and hears only silence. There are no voices" (124). The disturbing voices of her past are finally gone, and Annie finally is free of those terrible memories. **Lastly, Annie works miracles with herself by becoming less independent and learning to rely on other people.** If there was one thing Annie's childhood taught her, it's that people aren't always going to be there to depend on. Due to this, Annie didn't establish any good relationships and became very independent. This independence made Annie miss out on many of the good things in life. By living with the Kellers, Annie finds good relationships with members of the unique family and starts to rely on other people. **With these examples and many small, subtle others, Annie shows that she is a miracle worker who can work miracles on anyone, including herself.**

**Conclusion: Label the Restated Thesis and Clincher.**

In conclusion, Annie Sullivan is able to work miracles with Helen, the family, and herself. Problems with seemingly impossible solutions, no matter how big or small, can bring people together and bring out the best in people. The little tyrant, who ran the Keller's lives, brings a partially blind woman with the supposed inability to love and a very troubled family together. With this extraordinary situation, Annie Sullivan is able to prove again and again that she is a true miracle worker.