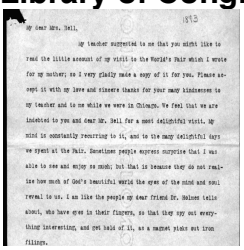
Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: 6

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

Library of Congress Resources:


1893

My dear Mrs. Bell,

My teacher suggested to me that you might like to read the little account of my visit to the World's Fair which I wrote for my mother; so I very gladly make a copy of it for you. Please accept it with my love and sincere thanks for your many kindnesses to my teacher and to me while we were in Chicago. We feel that we are indebted to you and dear Mr. Bell for a most delightful visit. My mind is constantly recurring to it, and to the many delightful days we spent at the Fair. Sometimes people express surprise that I was able to see and enjoy so much; but that is because they do not realize how much of God's beautiful world the eyes of the mind and soul reveal to us. I am like the people my dear friend Dr. Holmes tells about, who have eyes in their fingers, so that they spy out everything interesting, and get hold of it, as a magnet picks out iron filings.

Letter from Helen Keller to Mabel Hubbard Bell, August 20, 1893.
Contributor Names: Mabel Hubbard Bell and Helen Keller.

https://www.loc.gov/resource/magbell.12400303/?sp=1

Topic Background:

In the 1800s, written correspondences were still very common. Often, after a visit somewhere, the visitors sent a letter mostly to thank whoever made their trip experiences enjoyable. This correspondence is a letter by Helen Keller to Mabel Hubbard Bell, in 1893.

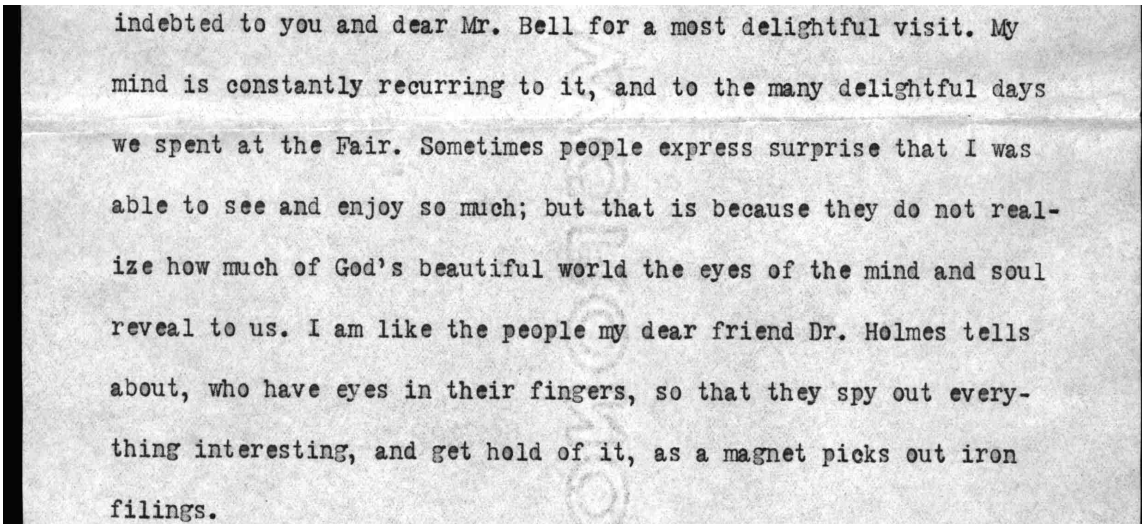
Excerpted from: The letter is excerpted from:
https://www.loc.gov/resource/magbell.12400303/?sp=1

Source(s) Used:
The source used for this assessment is a letter written by Helen Keller to Mabel H. Bell on August 20, 1893. It belongs to the Alexander Graham Bell family papers.

Answer Key:
Students should explain that the author means that the person sees the world through the use of their fingers.

Directions: Read this excerpt of a letter and answer the question that follows.

Helen Keller's letter to Mabel Hubbard Bell- August 20, 1893



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Question: <u>In line 7</u>, the author states **"who have eyes in their fingers".** What does the author mean? (CCSS.RI.6.4)