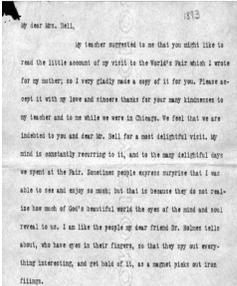


Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: 6

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.3: Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
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:



Helen Keller: *Letter from Helen Keller to Mabel Hubbard Bell*, August 20, 1893.

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/poetry/pdf/keller_letter.pdf

Topic Background:

Helen Keller was both an American author and political activist. Helen became deaf and blind as an infant, and despite her setbacks and challenges, she was the first deaf and blind person to graduate college.

Excerpted from:

<http://www.biography.com/people/helen-keller-9361967>

Source(s) Used:

The source used for this assessment is a letter written by Helen Keller to Mabel Bell in 1893. Helen wrote this letter for her mother discussing her time at the World's Fair in Chicago, but this letter was then forwarded to Mabel Bell to tell Mr. and Mrs. Bell how her trip went and thanking them for their support and kindness.

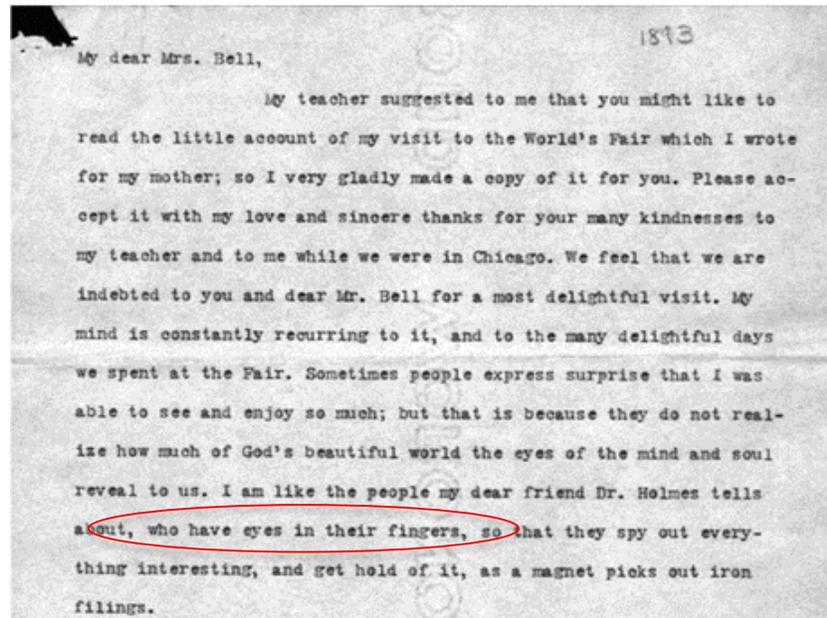
Answer Key:

Question 1: B

Question 2: D

Directions: Read the following excerpt of a letter and answer the questions that follow.

Letter from Helen Keller to Mabel Hubbard Bell, August 20, 1893



Question 1: In the above circled area, Helen Keller states that she is like the people who have “eyes in their fingers” because... (CCSS.RI.6.4)

- A. She has eyeballs drawn on her fingers.
- B. She can see the world through the touch of her hands, as opposed to seeing the world through her eyes.
- C. She can see through her eyes, but she would rather touch objects than depend on her visual sight.
- D. She enjoys using her hands to visually view objects.

Question 2: Which of the following sentences from the letter best describes how Helen Keller shows that she is blind? (CCSS.RI.6.3)

- A. “My mind is constantly recurring to it, and to the many delightful days spent at the fair.”
- B. “We feel that we are indebted to you and dear Mr. Bell for a most delightful visit.”
- C. “Please accept it with my love and sincere thanks for your kindness to my teacher and to me while we were in Chicago.”
- D. “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.”