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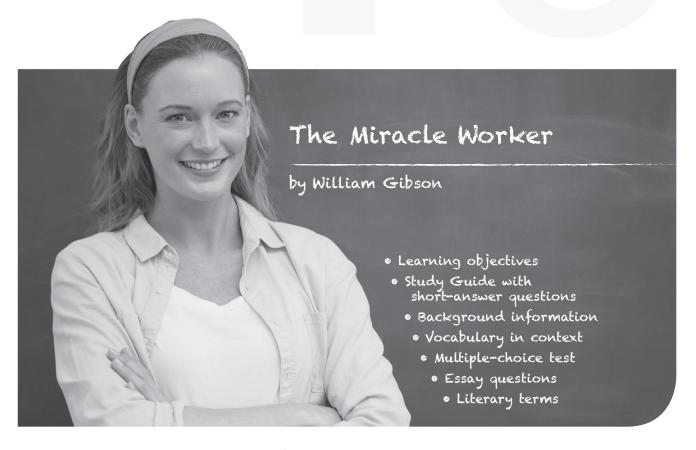
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Prestwick House

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Item No: 300695

The Miracle Worker TEACHING UNIT

The Miracle Worker

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

- 1. read closely to recall significant details of characterization.
- 2. describe how characters develop, not only through their actions and dialogue, but also by their reactions and interactions with other characters, their mannerisms, and their appearance.
- 3. identify and discuss the following themes within this play and cite comments and incidents from the play to support them:
 - A. Society should have expectations for all its members; no person should be pitied and deemed hopeless.
 - B. A person achieves dignity and earns respect when he or she shows determination and refuses to be controlled by others.
 - C. Language is the means through which people think, understand, and communicate.
 - D. By helping others, we help ourselves.
 - E. Overcoming problems can give people the ability to be sympathetic and helpful.
- 4. examine conflicts between and within characters in the play:
 - A. Annie's inner conflict (using her memories) and need for "resurrection."
 - B. the conflict between James and his father.
 - C. the conflict between Captain Keller and Annie.
 - D. Kate's inner conflict about her child.
- 5. define the following literary terms and illustrate the terms with examples from the book:

allusion characterization conflict dialect dynamic characters flashback plot setting simile

4 OBJECTIVES

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Questions for Essay and Discussion

- 1. How do the stage directions help the reader understand the play?
- 2. How do the characters' reactions toward Helen change during the course of the play?
- 3. List the different ways the other characters in the play respond to Helen.
- 4. Describe the effect Annie has on other characters besides Helen.
- 5. How do the short flashbacks help advance the action of the play?
- 6. Write a short essay describing the conflict between James and his father.
- 7. Describe how attitudes toward the disabled have changed over the past century?

The Miracle Worker STUDENT COPY

The Miracle Worker

Act I

VOCABULARY

refuge – shelter or protection from danger
disarray – disorder or confusion
appraisal – the determination of value
erupt – to explode or break out violently
contemplate – to consider thoughtfully
subtle – not obvious; difficult to detect
encounter – to meet
voluminous – having great volume, size, or fullness
imperious – overbearing, bossy
caricature – a picture in which a subject's features are exaggerated
serene – unruffled, calm, tranquil
chivalrous – having the qualities of honor, generosity, and courage
composed – made up of parts; calm
imperceptible – not able to be seen or felt
oblivious – unaware of something
evade – to escape or avoid
deferential – courteous respect to the wishes of another
tyrant – a person who uses power in a cruel, unjust way
ominous – threatening or sinister
revert – to return to a former condition
subside – to sink to a lower level; settle
laborious – requiring much hard work

To what po	int in time does	the play move	e next?	
To what po	int in time does	the play move	e next?	

1 STUDY GUIDE

The Miracle Worker STUDENT COPY

<u>Act II</u>

VOCABULARY

diagonal – slanted

onvention – customs, accepted practices pisodic – related events in the course of a continuous narrative ncumbered – hindered, handicapped igil – alert watchfulness lisarrange – to upset the arrangement of ndulgent – yielding to the desires of, pampering or spoiling cute – sensitive, keen itality – energy; capacity to live and develop	11)	ith; to provide for
pisodic – related events in the course of a continuous narrative ncumbered – hindered, handicapped igil – alert watchfulness lisarrange – to upset the arrangement of ndulgent – yielding to the desires of, pampering or spoiling cute – sensitive, keen itality – energy; capacity to live and develop ury – violent rage rescendo – a gradual increase in volume ivacious – full of spirit, lively ivacious – pushing outward ivacire – strange, strikingly odd lenign – kindly; harmless indolent – lazy mphatic – expressed or performed with emphasis acetiously – humorously mpudence – disrespect rroping – reaching about uncertainly, feeling one's way (as in the dark) idacating – pacifying or appeasing ffliction – a condition that causes suffering; illness or handicap What does Annie consider Helen's greatest problem?	convention – customs, accep	
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9 STUDY GUIDE

The Miracle Worker STUDENT COPY

<u>Act III</u>

VOCABULARY

morosely – very sad commotion – violent or agitated motion perturbed – disturbed greatly; made uneasy inexorable – not capable of being persuaded inarticulate – unable to speak, spoken without clarity collide – to come together with violent, direct impact repose – to rest replica – a copy or close reproduction obstinate – difficult to manage or control; stubborn combative – a tendency to fight; wanting to fight inflame – to cause strong feelings; to arise resurrection – a revival or rebirth meekly – patiently, humbly, submissively, modestly precocious – unusually early development of intelligence throng – crowd intimation – implication, hint impersonal – not for any one person; showing no emotion virtually – existing in effect although not in actual fact or form dismay – to fill with dread, anxiety, or fear ironic – showing a contradiction; meaning the opposite devastate – to ruin radical – extreme elude – to get away from Why are the Kellers now delighted with Annie? Why is Annie not content? What does Annie want?			
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radical – extreme elude – to get away from Why are the Kellers now delighted with Annie?	ronic – show	ving a contradiction; meaning the opposite	
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Why are the Kellers now delighted with Annie?	radical – extr	reme	
	elude – to ge	t away from	
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Why is Annie not content? What does Annie want?			
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