

Imagery

Consider:

I also enjoy canoeing, and I suppose you will smile when I say that I especially like it on moonlight nights. I cannot, it is true, see the moon climb up the sky behind the pines and steal softly across the heavens, making a shining path for us to follow; but I know she is there, and as I lie back among the pillows and put my hand in the water, I fancy that I feel the shimmer of her garments as she passes. Sometimes a daring little fish slips between my fingers, and often a pond-lily presses shyly against my hand. Frequently, as we emerge from the shelter of a cove or inlet, I am suddenly conscious of the spaciousness of the air about me. A luminous warmth seems to enfold me.

— Helen Keller, *The Story of My Life*

Discuss:

1. Since Helen Keller was blind and deaf, tactile imagery becomes a focus in her writing. Underline the tactile images in this passage.

2. Which images in the passage are more specific: visual or tactile? Support your answers with reference to the passage.

Apply:

Close your eyes and touch some familiar objects at your desk. Then open your eyes and describe to a partner how those objects felt. Be sure to use specific, tactile images, not visual images or figurative language.