

Eleanor Roosevelt

Pre-reading

Questions:

- Who was Eleanor Roosevelt? Where have you heard about her?

Definitions:

- Diphtheria – a serious disease that causes high fever and difficulty breathing
- Self-sufficient – independent, able to do things for oneself
- Genuine – sincere, real, or honest



Reading

17 Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born in 1884. She was the oldest child of Elliot and Anna Hall
34 Roosevelt. They were a wealthy couple with great social status. By the time Eleanor was ten, both
34 her parents had died. Her mother died of diphtheria and her father died of excessive drinking.

50 Eleanor was sent to live with her maternal grandmother. She was strict and mindful of the
66 proper way to do things. Eleanor had few social contacts and no friends her own age. It was a
85 lonely and **miserable** life.

89 When she was fifteen, Eleanor was sent to an exclusive girls' school in London. At this
105 school she met a kind and caring teacher who helped her grow in many ways. The teacher taught
123 Eleanor how to be sociable and develop friendships. She also taught her how to be self-sufficient.

139 Eleanor returned to New York and went to work as a social worker in the city slums. She
157 brought concern and caring to her vocation. She also became reacquainted with her distant cousin,
172 Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Their friendship turned into love. They were married in 1905. They
186 had six children, although one died in infancy.

194 As the wife of a politician, Eleanor enjoyed meeting and entertaining people. She had a
209 genuine interest in others and the ability to put them at ease. These qualities became her
225 trademark. She was well read and was a patient listener and intelligent observer.

238 In August of 1921 Franklin Roosevelt was stricken with polio and was paralyzed. He would
253 never walk again. He went into a deep depression and feared that his political career had ended.

270 Eleanor was determined that Franklin would not give up politics. She vowed to become his
285 legs. She toured the places he would have gone and reported back to him. She made speeches and
303 learned to discuss ideas in political forums. In short, Eleanor became a politician in her own right.

320 In 1932 Franklin Roosevelt won what was to be the first of four bids for the U.S. Presidency.
338 Through Franklin Roosevelt's physical and political struggles, Eleanor remained strong and poised.
350 She was always a willing helpmate and gracious First Lady.

360 During World War II, Eleanor visited U.S. troops in Great Britain and on the front line in the
378 South Pacific. It was the first time a First Lady had made such a voyage alone. Throughout her
396 life, Eleanor Roosevelt was brilliant, patient and hard-working. She died in 1962.

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Level 7.0

Understanding

1. What was Eleanor Roosevelt's first job? _____

2. For what traits was she well-known? _____

3. What is the title of wife of the U.S. President? _____

4. What effect did polio have on Franklin Roosevelt? _____

5. What effect did it have on Eleanor? _____

6. Why was she considered "a politician in her own right"? _____

7. What does the word **miserable** mean? _____

Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: Eleanor Roosevelt is admired by many. Write about a woman you admire. Does she share any of Eleanor's qualities? If yes, which ones?
