**Unit 4: Pushing the Limits**

**Section 1: The Beginnings of a Miracle**

**Reading 1 (page 91)**

1. a. i. those of Anne and Helen.

b. ii. both are directionless.

c. i. her parents pampered her.

2. a. The unusual activity that Helen could sense was the preparation for the arrival of her teacher Anne Mansfield Sullivan. Her mother’s signs and the others going to and fro in the house were the reasons she sensed it.

b. She describes her life to be like a directionless ship in the sea engulfed in a dense fog. Like the ship, Helen too was groping for a direction.

c. When her teacher placed Helen’s hand under the water spout and over the other spelled the word water, she realized the mystery of language and that ‘w-a-t-e-r’ meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over her hand. She realized that everything had a name.

d. Helen’s family was overindulgent towards her, especially her father. He could not bear to see her cry. When she and her teacher returned from the garden house, Helen decided that she wouldn’t use her napkin at table. Her teacher tried to put the napkin round her neck several times, but each time she tore it off, threw it on the floor and finally began to kick the table. Sullivan took her plate away and started to take her out of the room, but Helen’s father objected. He said that no child of his should be deprived of food on any account.

e. Obedience; Anne saw clearly that it was useless to try to teach Helen anything until she learned to obey her. Anne was certain that obedience and love are the gateway through which knowledge enters the mind of the child.