

Name:

Day One

Judith Beatty: Polio Survivor

Part 1: Silent read

→ What is polio? Read silently.

Judith Beatty survived polio thanks to an iron lung. In 1949, Beatty was six years old. She recalls that she woke up one morning, and “my legs were so weak I couldn’t stand on them.” The doctor diagnosed her with polio. Six-year-old Beatty was taken to the hospital and put in an iron lung.

The “iron lung” was a nickname for a type of ventilator. A ventilator is a machine that helps people breathe. The iron lung was a large metal tube that enclosed a person’s entire body, except for their head. Many children survived polio only because of the iron lung. After getting out of the iron lung, Beatty still spent months in the hospital before she could rejoin her classmates at school.

Polio is a highly contagious virus that often affects children. Most people that contract polio have flu-like symptoms or have no symptoms at all. But some people, like Judith Beatty, can develop serious muscle weakness known as paralysis. This type of polio can keep the lungs from working and cause death.

For many years, American parents lived in terror of polio. People could not foretell where polio would reoccur. Parents even prevented their children from going to crowded places during polio season. People were especially afraid of the paralysis polio could cause. Some survivors needed a wheelchair for the rest of their lives. In 1954, scientists developed a vaccine for polio. Widespread vaccinations eliminated polio in the U.S.

Source: “My Polio Story is an Inconvenient Truth to Those Who Refuse Vaccines,” *The Huffington Post*, August 15, 2016.



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// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What is an iron lung, and why was it so important for children with polio?

What year did scientists develop a polio vaccine? _____

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Judith Beatty survived polio / thanks to an iron lung. // In 1949, / Beatty was six years old. // She recalls that she woke up one morning, / and “my legs were so weak I couldn’t stand on them.” // The doctor diagnosed her / with polio. // Six-year-old Beatty was taken to the hospital / and put in an iron lung. //

The “iron lung” was a nickname / for a type of ventilator. // A ventilator is a machine / that helps people breathe. // The iron lung was a large metal tube / that enclosed a person’s entire body, / except for their head. // Many children survived polio / only because of the iron lung. // After getting out of the iron lung, / Beatty still spent months in the hospital // before she could rejoin her classmates at school. //

Polio is a highly contagious virus / that often affects children. // Most people that contract polio have flu-like symptoms / or have no symptoms at all. // But some people, / like Judith Beatty, / can develop serious muscle weakness / known as paralysis. // This type of polio / can keep the lungs from working / and cause death. //

For many years, / American parents lived in terror of polio. // People could not foretell where polio would reoccur. // Parents even prevented their children / from going to crowded places / during polio season. // People were especially afraid / of the paralysis polio could cause. // Some survivors needed a wheelchair / for the rest of their lives. // In 1954, / scientists developed a vaccine for polio. // Widespread vaccinations eliminated polio in the U.S. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.