Directions: The passages below are two accounts of the life of Helen Keller. One is a firsthand account and the other is a secondhand account. Read each passage and then answer the related questions. Write your answers on the lines provided.

1. We walked down the path to the well-house, attracted by the fragrance of the honeysuckle with which it was covered. Someone was drawing water and my teacher placed my hand under the spout. As the cool stream gushed over one hand she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten—a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that "w-a-t-e-r" meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!

Adapted from The Story of My Life, by Keller, Helen

2. In a dramatic struggle, Sullivan taught Keller the word "water"; she helped her make the connection between the object and the letters by taking Keller out to the water pump, and placing Keller's hand under the spout. While Sullivan moved the lever to flush cool water over Keller's hand, she spelled out the word w-a-t-e-r on Helen's other hand. Something clicked. Helen finally understood what Annie was doing. She repeated the word in Sullivan's hand. An entire new world opened up for Keller. In many ways it was one of the happiest days of her life.

1. Which passage is a firsthand account? How do you know?

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_______________________________________________________________________________

2. Which passage is a secondhand account? How do you know?

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_______________________________________________________________________________
3. Which account (firsthand or secondhand) gives an insight of Helen Keller’s emotions? Provide textual evidence.

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4. What is the similarity between the accounts?

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_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

5. What is the difference between the accounts?

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