

## Deafness: Silent Night (Non-Fiction)

Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class Time

### Objective

Gain a better understanding of the challenges that individuals who are deaf may encounter.

### Synopsis

In this memoir, former skating champion, tour guide, pianist, and FBI agent Sue Thomas describes her life from the time she was eighteen months old and lost her hearing until her resignation from the FBI.

### Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class.

Title: *Silent Night* (1990)

Author: Sue Thomas with S. Ricky Christian

Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. • Wheaton, IL

#### For Your Information

To learn more about hearing impairments, visit reputable Websites, such as:

- [Deafness and Hearing Loss](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- [Hearing Loss in Children](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Sue loved to skate.
  - a. Why did she love skating so much?
  - b. How was she able to skate to the music?
2. How could Mrs. Miller have adapted the spelling test so that Sue could have understood it?
3. Why were grades 1–3 so bad for Sue?
4. Was the principal justified in spanking Sue every time she defended herself from the mean boys? Why or why not?
5. How did Sue end up working for the surveillance program at the FBI?
6. Sue attended public school and was taught lip-reading skills.
  - a. Do you think her parents should have taught her sign language? Why or why not?
  - b. How would Sue's life have been different if she had learned sign language?