

A LIFE THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Reading Comprehension • A1 English

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Louis Braille: A New Way to Read

Louis Braille was born in 1809 in a small village in France. His family was not rich, but they worked hard. His father made things from leather, such as shoes and bags. When Louis was a little boy, he liked to learn and explore the world around him.

When Louis was three years old, he had an accident in his father's workshop. He hurt one of his eyes. Later, an infection spread to his other eye, and he became blind. This meant that he could not see the people, places, or books around him. It was a very difficult time for Louis and his family.

However, Louis did not stop learning. He went to school in his village. His teachers saw that he was a bright student, and they helped him. At that time, it was very hard for blind people to read. Some books used large letters that people could feel with their fingers. But these books were big, heavy, and expensive. Reading them was slow, too.

When Louis was ten years old, he went to a special school for blind children in Paris, the capital city of France. He studied many subjects, including music. He was a good student and loved learning. But he wanted a better way for blind people to read and write.

One day, a man visited the school and showed the students a system used by soldiers. Soldiers used small raised dots to read messages in the dark. They could touch the dots with their fingers. Louis thought this idea could help blind people, too. He began to work on a new system.

Louis tested different groups of dots. He wanted the system to be simple, so people could read quickly with their fingers. He worked carefully and made changes when something did not work. When he was only fifteen years old, he created a system with six raised dots. Different groups of dots stood for different letters and numbers. People could feel the dots and understand the message without seeing it.

This system became known as Braille, after Louis's family name. It helped blind people read and write more easily. They could use it for books, schoolwork, music, and many other things. For the first time, many people had a practical way to read words by touch.

Louis became a teacher at the school in Paris. He taught students and continued to improve his system. Sadly, he was often ill, and he died in 1852 when he was only forty-three years old. During his life, not everyone understood how useful his system was. Some people did not begin to use it widely until after his death.

Today, Braille is used in many countries and languages. You can find it on signs, lifts, medicine boxes, and other everyday items. It gives blind people more ways to read information and do things independently. Louis Braille did not invent a machine or become rich. He used his ideas and hard work to solve a real problem.

His story teaches us that one person can make a big difference. Louis was young, faced a serious challenge, and kept trying to find a better way. His work still helps people around the world. When we see a problem, we can ask questions, learn from others, and try to make things better.

Part A — Choose the correct answer

1. Where was Louis Braille born?

- A. Italy B. France C. Spain
2. What did Louis's father make?
A. Things from leather B. Books for schools C. Musical instruments
3. How old was Louis when he had his accident?
A. Three B. Ten C. Fifteen
4. Where did Louis go when he was ten?
A. A hospital in London B. A special school in Paris C. A music shop
5. What did soldiers use to read in the dark?
A. Raised dots B. Large pictures C. Bright lights
6. How many raised dots were in Louis's system?
A. Four B. Six C. Ten
7. What is Braille mainly used for?
A. Helping blind people read and write B. Helping people run faster C. Teaching people to make shoes
8. How old was Louis when he created his system?
A. Ten B. Fifteen C. Forty-three

Part B — True or False

9. Louis came from a very rich family. _____
10. After his accident, Louis could still see with one eye. _____
11. The old books for blind people were easy and cheap to use. _____
12. Louis wanted blind people to have a better way to read and write. _____
13. Braille was widely accepted by everyone while Louis was alive. _____

Choose TWO false sentences above and correct them.

Correction 1: _____

Correction 2: _____

Part C — Answer in complete sentences

14. Why was reading difficult for blind people before Braille?

15. What idea gave Louis the idea for his system?

16. How did Louis make his system useful for readers?

17. Name TWO places or things where people can find Braille today.

18. Why is Braille important for blind people?

Part D — Vocabulary in context

Match each word to the correct meaning. Write the letter next to each word.

19. _____ blind 20. _____ independently

A. without help from another person

B. not able to see

C. very costly

D. to make something better

Extra challenge: Which part of Louis Braille's story inspires you most? Write one or two sentences.
