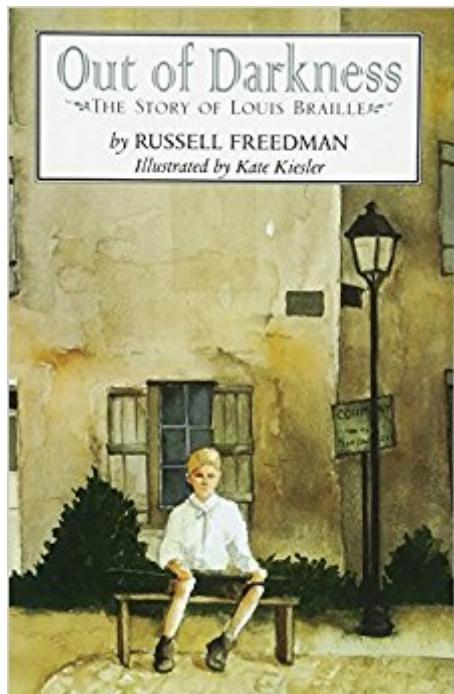


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# Out Of Darkness: The Story Of Louis Braille



## **Synopsis**

A biography of the modest Frenchman who, after being blinded at the age of three, went on to develop a system of raised dots on paper that enabled blind people to read and write.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 8/21/99 edition (September 20, 1999)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #184,257 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities #131 in Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #255 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 3-6. An extremely well-written and informative book that tells about Braille's life and the development of his alphabet system for the blind. Freedman's gift for making his subjects both accessible and intriguing comes through wonderfully in this book. Readers learn not only about Braille and his struggle to communicate through the written word once he lost his sight, but also how long it took for his revolutionary innovation to become universally accepted. They also become aware of how isolated the blind were before his invention. Finely detailed pencil drawings and diagrams appear throughout the readable narrative. An entertaining and fascinating look at a remarkable man. ?Melissa Hudak, North Suburban District Library, Roscoe, IL  
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Gr. 4^-8. More than 170 years ago, a blind French boy at age 15 invented a system of raised dots on paper that allows the sightless to read and write. Without melodrama, Freedman tells the momentous story in quiet chapters in his best plain style, making the facts immediate and personal.

At age 3, Louis Braille was blinded in an accident with a knife. From the age of 12, he worked doggedly, sometimes secretly through the night at a special school in Paris, punching dots on paper, trying to develop a simple code for the alphabet that the blind could read with their fingertips. Woven into the story is an awareness of how the blind child experiences the world, what he remembers. Tension mounts as he refuses to be discouraged by technical and bureaucratic setbacks, until eventually he proves his system to his school and finally to the world. The handsome book design is clear and open. A diagram explains how the Braille alphabet works, and Kate Kessler's full-page shaded pencil illustrations are part of the understated poignant drama. But what about documentation? Is the opening chapter partially fictionalized? No sources are given for the facts and quotes throughout the book, and there's no bibliography. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This fact based biography is one of the best I have encountered for children starting at about grade three. Adults will also benefit. The book documents the life of Louis Braille. Born and raised in a small town near Paris, Louis suffered a tragic injury at the age of 3, which rendered him blind for life. The story captures the true essence of courage and the triumph of the human spirit- to meet even the most seemingly insurmountable obstacles with dignity, tenacity and unshaken faith. Louis did not give up. Despite countless frustrations and heartbreakingly setbacks, this remarkable individual's attempts at creating and perfecting the Braille system were successful and eagerly accepted and distributed world wide. Unfortunately, Louis died in his early forties and was not here to witness the magnitude that his system bestowed on the world of the blind, their families, loved ones and associates. His system changed the lives and worlds of the visually impaired. But he did pass away in peace and with the knowledge that his mission had been fulfilled. Louis Braille opened a door to the visually impaired, and in this way significantly transformed and enhanced many, many lives by providing this invaluable means of reading, writing, and communicating. Louis Braille was absolutely a hero, and will remain so for all time.

Fantastic

Students found it interesting, especially the part when he got hurt & perfecting the Braille system. Great book to discuss character traits & theme

This is a very touching story about a boy who lost his eye sight at a very young age it's a sad but

true story that you will enjoy reading. The world can give thanks to Louis Braille for his invention. He invented the method for reading that blind people all over the world are still using and learning from everyday.

It was a great story for younger readers about the history being braille.

Great award winning book!

I thought this was great! My grandson not so much since he had to write a report on it. But he did learn from it.

Very interesting story about Louis Braille - written in such a manner as to be enjoyable for both children and adults.

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