"And the blind shall lead the blind!...That was the general attitude a century ago! But this brave teacher dedicated his life to prove the world wrong!

His Braille system has taught thousands of sightless people to read and write...a milestone in human progress!

At a modern school for blind children...

Do you really think he could learn Braille? Paul was in the third grade when that...terrible accident happened!

Of course, Adam! He's a smart-looking boy! You'll work with us, won't you, Paul?

Yes, sir!

That very same day...Now once again, Paul! Remember...your fingers are your eyes now!

This one is "A"...and this is "B"...why, I'm learning to read!
BON JOUR, M'GIEU! MY GOOD WIFE TELLS ME THAT MADAME BRAILLE HAS PRESENTED YOU WITH A FINE SON!

A FINE SON HE IS INDEED! AND A HAPPY FATHER AM I! AND NOW, MY FRIEND, HOW ABOUT A GLASS OF WINE? WE HAVE GREAT REASON TO CELEBRATE!

ALAS, THERE IS NOUGHT WE CAN DO! OUR SON IS TOTALLY BLIND!

HOW DREADFUL!

A HARNES SHOP IN COUVRAY, FRANCE, IN THE YEAR 1809...

TEN YEARS LATER...

YOU MUST WEAR YOUR BEST SUIT, LOUIS, FOR TODAY YOU ENTER THE INSTITUTE!

YES, MOTHER! BUT WILL I REALLY LEARN SOMETHING?

YOUR NAME IS LOUIS BRAILLE, EH? AND YOU THINK SCHOOL WILL HELP? YOU'LL BE A BLIND BEGGAR IN THE STREETS OF PARIS, LIKE THE REST OF US!

NO, NO... NEVER! I'LL NEVER BECOME A BEGGAR!

THAT SAME DAY AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE YOUTHFUL BLIND, IN PARIS...

LET'S YOUNG BRAILLE GROW UP. HE STUDIED WITH THE AID OF THE BARBER BOARD FOR THE BLIND!

AW, C'MON OUT AND PLAY WITH US, LOUIS! YOU CAN'T LEARN WITH THAT BOARD ANYWAY!

I MUST TRY! EVEN THIS IS BETTER THAN NOTHING!

THE FOLLOWING YEAR...

YOU HAVE MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN YOUR MUSICAL STUDIES, LOUIS BRAILLE! AND AS A REWARD, TOMORROW YOU WILL PLAY FOR THE PUBLIC!

THANK YOU, SIR!

I UNDERSTAND THIS FELLOW BRAILLE IS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING ORGANISTS IN PARIS!

AND THAT IS NOT ALL! HE IS ALSO A FINE SCIENTIST, AND A VIOLINCELLIST AS WELL!

AFTER THE RECITAL...
YOU PLAYED BRILLIANTLY
TONIGHT, LOUIS! BUT YOU
SEEM SO TIED! HOW
ABOUT A GAME OF
DOMINOES AT MY
HOUSE?
GOOD--IT WILL
RELAX US BOTH!
PIERRE, LOOK HOW QUICKLY
WE READ THE NUMERALS ON
THOSE DOMINOES! IF THE DOTS
WERE RAISED INSTEAD OF
DEPRESSED, WE COULD
READ THEM EVEN FASTER!
This gives me an idea.

IN MAY, 1826, STILL A STUDENT
AT THE PARIS INSTITUTE...
AH, GOOD EVENING, BRAILLE! STILL
WORKING ON A NEW SYSTEM FOR
THE BLIND? WELL, I HEAR GOOD
NEWS! YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED
TO JOIN THE FACULTY!
IT IS A GREAT
Honor, SIR! Per-
HAPS NOW, MY
NEW SYSTEM
WILL BE GIVEN
A TRIAL!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE
DIRECTOR’S OFFICE...
GENTLEMEN, I ASK ONLY A
CHANCE! IF BOOKS FOR THE
BLIND WERE PRINTED IN MY NEW
SYSTEM, STUDENTS COULD LEARN SO
MUCH FASTER!
NO, NO, BRAILLE! WE WERE SATISFIED
WITH THE OLD METHOD!

BEHIND LOCKED DOORS, LOUIS
BRAILLE TAUGHT HIS PUPILS THE FOR-
BIDDEN SYSTEM.
MY SYSTEM CONTAINS
43 NUMERALS, THE COM-
plete alphabet, plus
diphthongs and
punctuation marks.
MR. BRAILLE, IT’S WONDERFUL! IT’S
SO MUCH MORE PRACTICAL AND
Convenient!

AS THE MONTHS WENT BY, STILL
FURTHER PROGRESS WAS MADE!
WHEN WE SLIP PAPER BETWEEN
THE TWO ZINC PLATES, PRESS
ING WITH AN AWL ON THE
PERFORATIONS OF THE
UPPER PLATE--THE IMPRES-
SION APPEARS ON THE
PAPER!
MARVELOUS! NOW WE CAN
WRITE, TOO!

WHEN, THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF
A SYMPATHETIC PROFESSOR...
WITHOUT YOU TO READ FOR US,
PROFESSOR, WE SHOULD NEVER
BE ABLE TO CUT THE PLATES FOR
THE FIRST LIBRARY FOR THE
BLIND!
**FIVE YEARS LATER, WORK AND STRAIN FINALLY TOOK THEIR TOLL!**

**STUDENT, I'M DISMISSING THE CLASS EARLIER TODAY! MY LUNGS... OHH...**

**MR. BRAILLE, YOU ARE ILL; COME, I WILL TAKE YOU HOME!**

**THIS IS THE END! I MUST RETIRE... EVEN THOUGH MY SYSTEM HAS NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED! MAY I BE GRANTED STRENGTH TO ATTEND TOMORROW'S GRADUATION EXERCISES?**

**I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT, SIR!**

**AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE STUDENT WHO HAS WON FIRST PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT: STEP FORWARD, YOUNG MAN!**

**MY HONOR IS EMPTY INDEED... UNLESS THAT YOUNG MAN, MR. BRAILLE, WHO HAS DEVOTED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE BLIND IS ALSO RECOGNIZED FOR THE BRILLIANT NEW SYSTEM HE HAS DEvised AND TAUGHT! WHAT'S THAT?**

**MR. BRAILLE BE SO KIND AS TO JOIN US ON THE PLATFORM! PROUDLY!**

**AT LONG LAST, AFTER YEARS OF FRUSTRATION... LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO QUOTE THE LATIN PROVERB..."LABOR OMNIA VINCI!" PERSEVERANCE TRIUMPHS IN THE END! IN THE FUTURE, ALL STUDENTS' BOOKS AT THE INSTITUTE WILL BE PRINTED..."THE BRAILLE SYSTEM!**

**WITHIN A FEW BRIEF DAYS, IN THE YEAR 1854, AFTER A PITUFLY SHORT LIFE... YOU BOYS ARE PROOF THAT MY WORK HAS NOT BEEN IN VAIN! LET THERE BE LIGHT!**

**TODAY, THOUSANDS OF BLIND PEOPLE LEAD VIRTUALLY NORMAL LIVES THANKS TO THE MAGIC OF THE BRAILLE SYSTEM! THE WORLD WILL NEVER FORGET THE GALLANT FRENCHMAN WHO KINDLED HOPE WHERE ONLY DESPAIR HELD SWAY!**