

Synopsis

An inspiring picture-book biography of Louis Braille—a blind boy so determined to read that he invented his own alphabet. ****Winner of a Schneider Family Book Award!**** Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. Even at the school for the blind in Paris, there were no books for him. And so he invented his own alphabet—a whole new system for writing that could be read by touch. A system so ingenious that it is still used by the blind community today. Award-winning writer Jen Bryant tells Braille's inspiring story with a lively and accessible text, filled with the sounds, the smells, and the touch of Louis's world. Boris Kulikov's inspired paintings help readers to understand what Louis lost, and what he was determined to gain back through books. An author's note and additional resources at the end of the book complement the simple story and offer more information for parents and teachers. Praise for *Six Dots*: "An inspiring look at a child inventor whose drive and intelligence changed the world for the blind and sighted alike." **Kirkus Reviews** "Even in a crowded field, Bryant's tightly focused work, cast in the fictionalized voice of Braille himself, is particularly distinguished." **Bulletin**, starred review "This picture book biography strikes a perfect balance between the seriousness of Braille's life and the exuberance he projected out into the world." **School Library Journal**, starred review

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0590 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #58,180 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities #64 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology #125 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies >

Historical

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 1
This picture book biography of Louis Braille (1809-1859) strikes a perfect balance between the seriousness of Braille's life and the exuberance he projected out into the world. The text highlights Braille's determination to pursue an education. Readers will learn how he attended the Royal School in Paris and was frustrated by the lack of books for the blind, an obstacle that set him off on a long quest to invent an accessible reading system. Braille ultimately found success by simplifying a military coding technique that had earlier been introduced but was far too complex. The focus on Braille as one of the world's great inventors is apt, and by taking a close look at his childhood, his family, and his experiences as a young person, Bryant makes Braille's story even more powerful. She writes from his perspective, which brings a level of intimacy sure to resonate with readers. Kulikov's mixed-media artwork mirrors and magnifies the text, keeping the spotlight solidly on young Braille and his world as he moves through it. VERDICT An engaging and moving account of an inventor, a solid addition for elementary collections.
Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

"An inspiring look at a child inventor whose drive and intelligence changed the world for the blind and sighted alike."
Kirkus Reviews
Although many Braille biographies stress his disability, Bryant's title subtly emphasizes his creativity and celebrates him as an inventor, making this an excellent addition for STEM collections. Illustrations in Kulikov's signature style, light-hearted with a touch of tartness, deftly toggle between sun-washed scenes in which the world views Louis and blackened scenes in which Louis recreates the world he sees in his mind.
The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review
"Bryant's sensitive first-person narration draws readers intimately close to Braille's experiences, and an author's note and q&a add further depth to a stirring portrait of innovation and determination."
Publishers Weekly, starred review
"The focus on Braille as one of the world's great inventors is apt, and by taking a close look at his childhood, his family, and his experiences as a young person, Bryant makes Braille's story even more powerful."
School Library Journal, starred review
"Bryant's portrayal captures Louis's intelligence, determination, and

tenacious desire for access to the written word. As Bryant states, "The name Braille deserves to be on everyone's list of great inventors, and this book ably demonstrates why."--The Horn Book Magazine"Readers will be floored by the sheer tenacity of Louis Braille." -- Shelf Awareness

We were so keen to add this book to the library we keep for our grandchildren. I must say though, it was somewhat disappointing. The story could have been written in a manner that would draw children in, help them come to a better understanding of the world of blindness, and physical challenges in general. Instead, we found it to be dry and factual, rather than interesting and imaginative.

Thank you very much

GREAT experience

Inspiring book! Beautiful illustrations! Great message to the little and not so little ones! Congrats!

We loved it as a Braille library

This book really captured my six year old's attention. She loves to hear stories about people who accomplish amazing things when they "are still kids."

I thought it was going to be in Braille .

This story captivated my 7-year-old. It did a fantastic job of sharing an important person in history in a very engaging, relatable way. My girls absolutely loved hearing about how a young person could invent something that changed the world for people with visual impairments. I highly recommend this for every school library! I received a complimentary copy of this book and am sharing my honest opinions, as always.

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Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille Braille for the Sighted (Beginning Braille) Out of Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented the Alphabet for the Blind (15-Minute Books Book 614) A Picture Book of Louis Braille (Picture Book Biography) Who Was Louis Braille?

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