LOUIS BRAILLE

Synopsis

This is the story of Louis Braille, from his early years when he was sighted and to the accident that caused him to go blind. In a time period where most blind people ended up as beggars, Louis had the support of family, teachers, and friends that encouraged him to achieve more. He attended a school for the blind and while there invented the method now known as the Braille system. This is an inspiring story about a remarkable man.
LOUIS BRAILLE
Lesson 1
Sections 1 - 2

1. How did Louis lose his eyesight?

2. Why did Louis’ parents feel it was important for him to have chores even though he couldn’t see?

3. Why did Louis sing when he walked?

4. List two ways Louis said he could tell people apart.

5. What are some things blind people can do today that they couldn’t do when Louis was a boy?

6. Louis was born seeing and then lost his eyesight. If that happened, What do you think a person would miss the most?
LOUIS BRAILLE
Lesson 2
Sections 3 - 4

1. Circle two things Father Palluy did that helped Louis.
   - Taught him lessons during the mornings
   - Helped him become a worker at the church
   - Made a cane for him to use around town
   - Asked the schoolteacher to let him go to school

2. Which subjects could Louis do as well as the seeing students at the Coupvray school?

3. What was Louis’ favorite subject at the Paris school?

4. Why did Father Palluy ask the marquis to write a letter to the School for the Blind instead of writing it himself?

5. How do you think having the opportunity to go to school will help Louis as he gets older?

6. How would you feel if you had to go away to school and only see your family on summer break? Explain your answer.
1. Why were there so few books to read at the school Louis attended?

2. What gave Louis the idea for a new kind of writing/printing for the blind?

3. How old was Louis when he began to work on the alphabet for the blind?

4. What character trait best describes Louis? Give an example from the story to support your answer.

5. Why do you think the people in Louis’s time thought blind people were not as smart as seeing people?

6. Look at the braille alphabet on the back cover and feel it with your fingers. What do you think would be hard about learning to read that way? Explain your answer.
1. When Louis graduated from school, what job did he get?

2. Louis also had a second job at a nearby church. What was it?

3. Circle the words that describe Louis.
   - Lazy
   - Unhappy
   - Good listener
   - Determined
   - Loud

4. Why didn't Louis's new system of dots for reading catch on right away?

5. If you invented something new at your age what do you think would be the hardest part of getting people to believe in your new idea?

6. Louis knew he would not have a long life because of being sick with Tuberculosis so he decided to make it a full one. Explain what you think a full life means.
1. Where was Louis finally able to present his alphabet to an audience of important people?

2. Why did the audience disbelieve that the blind girl had written and read a passage using the dot alphabet?

3. Louis had a small box with I O U's in it. Why did he want the box destroyed when he died?

4. Name one way you think the braille alphabet might have changed the life of a blind person for the better.

5. Louis was not well known when he died but today he is famous. Explain why that is.

6. If you were going to build a monument for Louis Braille, what would you write on it? Explain why you’d write that.
LESSON 1
1. Louis lost his eyesight when he picked up one of his father's tools, an awl, and it slipped from his hands and went into his eye. His eye became infected and then he lost his eyesight.

2. Louis' parents felt it was important for him to have chores even though he was blind because they didn't want him to grow up helpless. They wanted him to be as much like other people as possible.

3. Louis didn't understand why, but when he sang he didn't bump into things as often. (The story compares it to the echo sounds that bats use.)

4. Louis could tell people apart by the sounds of their walk, and their different voices. They may have included smells.

5. Today blind students can attend school, in Louis' time only a few could. Blind people today can get jobs, play sports, and have families.

6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2
1. The 2 circled statements should be
   - Taught him lessons during the mornings
   - Asked the schoolteacher to let him go to school

2. Louis was good at math. Answers may vary as to why. Math took the least amount of reading and Louis could do it in his head.

3. Louis' favorite class at the Paris school was music.

4. Father Palluy asked the marquis to write a letter of for Louis because he was more important and his recommendation would mean more to the school.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary.
LESSON 3

1. There were not many books because it was expensive to have raised letter books printed.

2. Louis got the idea for a new kind of print for the blind from a Captain Barbier who used raised letters for soldiers to use at night.

3. Louis was 12 years old when he begins working on his alphabet.

4. Answers will vary.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. When Louis graduated from school he became a teacher.

2. Louis also had a job as an organist at a nearby church.

3. The words that describe Louis are good listener and determined.

4. Louis' new system for reading didn't catch on right away because some people thought he was too young to have figured something so important out, changing to something new would cost money, and/or some people didn't care about blind people.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary.
LESSON 5

1. Louis was finally able to present his writing system to influential people in 1844 at the opening of the school's new building.

2. The audience didn't believe the girl could actually read dots because nothing like that had ever been done before, they thought it must be some kind of trick.

3. Answers may vary. Louis cared more about people than money and after he was gone there was no reason for the I O U's to be kept.

4. Answers will vary.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary.