



### Feeling is Seeing

Johnny was born blind, but he reads more books than anyone in his family. How is it possible for him to read, if he cannot see? He uses books printed in Braille. In the Braille system, the alphabet letters are represented by raised dots arranged in different patterns on the paper. You can feel the bumps when you run your fingers over the page. Once you memorize the patterns, you can read anything printed in Braille. This wonderful system was developed by Louis Braille, a brilliant young man born in France on January 4, 1809. He was blinded at the age of three by a tragic accident in his father's leather shop, but this did not stop him from learning. He was passionate about reading, and by the age of fifteen had created his Braille alphabet, which is still widely used today by blind people all over the world.

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1. In this story, who was born blind?

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2. What system of writing does Johnny use to help him read?

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3. In the Braille system, what is used to represent the alphabet letters?

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4. Who created the system of raised dots on paper to represent the alphabet?

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5. According to the story, why did Louis Braille create his raised dot alphabet?

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