Triumph Out of Darkness
The Legacy of Louis Braille

Thesis
In the 1800s, a young blind man named Louis Braille triumphantly created a system for communication. Louis Braille suffered many tragedies including losing his sight. However, the future of Louis Braille's legacy is uncertain; auditory technology is replacing Braille. Fewer blind learn literacy and grammar and instead rely on the spoken word to navigate their dark world.

Heart

Build Up

In 1829, Louis Braille stumbled upon the idea of using a raised dot pattern to communicate. In 1830, he created his own system of raised dots called Braille, to which he adapted the French alphabet. In 1854, the first Braille books were published, and in 1868, the International Committee on the Unification of Braille was founded.

In 1894, UNICO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) declared Braille as one of the world's seven fundamental languages. In 1954, the United Nations began to use Braille as one of its official languages. vegetables can be read by the blind through the pattern of raised dots.

Long Term Impact

Once the word about Braille spread, it spread. People wanted to use the system, especially in France. In 1884, France made Braille its official language for the blind. It became a part of the curriculum in schools. Thanks to this technology, students were able to read and write Braille. Blind people everywhere were able to get along. The Braille system was finally recognized by the world, and blind people were able to get jobs. The Braille system was widespread and was soon found all over the world.
Background

Louis Braille was born January 4, 1809, in Coupvray, France.

Before Louis Braille was born, blind people were tragically ridiculed. Valentin Haüy noticed that the blind were disrespected, so he triumphantly created the Royal Institution for Blind Children in 1784. During the tragedy of the French Revolution, Napoleon ordered blind children to be put into an asylum with other people who had disabilities.

Louis tragically became blind at the young age of three after he had an accident in his father's workshop. Due to the incident Louis would continue to struggle throughout his life.

“At the time, most blind people ended up begging on the street for a living.”

Build Up

In 1819, Louis was triumphantly accepted at the Royal Institution for Blind Children.

“When Louis Braille was admitted in 1819, it was still the only school for blind children in all of France. Most sightless youngsters received no education, no training, of any kind. Because they could not see, people believed that they were mentally retarded.”

When Louis stayed at the institute, he found it hard to read the big books with embossed letters.

“Louis was just beginning his third year when Charles Barbier, a retired artillery captain in the French army, visited the institute. Barbier had invented a secret military code based on dots and dashes punched into strips of cardboard. When the cardboard was turned over, the raised dots and dashes could be felt easily with fingers of the dots and dashes he had invented for nightwriting...he later called his invention nightwriting...he believed it might be useful to the blind.”

Louis found problems in his system and tried to enhance a.
In 1819, Louis was triumphantly accepted at the Royal Institution for Blind Children.

“When Louis Braille was admitted in 1819, it was still the only school for blind children in all of France. Most sightless youngsters received no education, no training, of any kind. Because they could not see, people believed that they were mentally retarded.”

When Louis stayed at the institute, he found it hard to read the big books with embossed letters.

“Louis was just beginning his third year when Charles Barbier, a retired artillery captain in the French army, visited the Institute. Barbier had invented a secret military code based on dots and dashes punched into strips of cardboard.

When the cardboard was turned over, the raised impressions of the dots and dashes could be felt easily with the fingers... Barbier called his invention nightwriting... he realized that nightwriting might be useful to the blind.”

Louis found problems in his system and tried to enhance it.

“Many students became discouraged... But Louis persisted... He began to experiment on his own, using different combinations of dots and dashes, hoping to simplify Captain Barbier’s system.”

Louis showed the improvements he made to Barbier.

After Louis’s idea for Braille was rudely disregarded, Louis worked in secret. Louis completed his work in 1824.
In the 1800s, a young blind man named Louis Braille triumphantly created a system for communication. Louis Braille suffered many tragedies including losing his sight. However, the future of Louis Braille’s legacy is uncertain; auditory technology is replacing Braille. Fewer blind learn literacy and grammar and instead rely on the spoken word to navigate their dark world.

Louis Braille created the groundbreaking system of Braille we recognize today. The system of raised dots gave blind people a new way to live; they could write and read like sighted people and were able to communicate with other people through letters. Louis had a hard time creating Braille and suffered many tragedies along the way.

“Access to communication in the widest sense is access to knowledge, and that is vitally important for us if we are not to go on being despised or patronized by condescending sighted people. We do not need pity, nor do we need to be reminded that we are vulnerable. We must be treated as equals — and communication is the way we can bring this about.” — Louis Braille
Louis Braille created the groundbreaking system of Braille we recognize today. The system of raised dots gave blind people a new way to live; they could write and read like sighted people and were able to communicate with other people through letters. Louis had a hard time creating Braille and suffered many tragedies along the way.

"Access to communication in the widest sense is access to knowledge, and that is vitally important for us if we are not to go on being despised or patronized by condescending sighted people. We do not need pity, nor do we need to be reminded that we are vulnerable. We must be treated as equals — and communication is the way we can bring this about." — Louis Braille
Once the word about Braille spread, many blind people wanted to use the system. In 1884 France makes Braille its official language for the blind. It soon became popular in schools. Triumphantly, blind students were able to read and write like sighted children. Blind people everywhere were finally feeling part of the world. The blind were able to get jobs. The Braille system was widespread and was soon found at many public places.

In 1994 UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) transcribed Braille into over one hundred languages. Even though Braille was such a huge success the name Louis Braille was tragically forgotten. People knew Braille as a system and no longer a name.

"...10 percent of blind children in the United States learn to read Braille, even though Braille literacy is associated with better job out comes for adults."

1892 - The first Braille typewriter is invented. This is the first technological advancement made to Braille.

1951 - The Perkins Braille becomes the image of the blind community and Braille writing. The Perkins Brailler is a typewriter still used by the blind.

1971 - The first Braille embosser was created and it is now possible to print in Braille.

1982 - The popular VerseBraille, a refreshable Braille display was released.
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization] transcribed Braille into over one hundred languages. Even though Braille was such a huge success the name Louis Braille was tragically forgotten. People knew Braille as a system and no longer a name.

**Long Term Impact**

"10 percent of blind children in the United States learn to read Braille, even though Braille literacy is associated with better job out comes for adults."

- **1952** - The first Braille typewriter is invented. This is the first technological advancement made to Braille.
- **1951** - The Perkins Braillette becomes the image of the blind community and Braille writing. The Perkins Braillette is a typewriter still used by the blind.
- **1971** - The first braille embosser was created and it is now possible to print in Braille.
- **1982** - The popular VersaBraille, a refreshable braille display was released.
- **2017** - The Dot Watch is put on the market as the world's first Braille smartwatch, and costs $290.
- **2019** - Lego announces Braille building blocks meant to combat the Braille literacy crisis by making learning Braille easier and more fun for kids.

"...my dream is a richer experience for blind people, one that goes far beyond the braille book to encompass the kind of interactivity that sighted computer users now take for granted." - Siobhán O'Modhrain (The Holy Braillette)