



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT  
MIDDLE SECTION  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
ENRICHMENT WORKSHEET**



**Class VIII** \_\_\_\_ **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Roll No:** \_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **WKSHT 2**

**1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

Six dots, six bumps. Six bumps in different patterns, like constellations, spreading out over a page, what were they? Numbers, letters, words? Who made this code? None other than Louis Braille, who was blind and his work changed the world of reading and writing, forever.

Louis was from a small town near Paris. He was born on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1809. Louis became blind by accident, when he was three years old. He was playing in his Dad's workshop with a sharp tool that accidentally hurt his eye. The wound got infected, and the infection spread and soon, Louis was blind in both eyes. In those days, the few books that were available for blind people were printed in big, raised type; the letters used, were the ordinary alphabets. The reading of such books required immense effort not only that, writing was almost impossible.

Louis needed a new way to learn. He studied in his old school for two more years, but couldn't learn everything by listening. When Louis was ten, he got admitted to the Royal Institution in Paris but there too, most of the teachers talked to the students and the library had fourteen huge books with raised letters but they were difficult to read. However in 1821, a former soldier named Charles Barbier visited the institution. Barbier shared his invention called 'night writing', a code of twelve raised dots that help soldiers to share information without having to speak. The young Louis quickly realised how useful this system of raised dots could be, if it was made easy.

Louis trimmed the twelve dots to six, and improved the system by the time he was fifteen. He published the first ever Braille book in 1829 and the next in 1837. He added symbols for math and music. By various combinations of these dots, it was possible to represent each letter in the alphabet, punctuation marks, numbers and musical notations as well. Reading and writing for the blind have thus become enormously simplified.

Louis Braille eventually became a teacher in the school where he had been a student.

He did not live to see his system widely adopted. He died in 1852.

**a) On the basis of your reading the above passage tick the most appropriate option and complete the sentences:**

i) Louis Braille was blind \_\_\_\_\_

- a. since birth.                                b. by accident .
- c. due to a doctor's fault.                d. due to an infection in blood since birth.

ii) Louis Braille had to change his school when he was young because he \_\_\_\_\_

- a. did not like the school                      b. was finding it difficult to learn only by listening.
- c. his parents could not afford.              d. the teachers were very strict and he could not adjust.

iii) When Louis Braille learnt about Barbier's invention 'night writing' he realized that \_\_\_\_\_

- a. the system of raised dots could be very useful ,if made easy.
- b. the system would be of no use for the blind
- c. Barbier's invention was meant for soldiers only.
- d. the system would help only the deaf and dumb.

iv)The first ever Braille book was published in \_\_\_\_\_

- a. 1829    b. 1837    c. 1852.    d. 1809

v) Louis Braille's work \_\_\_\_\_

- a. changed the world of writing                      b. changed the world of reading
- c. changed the world of the blind                  d. all of the above

vi) Find the antonyms of the following words from the passage:

- a. blunt \_\_\_\_\_    b. complicated \_\_\_\_\_    c. discarded \_\_\_\_\_

vii) Find the synonyms of the words from the passage:

- a. finally \_\_\_\_\_    b .enormous \_\_\_\_\_    c. obtainable \_\_\_\_\_

**b) Answer the following questions:**

i) When was Louis Braille born? How did he become blind?

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ii) Did his admission in the Royal Institution of Paris help him learn in a new way? Why?

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iii) How did his admission in the Royal Institution prove to be a turning point in his life?

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**c) Complete the sentences:**

i) Louis left the old school because \_\_\_\_\_

ii) The various combinations of these dots helped to \_\_\_\_\_

iii) When Louis was a small boy, reading of books for the blind required great effort because \_\_\_\_\_

**d) State whether the following sentences are True/False:**

i) When Louis was twelve, he improved the system by trimming the twelve dots to six. \_\_\_\_\_

ii) Louis did not become the teacher of the school where he was a student. \_\_\_\_\_

iii) Like in his old school, the method of learning in the Royal Institution was by listening. \_\_\_\_\_

**e) Choose appropriate words from the passage and fill in the blanks:**

Although Louis Braille died when he was only \_\_\_\_\_, he succeeded in devising a system of

reading and writing for the \_\_\_\_\_ which is now taught all over the world. Braille lost his sight \_\_\_\_\_ when he was just three. Nevertheless, he was able to complete his education at a school for the blind in \_\_\_\_\_ where he eventually became a \_\_\_\_\_. The few books that were available for blind people were \_\_\_\_\_ in big, \_\_\_\_\_ type; the letters used were of the ordinary \_\_\_\_\_. Braille's idea was to use raised dots instead of raised letters. He evolved a system, which made use of only \_\_\_\_\_ dots in all. Reading and writing for the blind have thus become \_\_\_\_\_. Louis Braille changed the world of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the blind forever.

f) Unscramble the scrambled words:

a) leconstltaions \_\_\_\_\_ b) vteninoin \_\_\_\_\_

c) balpahet \_\_\_\_\_ d) stituintion \_\_\_\_\_

g) Frame sentences with the given words:

a) possible \_\_\_\_\_

b) effort \_\_\_\_\_

**h) Correct the sentences:**

i) 'Night writing', is a code of thirteen raised letters that help soldiers to share information by speaking.

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ii) The library had ten books with raised alphabets that were very easy to read.

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