



# School-Home Connection

Your child has just read an excerpt from the biography “Out of the Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille” by Russell Freedman. Louis Braille perfected a system of reading and writing that people who are blind still use today. Your child has seen how hard young Louis worked to create a simple system that opened the world of literature to people who are blind. Ask your child to describe how Louis first demonstrated his system. You may want to work together on one or more of the activities below to provide opportunities to develop and extend your child’s language skills.

## Investigate Braille

Have your child tell you about the Braille system. Ask: What does Braille look like? How does a person who is blind read in Braille? What materials does a person who is blind need to write in Braille?

## VOCABULARY

### Summarize with Vocabulary Words

Have your child write a summary of the selection “Out of the Darkness.” The summary should include the six vocabulary words for the selection:

devised  
gradually  
stylus

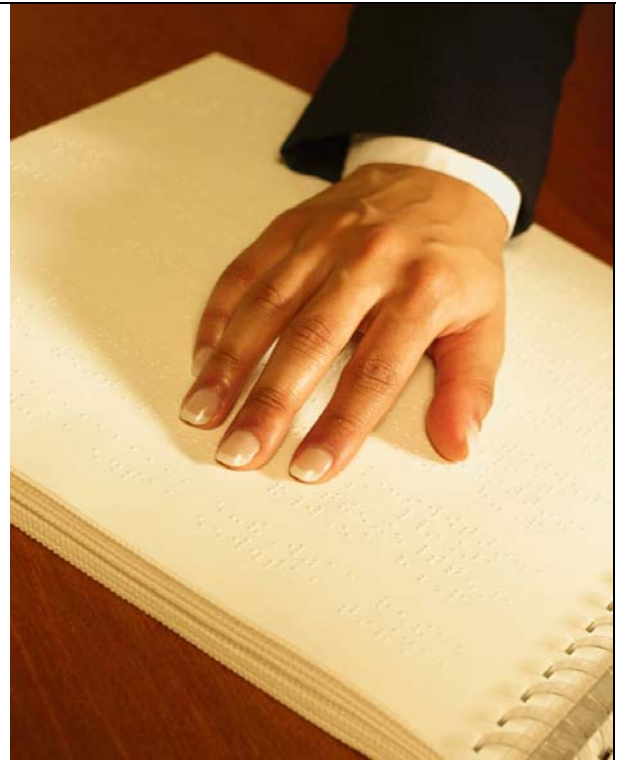
dormitory  
precision  
transcribed

After your child reads the summary aloud to you, say the vocabulary words and have your child tell you when he or she would use each word in writing or speaking.



### TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.



### Scan for Information

Louis Braille was only a teenager when he perfected his system. Have your child look through (or work together to scan) magazines and newspapers for items about other young achievers in the news. Discuss ways in which young people can make a difference in the world. (Our class is currently exploring the theme *Making a Difference*.)

