

WISCONSIN BRAILLE

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Fall 2017

WisBraille Book Project: Free Braille Books to Promote Literacy

September, 2017

Dear teachers and parents of the visually impaired and school librarians,

In our effort to promote braille literacy among children, Wisconsin Braille Inc. is very pleased to offer another new selection of free braille books, financially supported by the Glen Stacey Fund. This year's collection was well researched and includes recommended children's books not already available in braille [after checking the databases at American Printing House for the Blind (www.aph.org) and the National Library Service (www.loc.gov/nls)].

Through both prose and poetry, this year's collection offers books that are fanciful and fun to read as well as those with more thoughtful themes. Of particular importance to our children who are learning braille is the book, **Six Dots, A Story of Young Louis Braille**. Five delightful books are offered in print/braille for young readers. We sincerely hope that our selection meets the needs of your readers! All the books in this year's collection are produced in UEB.

While this project is supported by Glen Stacey funds, none of these funds are used by Wisconsin Braille for its day-to-day operations. We rely on our membership dues to support our other activities, notably mentoring efforts, a newsletter and a website. If you appreciate receiving these free books, we would urge you to become a member of Wisconsin Braille Inc. Annual dues are only \$10 for a regular membership or \$30 for a sustaining membership. A membership form is attached or may be found on our website: www.wisbrl.org. Wisconsin Braille does not sell its membership list to any other organization.

One decided advantage of becoming a member of Wisconsin Braille Inc. is that you may order additional books from our composite list. This benefit is

no longer available for non-members. The composite list is found on our website: www.wisbri.org.

"The Branch" by Mireille Messier When a branch from her beloved tree snaps off in an ice storm, a plucky girl refuses to let it be hauled away. Mr. Frank, her neighbor, says "it's full of potential." So with imagination and spirit, they help each other create something new and whole out of the broken branch to be enjoyed once again. For second to fourth graders.

"A Family is a Family is a Family" by Sara O'Leary "What makes a family special?" the teacher asks of her students. Students share descriptions of their families: a mom and a dad, a blended family, a week with dad and a week with mom, two moms or two dads, living with grandma. And when someone asks the narrator's foster mother which are her real children, she responds, "Oh, I don't have any imaginary children. All my children are real." **Print/braille**, for second to fourth graders.

"Garvey's Choice" by Nikki Grimes What if you're not the kid your father wanted? Garvey is a bookworm, an inventor of jokes and a good friend. He loves music and math and learning about outer space. He is not the jock that his Dad wants him to be. Garvey becomes overweight and is taunted by the kids at school. He is faced with making an important decision that could make the difference to getting others—including his father—to see and accept him as he is. This story is written entirely in tanka, a Japanese form of poetry. For readers ages 9-12.

"Hannah and Sugar" by Kate Berube Hannah is afraid of Sugar, a classmate's dog. But one day Sugar goes missing. Will Hannah be able to overcome her fears and make a new friend? **Print/braille**, for first to second graders.

"Home at Last" by Vera B. Williams This is a poignant story about fear, adoption, family and the joy of fatherhood. Lester, the main character is adopted by Daddy Albert and Daddy Rich. He has one big problem -- he can't fall asleep. No matter how happy Lester is during the day, he gets scared and worried at night. There is a touching solution to this problem and ultimately this is a book that demonstrates that all children have a right to belong someplace safe. For ages 4-8.

“Lily’s New Home” and **“Want to Play?”** by Paula Yoo Lily, an African American girl who has lived in a home with a yard, is moving to a New York City apartment. She is uncertain about life in a new neighborhood. Her parents show her parts of it that are just like her old neighborhood, including the library where she finds many familiar books. She also meets a neighbor boy from the apartment next door, Pablo, who also loves to read. In the second book, Lily meets even more new friends who enjoy playing in the park, becoming imaginary explorers. Each book will be **produced in print/braille**. For beginning readers, ages 5-7.

“Mango, Abuela, and Me” by Meg Medina This book received the 2016 Pura Belpré Honor Book Award. Mia isn’t sure what to think when her grandma, Abuela, comes to live with her. She doesn’t know Spanish, and her Abuela doesn’t know English. Their stories show the two distinct cultures and generations. Mango, the parrot is the silent star of the book which is ultimately about the love in this family. The author weaves a few Spanish words and phrases into her English sentences. For ages 5-8.

“More Caps for Sale, Another Tale of Mischievous Monkeys” by Esphyr Slobodkina The original book **Caps for Sale** was published over 75 years ago. This newly published sequel begins where the original left off. Later the same day the peddler starts his walk back home. He does not look back, so, does not notice the monkeys following him. The peddler is about to have another extraordinary adventure! For late first through third grade.

“Out of Wonder—Poems Celebrating Poets” by Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth This award-winning book honors twenty famous poets, ancient to contemporary. The authors write poetry emulating the works of the famous poets with great success. Their aim? To encourage others to find joy in poetry and possibly try creating their own. For readers fourth grade and up.

“School’s First Day of School” by Adam Rex It’s the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary School, and everyone is nervous...especially the school. Written in the first person from the school’s perspective, children will sense the same feelings and misgivings they have had at the start of a school year. For readers in second and third grades.

“Six Dots, A Story of Young Louis Braille” by Jen Bryant This award

winning book describes the early life of Louis Braille for younger readers. The author emphasizes Braille's creativity and celebrates him as a young inventor. He was determined to pursue an education and persevered until he developed a tactile code. For ages 5-8.

"The Sound of All Things" by Myron Uhlberg This book is set in 1930's Brooklyn during a day trip to Coney Island. Drawing on his own childhood memories, the author describes a wonderful day he spent with his deaf parents. His father wants to know how everything sounds, but his son finds this to be a difficult task feeling that he needs more words to describe the sounds. On the way home, they stop at the library and a kind librarian helps the boy discover that there are many, many new words in poems and books that will help him explain the hearing world to his parents. For ages 6-9.

"Spunky Little Monkey" by Bill Martin Jr and Michael Sampson

"Sleepy Little Monkey won't get out of bed.

Mama called the Doctor and the Doctor said

"Apple Juice, Orange Goose, Gooseberry Pies--

Monkey needs some exercise!"

This rhythmic print-braille book has sleepy little monkeys everywhere clapping, stomping, shaking and cheering. Written to be read to children ages 2-5, early readers (grades 1-2) will also enjoy reading this catchy rhyme either alone or with a friend. **Produced as a print/braille book.**

"When Green Becomes Tomatoes—Poems for All Seasons" by Julie Fogliano *"just like a tiny, blue hello/a crocus blooming /in the snow (March 22)"* This book of poetry is a collection of lovely, often playful observations and turns of phrase moving through each season in celebration. Ages 4-8.

"Whoosh—Super Soaking Stream of Inventions" by Chris Barton This is the story of the African-American inventor Lonnie Johnson. As a child, he always loved tinkering and inventing. He made rockets, robots, space probes, but his most famous invention was the Super Soaker. Surprisingly, it was not an immediate success! It took tenacity and dedication to get it produced commercially. This is an inspiring story of innovation and persistence! Ages 7-11.

Please remember to **submit your order by December 15, 2017** at the latest, using the accompanying order form; send it only to the address on the form. You may continue to order print/braille books for early readers in either contracted or uncontracted braille. Books for older readers may be ordered in hard copy braille or e-files. Just indicate your preferences on the order form.

Teachers, please work with your school librarians to make them aware of our project and answer any questions they may have. Likewise, please alert the parents with whom you work about our project, especially those who do not have ready access to school libraries; this group may well include the parents of preschool blind children. You should receive your books in the spring of 2018 before school dismisses for summer vacation. Many thanks for using our service!

Special Book Project Committee Members,

Sandy Adams, Cindy Collins, Mary Ann Damm, Marilyn Harmon, Alison McKee

Email contact: skadams@tds.net

**Wisconsin Braille Inc.
Special Book Project Order Form
Fall, 2017**

Check here if you have ordered from us in the past. _____ Cust. ID (if known) _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

Note: All orders will be sent in hard copy braille unless you indicate that you prefer an e-file. All the books in this collection are produced in UEB.

- _____ **The Branch** by Mireille Messier
- _____ **A Family Is a Family is a Family** by Sara O'Leary (**print/braille**)
- _____ **Garvey's Choice** by Nikki Grimes
- _____ **Hannah and Sugar** by Kate Berube (**print/braille**)
- _____ **Home at Last** by Vera B. Williams
- _____ **Lily's New Home** by Paula Yoo (**print/braille**)
 - _____ Contracted braille
 - _____ Uncontracted braille
- _____ **Mango, Abuela, and Me** by Meg Medina
- _____ **More Caps for Sale, Another Tale of Mischievous Monkeys** by Esphyr Slobodkina
- _____ **Out of Wonder—Poems Celebrating Poets** by Kwame Alexander
- _____ **School's First Day of School** by Adam Rex
- _____ **Six Dots, A Story of Young Louis Braille** by Jen Bryant
- _____ **The Sound of All Things** by Myron Uhlberg
- _____ **Spunky Little Monkey** by Bill Martin Jr and Michael Sampson (**print/braille**)
- _____ **Want to Play?** by Paula Yoo (**print/braille**)
 - _____ Contracted braille
 - _____ Uncontracted braille
- _____ **When Green Becomes Tomatoes—Poems for All Seasons** by Julie Fogliano
- _____ **Whoosh—Super Soaking Stream of Inventions** by Chris Barton

Additional books from previous years: You may order from our composite list if you are a current member or a new member of Wisconsin Braille. (See composite list on our web site: www.wisbrl.org).

Suggestions for next year's collection. (Please request specific titles that are not already done in braille. Thanks!)

By December 15, 2017 send order to this address:

Wisconsin Braille Inc., Membership Chair, 557 Milky Way, Madison, WI 53718
Your order will be forwarded on to the OSCI Braille Program for production.

Please remember, your membership in Wisconsin Braille Inc. will go a long way to help us cover our operating expenses. Many thanks for your consideration!

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds

Review submitted by Cindy Collins

This middle grade fiction novel (for ages 9-12) won the Kirkus Prize, the Schneider Family Book Award and was a Coretta Scott King -- John Steptoe Author Honor Book. It is available in braille.

"Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! They are going because their parents are "having problems" in their marriage and are taking time alone to work on them. The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck, Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he hides it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans). How does he match his clothes? Know where to walk? Cook with a gas stove? Pour a glass of sweet tea without spilling it? Genie thinks Grandpop must be the bravest guy he's ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the house—as in NEVER. And when he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing into—a room so full of songbirds and plants that it's almost as if it's been pulled inside-out—he begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all."

Reynolds gives his readers uncommonly well-developed, complex characters, especially the completely believable Genie and Grandpop, whose stubborn self-sufficiency belies his vulnerability and whose flawed love both Genie and readers will cherish. Endearing, relevant, and enthralling, this novel offers a glimpse into the lives of one family in the lazy days of summer and captures the natural shifting dynamic that occurs in families over time. The boys rely on each other when the grown-up world gets to be too much. Their relationship and Genie's openness help the family to heal long-standing rifts. Author Jason Reynolds is a master storyteller. He creates characters that are so real, readers forget they don't actually know Genie, Ernie, and their grandfather. Reynolds is not afraid to dig into topics others shy away from, yet somehow, in As Brave As You, he balances the weight of those topics with the natural lightheartedness of youth. Genie's character and his observations are funny and insightful and straddle the line between precociousness and typical 11-year-old (mis)understandings.

The story involves some heavy issues including the death of a family member, long-term grief, mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, divorce, and gun use. Learning to shoot a gun is presented as a right of passage in country life, so families should be

prepared to discuss gun safety. This would be a great book for parents and children to read together.

The Braille Corner Braille Order

There are 63 possible combinations of the six dots, excluding the space. Braille order groups these combinations in a table of seven lines according to similar characteristics.

1	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
2	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
3	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
4	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
5	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
6	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥				
7	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥				

Line 1 is formed with characters in the upper part of the cell, using dots 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Line 2 adds dot 3 to each of the characters in Line 1.

Line 3 adds dots 3 and 6 to each of the characters in Line 1.

Line 4 adds dot 6 to each of the characters in Line 1.

Line 5 repeats the dot configurations of Line 1 in the lower part of the cell, using dots 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Line 6 is formed with characters using dots 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Line 7 is formed with characters in the right column of the cell, using dots 4, 5 and 6.

Notice that "w" is at the end of Line 4. It is not used in French, Louis Braille's language, so it was added later. Also our contractions for *and*, *for*, *of*, *the*, and *with* (conveniently in alphabetic order) are used for French accented letters, so they are at the end of the alphabet.

Here are the same braille characters arranged in order and numbered in one long line rather than chart form:

Line 1:	Line 2:	Line 3:	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠	⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠	⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠	
Line 4:	Line 5:	Line 6:	Line 7:
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40	41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50	51 52 53 54 55 56	57 58 59 60 61 62 63
⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠	⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠	⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠	⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

Now you can see that braille order works just like alphabetizing. Think of the alphabet banner around a classroom. ⠠ (38) comes before ⠠ (57), so ⠠ ⠠ (simple right-pointing arrow) would come before ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ (opening transcriber's note indicator). Likewise, a right-pointing angle bracket ⠠ ⠠ would come before an opening transcriber's note indicator because the first cells of these two symbols is the same but in the second cell ⠠ (32) comes before ⠠ (61).

Understanding braille order is not necessary for understanding the UEB code, but knowing something about it is helpful when looking up symbols. The chart doesn't have to be memorized. Just remembering a few generalities is enough to gain some benefit. For instance, if a multi-cell symbol starts with dots that are in the right column of the first cell, you know it's going to come towards the end of a symbols list because those dot configurations, on only the right column of the cell, are in Line 7.

Note, in the following example the dot locator for "mention" is used before each symbol in the list. The dot locator itself is listed first, then all the other symbols are listed in braille order.

Answers to the braille order practice:

1. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
2. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
3. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
4. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
5. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Please Join Us
For Our Next Board Meeting
at the
Alicia Ashman Public Library
733 N. High Point Rd.
Madison, WI 53717
October 21, 2017
From 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in joining Wisconsin Braille, or have not paid your membership this year, please be sure to complete the membership form at the back of this newsletter and mail it to the address listed.

The WISCONSIN BRAILLE newsletter is published three times a year.

Deadlines are: Spring/Summer – April 15, Fall – August 15, Winter – December 15

The purpose of WISCONSIN BRAILLE INC. is to advance communication and coordinate the efforts of all persons concerned with the availability, quality, and distribution of brailled materials in the state of Wisconsin thereby encouraging braille literacy.

The purpose of this newsletter is to disperse information. WISCONSIN BRAILLE INC. does not endorse or vouch for the reliability of any of the persons, organizations, or products appearing in this publication.

This version of the Wisconsin Braille newsletter was prepared by the members of the OSCI Braille Program. It has not been proofread. Readers are encouraged to report noted errors to: Wisconsin Braille Newsletter, Editor, 5745 Bittersweet Place, Madison, WI 53705.