**Braille song. Reading with your fingers.**

**Seb Sloot (Netherlands)**

Braille is a language in itself, that is why it is not easy, but when it works, it’s great.

Up to 7 years, I still read normal letters in black print books with my magnifier.

Braille was great for me in the end, even though I did not exactly race through it.

When I started, I got terribly frustrated but I did learn a lot from it for the rest of my life.

Persevere, persevere, put the dot on the i, persevere, persevere, it’s not so hard.

First it didn’t work, but then it went well, persevere persevere ….. you have to.

At 7 years, I started to learn Braille, first understanding then trying with my hands.

It began with a to z,

Then small words and I just understood.

I continued with ball and bob, then a bit more difficult with flop and klop (knock).

You have to start by feeling, although you don’t understand what they exactly mean.

I put my flat hand over the paper, NO NO that’s not how it goes, I had to go here.

No time to rest even though I was completely tired out.

The reading line didn’t go that fast, even though I tried.

When I was nine years old, it went better, I no longer threw my books into the ashes.

It started with simple tiny books, ‘This is my face, search in all tiny nooks’.

I think around the age of ten I started to SEE the benefits too.

When I was eleven years old real reading started, my teachers didn’t have to worry about books flying around anymore.

Then came the series Broederband, twenty books in the classroom, lying in every corner.

My grades are sometimes still too low, but it’s already getting better. I read book after book about Hal and about Peter.

Braille has brought me very far, I succeeded with an enormous amount of strength.

Braille is now part of my life, I can never give it up again.

Persevere, persevere, put the dot on the i, persevere, persevere, it’s not that difficult.

First it didn’t work, but then it went well, persevere persevere you have to.

So this is the end of my song, I still think Braille’s great, hope you see it the same way.

Bye, bye and good luck with reading, as Braille is always going to be hard for everyone.