**Name**: Jordan MAHONY

**Gender**: Male

**Age**: 20

**Country**: Ireland

**EBU national organisation**: NCBI / ChildVision,

**Words in the original language**: 1010

**LIFE WITH BRAILLE**

By Jordan T. Mahony.

My name is Jordan Mahony and there are a lot of things that people do not know about me.

You may think that I am blind or visually impaired from birth but I am not.

For the first 10 years of my life I had sight.

I had no care in the world because I was spoilt by my mam and my sisters.

I had it all.

I was a very happy child.

But in the end I was told that one day I would go blind.

I still find it hard to believe that I have survived so much being visually impaired.

It is my never ending outlook on life that keeps me going.

I believe that there will be a time where there will be a better world for visually impaired people.

A world where we can all be free.

I have no problems with my life in fact my life is just fine because I am able to still enjoy it, Visual impairment or no visual impairment.

I know that I am still human.

I am still Jordan.

I do not care what people think I can do or what I cannot do.

I have come to terms with my impairment.

I know that there will be a time where I will go blind and you know what I am not afraid.

Besides my friend Michael is blind and he does not let life get in his way.

If he can do it then so can I.

Now let's get to the point.

At age 10 that is when it all changed for me.

I started to learn braille.

Now braille is a series of dots that a person can read by looking at it with their eyes or by reading it with their hands.

For me I could feel the dots with the use of my hands.

Now I had learned to touch type at the time but my visiting teacher Rosaleen just said no that it was time for me to learn braille because I would be quicker at it.

It ooly took me 3 years to learn the entire braille code and after that I was away in a hack.

I have not stopped using braille ever since.

It is the best thing I can do in my life.

It has opened up a world full of endless journeys and roads that only I can take.

It is also a relief because if I did not learn braille I would not be able to read anything else.

I would be in the same situation if braille was not invented either.

Other then auido books I would not be able to read.

So in short I am a very lucky person.

My life is better because I can read braille.

It is not like where I am in a world where I cannot read.

I can read and it fills me with joy.

I am glad that I can read because it keeps me alive.

When I feel braille on a wall or something I know that is braille.

I know that there is a story behind it.

That is what braille means to me.

It is a gift that is very impressive.

I have read many books over the years.

My favourite books are the likes of Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, Vampire Diaries, The City of Bones and X-men.

But for that I have to thank the NCBI which is the National Council for the Blind of Ireland.

They give me my braille and my auido books.

But more importantly they give me the opportunity to let me go into my world and be myself.

I just I love my books.

You may think because we have technology that I would move over to the new way instead of getting big braille books when you can download them.

I don't do that.

Well yes and no.

I read braille books on my braille note which is a device that is similar to a laptop.

But the thing is I would still read the books when they come in the post because I like the feel of the book in my hands.

That is how much attached I am to the use of braille.

Braille has changed so much over the years.

We now have it in the world where you have braille notes and technology that is for the use of visually impaired people.

You can get a braille note touch without much effort.

You can also get braille on your phone if it is an I-phone for example.

That is why braille is important.

It is a language that can be used by us.

It is a special code.

That is why we us use and it is also why we need it.

Which is why I love braille.

The only thing that I wish that could happen is if graphics or comics were in braille.

Then they would be readable for the visually impaired.

It has not been done yet but I think it can be done.

There is no point having a world where the impossible is not made possible.

The world would be well just sad.

I just know that it would be a sad world.

The world is a big place and we should be there to explore it.

To make it a better place then what it already is.

I have a life to live and I will sure as hell not waste it.

I cannot believe that I am a different person then what I used to be.

To go from a sighted person that read print to a visually impaired person that now reads braille.

It is surely a sight to see.

I know that my life with braille and as a visually impaired person has been a journey.

The journey is not over yet it has only really just begun.