

Running Shoes by Frederick Lipp



Running Shoes is the meaningful and touching story about Sophie, a girl who lives in poverty with her mother in a small Cambodian village that does not have a school or a doctor. Sophie wishes to go to school and her wish comes true when the census man from the government gives her a pair of running shoes. Sophie amazes her mother, teacher and fellow classmates, who are all boys, with her determination to run 8 km, to and from school, and with her willingness to arrive early each day in order to learn to read and write.

After hearing this story, students from Grades 4, 5 and 6 (Allen, David and Jun) shared their ideas and opinions on why the author would have written this book. Allen in Grade 4 said that he thought the author “wanted us to be thankful for being able to go to school and experience things such as books and travel that Sophie’s mom, who is uneducated, might never experience.” Allen also thought that the author wanted readers to understand how important it is to be eager and work hard when we want to do something special. Jun in Grade 6 thought that the author’s message is that education is important and that people cannot get a good job without it. When discussing about how boys are chosen to go to school instead of girls in some situations of poverty, David in Grade 5 said that he thought that the author wanted people to know that not all girls have equal rights and that they should have the equal right to attend school.