

Pigs and Pineapples



Slideshow for the story *Pigs and Pineapples*
(GEAR, p. 51)



Sabai-dee! Hello! My name is Hhamphouy. I am ten years old. I live in Sieng Si Village in Laos in a village surrounded by beautiful mountains. I live with my mom, dad, brothers and sister. I have one older brother, Phout, who is 12. My younger brother, Phai, is six. My sister, Phou, is the youngest. She is four years old.



We all live together in a concrete house with a tin roof. There are two bedrooms. My parents sleep in one room and I sleep with my siblings in another room.



For many years, we did not have any animals or many things to grow in our field. My parents didn't have much work to do and couldn't earn any money. Life was very hard. Since then, our life has improved a lot.



World Vision gave us pigs, chicken, fish and pineapple seeds. In the beginning of the project, we received two pigs. Soon, we had 10 pigs! My parents sold five of our pigs to buy a motorbike so we could take our crops to the market more easily.



Life is easier now that we also have a new water supply system. I used to walk 20 minutes to get to the mountain spring, but now I just walk a few metres from my house to the water tap to get water for our family. Soon, our fish will be big enough for my parents to sell. Next year, if we need school supplies, my parents will have the money to buy what my brother and I need to keep going to school.



Right now I am in the second grade and my favourite subject is mathematics. Phout is also in second grade. We hope to be the first in our family to complete primary school. I want to finish primary school and continue to high school. If I complete high school, one day I can find a good job. I want to be a policeman so I can protect people and help our country.



Every morning I wake up at 4 a.m. After I get dressed I make a fire so my mom can steam rice. I also fetch water from the water tap. Then I wash dishes and help clean the house. Once the house is clean, I walk a few minutes down the mountain to feed our pigs, chicken and fish. Then I go back to the house, wash my face and get ready for school.



My parents are both farmers, so they go to the field everyday. They grow pineapples, corn, ginger and rice. When my older brother Phout and I go to school, my parents take my younger siblings to the field with them.

When school finishes at 4 p.m., I go to our family's field to work. Our field is on a hillside close to my house. I bring water to my parents and join my siblings to help clear weeds from the land. Today, my parents are growing lots of pineapples on the hill. I work for about two hours before my family goes home for dinner. On my way back to the house, I feed the pigs and fish again. After dinner, I do my homework then go play with my friends or watch TV. I go to bed around 8 p.m. everyday.





On weekends, I go to the field with my family for the whole day. Usually we leave the house around 7 a.m. and come home at 5:30 p.m., so I don't have much free time. When I do, I like to play football with my friends.



These days my parents have a lot of things to do to help them earn money so they can buy the things my family needs, especially food and clothes. Even though I am very busy and tired at the end of each day, I know that life is better than it was before.