

A School Life

Building schools for the children of Pakistan, Greg Mortenson helps with education one school at a time. Everyone works together. The children help, and so do the locals and the people in Greg's group. From the ground up, higher and higher, the schools rise every day. Listen to the Wind is about a school in Pakistan built for the children, written by Susan L. Roth and Greg Mortenson himself. Susan is clearly very good at collages, because the pages of the book are covered in them. If I were Nancy Pearl, I would choose Listen to the Wind as the book for my blog post because it shows the importance of having a school and teachers you can depend on to be there for you to learn.

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to go to school. But in many places in the world, people can't go to school, like in Pakistan, where the topic of my blog-post book, Listen to the Wind, takes place. Not many people go to school in Pakistan, for different reasons. They might not have enough money. Maybe they don't have a teacher to teach them, or they might just not have a school to go to. Pakistan doesn't have a lot of schools, but they do have some private schools that cost a lot of money to attend to.

"We are the children of Korphe. Can you hear our voices? Listen to the wind..." The children in this book live in Korphe, Pakistan, high up in the mountains. They rarely get visitors,

until one day an American stumbled into their village. He did not look well. They fed him, and gave him a warm place to sleep. He said his name was Greg Mortenson, and that he was very grateful for the villagers' hospitality. He asked Hagi Ali, the wise man, what he could do for them in return. "Listen to the wind," Hagi Ali said. Greg did, and heard children's voices. He realized they needed a school! He gladly embraced the idea of building one, but first he had to go back to America. A year later, he returned to Korphe, and the project started.

Children go to school Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, with Saturday and Sunday as days off. Occasionally, there will be an early dismissal, or a no-school day. And in the summer, we have summer-break, for about two months. That's a normal school life for many people in many places. But I realize that some people don't get that privilege. Everybody should be treated equally, and that means everybody should be able to go to school.

I think Listen to the Wind is probably best for preschool to second-graders, but sometimes I still read it. It's a great book and a true story, about Greg and the school that people worked together to build. It is about an issue we have in our world, that not everybody gets to go to school, and it shows how a little team-work can solve a problem.

Bibliography

Mortenson, Greg, and Susan L. Roth. Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea. New York: Dial for Young Readers, 2009.

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