

TEACHER GUIDE: SOKHA FROM CAMBODIA

Summary of Sokha’s Film Chapter

Sokha was a Cambodian child of the dump: orphaned and forced to pick through garbage to survive. But through a series of fortunate events, Sokha finds her way to school and, like a phoenix, she rises to become a star student on the brink of a once unimaginable future. “This is not the end. It is the beginning.”

Note to Teachers

Sokha’s chapter focuses on the issues of poverty, access to education, and the plight of orphans in developing countries. Students are encouraged to examine the negative aspects of Sokha’s childhood, and to explore the positive influences in her life.

Curriculum and Resources Related to Sokha’s Chapter

- Sokha’s film chapter
- Introductory Lesson (below)
- Film Viewing Guide (below)
- Country Fact Sheet: Cambodia (below)
- Relevant Issue Fact Sheet:
 - Orphans
- Project-Based Lessons (all are applicable to Sokha’s chapter)
 - Consumer Impact: How Our \$ Can Make a Difference
 - Display the Numbers: Creating Public Art
 - Supporting a Revolution
 - United Nations \$100 Million Grant
 - What’s Working: The Impact of NGOs
 - What is Freedom?
- Take Action Guide (found in the Supplemental Materials section)
- Additional Resources Guide (Found in the Supplemental Materials section.)

Introducing the Film

Students will begin to learn about the challenges faced by girls living in developing countries, and they’ll discover how some are overcoming the barriers and obtaining an education.

Time Needed

One class period; 50 minutes

Materials

- Sokha’s film chapter
- A copy of the Film Chapter Viewing Guide (below) for each student
- Map/globe

Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.



Ideas for Introducing Sokha's Story to Students

- Locate Cambodia on a map or globe.
- Break the class into small groups and have each group describe what they believe life is like in Cambodia.
- Ask small groups to create a graphic depicting who they believe is responsible for caring for orphans. For example: In most cultures, parents are primary caregivers. If parents are unable to care for their children, should extended family (grandparents, aunts/uncles) take responsibility? Would the next option be a charity organization?

For an update on Sokha go to

<https://vimeo.com/260843066>

Watching the Film

- Using the Viewing Guide below, ask students to answer the Before You Watch questions prior to watching the film.
- Encourage students to use the space provided in the While You Are Watching section for any notes, comments, or questions that they have as they watch the film.
- After viewing the film, students should complete the Reflection section. Students can answer these questions on their own, or you may opt for a class discussion around them.
- Encourage students to answer the final question, "What are you interested in learning more about?" Consider student answers when choosing which Project-Based Lesson(s) you will use.

FILM VIEWING GUIDE: SOKHA FROM CAMBODIA

Before You Watch: Before you meet Sokha and learn about her experience, take a few minutes to answer the following questions.

1. How many girls do you believe are currently out of school around the world? 5 million, 27 million, or over 130 million?
2. Who do you believe has the responsibility to help children who are orphaned?
3. Who helps you with our schoolwork? How do they help? (Think about all aspects of your day, including waking up on time, getting dressed, eating breakfast, getting to school, lunch, after-school, homework, and so on.)

While You Are Watching: Record your thoughts, impressions, and questions as you watch Sokha's story.

Reflection: Now that you have had the opportunity to learn about Sokha, answer the following questions:

1. In what ways will going to school change Sokha's future?
2. What are some ways people could help children living in the dumps of Cambodia?
3. Why do you feel it was important for the film's director to share Sokha's story?
4. How have your views changed? What new information had the greatest impact on you?
5. What are you interested in learning more about?