

a long way to get to the school. In school there is no indoor plumbing or electricity. We have to use cloth put in the oil can and a match to light it if it's a dark day. If it's a sunny day we open the window. When it's time to go to recess we go home and eat rice and come back to school. We stay in school until five o'clock in the evening. When we get out of school we have to walk home again.



At night my family of seven people sleeps on two mats. We don't have beds to sleep on, that's why we have to sleep on the mat. In Cambodia when we go to sleep we have to clean our feet first before we go to sleep. That's our culture. We don't have to wash our face or hands or teeth but we must wash our feet.

My house has only two rooms. One room's for cooking and eating and the other room is for sleeping. We don't have any furniture in our house—no table, no chairs, just mats and a small wood-burning stove to cook on. My mother also has cooking utensils like pots, pans, eight dishes and eight spoons, chopsticks but no forks. It is the custom to sit in a circle on the floor to eat our meals in Cambodia.

We don't wear pajamas to sleep. Mother, father, and girls wear sarongs, and boys wear shorts.

*Lay Yan, 13,
Lowell, Massachusetts
illustrated by the author*

