

Sopiline Soun - Grade 6 Chapter ESL - Age 13 - June 1989

How I Feel Being
A Cambodian Immigrant / Refugee
in the United States

When I first came to the United States I felt strange. Everything and everybody looked strange. I had lived in a Cambodian village. I saw a lot of different people, and a lot of houses, stores, and cars. People talked a language I couldn't understand. I felt scared when I rode on the elevator. When I first started school I didn't know how to speak English and all the students were looking at me. The climate here is cold and hot. I was not used to cold weather. I like warm climate better than cold. When I first saw T.V I didn't like cartoons. Later on I got to like them very much. When I went to the hospital I was scared. The doctor gave me a shot in the arm with a needle, I cried. I had never been in a hospital or seen a doctor ever. People also dressed quite differently. Very often I see women wearing shorts and sleeveless blouses. In Cambodia women are much too shy.

