

Little Princes

One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal

By Conor Grennan

Freshman Connections Common Reader 2013 – 2014

Background Information

Information below is adapted from a variety of sources. Follow the links to learn more!

“In search of adventure, 29-year-old Conor Grennan traded his day job for a year-long trip around the globe, a journey that began with a three-month stint volunteering at the Little Princes Orphanage in war-torn Nepal. What began as a game became a passionate commitment that would transform the young American and the lives of countless others.” (<http://www.amazon.com/Little-Princes-Promise-Bring-Children/dp/0061930067>)

“Conor is a citizen of the U.S. and Ireland and a graduate of the University of Virginia and the NYU Stern School of Business, where he served as president of the student body. He is the President and Founder of Next Generation Nepal, and the author of the New York Times and #1 international bestselling memoir [Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal](#), which has been translated into twelve languages so far and has received a bunch of pretty cool awards. He is also a highly requested motivational speaker at universities and corporations (to the constant bewilderment of his wife and children) and he was named a Huffington Post Game Changer of the Year in 2011” (<http://conorgrennan.com/about/>).

Little Princes is the powerful story about finding a way to make positive change in the face of the most selfish efforts of others. It is a true story that is both heartbreaking and hopeful. You will meet children that you will not forget and maybe even feel inspired to create change in little and big ways.

One can make a difference – what will you do?
If you would like to help with the Next Generation Nepal movement, please see the following link.
(<http://conorgrennan.com/next-generation-nepal/>)

Materials compiled by Adi Angel, Michael Daehn, Lory King, Richard Leigh, Keri Rodgers and Melinda Messineo



Author Conor Grennan

About the Author

Conor lives with his wife Liz and his son Finn and his daughter Lucy in Los Angeles, California. <http://conorgrennan.com/about/>

Other Contributions

“Conor Grennan, author of the memoir Little Princes, spent eight years at the EastWest Institute (EWI), both in Prague and the EU Office in Brussels, where he served as Deputy Director for the Security and Governance Program.

At the East/West Institute, Conor developed and managed a wide variety of projects focusing on issues such as peace and reconciliation in the Balkans, community development in Central Eastern Europe, and harmonizing anti-trafficking policy at the highest levels of government in the European Union and the former Yugoslavia.”

(<http://www.harpercollins.com/author/microsite/about.aspx?authorid=36296>)

Little Princes - Sample Discussion Questions

1. Do the photographs selected for the book help you empathize with the people identified in the text? Do the photographs reveal anything not revealed in Grennan's writing? The images of his trip are bound into the center of the book. Do you believe that the placement of these images is effective in conveying a message?
2. Throughout the book, Conor Grennan presents himself as a thoroughly average person. Do you think this is accurate?
3. What skills & attitudes does Conor Grennan possess that helped him to be successful in Nepal?
4. How important do you think Conor Grennan's support system (family, friends, fellow U. of Virginia alumni, etc.) were to his success in Nepal?
5. Who do you believe is the audience for Conor Grennan's book? Why? Does the tone of Grennan's writing change at any points in the text?
6. Do you support Conor Grennan's artistic decision to write an autobiography about his experiences in Nepal as opposed to a "straight" non-fiction book about the issues he encountered in Nepal?
7. What are the risks when someone writes about their own experiences? What are the benefits of using this genre?
8. Do you support Conor Grennan's decision to ultimately leave Nepal and continue his work from the United States?
9. If Conor Grennan had not visited the Little Princes orphanage in Nepal, how do you think his life would be different?
10. How might Connor Grennan's attitude prior to his experience in Nepal have set him up for success or failure? Did he have to change in order to be successful?
11. Connor Grennan talks about adapting to the different culture and traditions of Nepal. How might your own experiences prepare you for adapting to new situations?
12. Grennan explains: "it is Nepalese custom to call men 'brother' and women 'sister.'" How might using this form of identification change the way people interact with one another? Do you have any non-relatives that you consider and refer to as family? Would you greet a stranger as "brother" or "sister"?
13. What skills are necessary for someone to begin the kind of work that Connor Grennan begins in the book? Does someone need to possess these skills in order to volunteer to help others?
14. Are the lessons Grennan learned applicable to your local community? Would you consider getting involved with a children's organization in Muncie? How might you get involved?
15. How would the major or minor you are considering relate to the themes in the text?

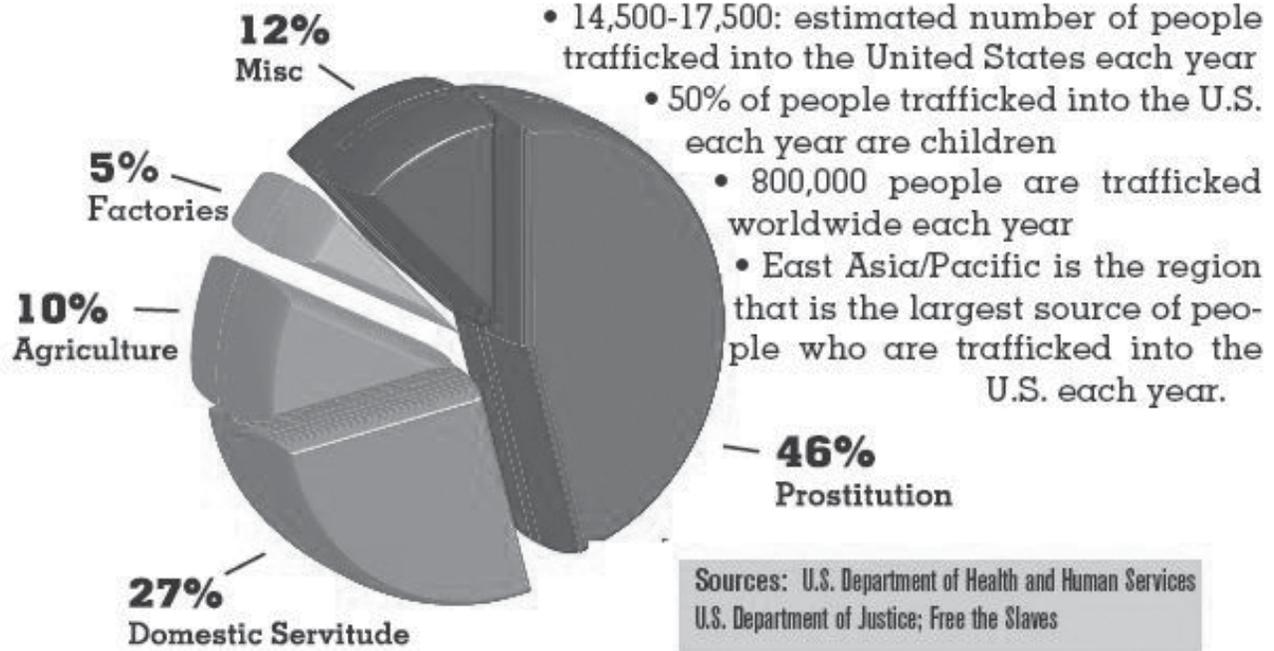
Questions for Discussion from Author's Website

<http://conorgrennan.com/little-princes/reading-guide/>

1. In your opinion, what was it about these children that touched Conor so deeply? Were you moved by their plight? What about the increasing number of children growing up in poverty in America? Do you see these children in the same way, or do you see their situations differently?
2. How did Golkka, the man who trafficked many of these children, get away with his nefarious practices for so long? Human trafficking has become a worldwide problem, affecting millions. Why has it flourished and what steps might help stop it? How might you play a role? Would you consider doing so? Why or why not?
3. Do you empathize with the parents of the Little Princes children and others? Do you understand why they gave their children up? What might you do given similar circumstances?
4. What lessons did you take away from reading Little Princes?

Little Princes - Additional Resources

The Difference that One Can Make Ways to Fight Human Trafficking



Educating Yourself about the Facts

Do you know the cause and consequences of human trafficking?

www.endhumantraffickingnow.com/?page_id=113

Purchase with an Eye Toward Prevention

Purchasing Fair Trade items can reduce the economic conditions that promote trafficking. Many agencies also sell products crafted by survivors to provide economic opportunity.

www.polarisproject.org/

Be a Mentor

Many children fall into trafficking because they are vulnerable and see no other options.

www.mentoring.org/

Support Local Service Providers

Here are ways to help organizations who are reaching out to those in need

<http://iwp.legalmomentum.org/reference/service-providers-directory>

Choose Your Words Carefully

Using words like “pimp” and “prostitute” as everyday terms can normalize the way we think about these power differences.

www.againstourwill.org/how-to-talk-about-it

Get Trained

Take the FBI Human Traffic Awareness training for individuals. It takes just 5 minutes.

www.dhs.gov/human-trafficking-awareness-training#1

Ways to Get Involved in Muncie and at Ball State University

Student Voluntary Services

<http://cms.bsu.edu/CampusLife/SVS.aspx/>

FREE THE SLAVES-BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

PROJECT LEADERSHIP



Little Princes - Two Summer Assignments

#1 Discussion Group Preparation Assignment:

You will need to complete these questions as preparation for the book discussion groups on Sunday, August 18, 2013. One or more of these questions may be used to guide your discussion.

1. Log onto the webpage for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at www.missingkids.com/home. What is the “Take 25” program? What are the strengths and weaknesses of initiatives of this type? Be prepared to talk about this and the “Hours Challenge.”
2. What is IPATH? Using evidence from this site (www.indianaagainstrafficking.org/the-laws/), what can you determine are the primary causes of human trafficking in states like Indiana? How can community members get involved?
3. Conor Grennan started Next Generation Nepal. What are the three emphases of the program’s approach to the challenges facing Nepal (www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Our_Approach/)?
4. The author will be on campus on Tuesday, September 10th and will present at 7:30pm in Emens auditorium. What question would you like to ask him?

#2 Common Writing Experience Essay Assignment:

Once you’ve finished reading the book, log on to the Freshman Common Writing Experience Site at <http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/FreshmanConnections/WritingExp.aspx> to learn more about the essay.

You will then log in to the InQsit section of the Ball State University website at www.bsu.edu/inqsit/ at any time beginning July 15 and before August 15. When you log in, enter “Freshman Connections” into the box and click on “Students and Respondents” you will receive a prompt asking you to compose an essay on one of two specific questions, ideas, or issues raised by the book. You will have two hours to complete the essay, so be sure that you have sufficient time and are ready to write when you log in. This data may be used for assessment purposes and will not affect your course placement. All students participating in Freshman Connections Common Reading Program are expected to complete this assignment, regardless of current placement in the Writing Program or prior credit (AP, dual-credit, transfer, or other) for one or more Writing Program courses; if you’ve received such credit, you will still receive credit for those courses.

If you have any questions please e-mail us at Freshmanconn@bsu.edu.