

CHILD LABOR AROUND THE WORLD

Today, more than 250 million children between the ages of 5 to 14 work. Of those, more than 80 million labor in terrible conditions.

Desperate to help their families survive, these children often labor from sunrise to sunset just for a few cents a day. Some kids are sold into slavery to pay off family debts and work for months or years, without receiving a single cent.

People think such abuse only happens in developing countries, but many children in the United States work illegally. Officials estimate that more than 150,000 children work in US farms.

Jitti's story

Jitti Tumrin, 13, arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, from his northern village a few months ago to work in a leather factory. From the day he arrived, Jitti has worked 11 to 14 hours a day, with two days off every month. His job is to glue pre-cut pieces of leather together. For his efforts, he receives \$45 a month but \$16 go to a middleman.

The glue fumes give him headaches and he dislikes the work but Jitti seems to have resigned to his fate. Laws exist to protect him from this sort of exploitation.

"I don't know what else to do!" he says in his native Thai. Knowing that his parents depend on his earnings, he says, "I can't disappoint my parents and tell them the truth that I am very unhappy." Although he hates his job, he can't quit because his family depends on his salary.

Reported by Mikel Flamm

Adapted from www.freethechildren.org/campaign

Vocabulary:

leather: *cuir*

headaches: *maux de tête*

fate: *destin*

although: *bien que*

QUESTIONS

I) Retrouvez dans le texte les mots qui signifient: (2)

- a) vapeurs de colle :
- b) un intermédiaire :
- c) jours de congé :
- d) décevoir :

II) Dites si les affirmations suivantes sont vraies (right) ou fausses (wrong). Justifiez toutes les réponses en citant le texte. (4)

	right	wrong
a) Some children must work to pay their parents' debts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Child labor only exists in developing countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Jitti works five days a week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Jitti has decided to stop working in the leather factory.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III) Répondez en anglais aux questions suivantes. Faites des phrases complètes (4)

- a) Where is Jitti from?
.....
- b) How many hours a day does he work?
.....
- c) how much does he earn?
.....
- d) Does he work in good conditions? Why?
.....

IV) Complétez le paragraphe sur Jitti en utilisant les modaux suivants: MUST, CAN, CAN'T, SHOULD (4) (Chaque modal ne peut être utilisé qu'une seule fois)

Jitti _____ play like other children because he _____ work to support his family. He _____ see his parents two days a month. Everybody _____ fight against child labor and stop buying products made by children.

V) Complétez les phrases suivantes à l'aide de l'un de ces mots: AFTER, AT, FOR, FROM, IN, ON, OUT, TO (2)

- a) Jitty works _____ 7am _____ 9pm every day.
b) Thanks to his salary, he can pay _____ his parents' debts.
c) because he isn't at home during the day, he can't look _____ his brothers and sisters.

VI) A partir de la fiche d'identité suivante, rédigez un paragraphe d'environ 50 mots sur la vie de Jose. (4)

SURNAME: MARQUEZ

First name: Jose

Age: 12

Native country: Mexico

Family: no father, 8 brothers and sisters

Job: miner

Working hours: 3am - 1pm

Working conditions: dirty job, wet, dark, dangerous

Salary: \$8 a week