



Read the Following Excerpt and Answer the Questions at the End

by Kiersten from New Jersey, adapted with permission from The MY HERO Project

Alexander Graham Bell, an inventor, once emphasized, "When one door closes another door opens, but we look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones which open for us." But most heroes are those who look beyond that closed door because they are strong, determined, and open-minded. A hero is a great role model and an extraordinary person. Heroes do amazing deeds for the world and they never give up. A Cambodian hero is the great author and lecturer Loung Ung.

The brave Loung was born in 1970 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. When Loung was five she was forced to move to the countryside, and by the time she was eight her parents and two of her siblings had been killed by the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian Communists, and she was forced to be a child soldier. She and her brother escaped to Thailand and then to the U.S. Loung had a hard life and that is why she speaks against landmines, war, forcing children to become child soldiers, and domestic violence....

The beautiful Loung Ung has some terrific qualities of a hero. She is brave, caring, and unselfish. Loung is definitely brave because she ran away to Thailand with just her brother by her side. She is caring because she came back to Cambodia to make sure her family and friends were unharmed. Loung is unselfish because she cares about everyone before herself... Loung never gives up. She just keeps trying and trying for a better life. Loung Ung is not only a great person, but she is a terrific hero.

Answer the Questions Below

1. What is one thing that the inventor of the telephone said?
2. Where is Loung Ung from?
3. What did the Khmer Rouge army do to her family?
4. What was she forced to become?
5. What are two countries she escaped to?
6. If you need to escape from your school where will you go?
7. What does Loung Ung speak against?
8. What things do you speak against?
9. What kinds of qualities does Loung Ung have?
10. How is Loung Ung unselfish?
11. What kind of qualities do you have?
12. Loung Ung keeps trying for a better life; how are you trying for a better life?

