

All for Cheap Shoes

By Ben, 6th grade

Over the course of the time,
we have studied child labor.
I learned
A lot
Of things I didn't know.
Where child labor is,
What it is like to be
In a debate rooting for child labor,
To see the toil of a child in a big factory
Being denied the freedom of being a child everyday.

I learned that even in America there is child labor
And that people abuse the fact that children are obedient and
that you can pay them low wages for a high amount of work
all because their parents cannot pay to put food on the table.

I learned of the sadness of a child worker who is unable to
Play in the summer
Or be with their friends,
But work in a factory
From four to four
Making our clothes,
Our rugs,
Our household appliances.

Finally, it is all because of
poverty
in some areas of the world,
which we Americans exploit *to get shoes for three dollars less.*

Because there isn't enough money in these places,
These
Children
Are sick
With some disease
And dying
All for cheap shoes,
A new soccer ball,
A new paintbrush.

And the more we buy,
The more children are taken in,
Made to work,

Just so we can have the things we want for less.

These children are crying out to us saying help...help!

We don't answer.

We can't hear.

Or no one cares.

All for cheap shoes.