

## **The Fastest Boy in the World – Elizabeth Laird**

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My fellow classmates, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a very emotional, heart-touching and inspiring book called “The Fastest Boy in the World” by Elizabeth Laird. I highly recommend this book as the story is entrancing from start to finish because it plays with your emotions. One moment you are grinning and the next you are tearing up and struggling to read the next sentence.

You and I have dreams and ambitions in life. We have hopes and yearn to succeed in what we do. But can you imagine how difficult it is to make your dreams a reality when you are so poor that you can’t even afford decent clothes and a pair of shoes?

The main protagonist, Solomon, is a poor, young Ethiopian boy who lives in a small village with his family. He has a passion for running and his dream is to become a runner for the Olympic team. When Solomon said “In my dreams, I’m always running, running, running.” that shows that he loves nothing more than to run.

Solomon accompanies his grandfather on a long journey to Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. They are on a mission to recover a mysterious treasure. Solomon encounters the unexpected, finds out a family secret but when his grandfather collapses he must tell his family back home. The bus, his only means of getting home breaks down four miles down the road. With twenty miles left, he gets up and runs.

Imagine yourself running; just running for miles and miles knowing that if you stopped, someone you love could die. Through great aches in his legs and pains in his lungs, he hears his grandfather’s voice in his head telling him “Run, boy. Keep your pace. Steady now. Run.”

This book teaches us how to persevere and carry on dreaming. We learn that determination is the key to fulfilling our dreams. The message that the author tries to bring out is for us to have hope and never give up even in times of difficulties.

So can Solomon outrun the bus home while his grandfather’s life hangs on a thread? You must read to find out!