

## LITTLE STORIES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE

### HOW "BABY" BECAME A MONITOR

by Aunt Julia

**B** EING the youngest child, Flery had always been called "Baby". She liked the name and she wanted to be treated like a baby. When Mother gave her some work, Father would say,

"Baby is too young. Let your older daughter do it."

When Brother refused to lend Baby his toys, Grandmother would say,

"Let Baby have your toys for a while."

When Sister asked Baby to hand her anything, Baby would answer,

"I cannot reach it." Or, "I don't know anything about it."

So at home Baby was helpless and useless.

When Flery was five, she was taken to the kindergarten. Her teacher called her Baby. The children called her Baby.

The teacher said,

"Children, I have many things to do. I need a helper. I want somebody to arrange the chairs. She will put out the toys and the blocks. She will report to me the names of the absent children. Who can help me?"

The children raised their hands. Flery raised her hand too. The teacher smiled,

"No, Baby, you will not do. You are too small."

Celia, Flery's friend, was chosen. She learned the other children's names. She helped the teacher put away the blocks and other toys.

Flery watched Celia. She, too, wanted to be a monitor. She wanted to help the

teacher. She said to herself,

"I am not a baby. I am big. I am five years old."

Before the children went

home on Friday, the teacher said,

"Celia is a good monitor. Next week I shall have another monitor. I want a girl who knows how to work."

The next day, Flery got up early. She folded her sheet neatly. She rolled up her mat. She put away her bedding. When her mother awoke, she found Flery's bed empty. She went to the kitchen calling,

"Baby, Baby, where are you?"

Mother found Flery helping the servant prepare the breakfast.

"Baby, what are you doing?" Mother asked in surprise.

"Mother, please call me Flery. Don't call me Baby. I am big. I can work."

Flery was busy the whole morning. She dusted the furniture. When she could not reach the tops of tables

and wardrobes, she stood on a chair. She even rubbed the floor with coconut husk. Father was surprised. Grandmother was glad. Mother was very proud. She said,

"Baby, I mean Flery, is the best worker in this house."

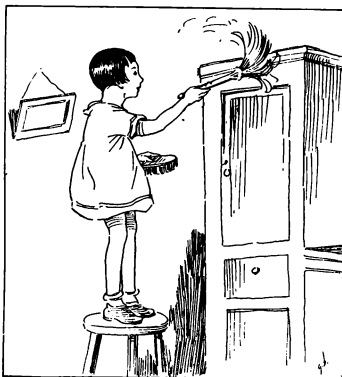
The following Monday, Mother took Flery to the kindergarten. She tried to hold Flery by the hand. Flery said,

"No, Mother, you need not hold me. I shall keep on the sidewalk."

Mother had a talk with the kindergarten teacher before she went home. When the class began, the teacher said,

"I shall choose the new monitor."

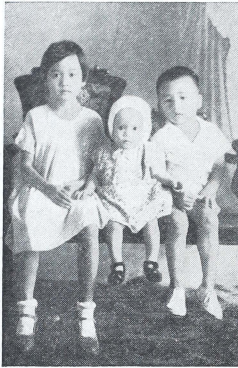
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# Meet Some of Our Readers

## PEN AND PENCIL

(Continued from page 155)



Puring Semilla and brothers, Santa Ana, Manila.



Sylvia Lim, Lourdes Hilado, Ada Rodriguez, Lito Manzano, and Glorin Aveilla.

I was so happy that I jumped for joy because that was my first chance to go fishing. I took my hook and line. I got a pail of water and I began to fish by myself. Just then my hook and line became very heavy. I was frightened so I told my cousin that it was heavy. Then my cousin said, "Pull! Pull the line and be sure to hold it tightly." So I began to pull the string. Just then I was awakened by the fierce wind that was blowing very hard. I opened my eyes and found out that it was only a dream and that I was pulling the braided hair of our servant.

By REMEDIOS HERNANDEZ  
VI-A Rizal Elem. School, Manila

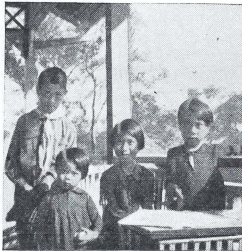


Nora Cruz and her baby sister. (See her contribution on p. 154.)

### AN ENJOYABLE PICNIC

One summer vacation we went to a hill in Angat. A teacher invited us to a summer house shaded by mango and duhat trees. There we had a picnic. What attracted me most were the mango trees laden with fruit. After breakfast, our hostess took us down to gather clusters of mangoes and sweet duhat as big as the tiny guavas. Two men climbed the duhat tree. When they shook the branches, the luscious berries rained on us. We started for home at eleven o'clock. We were very tired, but happy.

By ARACELI CINCO  
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Mateo, Purita, Consejo, and Lourdes Arizabal of Baguio.

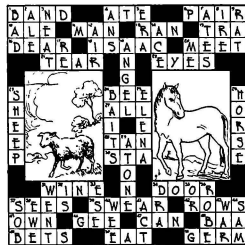
### HOW "BABY"

(Continued from page 141)

The children raised their hands. Flery raised her hand, too. "I shall have Flery this time," the teacher said. "Her mother says Flery works hard at home." Flery was a better monitor than Celia. She helped the other children with their work. She led them in their games.

The teacher called her Flery. The children called her Flery. She did not answer when she was called "Baby".

### SOLUTION TO CROSS-WORD PUZZLE OF JUNE ISSUE



### VACATION DAYS ARE OVER

I was suddenly awakened by the ringing of our clock. I opened my eyes and rubbed them. I stretched my body. I did not want to go away from my cozy bed. I have had a nice place in my bed. I wanted to sleep some more but I knew that I would be late in the class. My breakfast was hurriedly eaten. As I dressed for school, I felt sad for vacation is now over.

By AGRIPINA RUBIN  
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