

## WHY JOSE GOT THE HIGHEST AVERAGE

By ADRIANO VILLANUEVA •

THE CHILDREN in Five-One were excited. Their teacher was distributing their report cards.

"I am happy to tell you," announced Mr. Lopez, "that Jose Cruz got the highest average, and Alfredo Reyes the second. Jose made ninety per cent and Alfredo eighty-seven."

The children clapped their hands for their two fortunate classmates. Jose was very happy, but Alfredo was not. When he found that Jose had made a higher average than his, he was disappointed. In their examinations he had made as good grades as Jose. He did not understand it.

"There must be some mistake," he thought. "I think I should have received the same average as Jose."

He decided to ask Mr. Lopez. There was nothing to lose, he thought to himself.

So he waited that afternoon and helped the cleaners. As soon as the room was cleaned, the other boys went home. Alfredo remained. Mr. Lopez saw him alone.

"Why don't you go home, Alfredo?" he inquired. "Is there something you wish to talk to me about?"

"Yes, sir," Alfredo answered timidly. "Please tell me what to do so I may get an average as high as Jose receives."

"All right," said Mr. Lopez. "I am always ready to help boys who want to help themselves. Come with me, Alfredo, and I will tell you."

They went to a window overlooking

the back yard of the school.

"Do you see that very clean spot over there? Whose is that?" asked Mr. Lopez.

"Jose's, sir," answered Alfredo.

"Look at this health chart on the wall. Who is the pupil whose record shows the cleanest clothing and the neatest personal appearance?"

"Jose's, sir," answered Alfredo again.

"Last Monday I told all the boys in the class to bring *bolos*. Who was the only boy who did not forget?"

"Jose, sir."

"When there are pieces of paper on the floor or in the yard, who picks them up?"

"Jose, sir."

"Who told him to pick up the pieces of paper?" inquired Mr. Lopez.

"Nobody, sir," Alfredo answered.

"When I am out of the room, do you ever hear Jose talking or moving noisily in the room?"

"Never, sir."

"What does he do when his teacher is away?"

"He studies quietly, sir."

"That, Alfredo, is the secret of Jose's success. He is not only a good pupil, but he is also a good citizen in our school. That is why Jose got the highest average."

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

1. Was there a good reason why Jose got the highest average?
2. What were some of the things Jose did which Mr. Lopez liked?
3. What similar things could you do

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\* San Manuel Elementary School, San Manuel, Tarlac.

# HOW A PYTHON KILLED A BULL

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crush the bones; the preparation of the food is done by the terrifically powerful body.

The python began at the front part of the bull's carcass and moved toward the back, crushing all the bones as it did so. It was a terrible sight. It took the reptile more than half an hour to get the body of the bull ready for swallowing. Then it dragged the carcass away into the jungle.

All this time my three dogs had stood behind me paralyzed by fear. When I continued my hike, they followed so near to me that they even touched my boots several times.

A few days later three natives came to our farm house and offered me the skin of the python. They had found the reptile in the act of swallowing the bull's body. The snake had swallowed most of the carcass, but was unable to get the head down—the head was sticking out of the python's mouth. The enormous reptile was helpless in this position, and it was easy for the natives to kill it with their long spears.

For a long time I kept

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in your school?

4. Was Jose acquiring some good habits?

5. Do you know any boys like Jose?

6. Do you know any boys not like Jose?

7. Has this story helped you? How?

8. What kind of man do you think Jose will become?

the skin of the python, which was a little more than twenty-four feet in length. But finally I gave it away, because every time I looked at it, I was reminded of that terrible struggle of life and death between the mighty king of the reptiles and the helpless jungle bull.

# REVIEW

1. What is a python? (See the encyclopedia.)

2. Find Mount Elgon on the map.

3. Find Uganda on the map.

4. What is a *safari*?

5. What are some of the wild animals found in this part of East Africa?

6. Tell about each.

# KAPTAIN KIDD GOES TO SCHOOL

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every day?" I accusingly inquired.

There were many grave shakings of heads. A cat must come to school if he wishes to know h-ow!

But next day Kaptain Kidd walked right in with the sunshine, his tail electric, upstanding with joy. He wound the gyrating tail among many little legs and even braved the teacher's ankles. Patted by velvet hands, he promenaded the aisles.

Yes, Kaptain Kidd was back, ready to be petted, have a bite to eat, perhaps to learn h-ow, and incidentally to listen at that interesting mouse-hole behind the teacher's desk, hoping to hear a minute squeak there. After all, to listen thus is his accomplishment, the one thing he knows best. And his way of knowing h-ow was never taught in any school. That's the great advantage of being a cat.

# QUESTIONS

1. Do you like this story?

2. Has your school a cat pupil like Kaptain Kidd? (Perhaps your teacher will permit you to bring one if he is nice and clean and well behaved.)

(Please turn to page 77.)