

THE BIG BROTHER

By Mrs. JULIANA C. PINEDA

“TATAY! Tatay!!” The screams of ten-year-old Pacita rang through the entire house as she rushed from room to room in search of her indulgent father. She found him buried in his books as usual, scraps of scratch paper thrown carelessly on the desk and on the floor.

“Tatay!” She sobbed as she threw herself on her father’s lap. “‘Kuya’ slapped me on the head for the third time to-day.”

“Oh, my darling, my pet, my little kitten,” the kind father murmured as he stroked the girl’s head.

Those words of endearment were enough to quiet Pacita and stop her tears. All her troubles were forgotten, all her wounds were healed by those words which her father reserved only for his favorite daughter. After a while, the girl straightened herself up, gave her father a light kiss on the shiny spot of his head, and ran out of the room in good spirits.

Like most brothers and sisters, Abelardo and Pacita teased, quarreled, and fought with each other many times during the day. They started an argument on anything. Abelardo, a boy and the first-born at that, regarded himself superior to all his brothers and sisters in every way. He was the bravest and strongest. He knew the most. He, therefore, claimed the best



of everything. He looked upon his sister Pacita, the eldest girl, as one who should wait on him, do his bidding, and receive a slap or two when he was in an ugly temper. Of course, he had a right to “boss” his brothers and sisters. Was he not a member of the graduating class of the Mabuhay Elementary School? He was a star indoor baseball player and a contributor to the school paper.

“Well, what did you gain out of reporting me to Father?” Abelardo greeted Pacita sneeringly as she went downstairs to resume playing “piko” with her friend Caridad.

“Father will spank you when you go upstairs.”

“Oh, yes? That is what you always say, but Father never does. I am older than you. You must always mind me. Or, you will get a beating every time you don’t.”

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THE BIG BROTHER

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As Caridad handed to Pacita her "pamató," she remarked,

"Your 'Kuya' is very cruel. I am glad I am the oldest in our family."

"Well, Chary, I don't know. Perhaps I would not like to be the oldest. My mother says the oldest will have to fight many times for the younger."

"Then your 'Kuya' is just practicing his fists on you."

"May be." And Pacita lost herself again in the game.

That afternoon the Mabuhay indoor baseball team played against a visiting team and gave the latter a sound licking. Pacita was among the crowd of spectators. Her heart leaped with pride as Abelardo sent the ball flying over the fence. It stood still as she followed the figure of her brother speeding toward the home base. Tears ran down her cheeks when her "Kuya" won the game for the home team.

Pacita elbowed her way out of the crowd to carry the good news to her father. As she was squeezing herself through the crowded gate, she heard her brother's name mentioned. A member of the visiting team referred to Abelardo as an "empty-headed braggart."

Facing the speaker, Pacita slowly but forcefully said: "Whoever says that about my brother is himself the empty-headed braggart. You are lucky my 'Kuya' did not hear you."

"I will say so in his face," shouted the boy. "Who are you that meddles in boys' conversation? Run home and cook some porridge for your . . ."

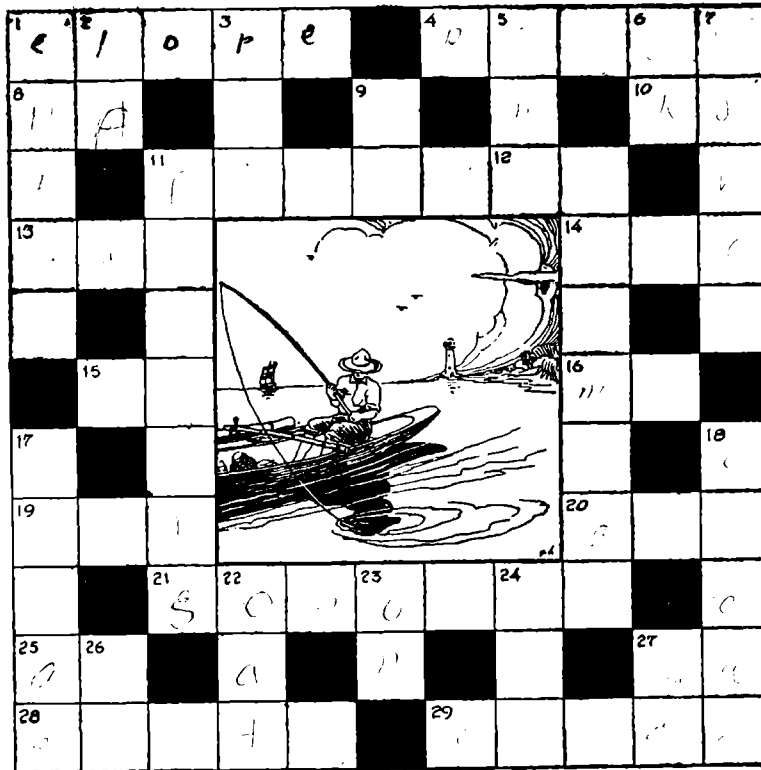
He had no chance to finish his statement. A well-aimed blow landed on his nose.

"How dare you bawl out my sister?" It was Abelardo confronting the offender with clenched fists.

"He called you a braggart, 'Kuya,'" Pacita put in timidly.

"Never mind about me. Pacita, go home and I'll teach this boy not to be fresh."

Cross-Word Puzzle



ACROSS

1. To go away, as lovers sometimes do.
4. The Greatest Malayan.
8. North America (abbreviated)
10. Negative.
11. What the man in the picture is doing.
13. Snakelike fish.
14. Female deer.
15. Point of a compass.
16. Myself.
19. How a polite boy addresses his elders.
20. Everything.
21. Man of learning.
25. In the year of our Lord (abbreviated).
27. Short for mother.
28. Young man.
29. Large body of water.

DOWN

1. To go in.
2. Sixth note in the musical scale.
3. People of the Philippine Islands (abbreviated).
5. Small hotel.
6. Article meaning one.
7. One who loves.
9. Exclamation.
11. They smell sweet.
12. Science of the right use of language.
17. Written composition; also to try.
18. Unsoiled.
22. It has nine lives
23. Upon.

At the table that evening there was extraordinary peace between the two oldest of the seven children. Pacita watched her "Kuya" as he ate, and anticipated his wishes. She handed to him his glass

of water and the hand towel. When she offered Abelardo a generous slice of the coconut candy, he refused, saying, "You may have it for yourself, Pacita. A banana is enough for me."

ANSWERS TO NATURE QUIZ ON PAGE 44

1. The bird can turn its neck half way around and rest it on the back, which you could not. He has more neck bones and that makes his neck easier to turn.
2. No, they hop.
3. The male canary.
4. Your tongue is attached at the back end and is free to flap around at the front end. A frog's tongue is attached to the mouth at the front and is free to flap at the back.
5. In the side of the head so that he can see behind him.
6. The potato is a stem. The "eyes" are buds.
7. Salmon and eels.
8. The tamaraw—in the island of Mindoro, Philippines. The kangaroo—Australia. The zebra and the giraffe—Africa.
9. The tomato is a fruit. In science the word fruit means the part of the plant that holds seeds.
10. Sweet potatoes.

MAGIC TRICKS

(Continued from page 45)

the air expands, the vial regains its bouyancy and jumps up again.

By skilfully manipulating the cork in this way, remembering to move it only a hair's breadth at a time, you can make the vial dive up and down or halt midway as if by magic.

When you have astonished your friends within the magic bottle, you can explain to them how it works, and then play an interesting game. Each person takes turn to see how long he can keep the vial poised in the center.

When it hits the bottom or the top of the bottle, this is a miss and the next player has his turn.

LEARNING TO USE NEW EXPRESSIONS

(Continued from page 44)

ANSWERS

1. pick up
2. pick
3. pick; pick out
4. pick out
5. pick
6. pick; picks out