

Dear Children:

*We are a happy group of barrio boys who live in a farming neighborhood. We often play together during the moonlight nights. Our ages are from seven to thirteen years. Do you like to hear some of our exciting and interesting experiences? Here they are!*

*The Players*

## I. NEW MOON

**W**HAT a night! It was All Saints' Day. We decided to go around the neighborhood to sing the traditional songs. We started late in the evening when the new moon poured forth its light on the dark shadows of the nipa houses, fields and trees.

From "Ba Tebän," the grand old man of the village, Luis borrowed an old guitar. He began playing it to the tune of a religious song. We sang the song many times from one house to another. The song was like this:

List to the song of spirits  
Our songs of agony and pain  
Spirits will be wandering  
The graveyard to see once again.  
If alms you should care to give us,  
Please do so as fast as you can,  
Lest before we reach the heaven  
Its door may no longer be open



# MOONLIGHT

By LINA M. SANTIAGO  
Zamora Elementary School  
(English Translation of rhymes  
by LULU DE LA PAZ)

We found our neighbors to be very kind and good to us. They offered us some centavos for our songs. Others invited us to their houses to enjoy spoonfuls of "guinatan," pieces of "calamay," "tinumis at puto," and some "suman" which were purposely prepared for the hungry little souls who traveled in the cold black night.

Then we rested awhile, returned the guitar we borrowed, and walked our way along the muddy road to the cemetery. Stories of ghosts and goblins crept into our imagination. We were very much afraid, so we ran as fast as we could. We reached the cemetery perspiring and cold.

Our fear was lessened when we saw bright lights everywhere in the place. It was coming from the "sulo" or bamboo torches locally made by the farmers in their homes. We went around the graves of the young and the old. We found out that they were decorated with flowering plants and vines which looked like small gardens with white fences.

Midnight was near. We heard the call of the "tuko" or gecko coming from the bamboo thickets around. We remembered the evil spirits that ran after children at midnight. The more we became afraid, the more we could not start for home because our little feet would not carry us farther. In our hurry to go home, we jumped into an empty cart nearby, crowded ourselves together, and suddenly fell asleep.

To our surprise, the next morning we found ourselves still in the cart but in another place. We all rubbed our eyes and exclaimed: "Really, did the ghosts bring us here?" "Where are we?" "Why?"

## 2. FIRST QUARTER

**W**HEN the moon was on its first quarter, we were very anxious to see a "moro-moro" play. We borrowed the cart of Mario's father and the carabao of Luis' father, and off we went to town. We sat inside the roofed cart while Luis who acted as our guide rode on the carabao's back. In order to spend the time happily, we planned to sing some country songs.