

The Stranger in the School

By I. PANLASIGUI

The elementary school in the town of San Nicolas was about to be opened. The principal teacher and his assistants were busy enrolling the children. Some of the children came alone; others were accompanied by their parents. The teachers were also busy in their own classrooms, cleaning them and making them ready for the opening of the school. Several boys and girls, who were waiting for their turn to be enrolled, were playing in the school yard.

Mr. Mendoza who had just moved into the town wanted to have Juan, his son, enroll in the elementary school. Of course, being new in the town, he and his son were not very familiar with the place. However, Mr. Mendoza took Juan, his boy, to school to be enrolled.

When they entered the school gate, Mr. Mendoza saw several boys and girls. He went to a group of boys who were playing and asked them information.

"Good morning, boys," Mr. Mendoza greeted. The boys stopped

playing; looked at him but did not return his greeting. Mr. Mendoza, however, asked them,

"Where is the office of the Principal?"

"He is in the small building behind this big one," Tomas directed him.

"Thank you," answered Mr. Mendoza; and he and Juan went to the place.

"Why did you tell that to the stranger?" asked Luis of Tomas when Mr. Mendoza and his son have gone.

"Oh, he will find the place," said Tomas.

"But you did not give him the correct place," said Jayme.

"He should know the place. Everybody in town knows the place."

"Yes, but he is a stranger."

By this time Mr. Mendoza and Juan reached the place and he saw that it is the shop of the trade school. Mr. Mendoza discovered that he was fooled by the boys. As he turned around to look for the place, he was met by Luis who took

him and Juan to the Principal's office.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Did Tomas give correct direction to Mr. Mendoza?
2. Why did not Mr. Mendoza know where to find the office of the Principal?
3. Which of the boys has the right attitude toward strangers?
4. How should we treat strangers in our school? In our town?
5. If you were Mr. Mendoza, how would you feel when you found that Tomas fooled you?

SIMILAR SITUATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Jose was late to school because he helped a stranger find a house of a friend.
2. During recess Juanita took Nena, her new classmate, around the place and introduced her to her friends, who tried to make Nena feel at home.
3. In a school program one could hardly hear what was going on because the boys and girls were very noisy.

JOKES

A lesson in phonics—

Teacher—give me a word containing sh.

Juan—shellfish.

Teacher—Use it in a sentence.

Juan—My brother is very shellfish.

A lesson in gender—

Teacher—what is the masculine, gender of cow.

Celia—carabao.

Teacher—Use accompany in a sentence.

Pilar—My father accompany his automobile in going to his work.

