

## Joe and the Disobedient Boy

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*It is bad to be disobedient. If a boy disobeys his mother, she feels unhappy. If he disobeys his teacher, the latter becomes angry. A disobedient boy is often punished. Sometimes the punishment is severe. We should all be obedient so that everybody will like us and love us. The following story tells you how a disobedient boy was punished. Try to find out how it was done.*

ONE NIGHT JOE and his mother visited a friend. While Joe's mother and her friend were talking, Joe busied himself with the comic pictures on the table. He was reading the adventures of Flash Gordon when he heard her mother's friend complain about the conduct of her son.

"Where is Pepe?" asked Joe's mother.

"I don't know where he is," the other woman replied. "He always comes late. I wish he were like your boy."

"Why does he come late? What does

he do?" Joe's mother was surprised.

"He plays with other children. I have told him several times to come home before eight o'clock but he does not obey me. The worst part of it is that he plays hide and seek with the other boys under the coconut trees. It is very dark there and I shouldn't wonder if accidents happen," Pepe's mother replied with a sigh.

"Do they play there always?" again asked Joe's mother.

"Every night," was the brief reply.

Joe heard all that the two women talked about. He pitied Pepe's mother. An idea came to him.

"Mother, may I go after Pepe?" Joe requested. "I should like to see some more of his comic pictures."

"You may go, Joe," his mother consented. "Please don't stay out long as we shall soon go home."

"I shall be back in a few minutes," Joe assured his mother as he ran down the stairs.

When he reached the street, he saw a group of boys. He ran toward them but before he reached the spot, the boys had started to hide in different places. Joe picked out Pepe and followed him. Pepe was heading for the grove. Joe saw him climb a big tree. When Pepe reached the top, Joe saw him lie flat on a big branch. It was a good hiding place and if Joe had not seen him climb the tree, he would not know that someone was hiding there.

"So that's your hiding place," Joe said to himself. "Tomorrow you will stop



coming here and your mother will find a different boy."

At eight o'clock Joe and his mother went home.

Early the next morning, Joe went to see Rod. Together they planned how they would punish the disobedient Pepe. In the afternoon, they worked in the school shop for it was Saturday and nobody else was there. In the evening at dark, they went to the place with their equipment. Hastily they set everything in place. When Pepe and his friends were on the street ready for their games, Joe and Rod were ready with their trap under the tree.

Soon Pepe was running towards the tree. As he started to climb, he saw a tall dark figure behind the tree. Pepe stepped back trembling with fear. Just as he was about to run away, two figures in black jumped out of the bushes and held him. These two figures wore masks. As fast as they could, they tied Pepe's hands behind him. A handkerchief was thrust into his mouth to keep him from making any noise.

"You are a disobedient boy, Pepe," said one of his captors in a low deep voice. "You have disobeyed your mother several times. She has been telling you not to stay out late at night. She has been telling you not to play under the coconut trees. You have not listened to her. It is bad to be disobedient but it is worse to disobey a mother."

"Look at our master," the speaker went on as he pointed to the tall dark figure beside the tree. "He is the King of the Eli River. He has heard of your disobedience and he is here to get you. He will take you to his home and keep you there until you become a good boy. Now what do you say?"

Pepe's tears rolled down his cheeks. The speaker pulled the handkerchief out of his mouth.

"Speak," he commanded Pepe.

Pepe was still trembling.

"Yes," he admitted, "I have always been a disobedient boy. Because of that my mother has been unhappy."

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## JOE AND THE

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"Are you now ready to go with us to the home of our master?" asked the speaker.

"Please don't take me there," begged Pepe. "I promise to be good. I shall never disobey my mother again. I'll make her happy and . . ."

Pepe could not go on. Fear of the man beside the tree and pity for his mother whom he thought he would never see again made him cry like a baby.

"Of course, our master is merciful sometimes," said the captor. "If you promise to be a good boy always, he will let you go. If you break your promise, he will never pardon you again."

"I shall always be good," Pepe promised.

Thereupon the two captors untied his hands and let him go. Pepe ran towards his home as fast as his legs could carry him. As soon as he was out of sight, the two captors took off their masks.

"Splendid work, Joe!" exclaimed one.

"And very effective, Rod," added the other.

"What shall we do with our master, the King?" laughed Rod as he pointed to the tall lifeless figure beside the tree.

Joe looked at the figure. At daytime, it would not frighten anyone but in the shadow under the tree that night, it was frightful enough to nine-year old Pepe who, at first, was taken by surprise by his two masked captors.

Then without saying anything, Joe pulled the black cloth that covered the figure. After the cloth was removed, what remained of the King of the Eli

## OUR MINOR FOREST

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Anglers claim that due to its strength and resiliency fishing rods made of palma brava are superior to any now in the market. Other articles that can be made from the leaves of this palm are fans, and thatching materials. The wood is used for such articles as arrow shafts, spear handles polo clubs, and walking sticks. It has great possibilities for fancy interior finishing. The seedlings of this palm are valued as ornamental plants.

Other forest products simi-

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River was a big banana stem with a coconut at its upper end as head and two pieces of wood at the sides as arms.

After they had destroyed the framework, the two boys went home. They were happy because their plan came out a success.

One night, a week later, Joe and his mother again went to the house of Pepe. They found the latter busy with his crayola. He was coloring a picture in *The Young Citizen* when they came.

"Pepe, suppose we go out and play," Joe suggested.

"No," was Pepe's quick reply. "I have found out that there is more fun at home than in any other place outside."

"You're right, Pepe," Joe agreed.

"Pepe has been very good this week," said the mother as Joe and his mother were leaving. "He has not disobeyed me. Neither has he gone out to play at night as he used to do."

"Very effective," Joe muttered as he lay down to sleep that night.

## OUR INSECT FRIENDS

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is queer and fish-like in appearance. It leaps to the ground and begins looking for a crack into which it may crawl. When it finds one, it plunges in. And for the next seventeen years it remains in this solitary cell. Underground the baby cicada lives on the sap of roots. Finally a day arrives which is some three months less than seventeen years. The baby cicada together with other grubs start digging a tunnel nearly an inch across and a foot long.

Once out, they are in a great hurry. They begin crawling as rapidly as possible. Finding the best place available, they dig in their claws, attach themselves quite securely, and become very still. They hunch their backs, and split their skins down the middle. A strange and different form begins to wriggle inside, and gradually there emerges the glorious, winged cicada in its final form.

Taking it all in all, we may say the cicada is probably the most remarkable individual in all the insect world.

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lar to palms which are important sources of materials for household industries are pandan and bamban. Among the articles that can be made of these may be mentioned book bags, grocery bags, novelties, lunch baskets, wall pockets, slippers, telescope cases, hats, mats and bamban fish traps.

In our imagination the forests may seem far, far from us, but in actual living we can say they are in the midst of us. Why?