

## THE DISCONTENTED FARMER

By REMIGIO TANCHINGCO



THERE once lived a farmer who was never happy. He always complained about this and that, until all his friends and neighbors were tired listening to him.

One hot day, when he went to work in his field, he began to complain as usual.

"It is too warm today to work, and besides, I am not well. I wish I could be a tree on the mountain side. There it is cool. I know it is cool, because there is always a cool breeze on the mountain-side. And besides that, there are many large trees growing there which give shade."

A voice said to the discontented farmer, "Go to the mountainside and be a tree."

Before the farmer had time to think, there he was on the mountainside, and had actually changed into a tree.

"This is fine," said he. "It is cool here, and there is a refreshing breeze, just

as I thought."

Just then a woodcutter came by, carrying an ax. When he saw the tree into which the farmer had been changed, he said to himself, "That is just the tree I want."

So he began to cut the tree.

"Stop! You are hurting me," cried the tree.

But the woodcutter kept on chopping.

"Oh, dear! I do not want to be a tree after all. I want to be a woodcutter. That would be better."

A voice said to the discontented farmer, "Be a woodcutter," and immediately he found himself changed into a woodcutter with an ax in his hand.

So he began to look for a good tree to cut. He walked and walked. Finally he grew tired, and his feet became sore.

The man resumed his old habit of complaining. "I do not want to be a woodcutter."

Just then he saw a fleecy cloud overhead.

"No, I do not want to be a woodcutter. I would rather be a cloud," he said.

A voice said, "Then be a cloud, you discontented, ungrateful man."

Immediately the discontented man found himself changed into a vapory cloud, high up above the earth.

"Oh, dear! Oh, dear!" he said. "I am afraid I shall fall. I wish I could be a farmer again, plowing my field. After all, that was the best."

"Your wish is granted," said the voice. "Be a farmer and remain a farmer. But

(Please turn to page 277.)

## LOST KITTY-KAT

*(Continued from page 251)*

Just then Farmer Juan called out with a loud voice, "Something to give away! Something to give away!"

People came running to ask Farmer Juan what he had to give away. But Farmer Juan wouldn't tell them.

By and by little Cristeta came skipping along with her mother. "Let's take it, whatever it is!" she cried.

So Farmer Juan gave the rice sack with little lost Kitty-Kat in it to Cristeta's mother. Then Cristeta opened it and took out little lost Kitty-Kat.

"Oh, a kitten!" cried the little girl. "Just what I've always wanted!"

So little Kitty-Kat wasn't lost any more.

## SOME QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Farmer Juan was a kind man? Why?
2. What did Farmer Juan have to sell?
3. Why was Kitty-Kat crying?
4. What was Farmer Juan going to do for Kitty-Kat?
5. Where did he place Kitty-Kat?
6. Why was Kitty-Kat happy?

## PLAN FOR POLITENESS

*(Continued from page 252)*

We are helpful.

We are kind to one another.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the teacher's name in this story?
2. What are the children's names?
3. Were they polite children?
4. What shows they were not polite?
5. Did the children want to be polite?
6. What did they do to help themselves?
7. What should any child say when he passes in front of another person?
8. Should one child talk while another one is speaking?
9. When should a child say, "please"?
10. Can you make some rules of politeness for your school?

7. What did Farmer Juan do so he could sell his camotes?
8. What did Farmer Juan say to the woman who came to buy camotes?
9. Why did the woman not take Kitty-Kat?
10. What did Farmer Juan do at last?

## DISCONTENTED FARMER

*(Continued from page 257)*

remember, do not complain any more."

At once the farmer found himself back in his own field, plowing the rich, black soil. He felt happier than he had ever felt before, and for the first time in many years he did not complain.

He said, "I am so glad I am what I am. Never again shall anyone call me the discontented farmer."

## QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What is the purpose of this story? (To teach a truth)
2. What truth does the story teach? (One should be contented.)

## BUSY PABLO

*(Continued from page 264)*

is left lying in the yard. He takes pride in keeping the yard about the home neat and attractive. Pablo's motto is: CLEAN UP YOUR YARD AND KEEP IT CLEAN.

Pablo is a healthy, happy boy. He studies and works, and finds some time for play. So he is busy all the time. It is no wonder that people who know him call him "Busy Pablo." Don't you think that is a good name for a boy—when he deserves it?