

GOOD CITIZENSHIP SECTION**Making Our Town Beautiful***(A Playlet in Three Scenes)*

By PABLO M. CUASAY *

(The idea presented by Mr. Cuasay in this playlet may be adapted by any school, good citizenship club, or parent-teachers association. The "winning composition" is merely suggestive.—The Editor.)

THE PLAYERS:

MARIO JOVITO, a bright upper grade boy.

JAIME, ALFONSO, GERARDO, QUIRICO, MANUEL, ESTEBAN, ADELAIDA, JOSEFINA, all upper grade pupils.

THE ANNOUNCER.

MR. CRUZ, principal of the school.

PUPILS IN THE ASSEMBLY-ROOM, any number.

THE PLAY:

Scene I. *A table in a school library at which are seated Jaime, Alfonso, Gerardo, Quirico, and Manuel. It is recess time. The boys are talking.*

Mario: *(Entering the library)* I have good news for you, boys. Or have you already read the principal's announcement? It is on the bulletin board.

All the Boys: *(Speaking at the same time—one boy saying one thing, another boy saying something else)* An announcement! What does it say? What is it about? Are we going to have a holiday? Tell us about

it.

Mario: You can see it for yourselves.

Jaime: Not now. We want to look up something in the library. We can't go there until later, so tell us about it now.

Mario: Okay. Well, the principal is offering a prize to the boy or girl of our school who writes the best composition on a certain subject.

Alfonso: A composition! About what? What is the subject of the composition?

Mario: The subject is "Making Our Town Beautiful."

Gerardo: That's a practical subject. It's interesting, too.

Quirico: When must the compositions be turned in?

Mario: According to the announcement, the contest opens today and closes in two weeks.

Manuel: Fine! We have plenty of time for preparing our compositions.

Jaime: Does the announcement say anyone can enter the contest?

Mario: The contest is open to those pupils who are members of the "Good Citizens Club." There are many boys and girls in our school who want to be good citizens, and are interested in civic enterprises, so nearly all the upper grade pupils belong to the "Good Citizens Club."

* Principal, Cabugao Elementary School, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur.

Alfonso: Yes, that is true. Therefore many are eligible to enter the contest. What is the prize offered for the best composition?

Mario: The principal is offering a splendid book as a prize. He thinks that is better than a cash prize.

Gerardo: What is the book?

Mario: If I am not mistaken it is called *Rizal: Man and Martyr* and was written by Laubach.

Quirico: I often hear father and mother speak about Laubach's book on Rizal. It must be a very good book.

Mario: Yes, and it would be very instructive and useful to any of us.

Manuel: The prize is surely worth working for. I'm going to enter that contest. I think we should all enter. Well, it's about class time.

Mario: Of course we'll all enter the contest.

(The bell rings and the boys leave the library. Curtain.)

Scene II. *The principal's office. Two weeks later. Mario, Adelaida, Josefina, Gerardo, and Esteban enter the principal's office. Mr. Cruz is seated at his desk.*

Pupils: Good morning, Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Cruz: Good morning, boys and girls. Sit down.

Esteban: Our teachers told us that you wish to see us.

Mr. Cruz: Yes. *(The pupils find seats.)* I sent for you because I should like to tell you about the results of our contest. *(The pupils look interested.)* Out of some eighty compositions submitted by the upper grade pupils, we have selected the best five. These five compositions are those written by our boys and girls. *(The pupils look happy.*

They smile and their eyes sparkle.)

And from those five compositions which you wrote, we chose the one which we consider the best. Of course, not all of you can win, as there is only one prize. I must congratulate all of you, however. You surely

must be doing good work in your English classes.

The Five Pupils: Thank you, Mr. Cruz.

Josefina: Have you decided yet which is the best of the five?

Mr. Cruz: Yes, we have. Shall I tell you?

Adelaida: We would like very much to hear.

Mr. Cruz: The judges have voted Mario's composition to be the prize winner.

Josefina, Adelaida, Gerardo, Esteban: We

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Clean away the rubbish.

MAKING OUR TOWN BEAUTIFUL

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congratulate you, Mario.

Mario: Thank you.

Gerardo: I knew, Mario, that you would win the prize.

Mr. Cruz: You may all return to your classes now. Next Monday we shall have an auditorium program. That will be the time when the winner will be formally announced.

(Curtain)

Scene III. *The auditorium.*
Mr. Cruz, Mario, Adelaida, Josefina, Gerardo, Esteban, and the announcer are seated on the stage. In front of the stage the pupils of the school are assembled.

Announcer: The first number of our program for today is a song by the assembly, "Philippines, My Philippines," lead by Miss Adoration. (The pupils assembled sing the song.)

Announcer: Now we shall have a talk by our principal.

Mr. Cruz: Boys and girls, you all know about our composition contest on the subject "Making Our Town Beautiful." The five pupils seated here on the stage submitted what we consider the best five compositions chosen from more than eighty. The judges have selected the best composition out of those five. The writer of what the judges consider the best composition is Mario Jovito. (Great applause). The winner will now read his composition.

Mario: (Goes to the front and reads the following com-

position:)

Making Our Town Beautiful

I believe that our town today is just as dirty and ugly and unsanitary as it was twenty-five years ago. I think it is about time we start to improve the place, and make our town beautiful. This composition is written not for the purpose of finding fault, but to recommend some practical improvements in our community.

As I walk about our town, I observe that in almost every lot and yard there is an unsightly amount of trash and refuse. There are tin cans, pieces of old board, leaves, paper, and other things. My first recommendation for making our town beautiful is that every resident remove all trash and refuse from his premises, and that it be taken away at public expense and destroyed.

My second recommendation is that the streets should be kept clean. To insure cleanliness, animals should not be permitted to run loose in the streets. Dogs should not be permitted to run loose at night, for they overturn garbage cans in search of food, and thus make our streets very dirty and unsanitary. Persons should not be permitted to throw garbage into the streets, but they should place it in garbage cans provided by the town.

Third. The town plaza should be placed in good condition. Weeds and rubbish should be removed, and trees, shrubbery, and plants be kept

in such a state of cultivation that the plaza will be a beautiful place in our town.

Number four. The town market should be closely supervised by competent inspectors who will see that market sellers keep everything in a neat, orderly, and sanitary condition. Those sellers who will not do this should be refused permission to sell in the town market.

Five. Our public buildings should be put into a state of good repair. They should be painted. Everything about them should be put in good condition.

Six. Mud holes and pools of stagnant water where mosquitoes breed should be filled up. Pigs, goats, carabaos, and other animals should be cared for by their owners so that they will not make unsanitary places in our town.

Seven. Citizens, parents, boys, and girls—everyone in the whole town—should be encouraged to do everything possible to make our town beautiful, and to take pride in doing so. This can be accomplished through our schools, both public and private, through our newspapers, through our churches, and through public posters.

The people of our town can make this a beautiful town if they wish to do so. Let us get to work. Everybody—young and old, rich and poor—get to work and make our town beautiful. And when it is beautiful, let us keep it so.

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THE FOUR FRIENDS

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The poor Mud-Dauber jumped about so much that—crack!—her waist broke in two, and she died instantly.

The Snail had seen the two tragedies. She began to weep and wail. "Poor Draggie and Muddie are dead," she wept. She wailed so loudly that she actually loosened her body from the shell—rip! rip!—and in a little while she, too, died.

Only the last of the four friends, the Shrimp, remained. That morning she had busied herself with cleaning the yard before they should go on their outing. While she was at work, her attention was attracted by the loud wailing of the Snail. Soon she learned that her two friends, the Dragon-Fly and the Mud-Dauber, were no more. And then, before her very eyes, her friend, the Snail, came to an unhappy end, so that she was the only one left. "Poor Draggie and

Muddie and Snailie are all dead, dead," she wept. "Oh, what shall I do?"

She, too, began jumping and lamenting. Hither and thither she jumped, neither seeing nor caring where she went. Suddenly she landed in a pot of boiling hot water which the Dragon-Fly had prepared that morning to cook their rice. Into the water she went—sizz! sizz!—and instantly poor Shrimpie was scalded to death—a dreadful fate which caused the end of the last of the four friends.

The news of the terrible happenings spread and all the neighborhood mourned for Draggie and Muddie and Snailie and Shrimpie. They buried them in the yard of the little house where the four had lived so happily.

To this day the folk of that community tell of the unhappy fate which overtook the Dragon-Fly, the Mud-Dauber, the Snail, and the Shrimp. They always end their sad story by repeating this ancient saying: "Happiness and sadness are the two extremes of life. They come one after another. You are happy today, but tomorrow you may be sad or—dead."

MAKING OUR TOWN BEAUTIFUL

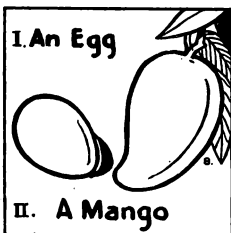
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Announcer: Our principal will now award the prize.

Mr. Cruz: This school is proud to have a pupil like Mario Jovito. The ideas in his composition are good, and he has explained them well. We are all proud of Mario. Pupils, you have heard his composition. Now we must begin a campaign to get these things done in our town, and so make our town beautiful. Next Monday I shall call you all to the auditorium and announce our plans. And now to Mario Jovito, the winner of this contest, I award this splendid book, *Rizal: Man and Martyr* by Laubach. I congratulate you, Mario. *(Gives Mario the book and shakes hands with him. There is much applause. Mario bows his thanks to Mr. Cruz and to the Assembly.)*

Announcer: Now we shall stand and sing our national anthem, after which we shall return to our rooms. *(The song is sung. Then all pupils pass to their rooms. Curtain.)*

GUESS MY NAME

(Answers from page 111)

CHOOSING THE WORD

(Answers from page 111)

1. is 2. go 3. is 4. her 5. met
6. play 7. going 8. was 9. has
10. play 11. take 12. killed
13. for 14. bring 15. were

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

(Answers from page 111)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | K | I | N | G |
| 2 | I | R | O | N |
| 3 | N | O | R | A |
| 4 | G | N | A | T |