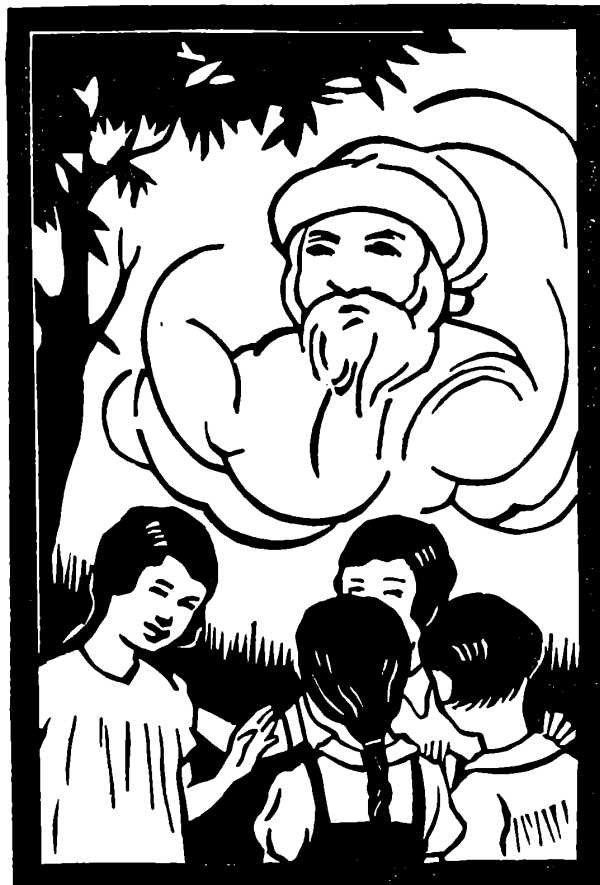


## CHARACTER EDUCATION SECTION

# The Girls' Resolution

ELISA MARQUEZ \*



“IF THERE were a real Santa Claus, what would you ask for?” joyfully asked Lita of her companions.

“Oh! I would ask for a big doll,” promptly answered Nora.

“I would ask for more interesting books to read,” exclaimed Luz, the voracious reader of the class.

“And what would you ask for?” asked Lita of Milagrings, who was the quietest of the group.

“I would not ask for any material

gift. But if my wish were granted, I would be the happiest girl in the world,” Milagrings explained.

“May we know your wish?” queried the girls in a chorus.

“You know how empty my life has been since I lived in the orphanage. It is true that my fellow orphans are kind and the sisters in charge of us are very motherly. They are very loving, too. But girls, there is always a longing in me to see my parents once more.” lengthily explained Milagrings.

“Well, you know that to long for their presence would be futile. Come and be happy,” said the carefree Nora.

The girls by this time decided to move under the shade of the big acacia tree, where they would continue their conversation.

As soon as they had settled down, Luz began, “Friends, Milagrings’s words a while ago have set me to thinking. If we, who are fortunate enough to have our parents still with us be as thoughtful of them as our less fortunate friends, I am sure we shall make this place a heaven for our parents. Don’t you think so, girls?”

“Why surely we agree with you,” said the girls.

“And since Parents’ Day is approaching, I am sure we can do our bit by doing something for our parents,” suggested Luz.

“What shall we do to show our love for them?” asked Lita.

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## A MOTHER'S REWARD

*(Continued from page 333)*

and escorted her to a vacant seat. The program had already begun. Aling Nena scanned the faces of the hundreds and hundreds of faces around her, but she could not see any of her children. Soon her attention was attracted by the toastmaster's announcement of the next number. Her heart beat fast upon hearing her Jose's name called as the next participant. With great excitement she watched her son looking so prim, so neat, and so handsome that she longed to hug him. The boy's look wandered around and when it met that of her mother's, a light broke over his face and shone in his eyes. Then he began his declamation. It was a pathetic piece telling about the self-sacrificing love of a mother and the ingratitude of her children. The delivery was so perfect that almost all eyes were dimmed with tears before the performance was over. A deafening applause followed and the mother's heart was full of gratitude and pride for her boy.

Then Aling Nena heard one of the teachers mention her son's name. She strained her ears to hear every word.

"Really, I admire Jose very much. He is very active and very polite, said Miss Roxas.

"You should know the sister, Elvira, who is in grade four. She is a very good example of an ideal school child. She is always neat and clean, very polite, and very bright," added Mrs. Mojica, the teacher who sat beside Miss Roxas.

## THIS EARTH OF OURS

*(Continued from page 346)*

We can imagine those first mountain rising as folds under the sea. Gradually their bases were narrowed, and their crests lifted out of the water. They rose as long, narrow islands and grew in size as time went on.

These mountains of upheaval, made by the bending of the earth's crust, and the formation of alternating ridges and depressed valley are many. The earth is old and much wrinkled. Other mountains have been formed by forces quite different. Volcanic mountains have been far more numerous in ages gone than they are now.

Vesuvius in Italy is at present showing us how volcanic mountains are made. Each eruption builds larger the cone that is, the chimney thru which the

Two other teachers joined the conversation, the subject of which was centered on praises of Jose and Elvira, her own son and daughter.

There was a lump in Aling Nena's throat and tears of happiness welled in her eyes, as she listened to the talk. She felt that all her ceaseless sacrifices were more than repaid. She wiped away the tears from her eyes in order to see better the heavy-printed motto which was being shown to the audience. The motto was, "The most precious gift a child can give to his mother is conduct that will make her proud of him."

There was so much truth in that motto that Aling Nena unconsciously and mechanically murmured, "AMEN."

## THE GIRLS' RESOLUTION

*(Continued from page 342)*

"We can help them at home by doing our duties well. We can run errands for them and do so many things to make their work lighter," Nora said proudly.

"What do you suggest for orphans whose parents have now taken their eternal rest?" questioned Lita.

"Let me answer it for you," volunteered Milagrang. "Orphans like me must live with relatives or other guardians. Since we have to live with other people, our task is to see that our stay with them is not a burden. We have to be very good so that our parents may not be blamed for our bad conduct."

"Milagrang, your words have made me all the more thoughtful of my parents. Never again shall I grumble when I'm sent on errands," pensively said Luz.

"And I shall not be as disobedient again," resolved Nora.

"Then we shall all be loving children to our hard-working parents," chorused the other girls.

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molten rocks, the ashes, and the steam are ejected. Side craters may open, the main cone be broken and its form changed but the mass of lava and stones and ashes grows with each eruption. The mountain grows by the addition it receives.

How do you think the mountain systems in the Philippines were formed?