

CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION

BUSY PABLO

By C. MANDORIAO ROXAS *

PABLO lives in a barrio two kilometers from the main town. He goes to school, so he has to walk that two kilometers each morning and afternoon. But he does not mind the walk; in fact, he likes it.

He wants to go to school, and is anxious to learn. He is in the fourth grade. Not only does he learn lessons from his books, but he learns about gardening and farming, as well as raising fowls and farm animals. He has become very much interested in cultivating a garden and in poultry-raising.

He takes good care of his school garden in which he is growing radishes, pechay, cabbage, and other vegetables. He has a garden at his home, too. In that he has planted sweet potatoes, corn, and beans. His home garden is much larger than his school garden. He is kept busy cultivating his gardens so that the vegetables will grow and the weeds will not get a start.

Pablo has some chickens, some ducks, and two geese. He cares for them regularly, so they are healthy and well fed. Next year he is going to try to raise some turkeys and some pigeons. "Perhaps we can have a pigeon pot-pie, and at Thanksgiving a roast turkey, if mother will cook them," says busy Pablo.

On Saturdays and during vacations Pablo assists his father in the field. He helps him plow the field, and at the planting season he helps him plant rice. He helps to harvest the rice, also, when

it is ready to be harvested.

This busy boy finds time to take care of his father's two carabaos and the two young pigs which are growing into fine, sleek porkers. "Some day we shall have *lechon*," Pablo says as he looks at the pigs.

Of course, like every boy, Pablo has a dog. He calls him Blackie. When Pablo goes to school each morning, he always says goodbye to Blackie. In the afternoon when he arrives from school, Blackie always greets his young master with a friendly bark. He wags his tail and jumps about Pablo to show that he is glad to see him. Pablo takes good care of his dog. He sees that he has plenty to eat and a good place to sleep.

Occasionally on Sundays Pablo and Blackie go hunting for birds. Sometimes they get a wild duck or two, or some snipe. Pablo takes them home, and his mother cooks them for the family meal.

Often in the late afternoon Pablo rides a carabao down to the river. He rides on the back of one carabao and leads the other. Blackie, his dog, goes with them, too. Blackie likes to swim in the river, or get a stick which Pablo throws into the water.

When Pablo has time to do so he helps his mother in the house. Perhaps he assists her to get the food ready to cook, or, after a meal, he washes the dishes.

There is something else which this busy boy looks after. He keeps the yard around the house clean and in good order. He sees that no unsightly rubbish

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LOST KITTY-KAT

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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

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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

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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

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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?