

CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP

My First Fight

By RESTITUTO CARPIO *

(You might have had a fight with some boys of your age. As you read this true story of Crispulo, find out whether you did the same thing that he did in his first fight.)

I think I must be six or seven years old at that time. Poroc, whose real name was Fructuoso, lived just across the street. He was my playmate. We used to shoot at swallows with bows and arrows as they darted down the street at sundown. It so happened that we both took aim at one whose flight was very low. Swiftly whizzed our arrows into the air and soon I saw something fall to the ground. Both of us took to our heels, I ahead of him. The bird was only stunned because we used blunt arrows. "That bird is mine," Poroc demanded.

"No, it was my arrow that got her," Crispulo answered, for that is my name.

"So you won't give it to me, eh?" he growled.

"No, I won't," I shouted at the top of my voice.

Before I knew it, he had grabbed me by the waist, thrown me down against his right leg, and away I fell into the ditch. As I got up, I ran straight home crying, and related the incident to my father. He, however, did not sympathize with me. Instead, he gave me three sound whippings with a piece of rattan the size of your small finger by causing me to lie on a bench face down. He said with a firm voice, "If you can't fight, don't fight!"

I've had several fights afterwards and never reported about it to my father. I've learned to have confidence in myself. Happily, I owe it to my first fight.

Questions on the Story

1. Why was Crispulo whipped by his father?
2. What did Crispulo do when he had other fights afterwards?
3. Do you know of some boys who acted like Crispulo in his first fight? Relate it.
4. If your lessons are hard, do you usually ask someone to help you?
5. Tell an incident of how you overcame a difficult task either at home or at school.
6. Select partners and have an informal play of



this story.

7. An American woman was walking along Rizal Avenue. Her child stumbled and fell as he tottered after her. If you were in the place of this woman, which of the following would you do?

- a. I would help the child stand up.
- b. I would encourage the child to get up by himself.
- c. I would spank the child.



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