

WHEN RIZAL WAS A BOY

By CARLOS AGATEP

(10 YEARS OLD)

WHAT KIND of a boy was Jose Rizal? Let us see.

When Jose Rizal was yet a very small boy, he listened to his mother teaching his older sister. From them he learned his alphabet, so he could read, he said. Thus we know that from the time he was a very young child, he wanted to learn things.

We know that he was a kind boy, too. He owned a pony and a pet dog. He loved his pets very much, and always treated them well. He never beat them, but always saw that they had good food and a good place to sleep.

He liked to watch birds and animals. He did not hurt them, as some little boys do. He liked to draw pictures of birds and animals. Sometimes he made figures of animals out of wax or clay. So we know he was a nature lover and an artist.

Jose was not a strong boy, but he liked to take long walks with his dog. He enjoyed riding his pony. Sometimes on pleasant nights he used to sleep on a pile of straw in the rice fields, in order "to look at the stars."

He was nine years old when his father sent him to another town to go to school. After he had been there a few months, his teacher said, "Jose, go home and ask your parents to send you to Manila to school."

"You are very young to go to Manila," his father said when he asked him, but his parents finally permitted the boy to go to the big city.

It was a cool, rainy day when Jose left his home to go to Manila. There were no busses or automobiles then, and he travelled a long time before he reached the city. It seemed to him that he was going very far away from his father and mother. But he was not afraid, for he was a brave little boy.

So we see that when Jose Rizal was a little boy, he began to be like the man Jose Rizal. He started to be a great man when he was yet a boy.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT WORD

1. Jose Rizal listened to his _____ teaching his older sister.
2. He liked birds and _____.
3. He drew pictures of animals and _____ when he saw them.
4. He was _____ years old when he went to another town to go to school.
5. Later he went to school in _____.
6. "You are very _____ to go to Manila," his father said.
7. His _____ finally permitted him to go.
8. He was not _____, for he was a _____ little boy.
9. He started to be a great _____ when he was yet a little _____.