

## A World War II Anecdote

### ASK ME ANOTHER

Japanese education officials in Manila were fond of giving the so-called objective type of examinations. But they often found, much to their chagrin, that their propaganda line did not work as well as they thought even with the school children. On June 7, 1943, a set of 18 *questinos* in "current events" was given in an examination for Grade Six classes in the public schools. The questions were so phrased as to leave the pupils no choice, and they knew the clichés, but 11-year-old Rosita Verzosa had a pattern all her own. Asked to answer *Yes* or *No*, Rosita dashed off the test in no time by simply writing *Yes* after each odd number and *No* after each even number, and adding, perhaps for effect, *definitely* after each *Yes* and *No*.

Here were the questions and Rosita's answers:

1. Do you want Italy to lose?

*Yes, definitely,*

2. Do you like the Japanese to win the war?  
*No, definitely.*

3. Do you want China and England to win?  
*Yes, definitely,*

4. Did America start the war?  
*No, definitely.*

5. Are the Americans gentler in minds than the Japanese?  
*Yes, definitely,*

6. Do you feel happier now than before?  
*No, definitely.*

7. Are the people poorer now than before?  
*Yes, definitely,*

8. Are the Japanese friendly with children?  
*No, definitely.*

9. Is handshaking politer than bowing?  
*Yes, definitely,*

10. Are you glad Laurel was shot?  
*No, definitely.*

11. Are the Americans better than the Japanese?  
*Yes, definitely.*
12. Did the Japanese not come to give us independence?  
*No, definitely.*
13. Do you want America to win?  
*Yes, definitely.*
14. Do you enjoy Nippongo?  
*No, definitely.*
15. Do you want the Americans to come back?  
*Yes, 'cause I like comics!*
16. Are you anxious to learn Nippongo so you do not have to use English?  
*No, 'cause I already know English.*
17. Who is stronger, America or Japan?  
*Who else?*
18. Are you happy when you hear the airplanes every morning?  
*No, they make me wake up so early. What else do you want to know? — H. J. A.*

### THE ANGER IN PAN'S HEART

Earth wages war against her children, and under the softest touch hides treacherous claws. The cool waters invite us in to drown; the domestic hearth burns up in the hour of sleep, and makes an end of all. Everything is good or bad, helpful or deadly, not in itself, but by its circumstances. . . . And when the universal music has led lovers into the paths of dalliance, confident of Nature's sympathy, suddenly the air shifis into a minor, and death makes a clutch from his ambushade below the bed of marriage. For death given in a kiss; the dearest kindnesses are fatal; and into this life, where one thing preys upon another, the child too often makes its entrance from the mother's corpse. — Robert Louis Stevenson.