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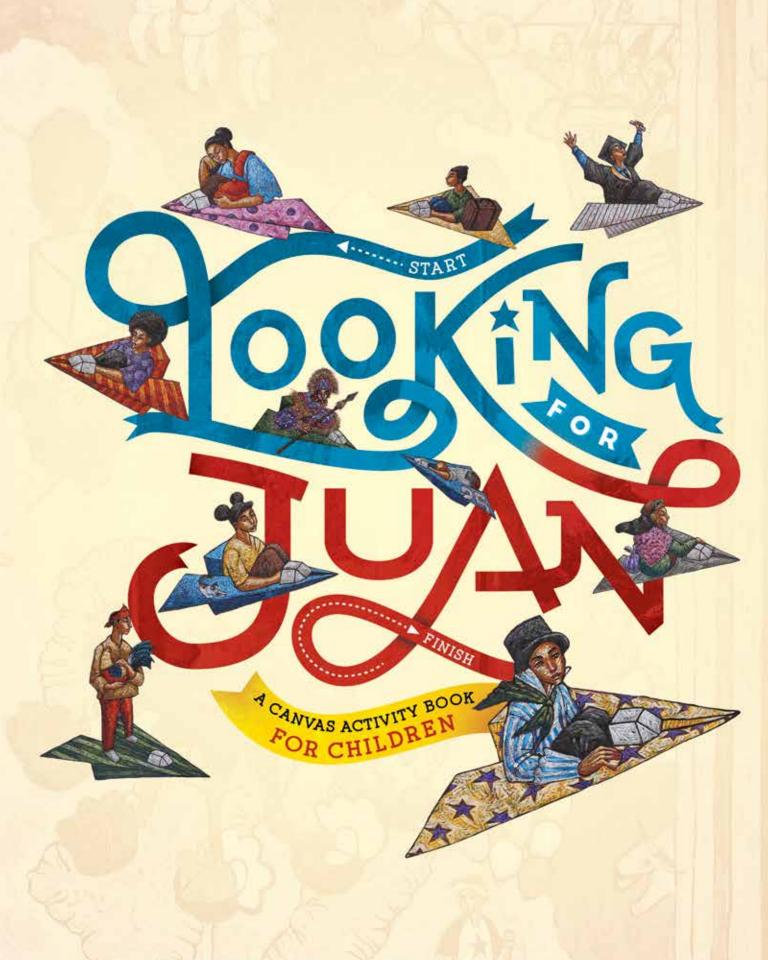
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Please direct all inquiries to: CANVAS, No.1 Upsilon Drive Ext., Alpha Village, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1119 Email info@canvas.ph

Book and layout design by Daniel Palma Tayona Cover and additional graphics by Kevin Candelaria Text and work activities by Annette A. Ferrer and Gigo A. Alampay Artworks by John Paul Antido Edited by CANVAS Photography by Ocs Alvarez





**JOHN PAUL ANTIDO**, or Japs for short, hails from Antipolo and studied painting at the University of the Philippines' College of Fine Arts in Diliman.

Impressionistic and Van Gogh-esque, Japs' works are lively in color and movement. By mixing traditional and modern symbols – fiestas and "natives" wearing Rolling Stones t-shirts – he is able to succinctly capture the vibrancy of Filipino culture, its hybridity and ever-changing nature.

Japs has received praise and awards for his work – grand prize in the 2005 Art Petron 5th National Student Art Competition, shortlisted in the 2011 Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards, the

2008 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence National Competition, the 2nd GSIS Annual Painting Competition in 2005, just to name a few. He has also exhibited in Laos, Singapore, Malaysia, and Denmark.

(All the images used for this book are from the artist's paintings done in oil on canvas and are part of his 12th solo exhibition.)







## TEXT BY: ANNETTE A. FERRER and GIGO A. ALAMPAY



Juan's parents are both Filipinos, but they all live in England. Juan's Mama works as a software engineer while his Papa is a nurse. They both work in London.

His parents have always told him about the Philippines, its culture, history, stories, and traditions. But Juan has never been to the Philippines.

Until now.

For the first time, Juan is visiting the Philippines.

While he's here, he wants to learn as much about the Philippines as he can. He wants to understand what it means to be Filipino.

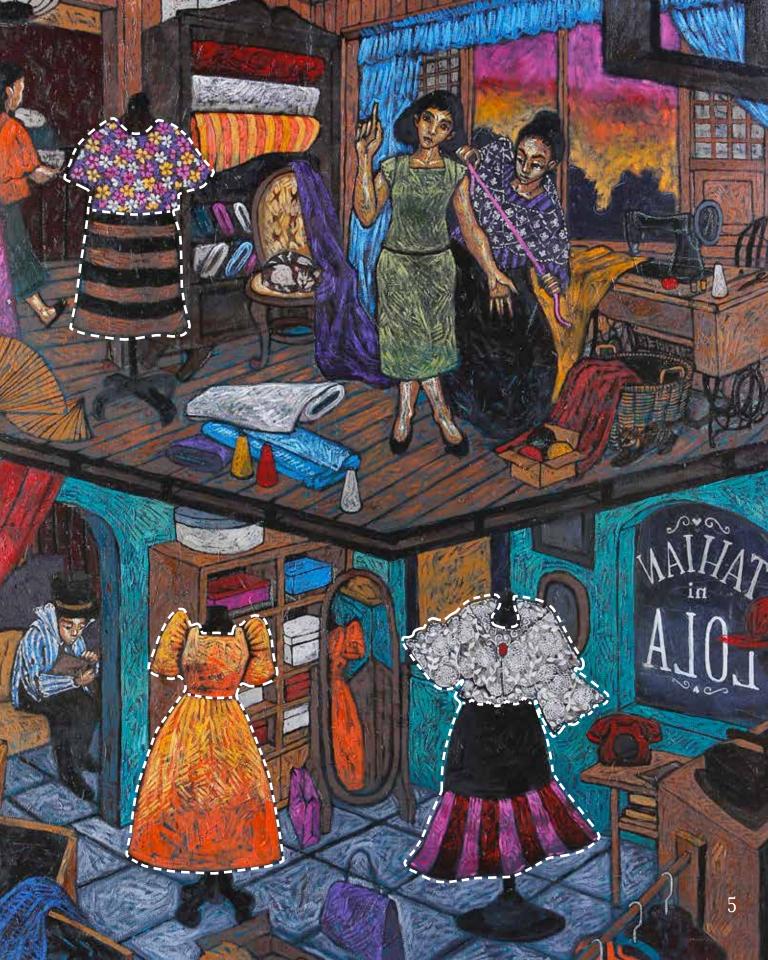
How many words can you form from the letters of **BALIKBAYAN?** 

**BALIKBAYAN** (*noun*), person returning to one's country, compound word of *balik* (return) + *bayan* (country)

Juan's first stop is his Lola's dress shop.

It is a modest business, and with the help of Tita Nita, Lola has been able to keep it running for more than 55 years now.

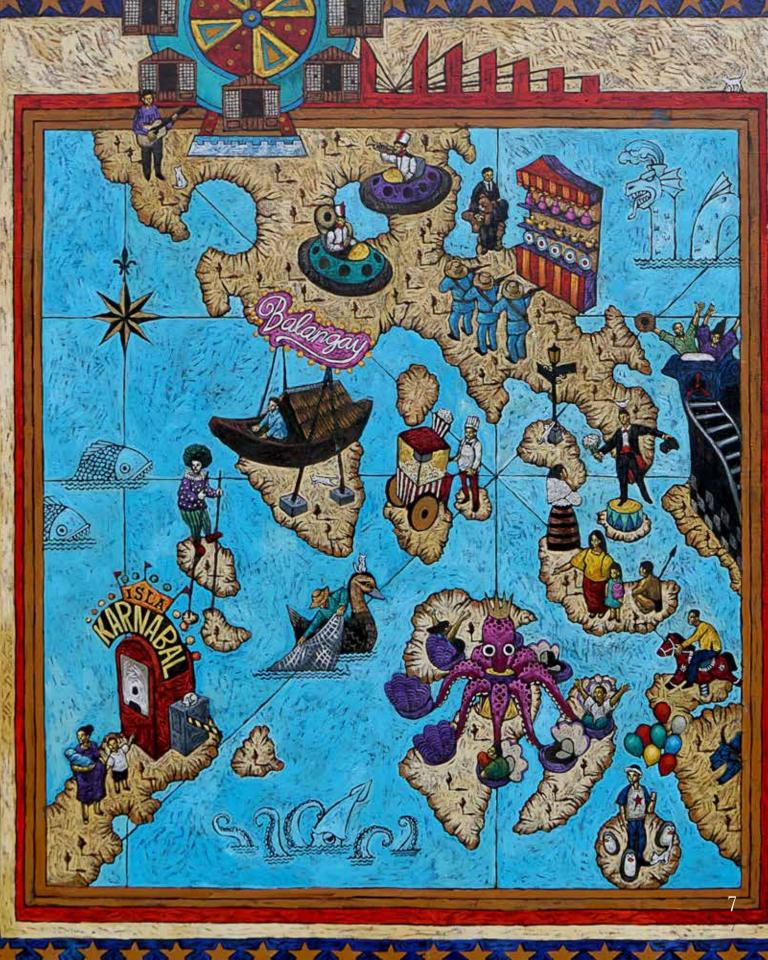
Cut out the dresses along the dotted lines on the next page. **Mix and match the skirts and blouses!** 



On the weekend, Juan visits his Tito Bert.

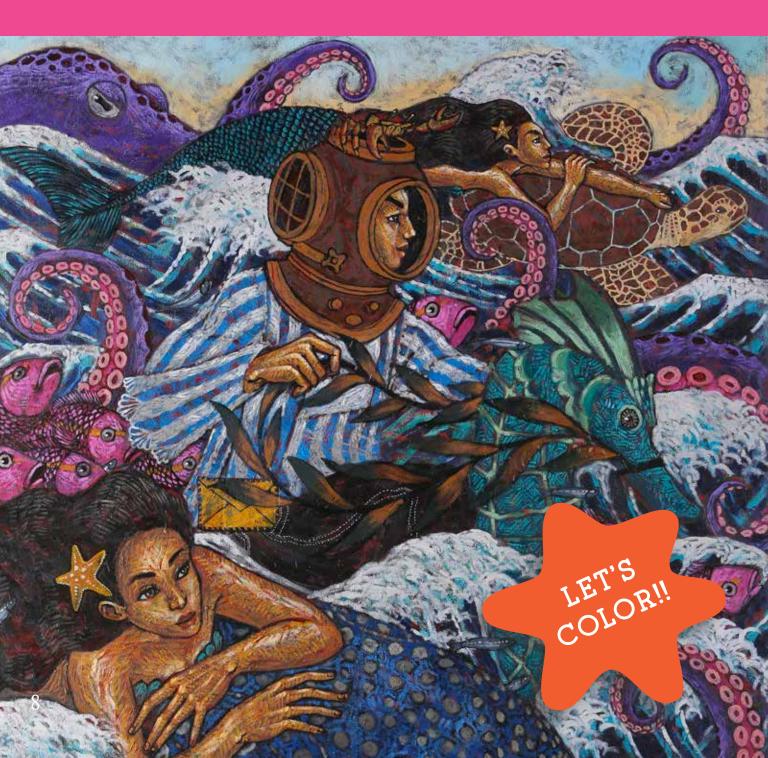
Tito Bert says there is a carnival or *perya* that Juan ought to see. There are many flashing lights, rickety rides, shooting and dart games, prizes, and snacks.





The Philippines has a lot of fantastic beaches.

Juan went to as many beaches as he could. He is hoping to see the beautiful marine animals that the Philippines has up close, and maybe even swim side-by-side with a whale shark.







If it rains on a sunny day, a *tikbalang* is being wed, goes a folk saying.



Several mythological creatures - duwendes, diwatas, a kapre, manananggals, and even an aswang in the form of a wolf are at this tikbalang wedding. **Do you see them?** 







Ancient Filipinos believed that Bathala created seven moons to light up the sky.

The *bakunawa*, a serpent-like dragon, was attracted by the moons. It rose up from the ocean and swallowed the moons one by one, until there was only one moon left.

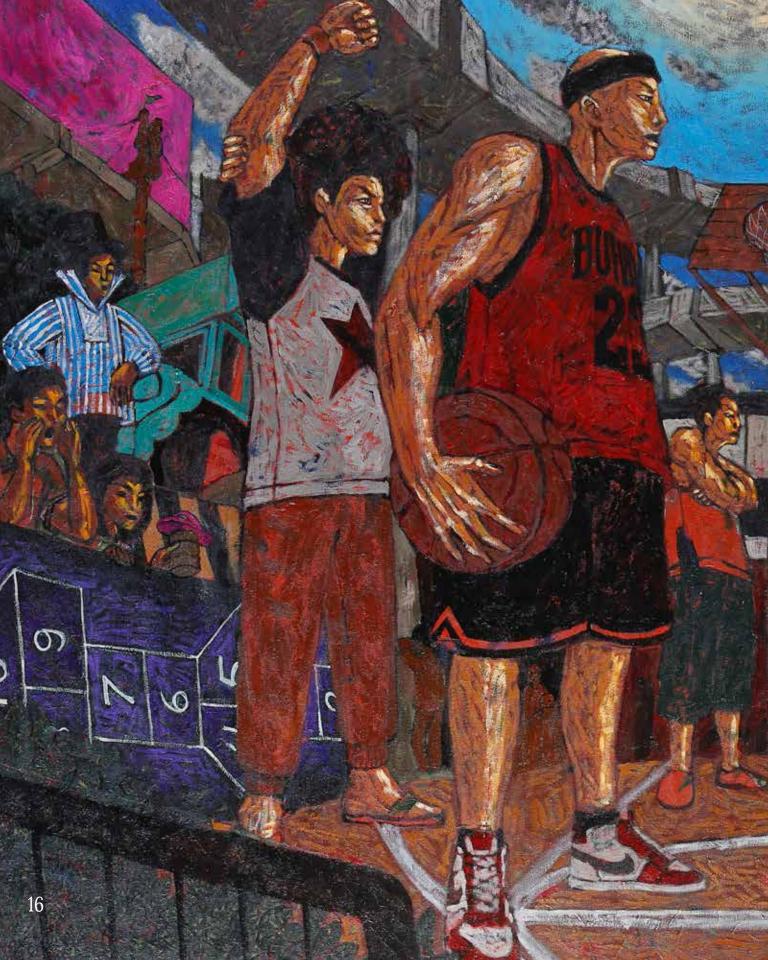
Bathala found out just as the *bakunawa* was about to eat the last moon. He was so angry that he banished the *bakunawa* from its home in the sea.

It is now said that eclipses happen because the *bakunawa* keeps trying to return and eat the last moon. Fortunately, Bathala is always there to stop the *bakunawa*.



Juan imagines the Bakunawa taking a beautiful girl, and he comes to rescue her.

Help Juan find his way to the girl so that he can take her back to her home and family.





Juan's cousins arrive and invite him to a game of basketball.

Juan later finds out that basketball is really popular in the Philippines. There are basketball courts in all towns, on the streets, in backyards, and even in cemeteries!

They're everywhere!



# Unjumble the letters below and... see what other games Filipinos like to play.

PTNAETRIO		
AWAAGN BSAE		
TBUMNAG-PSREO	·	
LNOKUSG TNIIK		
HLUABAN		
TGUAAN		
SPIA		
LKNOSUG BKAA		
TAAYIKD		
SGNKUA		
PLAO-SBEO		
PTIIK BLAUG		



These are the historical flags of the Philippine revolution.

The flag is the country's most important symbol. It is the symbol of independence and of love for country. In the picture on the left, you can see different versions that served as the flag, at one time or another, in our history.

## Match the written descriptions with the correct flag.

#### Gregoria de Jesús, wife of Andres Bonifacio designed the first flag of the Katipunan. She made it a simple red flag with three white Ks in the center.

1



Other Katipunan members modified the flag like the one that had the three white Ks arranged to form a triangle.



Still others tried to make it simpler – just α red flag with only one K in the center.



The flag of General Mariano Llanera in Nueva Ecija was interesting. It was a black flag with a white letter K and a white skull with crossed bones on the right.



General Pio del Pilar's flag was different. It was a red flag that had a white triangle on one side. In each corner of the triangle was a red K and in the center was a sun rising behind a mountain.



The flag used for the first time during the Cry of Pugadlawin was a red flag with a white sun and the three Ks underneath.



The Magdalo faction of the Katipunan, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo, had a red flag. In the center was a white sun, and in the center of the sun was the letter K written in alibata, the ancient Filipino alphabet.



The flag of the Republic of Biak-na-Bato was again a red flag, but this time with a white sun with a face. It is also known as the Sun of Liberty Flag.



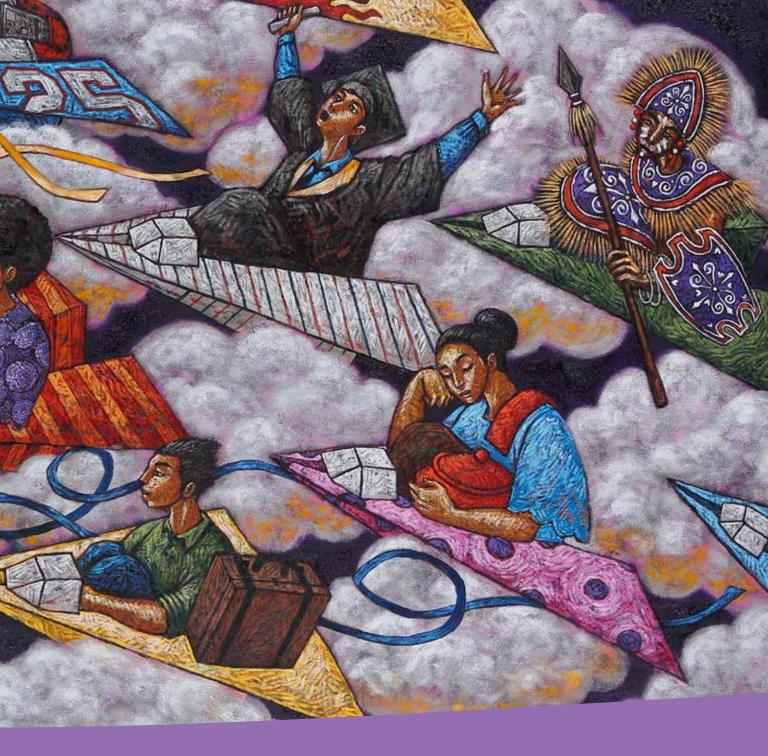
General Gregorio del Pilar's flag was the first one with three colors – red, blue and black. It was last used in the Battle of Tirad Pass.



The national flag today has two equal bands of blue and red, and a white triangle on the side. There is a yellow star in each corner of the triangle, and at its center sits a yellow sun with eight rays.



Juan begins to understand that he is not alone. There are many Filipinos like him who live, work, or grew up in other countries.

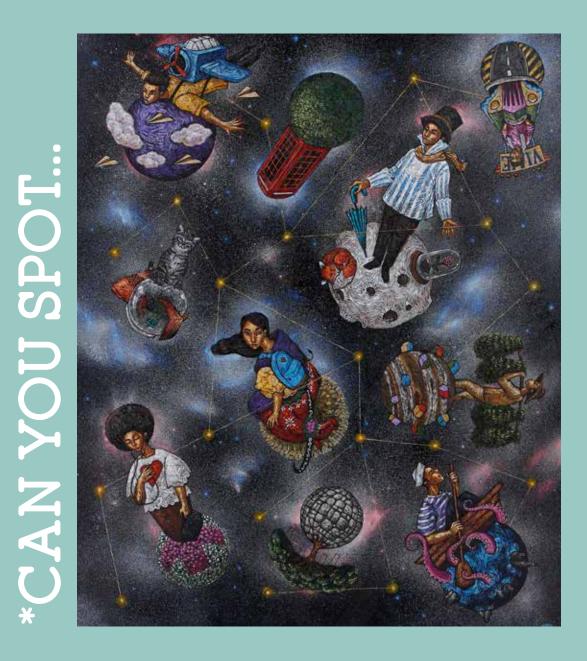


In fact, more than ten million Filipinos live or work abroad. They send tens of billions of dollars back to the Philippines, to help loved ones with household expenses and their education.



Cut out the images above along the white line. Fit the cut images to their corresponding white shapes in the picture on the right.

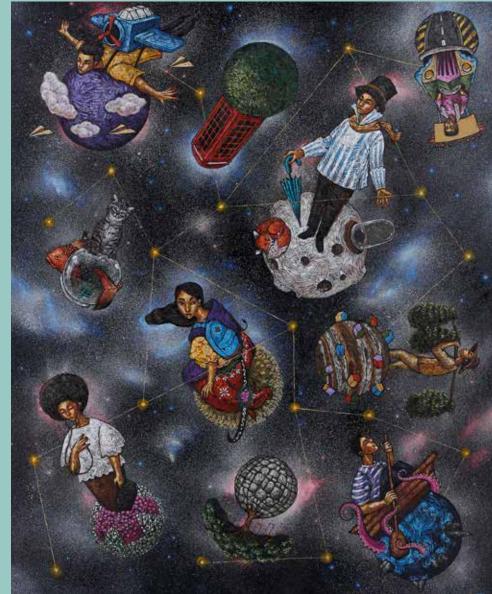




Finally, it is time for Juan to go back to England. As he leaves the Philippines, Juan asks himself, "What makes a someone a Filipino?"

Is one a Filipino simply because his or her parents are Filipino? Is one a Filipino because he or she likes to play basketball and other Philippine games? Are Filipinos defined by tightly knit families, and how family members help each other to succeed no matter where they are?





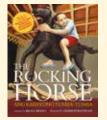
It could also be the stories, legends, and dreams we tell each other. Maybe it's the pride we feel when we see our flag, or when we swim in our beautiful beaches. Or maybe it's all these and more...

One thing is sure. Juan is a little more Filipino now than when he first arrived.

### MORE BOOKS FROM CANVAS



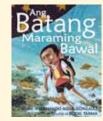
ELIAS AND HIS TREES Adapted from "The Man Who Planted Trees" by Jean Giono Adaptation by Augie Rivera Art by Romeo Forbes



THE ROCKING HORSE Story by Becky Bravo Art by Elmer Borlongan



SOL: A LEGEND ABOUT THE SUN Story by Agay Llanera Art by Farley del Rosario



ANG BATANG MARAMING BAWAL Story by Fernando Rosal Gonzalez Art by Rodel Tapaya



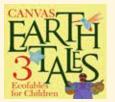
SI LUPITO AT ANG BARRIO SIRKERO Story by Rowald Almazar Art by José John Santos III



ABCDE Vin Nadera RIZAL PABETO Emer Borlongan

Story by Genaro Gojo Cruz Art by Anthony Palomo





EARTH TALES: 3 ECO-FABLES FOR CHILDREN The King and the Royal Trees by Paul Aird Art by Ivee Olivares-Mellor The Hummingbird, Art by Piet Bolipata The Star Thrower, Art by Liza Flores



THE BOY WHO TOUCHED HEAVEN Story by Iris Gem Li Art by Sergio Bumatay III



MESSAGE IN THE SAND Story by Charmaine Aserappa Artworks by Roel Obemio



TAHAN NA, TAHANAN Story by Maria Isabel Alarilla-Arellano Art by Don M. Salubayba



Story by Eline Santos Artworks by Joy Mallari



THE CAT & THE BAT AND OTHER FABLES Adapted by Rhandee Garlitos Art by Elmer Borlongan



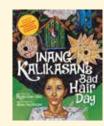
MY BIG SISTER CAN SEE DRAGONS Story by Rocky Sanchez Tirona Artworks by Liza Flores



KARAPAT DAPAT Text by May Tobias-Papa Art by I.N.K.



NADIA AND THE BLUE STARS Story by Francesca Nicole Chan Torres Art by Liv Romualdez Vinluan



INANG KALIKASAN'S BAD HAIR DAY Story by Recle Etino Vibal Artworks by John Paul Antido



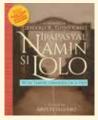
ANG AKLATANG PUSA Story by Eugene Y. Evasco Art by Jared C. Yokte



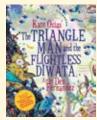
A FISH TALE Story by Becky Bravo Art by Daniel dela Cruz



BENCAB'S ACTIVITY BOOK FOR CHILDREN Activities written by Karen Joy Desamparado-Foronda Art by Benedicto Cabrera



IPAPASYAL NAMIN SI LOLO Written by Renato Gojo Cruz Art by Arvi Fetalvero



THE TRIANGLE MAN AND THE FLIGHTLESS DIWATA Story by Kate Osias Artworks by Dex Fernandez



PANYÁAN: THREE TALES OF THE TAGBANUA Stories by Rhandee Garlitos and Annette Ferrer Art by Sergio Bumatay III



RENATO BARJA'S CHILDREN'S STORIES Written by Daniel Palma and Gigo Alampay Art by Renato Barja



HERE BE DRAGONS Story by Victor Fernando R. Ocampo Artworks by Jon Jaylo



THE WEIGHT OF WORDS: AN ALPHABET OF HUMAN RIGHTS Edited by CANVAS

Featured artists: Electrolychee, Dan Matutina, Gerilya, John Ed De Vera, Jom Masolabe, June Digan, Keith Dador, Kevin Roque, Lala Gallardo, Meneer Marcelo, Palma Tayona, Wesley Valenzuela



MAMITA'S GARDEN: AN ACTIVITY BOOK Text by Nicolas Gabriel Garcia Art by Pam Yan-Santos



\*an art for development project of www.canvas.ph

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*CANVAS*, a non-profit organization, works with the creative community to promote children's literacy, explore national identity, and broaden public awareness of Philippine art, culture, and the environment.

# For the first time in his life, Juan is visiting the Philippines. While he's here, he wants to learn as much about the Philippines as he can. Let's help him to understand *what it means to be Filipino.*

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