



MGA KUWENTO NG
MAALIWALAS

isinulat ni
Becky Bravo

iginuhit ni
Cedrick Dela Paz



ANG LIBRONG ITO AY KAY
THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

Philippine Copyright ©2022
by
CANVAS - The Center for Art, New Ventures
and Sustainable Development

Reserbado ang lahat ng karapatan.

Puwedeng ibahagi, kopyahin, at ipamigay ang naritong materyal sa anumang medium o anyo sa layuning hindi pangnegosyo, kung may angkop na pagpangalan at pagkilala na ibibigay sa CANVAS, ang tagapaglathala nito. Hindi pinapahintulutan ang anumang pagbabago, pagsisipi, o paglikha batay sa naritong materyal nang hindi nakukuha muna ang nakasulat na pahintulot ng CANVAS.

Para sa mga tanong, makipag-ugnayan:
CANVAS
No.1 Upsilon Dr. Ext. cor. Zuzuarregui St.,
Old Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1119
info@canvas.ph

Unang limbag na hardcover and softcover, 2022
Unang inilathala sa Filipino at Ingles
Inilathala ng CANVAS - The Center for Art, New Ventures and Sustainable Development
Inilimbag sa Republika ng Pilipinas

Isinulat ni Becky Bravo
Disenyo ng libro ni Kevin Candelaria
Salin ng "Lunti" ni Monica Antonio
Salin ng "Mga Aso't Pusa" ni Annette A. Ferrer
Pag-edit ni Ergoe Tinio
Paglitrato ni Kurt Alvarez

Likhang-sining ni Cedrick Dela Paz ang mga ilustrasyong bahagi ng librong ito.

Inilathala ang librong ito bilang bahagi ng One Million Books for One Million Filipino Children Campaign. Bilang bahagi ng kampanyang ito, nakikipagtulungan ang CANVAS sa lokal na mga manunulat at artista para makapaglathala ng mga librong pambata. Direktang ipinapamigay ang mga ito sa mga bata sa mga pampublikong aralan at maralitang komunidad sa iba't ibang lugar sa Pilipinas.

MGA KUWENTO NG MAALIWALAS

isinulat ni
Becky Bravo

iginuhit ni
Cedrick Dela Paz



Lunti
(Green)





May pinapatubong puno si Carl.

Nang magbahay-bahay ang Meyor ng Maaliwalas para tiyaking sementado ang bawat sulok ng bayan, kumuha si Carl ng palakol at binutasan ang sahig ng kuwarto niya. Pinuno niya ito ng lupa bago pa matabunan ng graba, buhangin, at semento ang hardin niya, alinsunod sa utos ng munisipyo. Sa butas na ito, nagtanim siya ng isang punla ng puno.

Pag-aari na kasi ng malalaking negosyo ang karapatang magtanim ng mga halaman at puno. Pinapatakbo ang mga negosyo ng mga makapangyarihang taong gumagawa ng produkto sa mga pabrikang bumubuga ng maruming usok. Saka nila binebentahan ng malinis na hangin ang mga mamamayan.

Carl was growing a tree.

When the Mayor of Maaliwalas began going house to house to see to it that every last square inch of earth in people's homes was paved over with concrete, Carl took an axe to his bedroom floor and tore a hole which he filled with as much soil as he dared to take before his garden was entombed, by municipal decree, in gravel, sand, and cement. Into this hole he planted the sapling of a tree.

The right to grow plants and trees now belonged to big business, run by big men who churned out goods on the one hand from factories that belched smoke into the air, then sold the townspeople breaths of clean air from the other.

Palihim na inalagaan ni Carl ang puno. Para tamaan ito ng sinag ng araw, binutas niya ang bubong ng kuwarto. Sa mga araw na walang ulan, mabuti niya itong dinidiligan.

Tahimik na lumaki, nang lumaki, nang lumaki ang puno ni Carl. Hindi nagtagal, bumaon nang malalim sa lupa ang mga ugat nito. Makakapal at malalakas ang ugat na nag-aangat sa iba't ibang bahagi ng sahig. Madilim na luntian ang mga dahon nito habang dalawang beses sa isang taon naman kung mamukadkad ang kulay rosas nitong bulaklak. Ang naglalakihan nitong sanga ay tahanan ng iba't ibang ibong may dalang buto mula sa mga napagdapuang lugar. Kalaunan, bukod sa puno sa kuwarto ni Carl, di-sadyang tumubo na rin doon ang isang harding siksik sa buhay.

Carl cared for the tree in secret. To give it sunlight he cut a hole into his roof so that the sun's rays could stream into his bedroom during the day. He watered it generously on those days when there was no rain.

Carl's tree quietly grew, and grew, and grew. In no time at all, the tree's roots dug deep into the ground, growing so thick and strong that they pushed up the floorboards in every direction. With deep green leaves and pink flowers that blossomed twice a year, its massive branches invited all kinds of birds, bringing with them seeds from the places they had been. Soon there wasn't just the one tree in Carl's bedroom, but an accidental garden teeming with life.





Isang araw, nahuli si Carl. Inilalakad ng Meyor ang aso niya nang mapansin niya ang mga ibong bumubulusok sa bubong ng bahay ni Carl. Naghintay sila, pero naglahong parang bula ang mga ito sa bubungan. Sa buong pagtataka, idiniin ng Meyor ang mukha niya sa pinakamalapit na bintana, pilit na sumisilip sa pagitan ng mga kurtina. Parang may naririnig siyang huni—mula sa loob ng bahay! Iginitgit niya pa ang ilong sa salamin, nang biglang may bali-balikong brasong sumuntok palabas ng bintana at sinapok siya sa mukha!

Natulala ang Meyor nang mabunyag ang misteryo sa bahay ni Carl. Hindi braso kundi baluktot na sanga mula sa unang puno ni Carl ang pumiglas palabas sa bintana. At ngayong nakawala na ang isang sanga nito, paanong hindi nito buong-buong iuunat ang sarili?

Then one day, Carl got caught. The Mayor was walking his dog when he noticed the birds swooping straight down into Carl's roof. He waited, and so did the dog, but the birds simply disappeared right into the shingles. Perplexed, the Mayor pressed his face into the nearest window, straining to see through the drapes, when he thought he heard twittering coming from inside! Harder did he press his nose against the glass, when a grotesquely crooked arm punched right through the windowpane and smacked him squarely in the face!

The Mayor stood there absolutely dumbstruck when he uncovered the mystery of Carl's house. It was not a crooked arm that had burst through the window, but a misshapen branch of Carl's first tree, which had finally broken free. And now that it had one branch out in the open air and sun, how could it not stretch itself out completely?

Sabay-sabay na ibinukadkad ng puno ang nasisiksik nitong mga sanga at itinulak ang mga dingding ng buong bahay ni Carl. KABOG! Bumagsak ang mga pader na nakapaligid sa lihim na hardin. Nagliparan ang mga ibon sa mga puno.

Oo, mga puno—dahil ang nag-iisang puno ay naging apat na. May mga paruparo din, mga namumulaklak na palumpong, kulisap at bubuyog, suso, salaginto, alitaptap, tutubi, at nagtatagong isa o dalawang ahas. Nagsitakbuhan ang mga kapitbahay para buong manghang pagmasdan ang gumuhong pader at masukal na halamanan.

Sinisigawan ng Meyor ang mga guwardiya para hulihin si Carl at itapon sa bilangguan, ngunit—

It uncurled every one of its cramped limbs all at once and pushed against the walls of Carl's entire house. WHUMP! They collapsed all around his secret garden, sending the birds shooting out of the trees.

Yes, trees—for the single tree had happily become four. There were butterflies too, and flowering bushes, wasps and bees, snails, beetles, fireflies, dragonflies, and somewhere in hiding, a snake or two. Neighbors came running out of their houses to gawp at the spectacle of crumbled walls and riotous greenery.

The Mayor began shouting for his troop of sinister bodyguards to arrest Carl and throw him into jail, but—





Krrrk! Krrk! Krrrk! ang tunog ng pagbitak, pagbali, at pagdurog, hanggang sa kalabog! lagapak! dagundong! Gumuho ang mga dingding ng mga kabahayan sa buong paligid. Nagsibagsakan ang mga ito at nabalot ang buong Maaliwalas ng dambuhalang ulap ng alikabok.

Nang humupa ang alikabok, nakita ng Meyor at ng mga tauhan niya na hindi lang si Carl ang naglakas-loob na labagin ang batas, kundi lahat ng naninirahan sa bayan. Natuklasan ng mamamayan ng Maaliwalas na iisa ang saloobin nila: walang sinuman ang may karapatang kunin ang kanilang mga halaman at puno para ipagbili sa kanila ang malinis na hangin, na nararapat na pag-aari ng lahat.

Pinalakas ng pinagkaisang layunin, ginawa nila ang dapat ay matagal na nilang ginawa: itinaboy nila ang Meyor at ang mga galamay niya at binalaang huwag nang bumalik kailanman. Binawi nila ang bayan, hinayaang malayang tumubo ang mga puno at halaman, at nagtanim sa mga lugar na may kakaunting halaman.

Krrrk! Krrk! Krrrk! came a cracking, snapping, splintering sound, and then whump! crash! bang! Down came the walls of people's houses everywhere, as far as their eyes could see. They toppled to the ground and plunged the whole of Maaliwalas under a great cloud of dust.

When the dust settled, the Mayor and his men saw that Carl was not the only one who had dared to break the law, but every other inhabitant of town. And the put-upon citizens of Maaliwalas saw for themselves that every one of them had been thinking the same thing: no one had any right to take their plants and trees to sell them clean air, which rightfully belonged to all.

Emboldened now by a common cause, they did what they should have done a long time ago: they ran the Mayor and his cronies out of town and told them never to return. They took back their town, let the trees and plants grow freely, and wherever there was too little greenery, they planted more.



Dahil rito, luminis ang hangin at naging luntian ang bayan. Naging masaya at malusog ang mga mamamayan ng Maaliwalas, higit pa siguro sa nararapat.

In this way, the air blew clean and the town turned green, making the residents of Maaliwalas happy and healthy, perhaps even more than they had any right to be.



Kuwentong
Barbero
(Barber's Tale)



Saksakan ng ingay sa barberya ni Mang Enteng at kanya-kanya ng paboritong barbero ang bawat suki. Iyong mga mahilig makipagdiskusyon tungkol sa pulitika, ang hanap ay si Guido. Iyon namang mga mahilig sa usapang sasakyan, trapik, at presyo ng gasolina, deretso kay Jojo. Kay Rex ang mga suki na mahilig sa usong damit, musika, at mga patok na pelikula. At doon naman kay Don ang mga baliw sa mga laro, tulad ng bilyar, boksing, at basketbol.

Pero may isang barbero si Mang Enteng na bihirang sadyain ng mga kliyente—hindi dahil bulok siyang maggupit, kundi dahil hindi siya halos umiimik.

Mang Enteng's barbershop was a very noisy place to be and each customer had their own favorite barber. Those who liked to discuss politics always asked for Guido. Those who enjoyed talking about cars, the state of the traffic, and the price of gasoline went straight to Jojo. Customers who were into fashion, music, and hit movies went to Rex. And those who were crazy about sports like billiards, boxing, and basketball went to Don.

But there was one barber at Mang Enteng's establishment who was hardly ever sought by clients—not because he was lousy at cutting hair, but because he almost always kept to himself.





Ipinanganak si Lino na pipi. Wala siyang kakayahang magsalita, kahit na nakaririnig naman siya nang mabuti. Sa katunayan, kasinggaling niyang maggupit, magmasahe, at mag-ahit ang mga kasamahan, ngunit dahil hindi alam ng mga suki kung paano makikipag-usap sa kanya, doon na lang sila lumalapit sa iba.

Isang araw, dumating ang punong barangay na si Mang Roberto, kasama ang bunsong si Berting. Marami ang nakakakilala sa dyunyor ni Hepe, dahil si Berting ang walang kaduda-dudang pinakamalikot at pinakamadaldal sa lahat ng bata sa Barangay Siete.

Pagpasok na pagpasok pa lang ng mag-ama, namayani na ang matinis na boses ng bata sa apat na sulok ng barberya. Agad itong nagtatakbo sa loob ng pagupitan habang kunwaring pinalilipad ang hawak na laruan.

Lino was born lacking the ability to speak, even though he could hear quite well. He could cut hair, give massages, and shave a man just as expertly as his co-workers. But because the customers didn't know how to speak with him, they would just approach the other barbers.

One day, the barangay chief, Mang Roberto, arrived at the shop with his youngest son, Berting. The chief's Junior was pretty well-known around the neighborhood because Berting was, without a doubt, the most mischievous, most talkative child in all of Barangay Siete.

As soon as father and son walked through the door, the little boy's high-pitched voice prevailed over all four corners of the barbershop. He immediately started running all around the place, pretending to make the toy in his hand fly.

“Tay, gusto ko ng gupit na katulad ng sa ‘yo. ‘Tay, ayun si Mang Caloy, o, yung tatay ng kalaro ko! ‘Tay, puwede ba tayong bumili ng meryenda pagkatapos nito? May kuwento ako sa ‘yo ‘Tay, tungkol sa nabasa ko sa libro. Makinig ka, ‘Tay, magugustuhan mo!”

“Mamaya na, anak, ha? Magpagupit ka muna,” sagot ng ama. Iyon nga lang, isa- isang nagdahilan ang mga barbero dahil wala sa kanila ang handang gumupit sa malikot at makulit na bata.

“May darating po akong kliyente, e. Natrapik lang yata,” ang palusot ni Jojo.

“Naku, pasensya na, hindi po ako marunong humawak ng bata,” ang sagot ni Rex.

“Ako rin po,” sabad naman ni Don.

“Takot akong madaplisan siya ng gunting kung bigla siyang maglilikut sa silya.”

“Daddy, I want a haircut just like yours. Hey, look over there, Daddy! It’s Mang Caloy, my friend’s dad! Daddy, can we get a snack after this? I have a story to tell you, Daddy, about something I read in a book. Listen, Daddy, you’re going to like it!”

“We’ll do that later, all right, son? First, you need to get a haircut,” his father answered. But one by one all the barbers began to make excuses because none of them were prepared to give a hyperactive little boy a haircut.

“I’m sorry, sir, but I’m expecting a client. I think he’s just caught in traffic,” said Jojo.

“Oh, I’m really sorry, sir, but I’m no good at cutting children’s hair,” said Rex.

“Neither am I,” Don chimed in. “I’m afraid I might nick him with my scissors if he suddenly starts squirming in his chair.”





At dahil si Guido na ang naatasang maggupit kay Mang Roberto, sino na ang gugupit sa anak niya? Namagitan na si Mang Enteng para wala nang gulo. “Lino, ikaw na’ng bahala dito.”

Nang maiupo sa wakas si Berting sa silya, pinagpag ni Lino ang isang malinis na berdeng kapa at isinuot ito sa kanya. Sandaling pinag-aralan ni Berting ang repleksiyon ng barbero sa malapad na salamin. Nahuli ni Lino ang tingin niya at sinalubong kaagad ng ngiti, at pagkatapos ay ngumuso sa laruang hawak ng bata—ang asul na eroplano na regalo sa kanya ni Tatay.

And since Guido had already been assigned to give Mang Roberto his haircut, who was supposed to cut his son’s hair now? Mang Enteng decided to step in and settle the matter himself. “Lino, you handle it.”

When they finally got Berting settled into a chair, Lino shook out a clean green cape and put it on him. The boy briefly studied the barber’s reflection in the big broad mirror. Lino caught his eye and smiled back at him, then puckered his lips towards the toy the boy was holding—the blue airplane that his Daddy had given him as a present.

At nagsimula na nga si Berting na isalaysay ang buong kasaysayan ng laruan. Maya't maya ay hihinto siya para tingnan kung nakikinig pa ang barbero, pero di nagtagal ay kumbinsido na siyang mabuti siyang pinakikinggan ni Lino.

Dahil sa likas na kalikutan ni Berting, nag-isip si Lino ng paraan upang pagsabihan ang paslit na maupo muna nang tuwid. Tatapikin niya ng gunting ang lalagyan ng gamit niya, at oras na mahuli ang pansin ni Berting ay kunot-noo kunwaring ngunguso sa salamin. Kaagad naman siyang naiintindihan ng bata na masunuring hihinto sa paglilikot at titingin sa harapan upang madaling magupitan ang buhok niya sa patilya at likuran ng tainga.

And so Berting launched right into the entire history of his toy plane. Now and then he'd stop talking just to check whether the barber was still listening, but it wasn't long before he was convinced that he had Lino's full attention.

Given Berting's habit of never sitting still, Lino figured out a way to signal the child to sit up straight. He would tap his scissors against the cart where he kept all his equipment, and the moment he had Berting's attention, he'd pretend to frown and point his lips towards the mirror. The child would understand him instantly, obediently sitting still and looking straight into the mirror to make it easy for Lino to trim the hair off his sideburns and in the backs of his ears.





Sa loob ng dalawampu't limang minuto'y tapos na ang gupit ng bata. Pulido! Walang kauka-uka, walang katikwas-tikwas, walang bahaging masyadong maikli o masyadong mahaba. Humanga si Mang Roberto sa husay ng kamay ni Lino sa bunso niya. At nang ibinida niya ito pag-uwi kay misis, na agad-agad namang ibinalita sa mga katsismisan niya, unti-unting dumami ang nagpapagupit kay Lino. Hindi nagtagal, dumami ang mga suki ni Lino, at siya na rin ang naging opisyal na barbero ng mga batang lalaki ng buong Barangay Siete.

At sa ganitong paraan, naging maingay din ang puwesto ni Lino sa barberya. Humalo sa masayang istoryahan ng matatanda ang masiglang kalatok ng gunting niya at halakhak ng mga palakuwentong bata.

The little boy's haircut was done in twenty-five minutes. It was perfect! No places uneven, no flyaway hair, no areas too short or too long. Mang Roberto was impressed by Lino's skill. And when he came home to report this to his wife, who immediately passed it on to her friends, Lino slowly began to attract more clients. Before long, his list of customers grew, and he also became the official barber of all the little boys of Barangay Siete.

And this was how Lino's corner of the barbershop became just as noisy as the others. The lively tap-tapping of his scissors and the laughter of talkative little boys blended right in with the voices of the menfolk in gleeful conversation.



Mga Aso't Pusa

(Cats and Dogs)



Kuwento ito ng isang lalaki at babae, isang aso at pusa. Taliwas sa likas nilang mga ugali, magkasundo ang aso at pusa. Pero hindi ang mga amo nila.

Gula-gulanit na bakod lang ang pagitan ng magkatabing bahay nina Melo at Lucing. Pareho silang nag-aalaga ng hardin. Sa bakuran niya, nagpapatubo si Melo ng mga prutas at gulay. Mga palamuting halaman at bulaklak naman ang pinapalago ni Lucing.



This is a story about a man and a woman, a dog and a cat. Against their natural instincts, the dog and the cat got along rather well. Their owners, however, did not.

Melo and Lucing were neighbors whose houses stood side by side with only a ragged picket fence between them. Each of them grew a garden. On his side, Melo grew fruits and vegetables, while Lucing raised ornamental plants and flowers.



Para sa mga alaga nila, ang asong si Brownie at ang pusang si Muning, hindi mahaharang ng bakod ang pagkakaibigan. Madalas, makikita silang isinisiksik ang mga nguso sa mga butas ng bakod, nag-aamuyan at nagkukumustahan. Lagi silang lumulusot sa mga siwang para bumisita sa kaibigan o mamasyal sa bakuran ng isa't isa.

Pero para kina Melo at Lucing, minamarkahan ng bakod ang dulo ng puwede nilang puntahan, at naniniwala silang susundin rin iyon ng mga alaga nila kahit pa hindi na nila sabihin.



To their pets, a dog named Brownie and a cat named Muning, the fence posed no barrier to their friendship. They were often seen poking their noses in between the slats to smell each other hello, constantly slipping in and out of the gaps to visit each other as they pleased, or rambling through each other's territory.

But to Melo and Lucing, the fence marked a line beyond which they were not permitted to go, and they believed it to be an unspoken rule that also applied to the animals they owned.

Pero dahil ayaw naman ng ni isa sa kanilang ikulong o itali ang mga alaga nila, at lalong ayaw magpatayo ng mas matibay na bakod, nakasanayan na nilang araw-araw magpagalit sa isa't isa mula sa magkabilang bakod tungkol sa mga kasalanan ng mga palagiang nanghihimasok.

“Oy, Melo! Nakita ko na naman yung aso mong natutulog sa kinalkal niyang hukay sa taniman ko ng sunflower!”

“O, talaga? Puwes, nahuli ko yung pusa mong sumusubok umebak sa mga repolyo ko nitong umaga!”

“Yan ang napapala mo dahil hinahayaan mong ihian ng aso mo ang mga rosas ko!”

“At para namang hindi mo binabayaang akyatin ng pusa mo ang mga tanim kong pipino?”

Araw-araw na lang nagbabangayan sina Melo at Lucing tungkol sa mga nasisira sa mahal nilang mga hardin, nagtatalo tungkol sa mga napsat na pakô, nginatngat na dahon, tinaob na paso, at binunot na halaman.

But as neither of them wanted to keep their pets from wandering free, or even build a less penetrable fence, it became a daily habit of theirs to confront each other from across the divide and complain about misdeeds that had been committed by the habitual trespassers to their property.

“Oy, Melo. I found your dog sleeping in another hole he dug in my sunflower bed!”

“Oh, yeah? Well, I caught your cat trying to do his business in my cabbages this morning!”

“That’s what you get for letting your dog piddle in my roses!”

“And what about you letting your cat climb all over my cucumbers?”

Melo and Lucing argued every single day about the damage suffered by their precious gardens, raving about everything from flattened ferns to chewed-up leaves, overturned pots, and uprooted greens.



Pero balewala ang mga ito kina Brownie at Muning. Basta nilang hinahayaan ang mga amo nilang magbangayan. Tatakas na lang sila nang magkasama, tulad ng ginagawa ng matatalik na magkaibigan.


Hindi magtatagal, uuwi rin sa kani-kanilang bahay ang aso't pusa. Aaliwin ni Brownie si Melo sa laro ng tapon-balik, at kakalong si Muning kay Lucing para maglambing. Para kina Melo at Lucing, na parehong nag-iisa at sanay nang walang ibang kasama, mga alaga na lang nila ang mapagkukunan nila ng tunay na saya. Natutuwa sila sa pagtanim at paghahalaman, pero ang mga alaga nila ang pumapawi ng kanilang pangungulila.

At alam na siguro ninyo, sadyang mas mahaba ang buhay ng mga amo kaysa mga alaga. Ganoon talaga. Noong tumanda na sina Brownie at Muning, unti-unti silang nanghina at pumanaw. Nauna si Brownie, na hinimlay ni Melo sa lilim ng puno ng mangga. Hindi nagtagal, sumunod na si Muning, na inilibing ni Lucing sa ilalim ng mga bulaklak ng zinnia na hilig niyang gawing palaruan.

But none of it made any difference to Brownie and Muning. They'd simply leave their masters to squabble by themselves then run off to keep each other company, like the good friends they were.

Eventually, the dog and the cat would each return to their homes, Brownie to amuse Melo in a game of fetch, and Muning to sit and purr in Lucing's lap. To Melo and Lucing, both on their own and resigned to their solitude, their pets were the only real joy they had. Caring for their gardens provided some diversion, but their pets kept them from feeling completely alone.

But as you might already be aware, our pets live shorter lives than we do. It cannot be helped. When Brownie and Muning reached their old age, they slowly sickened and passed away. First was Brownie, whom Melo laid to rest under the shade of a mango tree. Muning followed not long afterwards, and Lucing buried her under the zinnias where she had always loved to play.

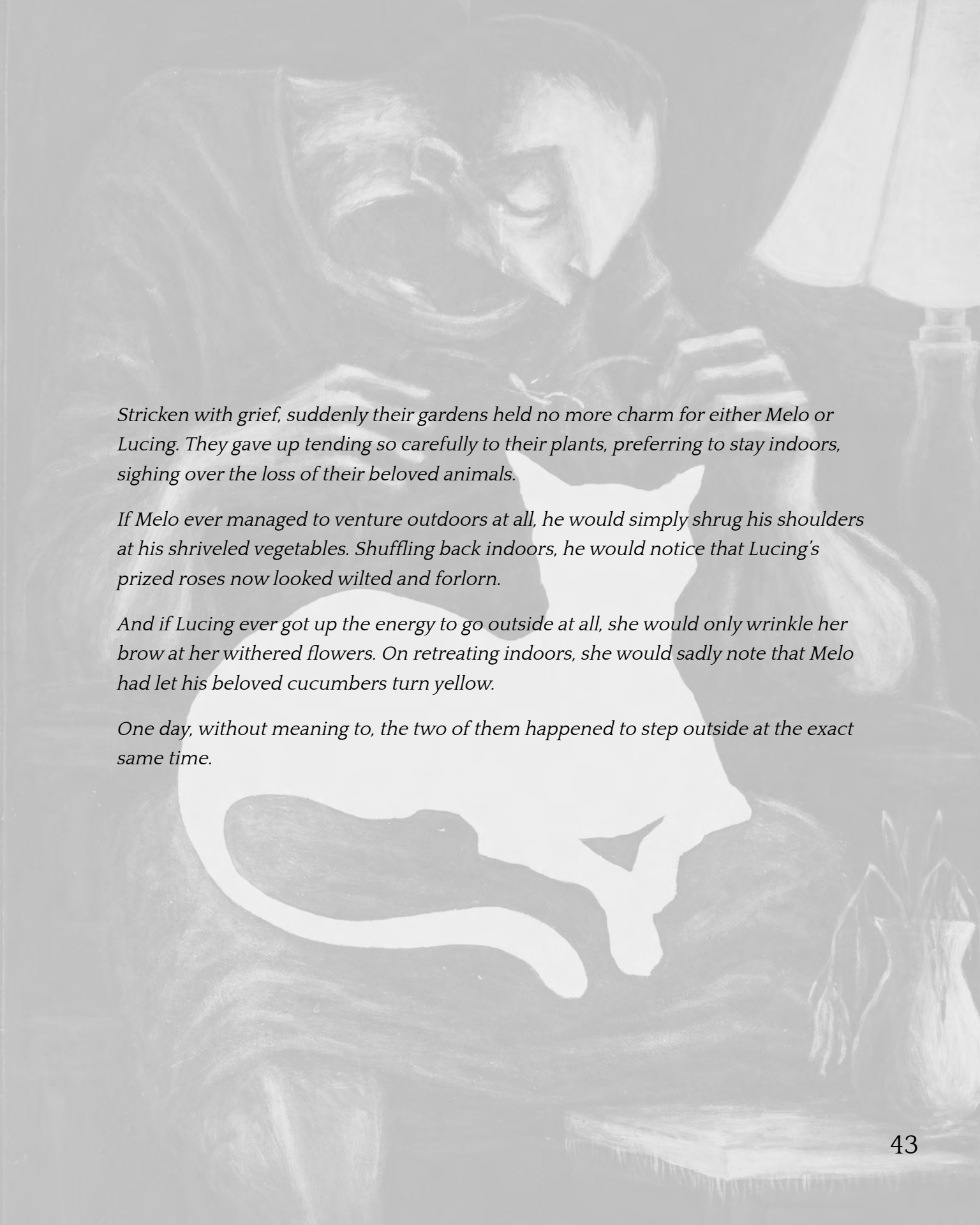


Sa lubhang lungkot nina Melo at Lucing, parang nawalan ng kulay ang mga hardin. Hindi na nila inaalagaan ang mga tanim, piniling sa loob ng bahay mamalagi, nagbubuntong-hininga sa pagkawala ng mga alaga.

Kung lumabas man si Melo, nagkikibit-balikat siya sa mga tuyot nang gulay. Kinakaladkad ang mga paa pauwi, napansin niyang mukhang nangalanta't napag-iwanan ang mahal na mga rosas ni Lucing.

Kung si Lucing naman ay nagkaganang lumabas, nagkukunot lang siya ng noo sa nalantang mga bulaklak. At bago muling pumasok ng bahay, malungkot niyang napansing nanilaw na ang mga pipinong pinagkakaingatan ni Melo.

Isang araw, nang hindi sinasadya, nagkasalubong sila sa labas.



Stricken with grief, suddenly their gardens held no more charm for either Melo or Lucing. They gave up tending so carefully to their plants, preferring to stay indoors, sighing over the loss of their beloved animals.

If Melo ever managed to venture outdoors at all, he would simply shrug his shoulders at his shriveled vegetables. Shuffling back indoors, he would notice that Lucing's prized roses now looked wilted and forlorn.

And if Lucing ever got up the energy to go outside at all, she would only wrinkle her brow at her withered flowers. On retreating indoors, she would sadly note that Melo had let his beloved cucumbers turn yellow.

One day, without meaning to, the two of them happened to step outside at the exact same time.



Sa gulat, alangan silang napatango sa isa't isa at nag-isip rin kung paano mabilis na makakatakas. Pero si Melo, na nabibigatan na sa pag-iisa, ay nagpasyang kumustahin si Lucing sa kanyang kalusugan.

"Kumusta ka na?" tapat niyang itinanong. At dahil nangungulila na rin si Lucing, kinumusta rin niya si Melo.

Sa mga sumunod na araw, namukadkad sa dalawa ang diwa ng mabuting pakikisama tuwing nagkikita sila sa labas. Dahil parehong nagluluksa sa pumanaw nilang mga alaga, nakahanap sila ng karamay sa isa't isa. Habang lalo silang nagkakakilala, lumilitaw ang mabubuti nilang katangian at naging mas madaling ipagpalipas na lang ang dati nilang mga hidwaan.

Alam ko yata kung kailan nila talagang simulang nakita ang isa't isa bilang tunay na magkaibigan. Umaga iyon, at pareho silang bumángong sabik na muling alagaan ang mga hardin. Nang mapansin ang isa't isa sa labas, batid nila, kahit walang salita, kung ano ang gagawin ng bawat isa. Ganoon kasi ang magkaibigan. Mula sa kani-kanilang bakuran, nagpalitan ng ngiti sina Melo at Lucing at nagkumustahan.

Caught off guard, they nodded awkwardly at one another and considered making a quick escape. But Melo, by now quite overcome by lonesomeness, made up his mind instead to inquire after Lucing's health.

"How have you been?" he asked her sincerely, and Lucing, being very lonely herself, could not help but ask him the same.

In the days that followed, mutual feelings of goodwill blossomed between them every time they ran into each other outdoors. Drawn together by their shared grief for their departed pets, they found comfort in each other's sympathy. The more they grew acquainted with each other's better qualities, the easier it became to put their past differences aside.

I believe I know the exact point in time when they came to regard each other truly as friends. It was on the morning they both rose from their beds eager to begin tending to their gardens once again. On finding each other outside, they knew, without exchanging a word, what they were both there to do. Somehow friends always know. Melo and Lucing exchanged smiles from across the spindly fence and greeted each other hello.





Mensahe ng Manunulat

Hulog ng langit ang mga kuwentong ito sa panahon ng pandemya. Nabigo ang “Lunti” sa Romeo Forbes Competition. Pero Enero 2021, biglang tumawag si Gigo Alampay, direktor ng CANVAS, hindi lang para sabihing ilalathala ang kuwento. Humingi siya ng dalawa pa.

Kaya, sa sarili kong paraan, nagpatubo rin ako ng maliit na hardin ng pag-asa habang hindi makalabas ng bahay. Pasasalamat kay Cedrick Dela Paz para sa mga binhing pinagmulan ng “Kuwentong Barbero” at “Mga Aso’t Pusa.”

This collection of stories was a godsend in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. “Green” lost in the Romeo Forbes Competition. But in January 2021, CANVAS director Gigo Alampay called me out of the blue not just to pick the story up for publication, but to ask me to write two more.

And so, in my own way, I also grew a hopeful little garden while stuck in the confines of my house. My thanks to Cedrick dela Paz for suggesting the storylines for his drawings—the seeds that grew into “Kuwentong Barbero” and “Cats and Dogs.”

—Becky Bravo

Mensahe ng Ilustrador

Noong nagsisimula ako bilang isang visual artist, nangarap akong magkaroon ng pagkakataong magkalibro sa CANVAS. Mahirap, masaya, punong-puno ng bagong karanasan, at isang karangalan ang paggawa ng tatlong serye ng mga painting para sa tatlong kuwentong mula sa malikot na kaisipan ng napakahusay na manunulat na si Becky Bravo.

Hindi lamang akin ito. Proyekto itong pinag-ambagan ng mga taong may iba’t ibang talento para makabuo ng isang libro na maaaring magbigay ng ngiti sa mga bata o kahit na matanda na makakabasa nito.

When I was just starting out as an artist, I dreamt of the opportunity to have a book with CANVAS. This process was challenging, enjoyable, and filled with new experiences. It is an honor to create three series of paintings for the stories that sprouted from the playful mind of the brilliant writer Becky Bravo.

This work is not mine alone. It is the product of collaboration among people contributing their talents to create a book that will bring smiles to the faces of readers, young and old alike.

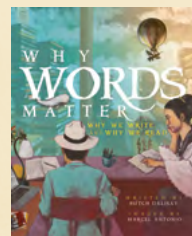
—Cedrick Dela Paz

MORE BOOKS FROM CANVAS

Art and culture



RENATO BARJA'S CHILDREN'S STORIES
poetic reflection and lyrical art
stories from some of Manila's children
Retelling by Daniel Palma Tayona and Gigo Alampay
Art by Renato Barja



WHY WORDS MATTER
poetic reflection and lyrical art
Text by Butch Dalisay
Art by Marcel Antonio

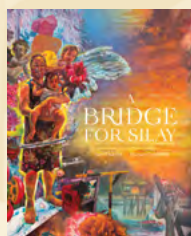


THE WEIGHT OF WORDS: AN ALPHABET OF HUMAN RIGHTS
An Alphabet of HUMAN RIGHTS
Editing by CANVAS
Art by various artists

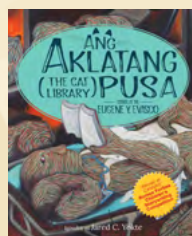


SILENT WITNESSES
anecdotes of Martial Law survivors
Retelling by Gigo A. Alampay
Art by Renz M. Baluyot

Community



A BRIDGE FOR SILAY
the legend of Talim Island's Devil Bridge
Retelling by Agay Llanera
Art by Ronson Culibrina



ANG AKLATANG PUSA
a story about a librarian and her cats
Story by Eugene Y. Evasco
Art by Jared C. Yokte



DAUGHTER AND THE GREAT FISH
a girl's quest to feed her village
Story by Loren Peria
Art by Jeho Bitancor

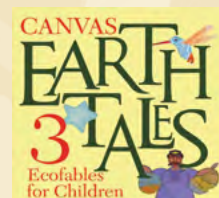


KAKATOK-KATOK SA BAHAY NI BENOK
a community saves itself through unity
Story by Mon Sy
Art by Faye Abantao

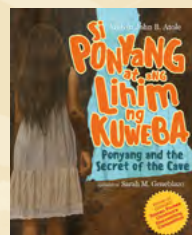
Environment and nature



MESSAGE IN THE SAND
a boy is determined to save the seas
Story by Charmaine Aserappa
Art by Roel Obemio



EARTH TALES: 3 ECO-FABLES FOR CHILDREN
three eco-fables for children
Stories by unknown authors
Art by Ivey Olivares-Mellor, Plet Bolipata, Liza Flores



SI PONYANG AT ANG LIHIM NG KUWEBA
two friends discovering nature's wonders
Story by Melvin John B. Atole
Art by Sarah M. Geneblazo

Human rights

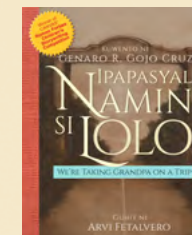
Family



A FISH TALE
a tribute to the family we choose
Story by Becky Bravo
Art by Daniel dela Cruz



MY BIG SISTER CAN SEE DRAGONS
two sisters and their big imaginations
Story by Rocky Sanchez Tirona
Art by Liza Flores

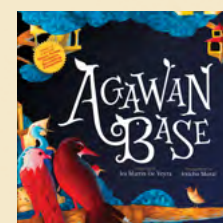


IPAPASYAL NAMIN SI LOLO
a grandfather's trip down memory lane
Story by Renato R. Gojo Cruz
Art by Arvi Fetalvero



ANG ANGHEL NG SANTA ANA
a story about supporting one's sister
Story by Josephine de Dios
Art by Johanna Helmuth

Self-care and self-discovery



AGAWAN BASE
a bird's self-confidence takes flight
Story by Jez Martin De Veyra
Art by Jericho Moral



MY SUPER HANDS
part of a campaign on handwashing
Written by Annette A. Ferrer
Artworks by BLIC



MGA MUNTING PATAK NG ULAN
a child decides on a dream
Story by Jessica Luciano Olmedo
Art by Alee Garibay



I LIKE WEARING RAINBOWS
a boy sees himself in many colors
Written by Agay Llanera
Art by Lui Manaig



SILIM, PRINSESA NG DILIM
a diwata finds beauty in darkness
Written by Mark Joseph Bacho
Art by Luis Lorenzana

Activity Books



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



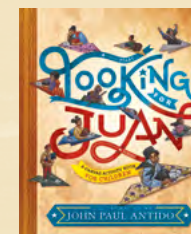
I AM THE CHANGE IN CLIMATE CHANGE
an activity book for young environmentalists
Written by Alyssa M. Peleo-Alampay, Ph.D.
Art by Ang I.N.K.



I AM THE STORYTELLER
a storytelling activity book
Educational direction by Ana Maria Margarita Salvador
Art by various artists



KARAPAT DAPAT
an activity book on the rights of the child
Text by May Tobias-Papa
Art by I.N.K.



LOOKING FOR JUAN
an activity book about the Philippines
Activities by Annette A. Ferrer and Gigo A. Alampay
Art by John Paul Antido



MAMITA'S GARDEN: AN ACTIVITY BOOK
an activity book about plant care
Text by Nicolas Gabriel Garcia
Art by Pam Yan-Santos



SAFE SPACE
an activity book on internet safety
Text by Gigo Alampay
Design by Liza Flores, Abi Goy, Fran Alvarez, and Jamie Bauza



#YOUTHINK
a zine to combat fake news
Text by Gigo Alampay
Design by Studio Dialogo

More titles available at www.canvas.ph and www.lookingforjuan.com.

**The Center for Art, New Ventures
& Sustainable Development, 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.



www.canvas.ph

For more information about CANVAS,
and to learn how you can help and participate,
send an email to info@canvas.ph.



Learn more about us at
www.canvas.ph



Buy our books online at
www.lookingforjuan.com



CANVAS.PH



canvasph.art



Looking For Juan



lookingforjuan



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

CANVAS' 1 Million Books for One Million Filipino Children Campaign

aims to inspire in children a love for reading
by donating its award-winning books to public schools, hospitals,
and disadvantaged communities throughout the country.

Imagine and believe.

A child with art and stories can change the world.

You can help us!

For more information, email info@canvas.ph,
visit our websites at www.canvas.ph or bit.ly/donatetocanvas,
or find us on social media:

**Facebook: Center for Art, New Ventures
and Sustainable Development (CANVAS.PH)**

Instagram: @canvasph.art

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.



Sa bayan ng Maaliwalas,

may nagtanim ng puno kahit bawal,
maingay sa puwesto ng barberong pipi,
at may aso't pusang magkapitbahay.

Narito ang tatlong kuwento
ng pagtindig, pag-asa, at ligayang
umuusbong sa kabutihan ng isa't isa.

CANVAS Stories. **Real Life Told Beautifully.**

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 more information, please visit www.canvas.ph
or follow us at www.facebook.com/canvas.ph.



www.canvas.ph

A child with art and stories can change the world.

