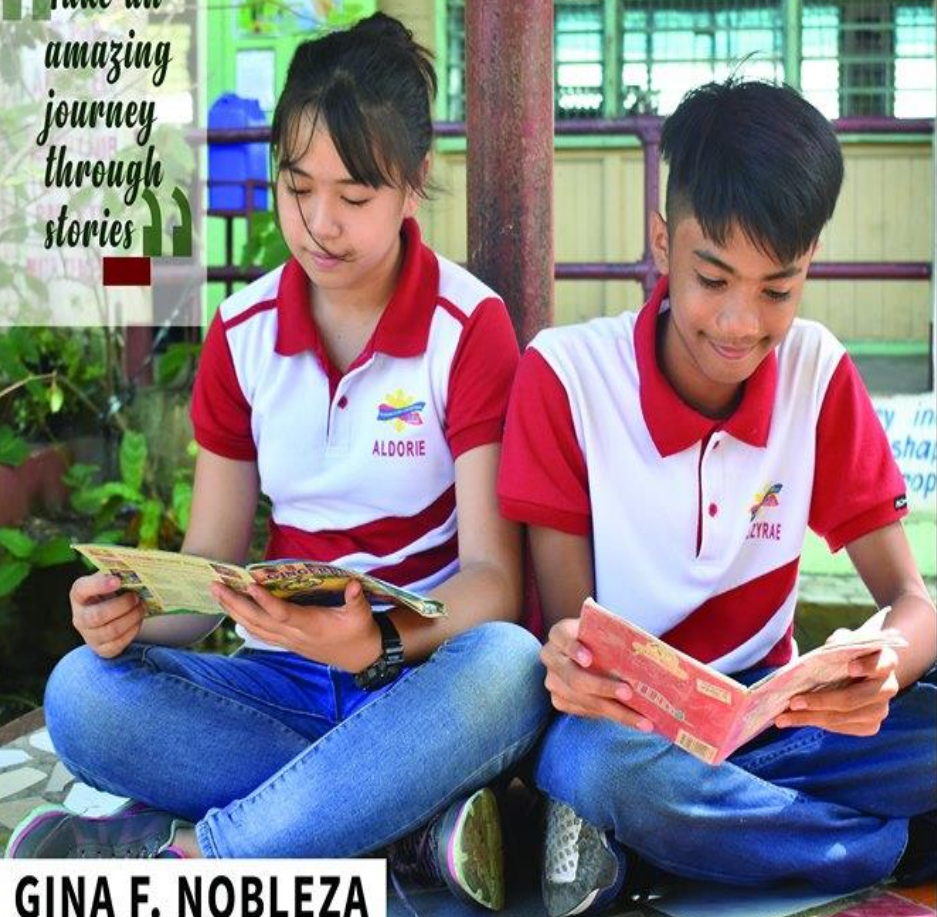


READER'S

Haven

Take an
amazing
journey
through
stories



GINA F. NOBLEZA
Author



Republic of the Philippine
Department of Education
Region VI – Western Visayas
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF ROXAS CITY

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Reading Material in English 6
READER’S HAVEN

Author
GINA F. NOBLEZA

DIVISION QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM

EVELYN B. CERCADO, PhD
EPS, English

JOCELYN D. SUNSONA, PhD
PSDS, Cluster 1

SUZETTE B. FASLS
PSDS, Cluster 2

Recommended for the use of the Schools Division:

MARVIC S. MARTIREZ, PhD
Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division

FERDINAND S. SY, Ph.D., CESO VI
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

Approved for the use of the Schools Division:

FELICIANO C. BUENAFE, JR, CESO VI
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

Preface

To the Learners:

Reader's Haven is intended for grade six learners like you. This reading material will take you to amazing journey and marvelous adventures that will cultivate your creativity and imagination. It will also help you improve your knowledge and reading skills.

This book includes different short stories, fables and legend that are originally written suited to your age and interest. Each story will teach you valuable life's lessons and moral values.

There are 10 stories in this book which are arranged on the level of difficulty. After each story, there are comprehension questions and vocabulary words that you need to answer to improve your reading skills.

The Author

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EXERCISE 1

Little Octopus

Everyone went into the classroom as Teacher Stick Fish opened the door. Seahorse, Goldfish, Clam, Oyster and everyone in the class occupied the seats on the first and second rows. Little Octopus, who was an eager learner, wanted to sit in front, but the nasty Goldfish drove her away. “Stay away from us, weirdo,” Goldfish uttered. Everyone laughed and joined in discriminating the poor octopus. “Look at her bulbous head, it looks funny!” added the mean Seahorse. “Hey, how does it feel to have those arms? Are you not confused where is left and right?” the Clam taunted her. But Little Octopus was reminded of her mother’s word that she should not pick any fight in school and be friendly. She did not say a word and just sat in the last row where no one was seated near her.

Teacher Stick Fish went on with her class when an emergency bell rang. The principal, Sea Turtle,

immediately swam around the school campus. “The shark is coming! Proceed to the emergency hideout now!” he announced. But it was too late. The ravenous shark was already in front of them and there was no way to escape. Its big mouth opened, ready to pierce everyone with its sharp teeth and swallow them in an instant. The nasty and mean Goldfish, Seahorse and along with other sea animals in the school screamed and were terrified of their expected death. Suddenly, Little Octopus bravely appeared in front of them and squirted a cloud of dark ink which deterred the extremely hungry shark. Confused, the shark went away.

“Thank you for saving all of us,” Mr. Sea Turtle said. “You are indeed our hero, dear,” Teacher Stick Fish added. The rest gathered around the Little Octopus and shook her arms. Her classmates, Gold Fish, Oyster and Seahorse went near her and expressed their regret of being rude at her. “We’re so sorry. We misjudged you. Thank you for saving our lives!” they exclaimed.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper

1. Why nobody liked Little Octopus?
 - A. He was small.
 - B. He looked weird.
 - C. He was not a fish.
 - D. He was not intelligent.

2. Why did the shark go away?
 - A. It wanted a bigger prey.
 - B. The Sea Turtle frightened it.
 - C. It was afraid of Little Octopus.
 - D. It was confused by the cloud of black ink.

3. If you were in Octopus' place, would you help those who bullied you? Why ?
 - A. Yes, because I am brave.
 - B. No, because they deserve it.
 - C. No, because the shark is dangerous.
 - D. Yes, because I am a good person.

4. Have you experienced bullying? How did you handle it? Share your answers to the class.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

discriminating

weirdo

eager

squirted

extremely

rude

deterred

bulbous

taunted

EXERCISE 2

Give Thanks

Once, there was a poor young boy named Emmanuel. The young boy always loved going to church, together with his mom. Since they were poor, he could not have the things he needed and eat the foods he wanted. Emmanuel had always dreamt of living a comfortable life. Every time he went to church, he prayed to be successful so he could buy all the things he wanted and needed.

Growing up, Emmanuel studied hard and graduated with honors. After graduating from college, he was immediately hired as a manager. Emmanuel never forgot to give thanks to the Lord for slowly granting all his wishes and prayers. Despite his position in the company, he was working on, he still worked very hard until he finally had a company of his own. He was very successful and became one of the richest people in the country. He lived the life he always dreamt of when

he was still a poor young boy , but forgot the one who made the success possible for him. He had everything, yet he did not even bother to give thanks to God.

A few months later, Emmanuel's business slowly failed. He got depressed and started blaming the Almighty Father for all the bad things that happened to his life. It was not long when he realized that it was because he forgot the Lord.

One day, with hands clasped together, he entered the church with his faith slowly getting back to its stability. Tears started falling on his face. He stopped walking. In front of the altar, he kneeled. While crying deeply, he heard God's voice saying, "Go back to me, everything is temporary."

On that day, Emmanuel resubmitted himself to the Lord. He realized that he was nothing without the grace of God.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. What was the dream of Emmanuel?

- A. to have a comfortable life
- B. to own a big company
- C. to have time with God
- D. to help her mother

2. What words best describe Emmanuel in the beginning of the story?

- A. shy and timid
- B. arrogant and stubborn
- C. Prayerful and hard working
- D. irresponsible and ungrateful

3. Why do you think Emmanuel forgot to thank God.?

- A. He was busy.
- B. His home was far from the church.
- C. He was overwhelmed by his success.
- D. He did not believe that God helped him.

4. Do you also give thanks to God? In what way? Share your answer to the class.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

clasped

temporary

despite

EXERCISE 3

Reddy, the Red Car

Reddy found a new owner after being displayed in the Show Room for a month. Reddy was a sleek brand new red car. She was the coolest car in town, for she had some features that other cars in the neighborhood did not have—a remote control to start-up, high end stereos, parking cameras, anti-collision warning system, and cool head-up displays. He looked around and thought that other cars were shabby. While he entered the subdivision, everyone greeted him. “Hey, buddy! Welcome!” honked an old model black car, Black Oldie. “You are the coolest car I’ve seen. Welcome!” admired Bumblebee, the yellow car. “Oh, welcome fella,” greeted Silvery, the silver car who puffed a gray cloud of smoke. But, Reddy did not reply. “I don’t want to be friends with those ugly and shabby cars,” he told himself.

While other cars were friends with each other,

Reddy remained solitary. He was confident that he was self-sufficient. His stereos gave him entertainment and his handsome appearance made him feel so confident. Every day, he would run screeching in high speed while his stereos played to its maximum. Other cars were nervous about Reddy's recklessness and speeding. But they knew that Reddy would not take any advice from them. "One day, he will learn his lesson the hard way," Black Oldie muttered.

One night, Reddy went home drunk. He wobbled on the road and almost hit Bumblebee. "Reddy, are you okay? Please drive slowly!" uttered the concerned yellow car. But Reddy brushed him off. The overly-confident car yelled, "You scruffy car, don't tell me what to do. I am far more high-tech than you!"

Reddy continued to wobble and ran at 160 miles per hour. His anti-collision warning system flashed a red light on his dash board, but he did not notice. He felt dizzy and the vision of the road was blurry to him. He lost

control and he whirled horribly, then hit the post. His sleek and shiny body was dilapidated, overly torn and unrecognizable.

Other cars in the neighborhood came and gathered around him. They pitied Reddy for his tragic fate. "Poor Reddy! If only he listened," Bumblebee said. "This is what happened when you are too proud of yourself," muttered Silvery. "Indeed, he learned his lesson the hard way," Oldie Black sighed.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. What was the reason why Reddy did not befriend the other cars in the neighborhood?
 - A. He was too busy.
 - B. He had other friends.
 - C. He thought they were shabby.
 - D. He was irritated of their honking.

2. How would you describe Reddy?

- A. shy and reserved
- B. sensitive and reckless
- C. over confident and boastful
- D. handsome and approachable

3. What did Oldie Black mean when he said that Reddy learned his lesson the hard way?

- A. Reddy was hard-headed.
- B. Reddy knew all the lessons in school.
- C. It was difficult to drive when you are drunk.
- D. Reddy would only realize things when bad things would happen to him.

4. What could have happened if Reddy listened to the advices of other cars?

- A. The other cars would laugh at him.
- B. They would think that he was weak.
- C. They would admire his handsome appearance.
- D. He would not have experienced the bad things that happened to him.

5. What would be our life without friends?

- A. happy
- B. lonely
- C. peaceful
- D. awesome

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

anti-collision

sleek

wobble

high end

blurry

self-sufficient

My Dear Jasmine

I heard my happy little daughter sing a happy tune to what she was watching on TV. A smile gave her the puffy cheeks and sparkling eyes as she focused her attention on it. "Mother! Do you like lambs?" Jasmine asked me. I put down my phone and glasses, then glanced at her. "Of course. They are fluffy and adorable. Who wouldn't?" I replied. "But why bad men cut their fur?" she asked.

"No, my child. Sheep or adult lamb's 'fur is used to make clothes. Don't worry, their fur usually grows back. But Mr. Edward isn't a bad man, okay?" I explained and reasoned with her. Though she was hesitant, she agreed. A soft, endearing aura filled the cream walls of the room. The resounding of the fans spinning along with Jasmine's noticeable breathing, was very calming. She finally took her first move and spun

around gleefully. She danced and sang along to the song of the birds and the stupendous rhythm of the trees as they swayed against their will. She twirled and would make expressive poses as the song went on.

I sat back down at our table and took the newspaper. I opened the gray, folded paper and read through the headlines. "This is really boring." I flipped another one, "How did these students convert noise to electricity? If my old classmates were to use this, we would have infinite electricity."

"To see is to believe. Is that true, Mother?" Jasmine sweetly asked. "I believe so. Seeing something means it is true, so believe in it. Do you understand?" I asked her, and she nodded.

"My dear, let me tell you something. A word and advice." I pat her back and she only responded with a small "sure". She sat down on the maroon sofa with intricate tiny flower designs. I took a seat on the opposite

to the sofa she was sitting on. "Many are sacrificing just to give other people a better life. Let us appreciate them."

Jasmine blinked, before clasping her hands together. "What do you mean?" she asked.

"For example, sheep give us comfortable sweaters. Scientists invent and discover things for the development of our society. In battles, there are people who are brave enough to fight for their country. Just like your father. He was a brave man." I ruffled her hair.

She smiled adoringly. "I understand, Mother. One day, I'll help you out, too!" she exclaimed and hugged me.

"As you wish, my dear," I replied.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. Who narrated the story?

A. the sheep

B. Jasmine

C. Jasmine

2. How did Jasmine and her mother spend their time together?

A. They both sang their favorite song.

B. They stayed home and did their chores.

C. They shared and discussed their ideas.

D. They watched their favorite TV program.

3. How do you describe Jasmine's mother?

A. She loved to read and sing.

B. She was impatient and rude.

C. She was loving, sweet and logical.

D. She was responsible and industrious.

4. Jasmine was observant and inquisitive. Which of the sentences below supports this idea?

- A. She knew that her father was a brave soldier.
- B. She kept on interfering with other people’s lives.
- C. She could sing many songs and danced with their tunes.
- D. She was curious about the things she watched and heard.

5. What did the word “sacrifice” mean for Jasmine?

- A. extending help to sheep
- B. not watching TV anymore.
- C. not singing her favorite songs
- D. helping out her mother one day

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

aura

endearing

ruffled

stupendous

intricate

infinite

EXERCISE 5

The Nasty Owl

As the brilliant red and orange light in the sky faded, the Owl's hooting echoed through the forest. She was now ready to hunt. When the soft glowing light appeared in the sky, the Owl began her sweet slumber while other animals in the forest started their daily activities.

One sunny day, the Owl dozed in the hollow of an old tree. The three blind mice passed by and joyfully sang. The Owl was annoyed and shouted at the three mice. "Stay away from here foolish mice, you have no respect," she angrily said. Disheartened, the mice stopped singing and went away.

Little Rabbit, who lived nearby, took out his drum that his parents gave him for his birthday. He was excited to try it. He went out from his hole and started beating his drum in perfect rhythm, while he stomped his feet.

This awakened and irritated the Owl. The Owl threw a twig at Little Rabbit and said, "Hey, stay away from here, disgusting rabbit, you have no respect," she uttered. Saddened by the scolding of the Owl, Little Rabbit went away.

The five little monkeys were preparing for their sports competition in school. They had to strengthen their muscles. They swung in the trees and happily screeched, gibbered and whooped. They reached the old tree where the Owl was sleeping. Enraged with the noise, the Owl went out from her hole and stared angrily at the monkeys. She said, "Stay away from here, you are all annoying and inconsiderate". The five little monkeys were hurt by the Owl's words so, they went away.

The same thing happened to every animal that passed by the old tree where the Owl slept. She drove everyone away and hurled them with nasty and harsh words.

Night time came. All animals in the forest went home to rest and sleep. On the other hand, the Owl woke up to start her hunting activity. As he flew around the forest, her “Hoooooh hoooooh!” resonated in the quiet forest. All animals woke up and went out of their homes.

“You’re disgusting, you have no respect,” the three blind mice exclaimed.

“You are foolish, you have no respect,” the rabbit added.

“You are inconsiderate, you have no respect,” the five monkeys shouted.

Other animals joined in cursing the Owl. “Stay away from here, nasty Owl! Stay away from this forest,” they yelled.

Those offensively impolite words from the animals made her spirit low. She felt sad and guilty. She flew away and never came back to that forest anymore.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. What did the owl do during the day?
 - A. slept
 - B. hunted for food
 - C. played with other birds
 - D. went to rabbit's hole

2. How would you describe the owl in the story?
 - A. He was friendly.
 - B. He was impatient.
 - C. He was self-centered.
 - D. He was nasty and mean.

3. Why do you think the owl flew away and did not come back to that forest.?
 - A. He hated the animals.
 - B. He was nasty and mean.
 - C. He was guilty of what he did.
 - D. He could not sleep well in that forest.

4. If you were the owl, how would you handle noisy animals that disturbed your sleep? Share your answers to the class.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

inconsiderate

nasty

gibbered

whooped

offensive

stomped

disgusting

foolish

dozed

The Missing Kittens

Ming, the cat, gave birth to three adorable furry kittens. The first one was pure white with blue eyes, the second was orange with some gray stripes with yellow eyes, and the third looked exactly as its mother, all black with emerald eyes. She placed them inside the shoebox in the linen room. Doggie the dog came near her and sniffed her kittens. "I am warning you Doggie. Never touch my children or else you will be in trouble," she uttered. Doggie went away, his tail curved between his legs.

The night was dark and quiet. Ming prowled through the attic and waited for any mouse to come out. She was yearning for a fresh prey to regain her strength which she lost in giving birth to her kittens. Suddenly, she heard a squeak. A big mouse came out from its hole. She ran after it and grabbed its tail. It struggled to free itself from the cat's paw, but to no avail.

“Please, don’t eat me. My children are waiting for my safe return. They are still too small and couldn’t manage to live without a mother,” the mouse begged. Ming’s heart was touched by the mouse’s words. She remembered her children and empathized with the mouse. She unclenched her claws and the mouse ran away.

She stayed there the whole night, but no more mouse came out. Dawn came with the crowing of the roosters. She smelled something from the kitchen. Her masters were preparing breakfast and she knew that her regular supply of milk would be ready, too. She licked the milk in the bowl until there was no more left. She decided to go back to her kittens. “They might be hungry,” she said. “I need to breastfeed them.”

She hurried her steps, but when she looked at the box, it was empty. “My kittens are missing, my kittens are missing!” she let out an angry cry. She angrily looked at Doggie who was still sleeping on some rugs, his body curled. Ming stiffened her rear legs and moved toward the

dog. She growled and scratched the poor dog on its face. Startled, Doggie woke up in pain and gave a deafening bark. This fueled the cat's anger. She clawed and bit him. "Stop! Stop!" said the confused dog. "I won't stop unless you show me my kittens!," the cat shouted. "But I..." the dog interrupted. He did not finish what he was going to say when Ming stopped. The purring of tiny kittens was heard.

Ming left the wounded dog and followed the sound. She peered through the slightly opened door and saw her master's children cuddling her kittens. She meowed! "Oh, hello Ming, looking for your kittens? Here they are, we just borrowed them for a while!" exclaimed one of the children.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. How would you describe the three kittens?

- A. They were hungry.
- B. They had different colors.
- C.. They were playful and noisy.
- D. They were all white with green eyes.

2. Why did the mother cat warn the dog?

- A. The dog attempted to attack the cat.
- B. The cat knew that the dog did not like her kittens.
- C. They had previous quarrel that wasn't resolved.
- D. He was suspicious that the dog would harm her kittens.

3. Why did the cat let go the mouse?

- A. It bit her.
- B. It was stinky.
- C. She pitied the mouse.
- D. Other mice came to rescue.

4. Was the cat right on his accusations to the dog? Why and why not?

- A. Yes, the dog made a guilty bark.
- B. Yes, the dogs naturally hate cats.
- C. No, it was the mouse who stole the cat.
- D. No, it was the children who took the kittens.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

prowled

unclenched

growled

prey

yearning

purring

The Legend of Dragon Fruit

There was a time in the history of Lu Shing Empire that dragons lived in harmony with humans. These winged, four-legged animals were capable of breathing fire and hoarding gold, which they shared with the people. Everyone felt secured and enjoyed a prosperous life

Drago, a dragon with pinkish-red skin and light green scales served the emperor and his family. He was especially dear to the emperor's daughter, Celestine, who enjoyed riding on Drago's back as he flew her to magical lands.

"Oh, Drago! I love you! We've been to many places, yet you haven't taken me to the place where other dragons hid the treasures. Can you take me there, please?" pleaded Celestine.

"But, it's forbidden," Drago replied.

"Please Drago, I am just curious. Promise! I won't

tell anyone,” Celestine insisted. Drago could not resist the Princess’ charm, so he agreed.

A soldier overheard their conversation and reported it back to the emperor. “If I could have all those treasures, this empire would be the most powerful in the world. Everyone would worship me like a god!” the greedy emperor exclaimed. He ordered his soldier to follow Drago and his daughter.

In no time, Drago and Celestine reached a big cave on top of the Seventh Mountain. Celestine’s eyes widened and her jaws dropped when she saw a gigantic heap of gold. The hoard-guarding dragon was lying on top of gold and was soundly sleeping.

“Let’s go, Celestine. I would be in so much trouble if any of my kind finds out that I took you here,” Drago nervously said.

They were about to leave when the emperor, armed with a battalion of soldiers, arrived. They aimed their spears at the sleeping dragon. Before it could even wake,

hundreds of spears and arrows landed on its body that brought to its instant death. Enraged with what he witnessed, Drago exhaled a flaming fire toward the emperor and the soldiers' direction. "Drago, please stop. He is my father and they are my people," pleaded the princess with tears streaming down her face. Drago bent his knees on the ground as a sign of retreat when a dagger hit his right eye.

It came from the emperor. Bleeding in pain, Drago still managed to release a fiery breath which burned the emperor to death. The remaining soldiers finished him off with a rain of arrows that killed the poor Drago.

The tragic event caused the other dragons to leave Shu Ling empire. From then on dragons were never seen again.

Celestine buried Drago's remains in the palace garden. She would visit her friend every day to ease her guilt. After some weeks, a peculiar plant similar to a

cactus, sprouted where Drago's body was buried. It bore fruit with pinkish-red skin and light green scales reminiscent of Drago's feature. Celestine picked one of its fruits and tasted it. It was sweet! Sweet like her friend, Drago.

From then on, it was believed that the plant was Drago. It was called "drago fruit" which later on became dragon fruit.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. What were the peculiar characteristics of the dragons based on the story?
 - A. They were selfish and greedy.
 - B. They looked scary and dangerous.
 - C. They were protective and friendly.
 - D. They breathed fire and hoarded treasures.

2. Why did Drago take the princess to the forbidden cave of treasures?
- A. The princess threatened Drago.
 - B. He wanted to date the princess.
 - C. He got tired of princess's pleading.
 - D. The princess' charm was irresistible.
3. Which of the following best describes the emperor?
- A. He was greedy and cunning.
 - B. He was brave and strong.
 - C. He was powerful and a great leader.
 - D. He was a loving father to his daughter.
4. What made the princess believed that the plant that sprouted was Drago?
- A. The plant looked like a dragon.
 - B. It had fruits which looked like Drago's skin.
 - C. It had strong stems similar to Drago's strength.
 - D. It had the same smell with Drago's fiery breath.

5. Why do you think the other dragons left the empire?
- A. They wanted a nicer place to live.
 - B. They couldn't trust the people anymore.
 - C. They were afraid of the emperor's soldiers.
 - D. They didn't want to share their treasures to the people.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

reminiscent

hoarding

heap

dagger

emperor

prosperous

EXERCISE 8

Mobile Legends

Archie lay down on his bed with his cell phone held both by his hands. His thumbs briskly and continuously touched the screen as the rainbow-colored lights flickered on his face. His eyes, wide open, almost popped out. He was playing the most popular mobile game, the Mobile Legends.

“An ally has been slain! All troops deployed,” his cell phone sounded. “Yehey! I won! I won!” he gladly uttered. It seemed to win in a game was Archie’s greatest achievement. It was his daily routine after school to lock himself in his room and played until midnight or sometimes until early morning. The next day, he would be late in school and showed less interest in his lessons. While his teachers discussed, Archie sat quietly on the chair and stared blankly at the chalk board. The teacher thought he was listening, but his mind was preoccupied

with grunts, gun fires and shouts of heroes in his game. During recess and lunch breaks, he took out his phone and played instead of feeding himself with nutritious food. He would eat a little and hurriedly went back to playing. He also cut classes just to be home and play his favorite Mobile Legends.

His mother was called by his class adviser on many occasions regarding Archie's worrisome habits in school and about his failing grades, but she didn't know how to stop Archie from playing with his phone.

One day, she picked a hard argument with her son that turned out into Archie's angry outburst. It was past midnight when she peered at her son's bedroom. Archie was still awake. He was still playing.

"Archie, turn that off and go to sleep!" she demanded. "I need to finish this mom," Archie insisted. "No! Give that cell phone to me," she angrily said. But Archie didn't obey his mother. He slammed the door,

locked it and shouted something from the inside. Stunned, her mother cried. "What happened to my son?" she muttered.

Archie's father worked abroad and only came home every two years for a two-month vacation. He didn't know about his son's addiction to Mobile Legends because his wife did not tell him for it would be of no help and would only cause her husband to worry too much.

She kneeled down and prayed, "God, what shall I do with my son? Please help me," she sobbed.

Archie fell asleep; his cell phone was in his hand still turned on and logged to Mobile Legend. The cell phone vibrated and gave off a blinding bright light. All the characters in Mobile Legends went out one by one and started fighting with each other. Archie woke up surprised and ran out from his room, but some of the assassins followed him. They were determined to kill him. "Mother, help me! Help me!" he trembled in fear.

“Archie, wake up. You are dreaming,” she said. Archie slowly opened his eyes and hugged his mother. “I am not dreaming mother, they’re real. They are here to kill me,” Archie was nervous and his body was shaking. Her mother gently touched his face then said, “Oh darling, you have a high fever. I will bring you to the hospital”. “I don’t want to die, mom. Please help me,” he whispered.

Archie was diagnosed by the doctor with gaming addiction, which is a compulsive mental health disorder that could cause severe damage to one’s life. His physical and mental health declined due to skipped meals, stress and insufficient sleep and rest. The doctor advised his mother how to help Archie go back to his old self.

The process would be difficult and long, but Archie’s mother was determined to help his poor boy.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. How would you describe Archie?

- A. He was outgoing and happy.
- B. He was fond of playing mobile games.
- C. He was studious and responsible..
- D. He was is interested with graphic designing.

2. The following are the effects to Archie of too much exposure to mobile games. Which is NOT?

- A. poor time management
- B. good performance in school
- C. physical and mental illness
- D. broken family relationship

3. Do you play mobile games? How does it affect your life. Share your experience to the class.

4. How do you manage your time? What are your habits? Share your answers to the class.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, use each in a sentence.

assassins

briskly

peered

preoccupied

stunned

declined

EXERCISE 9

Marian's Secret

It was a normal morning for everybody in town. The children played in the backyard and the adults enjoyed a warm plate of breakfast. Despite the good weather and happy children, one child chose to stay inside the house. She sat on her bed and stared at a pile of papers in front of her—all of them marked failed. She began to weep. All of a sudden, she stood up and picked the papers. Enraged, she ripped every piece of paper, one by one.

“This is horrible! My parents shouldn’t know about my poor performance in school!” She continued to sob and threw the pieces of paper in the trash bin.

“Marian, it’s time for breakfast! Please get out of your room and eat,” a voice called to her. “But Mother, I wish to study,” Marian insisted. “No buts. Just take your breakfast, honey,” her mother replied. Marian pouted, but she has no choice but to obey her mother.

“Good morning, Marian,” Mr. Andrada, Marian’s father, greeted her.

“I hope you are doing well, my dear.”

Mrs. Andrada placed three plates of pancake on the table. “I am, Mother,” Marian replied. “How is school, dear?” her father asked. She froze in fear.

What’s the matter, Marian? Is there anything wrong?” her concerned mother pat the table softly, while looking at Marian with caring eyes.

“Is this my punishment for slacking off? I shouldn’t have played with other kids too much,” she thought to herself.

“Marian Andrada. Is there something wrong?” Her father slammed his hands on the table, which frightened Marian.

“Darling, let her think,” her mother caressed her father’s coarse hands.

Marian gathered courage to tell the truth to her parents. “Mother, Father...,” she paused. “I failed in our quarterly exam.” She forced herself to admit. The words finally escaped her mouth, guilt rushing over her as her parents’ eyes widened. “Uum, I’m sorry, for I have disappointed you,” Marian pled. The poor young lady expected the worst. Her parents had been very strict with her lately. Surely there is a consequence.

“Young lady, this is disappointing to hear.” She was right, but something unexpected happened.

“But we understand. You were always in your room, studying your lessons. Of course, you won’t have time to meet people. That worried us a lot. So when you asked to play with your friends, I was glad. Glad that you are willing to engage with the others,” her father explained.

“I am so lucky to be your daughter.” Marian beamed.

“We love you dear!” Her father exclaimed.

“No matter what happens, we will love you from the bottom of our heart. Remember that,” her mother assured her. She hugged her parents as tight as she could. Now, Marian has more reason to study and do better in school.

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. Why did Marian prefer to stay home?

- A. She is not feeling well.
- B. Se was an introvert.
- D. Se felt bad about her grades.
- C. She has an important thing to do.

2. Why was Marian afraid to tell her secret to her parents?

- A. They will let her stay home.
- B. They will surely get disappointed.
- C. They will transfer her to other school.
- D. They won't allow her to go out with her friends.

3. What is the reason of Marian's failing grades?

- A. She has no books.
- B. She was always absent.
- C. She has a learning disability.
- D. She played too much with her friends.

4. How would you describe Marian's mother?

- A. She is a caring and loving.
- B. She is stern and strict.
- C. She is a nagger.
- D. She is indifferent.

5. How did the story end?

- A. Marian became depressed.
- B. Her parents understood her.
- C. Marian played with her friends.
- D. Marian was punished by her parents.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

sob

enraged

ripped

consequence

coarse

horrible

The Magic Pouch

There was once a young boy who was the son of a poor farmer. He helped his father till a small parcel of land they were renting. But drought came and dried all their crops. “It’s hopeless! This drought will continue for months. We cannot wait that long or else we will die from hunger!” the father exclaimed. “Why not sell our goat and use the money from it in starting a business? That goat has of no use to our farm anymore” his mother interrupted. “That’s a nice idea mother!” the boy said. “We can buy a sack of salt from Aling Thelma and sell it at retail in the nearby town. And so the frail, poor goat was sold and the young boy’s family bought a sack of salt in the hope that they can have a new source of income until the drought was over.

The young boy, together with his father, went to the nearby town to start their luck on new-found business. “Salt

for sale! Salt for sale! Only ten pesos per pack,” shouted the young boy to attract the buyers while they trudged the rough road. The father, hunchbacked, was carrying a sack of salt on his back. From afar, the boy saw young kids of his age joyfully running after the other. They were happy and clothed in neat and presentable clothes. He looked at his shirt. It was sweaty and dirty. The scorching heat of the sun made him smell like a cottage cheese. “Papa, if we sell this sack of salt, can I buy new clothes for myself” he asked his father. “Of course son, you can buy new clothes if you work hard,” his father replied.

They continued walking until they reached a busy street. There were cars honking, random people passing by, towering buildings, shops and restaurants were everywhere. They finally reached their destination. The young boy helped his father arranged a sack of salt along with some plastic cellophane and a measuring container on a sidewalk. “Salt! Salt! Ten pesos per pack,” the boy shouted again. His father shouted too, mimicking the boy’s

words. But nobody came to buy.

The young boy felt his stomach grumbling. It was already midday yet they didn't have any sale. He and his father started eating their "baon" for lunch- rice wrapped in banana leaf. He got some dash of salt and sprinkled on it to taste and started eating. He asked his father again. "Papa, if we sell all the salt in this sack, can I have a meal in that restaurant?" He pointed his finger to the restaurant on the other side of the street. "Of course dear, you can dine in that restaurant if you work hard," his father said.

The young boy was determined. He realized that if they stay in their spot, they would never invite customers. He carried ten packs of salt in his arms, cuddling them. "Papa, I will leave you here for a while. I'm going to sell these around," he said. "Please be careful son, don't lose your way."

Then off he went to the crowd shouting, "Salt! Salt!

Ten pesos per pack!” But again, nobody bought any of his packed salt. He continued roaming around, shouting, “Salt! Salt! Ten pesos per pack! It started to drizzle, the clouds turned black and lightning flashed in the sky! The people made quick steps to find shelter from the expected heavy rainfall. The young boy hurriedly ran to the nearby shed when an old man bumped him. The young boy fell on the ground and so were the packs of salt– damaged and scattered. Rain poured down and wet all the salt until it gradually dissolved.

Devastated, the young boy’s eyelids wet with tears. But he noticed that the old man needed his help to get up. He offered his hand to him. “Are you okay, sir?” inquired the young boy with a sound of concern on his voice. “Yes, I am okay. I am sorry for the salt,” the old man said. “Don’t worry sir, I can still sell the remaining salt we have. Father told me that I needed to work hard. That’s what I’m going to do. I still have my chance tomorrow. “Please keep this pouch, young boy!

Put in here all the money you earn from selling salt,” the old man said.

The day ended and the young boy, with his father, went home without any money, but they were determined not to lose hope. They went back again to the town to their old spot. The boy shouted, “Salt! Salt! Ten pesos per pack! He kept on shouting many times when suddenly, he felt something in his pocket where he placed the pouch the old man had given to him. It was filled with ten peso coins! He was amazed, but every time he shouted, “Salt! Salt! Ten pesos per pack!” another ten-peso coin was added to the other coins. “It’s a magic pouch!” he exclaimed!

Directions: Write the letter of the best answer on your paper.

1. What happened to the farm?

- A. There was an abundant harvest.
- B. The crops dried because of drought.
- C. The farm was covered by salt.
- D. The crops were infested by pests.

2. How did the young boy and his family purchase a sack of salt?

- A. They sold their farm
- B. They won in lottery
- C. They sold their goat.
- D. They sold their produce in the market.

3. What are the things that the young boy wished for?

- A. To meet a beautiful girl.
- B. To play with other kids.
- C. To have a bountiful harvest.
- D. To buy new clothes and eat in fancy restaurant.

4. If you were the boy in the story? Will you be angry at the old man? Share your answers to the class.

5. If given a chance to own a magic pouch, what would you do with the money you have? Share your answers to the class.

Directions: Look for the meaning of the following words in the dictionary. Then, write a sentence using each word.

pouch

drought

drizzle

grumbling

Pinch

trudged

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



GINA FRÍO– NOBLEZA

Her teaching career opened her eyes to the many wonders of children's ideas and imagination. As a classroom teacher, she wanted to get into and relate to her learners' world while helping them enhance their reading and comprehension skills and develop positive values among them through stories. Thus, Reader's Haven, her first published book, was realized.

She is presently a grade six teacher of English at President Manuel Roxas Integrated School South.