



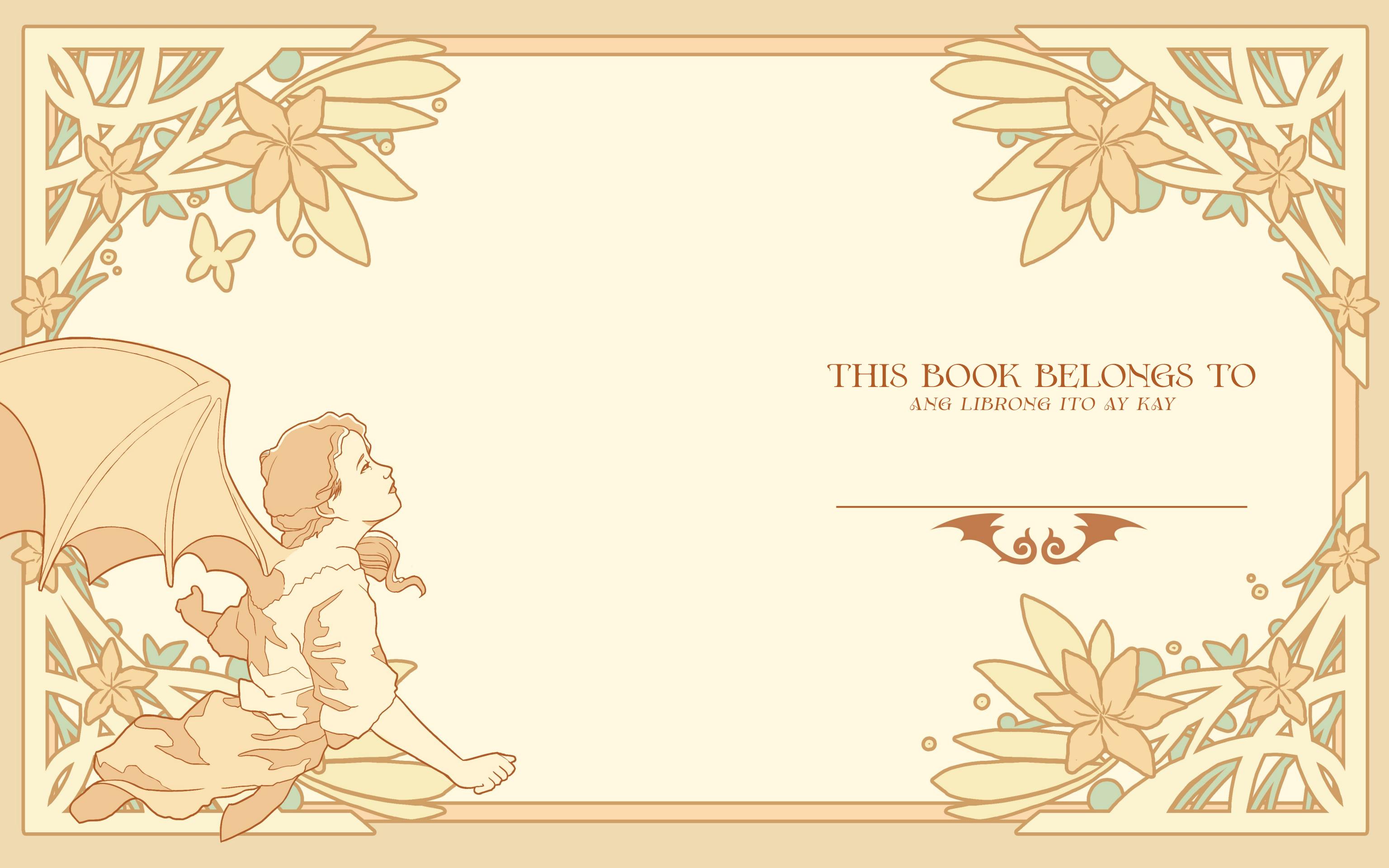
Winner of
CANVAS'
Romeo Forbes
Children's
Storywriting
Competition



WHERE ARE MY LEGS?

written by
LEONARD JOHN BANAAG

illustrated by
NAT LAMINA



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO
ANG LIBRONG ITO AY KAY



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All artworks featured in this book are by Nat Lamina.

This book is a product of the Romeo Forbes Children's Story Writing Competition. CANVAS holds the competition at least twice a year, open to Filipinos worldwide. The first and only of its kind, it invites writers to pen a children's story inspired by a painting or sculpture by a local Filipino artist.

WHERE ARE MY LEGS?

written by
LEONARD JOHN BANAAG

illustrated by
NAT LAMINA



In a small hut near an old forest lived a curious and friendly girl named Elena. She is a manananggal.

One evening, Elena woke up and realized something was terribly wrong. She looked down, and to her surprise, her legs were missing!

Sa maliit na kubo sa isang matandang kahuyan, nakatira ang mausisa at palakaibigang batang nagngangalang Elena. Isa siyang manananggal.

Isang gabi, nagising si Elena at agad naramdamang may mali. Pagtingin niya sa baba, laking gulat niyang makitang nawawala ang mga binti niya!

She went to the tikbalangs frolicking in a game of tag under the ancient kamagong trees.

"Have you seen my legs?"

"Maybe it's hiding somewhere," they said.

The tikbalangs suggested looking underneath the bridge, "That's where we would go!"

Pinuntahan niya ang mga tikbalang na nagkakatuwaang maghabulang-taya sa lilim ng mga kamagong.

"Nakita po ba ninyo ang mga binti ko?"

"Baka nakikipagttaguan," sabi nila.

Nagpayo ang mga tikbalang na tingnan kung nasa ilalim ng tulay, "Doon kami pupunta kung sakali!"





Elena landed on the bridge, leaned over and—splash! Without her legs for balance, she tumbled into the river. Laughing, the tikbalangs jumped into the water after her, thinking it was all a fun game.

Dumapo si Elena sa tulay, tumingin pababa at—wapak! Nalimot ni Elena na walang mga binting nakakapit sa kanya at nalaglag siya sa ilog. Humahalakhak namang sumunod sa kanya ang mga tikbalang. Isa-isa silang lumundag pabagsak ng ilog, patuloy sa paglalaro.

The river was refreshing and perfect for swimming, but Elena couldn't stay when her legs were still missing.

She soared through the forest to visit the kapres who were tall as trees, with voices like thunder from a distant storm.

Nakakapresko ang ilog at masarap languyan, pero hindi makapagtagal si Elena habang nawawala pa rin ang mga binti niya.

Nilipad niya ang gubat para bisitahin ang mga kapreng singtangkad ng mga puno at may boses na parang kulog ng nagbabadyang bagyo.





"Have you seen my legs?"

The kapre smiled as it scratched its head.
"Ah, little manananggal, perhaps your legs
have taken a liking to the firefly dance!"

"You think so? Maybe they're having a
dance party without me!"

"Nakita po ba ninyo ang mga binti ko?"

*Ngumiti ang kapre at nagkamot ng ulo.
"Ay, munting manananggal, baka naaliw ang
mga binti mo sa sayaw ng mga alitaptap!"*

*"Siguro nga, ano? Baka pumunta sa baylehan
nang hindi ako kasama!"*

With a smile, Elena joined the fireflies
in their lively dance, twirling and
swirling among the glowing orbs of
light. Sure, she hadn't found her legs
yet, but who knew that searching
could be this much fun?

*Nakangiting sumali si Elena sa masiglang
sayaw ng mga alitaptap, parang ipuipong
paikot-ikot sa gitna ng kislap at kutitap.*

*Oo nga at hindi pa niya nakikita ang mga
binti niya, pero sino ang mag-aakalang
ganito kasaya ang paghahanap?*



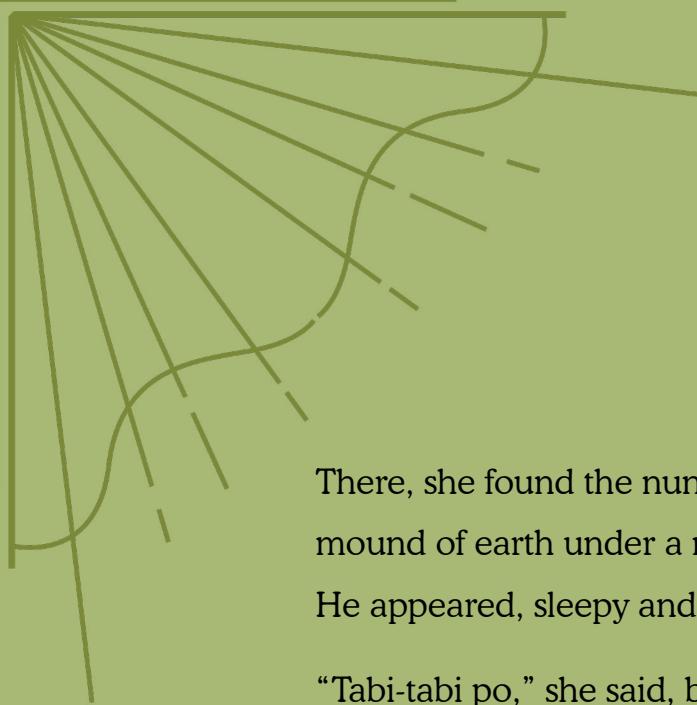


Just then, she thought she glimpsed
her legs among the twinkling lights
in the distance.

She followed the trail of fireflies until
she arrived at the edge of the forest.

*At noon din, parang nasulyapan niya
ang mga binti niya sa gitna ng mga
aandap-andap na ilaw sa di kalayuan.*

*Sinundan niya ang hilera ng mga
alitaptap hanggang sa dulo ng gubat.*

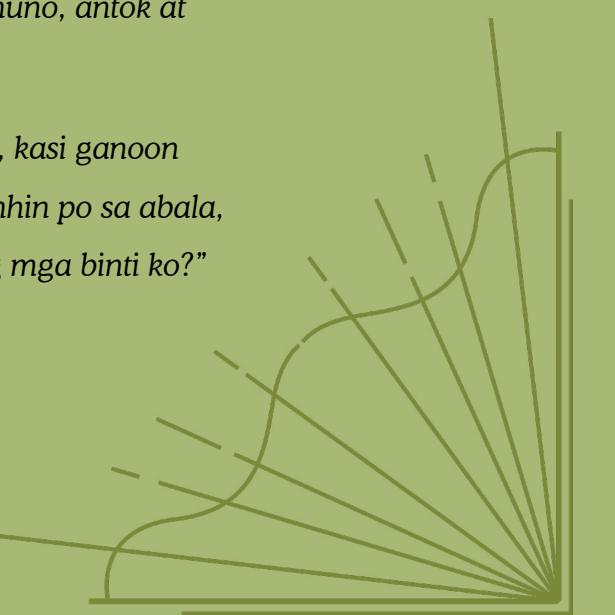


There, she found the nuno's punso, a mound of earth under a mango tree. He appeared, sleepy and bleary-eyed.

"Tabi-tabi po," she said, because that's how you greet a nuno. "Sorry to disturb you, but have you seen my legs?"

Doon, nakita niya ang punso ng nuno, isang maliit na burol ng lupa sa ilalim ng puno ng mangga. Lumabas ang nuno, antok at mapungay ang mga mata.

"Tabi-tabi po," sabi ni Elena, kasi ganoon mambati ng nuno. "Paumanhin po sa abala, pero nakita po ba ninyo ang mga binti ko?"





The impish nuno chuckled and pointed at the mango tree. "Ah, your legs must be on an adventure of their own! I once misplaced my hat, and it took me a day to find it hanging on a branch, enjoying the view. Maybe your legs wanted that, too!"

Humagikgik ang pilyong nuno at itinuro ang puno ng mangga. "Ay, baka tumatahak ng sariling pakikipagsapalaran! Nawala ko isang beses ang salakot ko. Buong araw kong hinanap hanggang makita kong nakasabit sa isang sanga, nakikipagtitigan sa magandang tanawin. Baka ganun rin ang hanap ng mga binti mo!"

She squinted up at the tree. Were those her legs? Elena flew up, excited to be reunited with her legs. However, it was just a pair of pants waving in the night breeze.

"Oh, you found my old pants! Thank you," said the nuno.

Inaninag ni Elena ang puno. Mga binti niya ba yun? Lumipad siya pataas, sabik sa mga binti niya. Pero mga pantalon lang pala, umiindayog sa hangin ng gabi.

"Ay ang tagal ko nang hinahanap ang pantalong yan! Salamat," sabi ng nuno.





Tired from searching, she plopped down on the back of a friendly carabao chewing grass in a field. A wise old tiktik landed beside her.

“Have you seen my legs?”

The tiktik blinked, and looked at Elena.

“Sometimes, we leave things where we least expect to find them.”

Pagod na sa paghahanap, humiga si Elena sa likod ng mabait na kalabaw na ngumangasab ng damo sa parang. Dumapo sa tabi nila ang matanda at matalinong tiktik.

“Nakita po ba ninyo ang mga binti ko?”

Kumurap ang tiktik at tumingin kay Elena.

“Minsan, naiiwan natin ang mga bagay sa hindi natin paghahanapan.”

Elena thought hard. Where could
her legs have gone?

Suddenly, she had an idea.

Thanking the tiktik, Elena flew back
to her hut and landed in her cozy
little living room.

But her legs weren't there.

*Taimtim na nagmuni ni Elena. Saan
kaya nagpunta ang mga binti niya?*

May naisip siya bigla.

*Nagpasalamat siya sa tiktik saka lumipad
pabalik ng kubo niya at dumapo sa
maliit at kaaya-aya niyang sala.*

Pero wala roon ang mga binti niya.



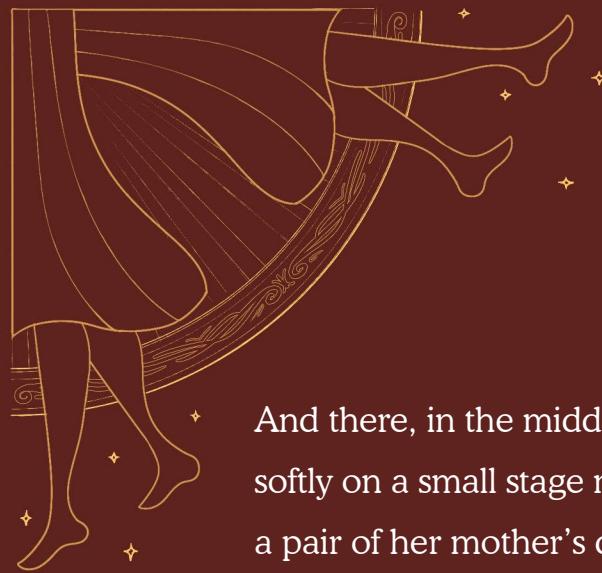


Her wings drooping slightly, she gazed around the room. Her eyes fell on the ladder that led to the attic hatch in the ceiling. Could her legs have gone up there?

Elena flapped her wings and floated up to the attic. She pushed open the hatch, peeking into the dim hiding space.

*Bahagyang lumaylay ang mga pakpak niya.
Inikot niya ng tingin ang buong kuwarto.
Napatigil ang mata niya sa hagdan pakisame.
Nagpunta kaya ang mga binti niya doon?*

Pinagaspas ni Elena ang mga pakpak niya at lumutang paakyat. Itinulak niya ang pinto at sumilip sa madilim na taguan.



And there, in the middle of the attic, her legs swayed softly on a small stage made of old boxes, wearing a pair of her mother's dancing shoes. Fireflies surrounded them, twinkling like stage lights.

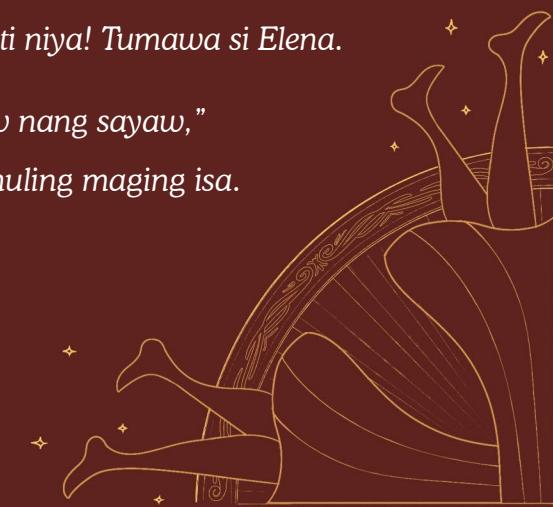
Her legs had been dancing! Elena laughed.

"Oh, my silly, dancing legs," she giggled, flying over to reattach them.

At ayun nga, sa gitna ng malawak na kisame, mahinahong umiindayog ang mga binti niya sa maliit na entablado ng mga lumang kahon. Suot ng mga ito ang pansayaw na sapatos ng nanay ni Elena. Nakapalibot ang mga alitaptap, kumikislap na parang ilaw ng tanghalan.

Nagsasayaw lang pala dito ang mga binti niya! Tumawa si Elena.

*"Ay, kayo talagang mga binti kong sayaw nang sayaw,"
humagikgik siya, lumipad palapit para muling maging isa.*





With her legs back in place, Elena invited everyone over to celebrate the joyful news. She prepared sweet rice cakes, pandesal, and hot cocoa.

In that small hut near an old forest, while everyone ate, Elena, the friendly manananggal, told her story, and everyone laughed together under the moonlit sky.

Sa pagbabalik ng mga binti niya, inanyayahan ni Elena ang lahat para magdiwang. Naghanda siya ng mga kakanin, pandesal, at mainit na tsokolate.

Habang kumakain ang lahat, ikinuwento ni Elena ang nangyari. Sa maliit na kubo ng palakaibigang manananggal, malapit sa matandang kahuyan, masayang nagtawanan ang lahat, sama-sama sa liwanag ng buwan.

NUNO

In the Philippines, small old people with long beards and live in a small mound of soil (similar to an anthill).

Sa Pilipinas, maliit na matandang tao na may mahabang balbas at naninirahan sa punso.



TIKBALANG

Creature with a human torso and the head and legs of a horse.

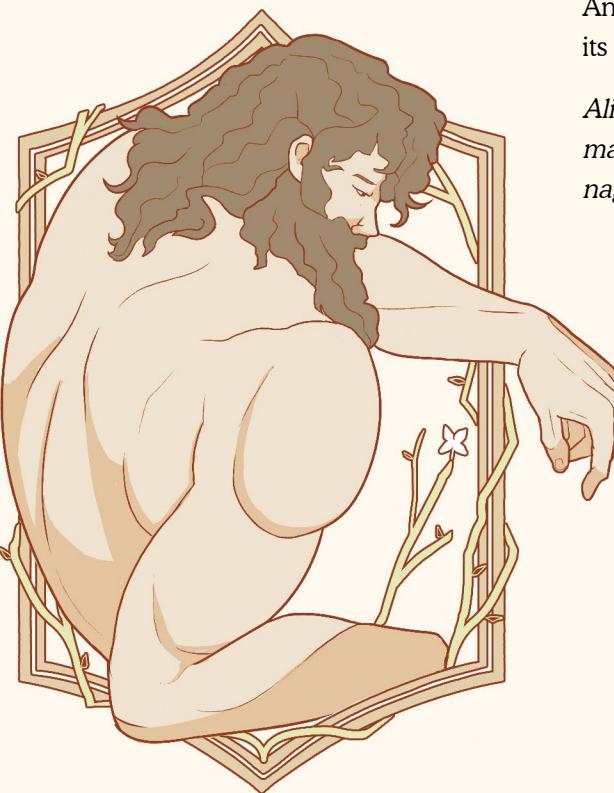
Nilaláng na anyong tao ang katawan itaas ngunit kabayo ang ulo at mga binti.



TIKTIK

An aswang with a long tongue that usually eats babies still in the womb.

Aswang na may mahabang dila na karaniwang kumakain ng fetus na ipinagbubuntis.



ASWANG

Any creature believed to have the ability to change its appearance and usually inflicts harm on humans.

Alinman sa mga pinaniniwalaang nilaláng na may kakayahang magpalit ng anyo at karaniwang nagdudulot ng kapahamakan sa tao.

KAPRE

Mythological giant creature that smokes cigars, lives in trees, comes out at midnight, and destroys houses.

Mitolohikong higanteng nilaláng na nagtatabako, naninirahan sa punongkahoy, hatinggabi kung lumabas, at naninira ng mga bahay.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leonard Banaag believes that “our lives become the stories that we weave.” That’s why he loves creating magical stories for you to enjoy! When he’s not writing, you might find him hopelessly lost in games, books, and the worlds of his own imagination. He hopes this story makes you smile, dream, and imagine—because every reader (yes, that means you!) has a story of their own to tell!

ABOUT THE ARTIST

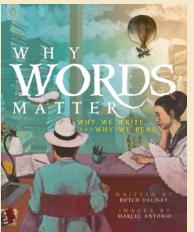
Nat Lamina is an artist from Canada who makes beautiful oil paintings. His pictures look a little like really old paintings, like the ones made a long, long time ago. Nat likes to paint people and stories from myths and legends. He grew up in the Philippines, and mixes the way artists paint in Europe with stories and people from the Philippines.

MORE BOOKS FROM CANVAS

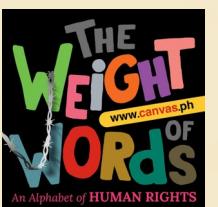
Art and culture



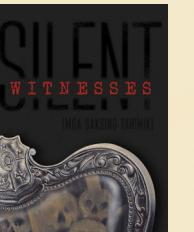
RENATO BARJA'S CHILDREN'S STORIES
stories from some of Manila's children
Retelling by Daniel Palma
Tayona and Gigo Alampay
Art by Renato Barja



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

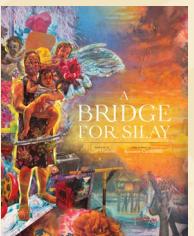


THE WEIGHT OF WORDS:
AN ALPHABET OF HUMAN RIGHTS
an alphabet of human rights
Editing by CANVAS
Art by various artists

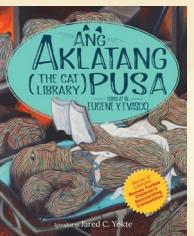


SILENT WITNESSES
anecdotes of Martial Law survivors
Retelling by Gigo A. Alampay
Art by Renz M. Baluyot

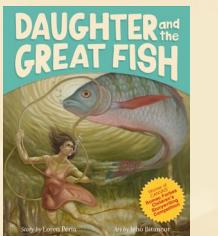
Community



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. Yooke

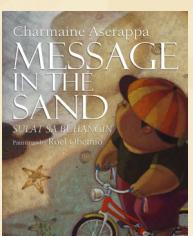


DAUGHTER AND THE GREAT FISH
a girl's quest to feed her village
Story by Loren Peria
Art by Jeho Bitancor

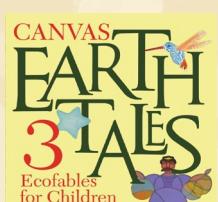


KAKATOK-KATOK SA BAHAY NI BENOK
a community saves itself through unity
Story by Mon Sy
Art by Faye Abantao

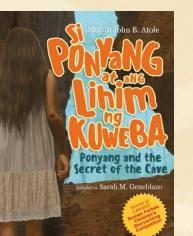
Environment and nature



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



CANVAS EARTH TALES
3 Eco-fables for Children
three eco-fables for children
Stories by unknown authors
Art by Art by Ivey Olivares-Mellor, Plel 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

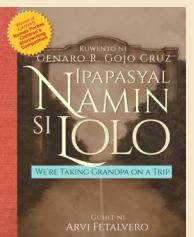
Family



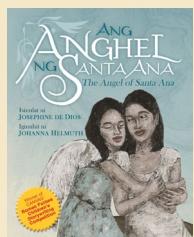
A TALE OF FISH
a tribute to the family we choose
Story by Becky Bravo
Art by Daniel dela Cruz



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

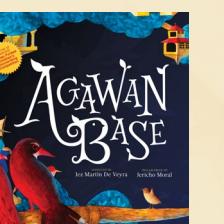


IPAPASYAL NAMIN SI LOLO
a grandfather's trip down memory lane
Story by Renato R. Gojo Cruz
Art by Arvi Fetalvero

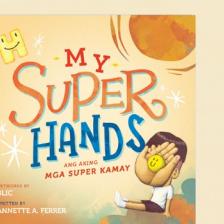


ANG ANGHEL NG SANTA ANA
a story about supporting one's sister
Story by Josephine de Dios
Art by Johanna Helmut

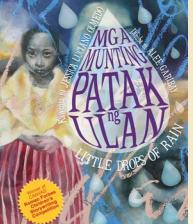
Self-care and self-discovery



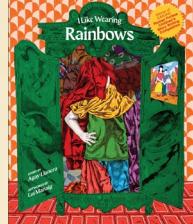
AGAWAN BASE
a bird's self-confidence takes flight
Story by Jez Martin De Veyra
Art by Jericho Moral



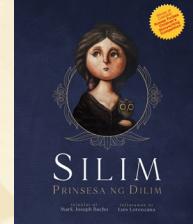
MY SUPER HANDS
part of a campaign on handwashing
Written by Annette A. Ferrer
Artworks by BLIC



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

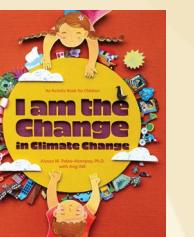


SILIM, PRINSESA NG DILIM
a diwata finds beauty in darkness
Written by Mark Joseph Bacho
Art by Luis Lorenzana

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



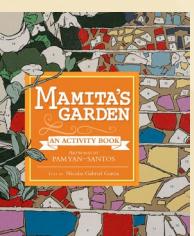
I AM THE STORYTELLER
a storytelling activity book
Educational direction by Ana Maria Margarita Salvador
Art by various artists



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 Pam Yan-Santos



MAMITA'S GARDEN: AN ACTIVITY BOOK
an activity book about plant care
Text by Nicolas Gabriel Garcia
Art by Fran Alvarez, and Jamie Bauza



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.



ABOUT CANVAS

The Center for Art, New Ventures & Sustainable Development

Fueled by the belief that art can create possibilities, open conversations, and inspire meaningful change, **CANVAS** works with the creative community to promote children's literacy, explore social development issues, and broaden public awareness of Philippine art, culture, and the environment.

We regularly hold the **Romeo Forbes Children's Story Writing Competition**, which asks writers to come up with a story based on a piece created by an artist. The winning story will then be illustrated, producing around twenty new pieces which will be launched in a solo exhibition and a picture book for children.

These books are given directly to children, for them to own, as part of the **One Million Books for One Million Filipino Children Campaign**. For most of the kids this program reaches, CANVAS books are the first they ever get to call their own. All of our titles are also available for free download from our website because we hope giving disadvantaged children access to books will inspire in them a love for reading, imagination, and critical thinking.



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Beyond the exhibit and the book, the art in our books will also be showcased in CANVAS' permanent collection of child-friendly storytelling artworks, curated with children in mind, and designed to foster wonder, engagement, and interactivity. This collection will be an integral section of our most ambitious initiative to date, the Tumba-Tumba Children's Museum of Philippine Art.



TUMBA-TUMBA
CHILDREN'S
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In a small hut near an old forest
lived the curious and friendly
manananggal named Elena.

One evening, Elena woke up and
realized something was terribly
wrong. She looked down, and to
her surprise, her legs were missing!

Imagine and believe: a child with art and stories can change the world.

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. Partner with us and contribute to One Million Books for One Million Filipino Children:
onemillionbooks@canvas.ph.

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A child with art and stories can change the world.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

