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### **A Warm Bowl of Champorado**

Yana, Yves, and Yssa are siblings. In fact, they are fraternal triplets. They like doing things together: eating, playing, and sleeping. When they learn something new, Yana spends time watching how it works or how it looks like. Yves asks her parents to explain to her with words. Yssa prefers to do it herself while someone guides her. On days Mama and Papa have work, Lolo Delin comes over to their house to watch TV with them and cook their favorite champorado for merienda. It is something the three girls look forward to because Lolo Delin always makes the best champorado. Even Papa, who is good at cooking, can't make it the same way Lolo Delin does.

Whenever they eat champorado, Lolo Delin puts condensada to make it sweeter and creamier. He seems to put just the right amount every time to make the chocolate taste heavenly and bring the warmth of the food down to the tips of their fingers and toes. He lets them pick the bowls they want to eat in before he gives them their food. All in all, whenever Lolo Delin visits, it is always a fun time in their household.

One day, while Lolo Delin scoops the champorado in their bowls for that day, Yssa asks, "Lolo Delin, how do you put the condensada in the champorado?"

He turns around, seeing the girls already sitting around the dining table. He answers, "Well, you just take the can and tip it until the milk falls into your bowl."

They look at him in confusion. Yana asks, “How do you do that? We never saw how you put in the condensada, Lolo Delin. You just put it on the table with the milk already inside.”

“Ah, here, I’ll teach you how I do it.” He takes the bowls and places one in front of each sibling. He grabs the can of condensada from inside the refrigerator and takes three, small plastic cups from the cupboard. “We’re going to practice how to pour it in, okay?”

“Okay!” they answer in unison. Lolo Delin fills the cups, the ones that come with cough medicine bought from the pharmacy. Then, he gives one to each of the siblings and gets himself his own bowl of champorado. Holding the can in his hand, he tells them, “You pour it like this.”

The three watch as Lolo Delin holds the can a few inches above the bowl and pours the condensada in the middle, white against brown. The sweet aroma instantly enters their nose, contrasting the earthy smell of the chocolate. Yana copies what Lolo Delin does and holds the cup the same way he holds the can. “Good job, Yana!”

However, Yves and Yssa are a little confused. Sure, they see what Lolo Delin is doing but they don’t know how to do it themselves. Yves asks in a small voice, “Does it have to be poured that way?”

“No. You can pour it from the side. You put the cup against the rim then tilt it. You have better control that way, too.” Yves follows his words, metal clicking softly against the ceramic bowl as she slowly lifts the bottom of the cup to force the milk forward. “Like that! You got it, Yves!”

“I still don’t get it” Yssa grumbles. She frowns at her bowl and the cup filled with the white liquid.

“What do you mean by that?” Lolo Delin asks, looking at her. “Do you want me to explain more?”

She pouts. “No.”

“Then do you want me to show it again?”

“No” she tells him. “I don’t get it right away even if I see it or if it’s explained. I don’t know how to move my hand that way.”

Lolo Delin whispers a little “oh” before he moves towards her. He gently grasps the hand holding the cap in his, almost engulfing it completely. “Is it okay if I guide you this way?”

Yssa nods enthusiastically. “Yes, please!”

Lolo Delin slowly nudges her hand until it is tilting, pouring the milk into her bowl. Yssa concentrates on the sensation. She tries moving her hand in Lolo Delin’s grasp, tilting further to pour more and drawing back to pour less. “Oh! So that’s how you do it! Thank you, Lolo Delin!”

Yana and Yves thank him as well, following after Yssa. He chuckles. “You’re welcome!”

After the three girls put all the milk in their cups into their champorado, Lolo Delin says, “Mix it well with a spoon so every bite tastes sweet.”

Like before, Yana copies what she sees Lolo Delin does while Yves follows his instruction. Yssa gets it after accidentally mixing too much that a few drops of champorado fell out of the bowl. When everyone gets a spoonful, they all hum in delight at the taste.

The girls immediately praise, “Lolo Delin’s champorado really is the best!”

“Thank you!” Lolo Delin grins at them and they continue eating their warm bowls of champorado mixed with condensada by their own hands.