



# Lights! Camera! Action!

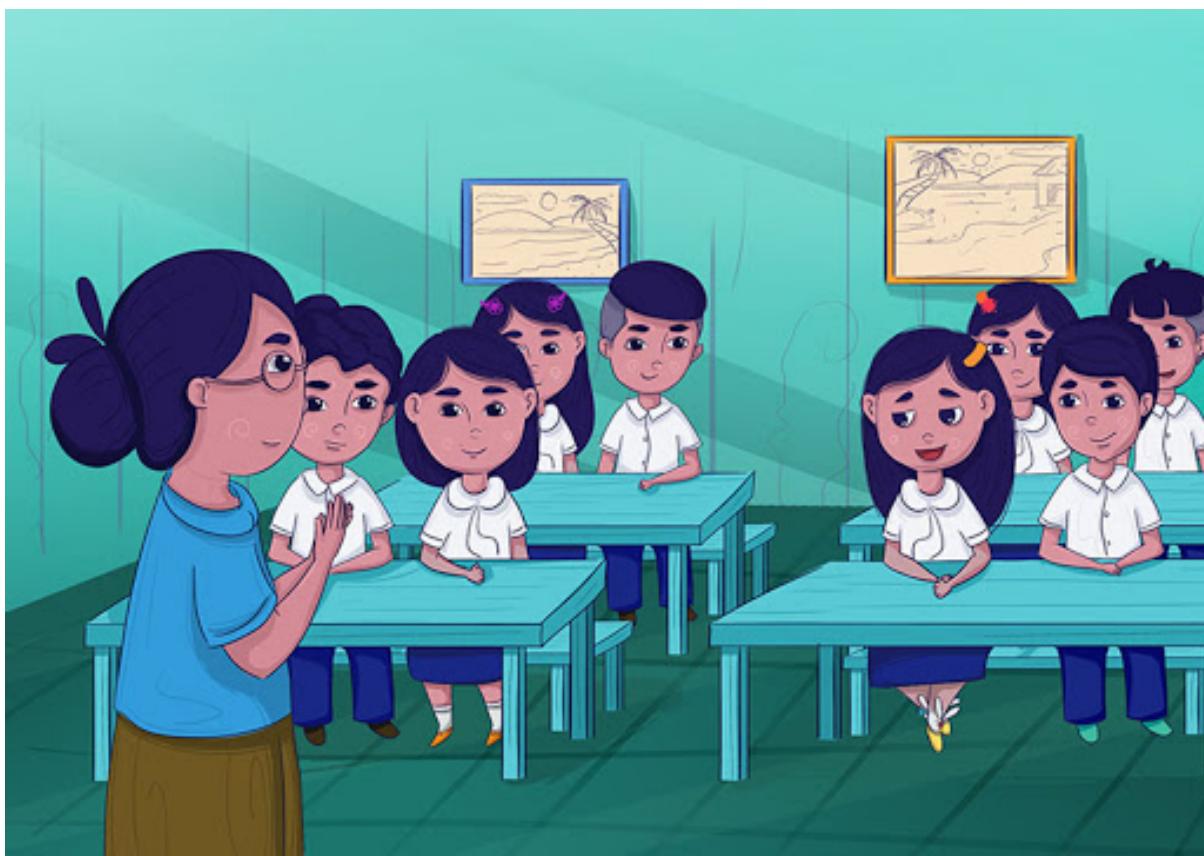
## The Asia Foundation - Let's Read, Tassaya (Toffy) Charupatanapongse





Achaya couldn't decide which socks to wear that morning, so she just closed her eyes and picked a pair. She ended up grabbing a pair of her baby sister's bunny socks!

"This is so embarrassing," she thought. "I hope no one notices."



As Achaya arrived at her desk and tucked her bunny socks under the chair so no one would see them, Teacher San clapped her hands.

"Settle down, class. It's time for your next report assignment."

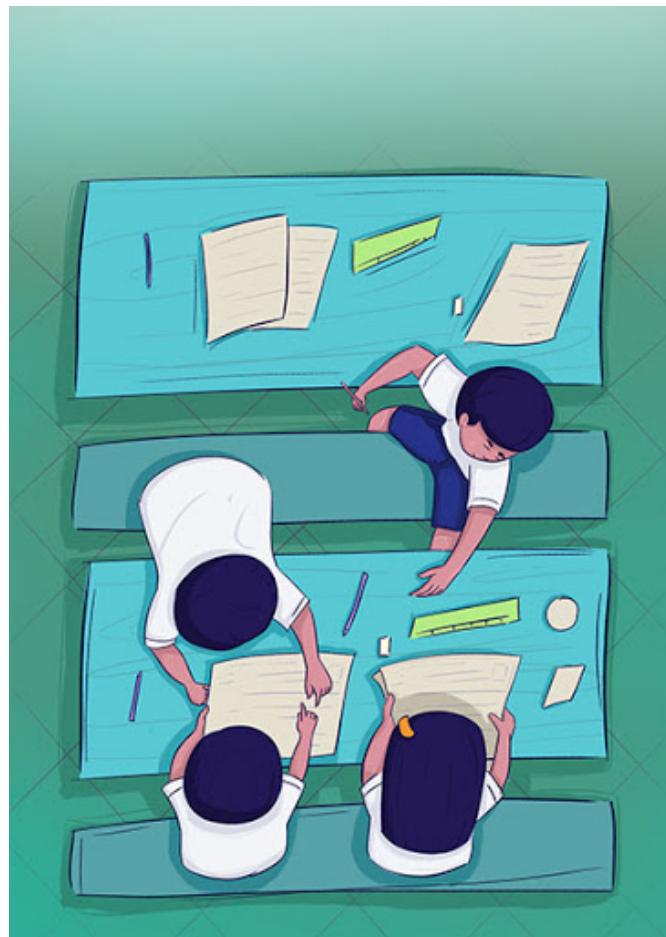
Achaya sat up eagerly. She loved finding out the latest report topic, doing research, and most of all, writing.

"This week we're going to do something different," Teacher San continued. "We're

going to make short videos instead of reports.  
You'll learn to be media producers!"



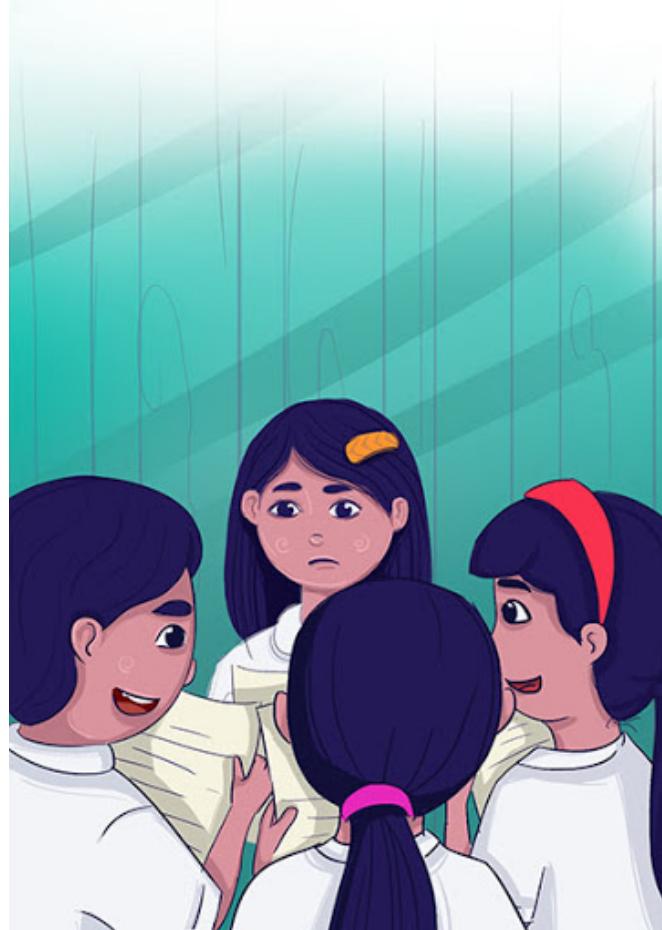
Achaya exchanged excited looks with her friends. They'd never created videos before! "What's the topic?" called out a student. "How would you improve our school?" Teacher San replied as she wrote the topic on the board. "Be creative! Choose something you care about and show us why it's important!"



The class immediately started sharing their ideas with each other.

"I'm going to do mine on why we shouldn't have uniforms at school," one friend said.

Another added, "I'm going to do mine on why we need chocolate milk every day!"



Achaya listened to her friends talk about their ideas.

There were so many possibilities. How was she going to decide?



When class let out, Achaya stayed behind. “I’m excited about producing a video,” she told Teacher San. “But I have too many ideas.” “Ideas are great,” answered Teacher San. “That means you have a lot to say! Think like a media producer—who is your audience?”



“You and the other students,” said Achaya.  
“Exactly,” smiled Teacher San. “What would be interesting to all of us, including you?”  
“Maybe less homework?” Achaya joked.



Teacher San smiled and agreed that it would mean less correcting for her! But that Achaya also needed to feel strongly about the topic. She then reminded Achaya that being a good media producer was the same as being a good report writer. Achaya would need a main idea and supporting details.



That evening, Achaya was walking around her neighborhood thinking about her project. She enjoyed smelling all of the delicious food people were cooking for dinner. She stopped by her friend Chanlina's house. "What is your video going to be about?," Achaya asked. "The school should give us snacks before class," Chanlina responded.



Achaya wished she'd thought of that one. Chanlina continued, "I was worried since I don't have a fancy camera. But then my mom told me it's more about the story than the equipment, and that I could use her phone's camera."

Achaya hadn't even thought about the filming! She needed to figure out her idea fast.



The next day, Achaya was still worrying about what she was going to do for her video. In the schoolyard, students and teachers were playing a game of chase, laughing and running around together before class. Achaya watched and thought about all the great people that were part of the school.



Her friend Sothy joined her. "What are you going to do for your video?" Achaya asked. "I want each student to have their own computer!" Sothy said eagerly.



“I planned it all out with my dad last night,” Sothy continued. “We wrote down where and what I’m going to film for each part. I’m going to start today!”

Oh no! Achaya hadn’t thought about planning out her video either. She was still stuck on her idea!



That afternoon, Teacher San noticed Achaya was looking worried.

"I have so much to do," Achaya said. "I need to plan out my shots and borrow my mom's phone to shoot the video."

"And you also use that phone to edit."

Teacher San added.

"Editing! I didn't think of that either. And I still don't have an idea!"



When walking home that day, Achaya was determined to choose an idea. She looked around at her friends walking by, the teachers waving, and the smoke drifting up from cooking fires.

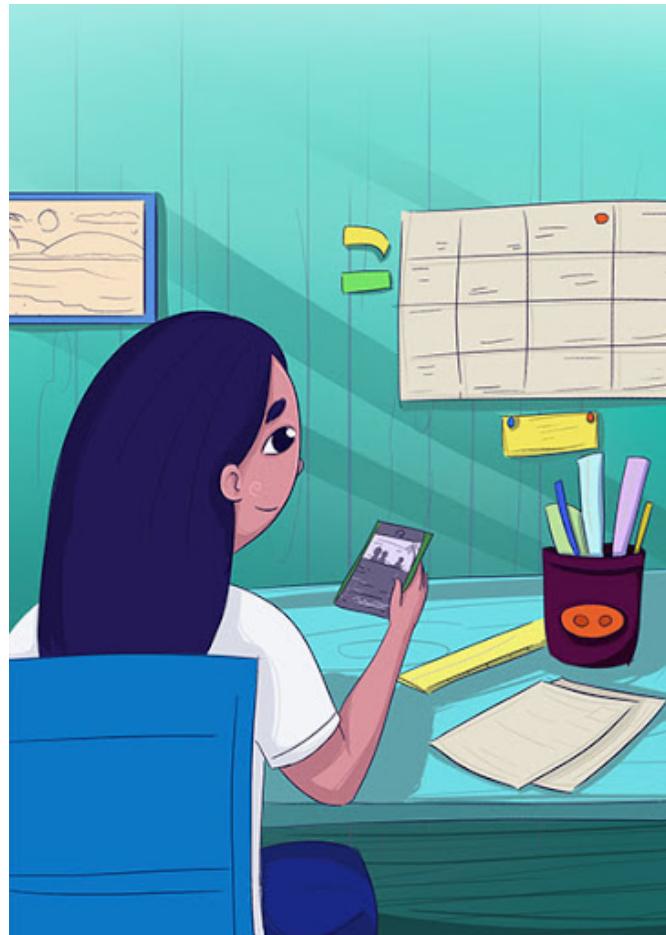
Then it dawned on her!

Achaya knew exactly what she was going to make her video about.



That evening Achaya started organizing her ideas.

Then she borrowed her mother's mobile phone and interviewed people in her neighborhood.



The next day, she sat down with her mother and put it all together, just like a media producer!



Finally, the day arrived and it was Achaya's turn to show her video to the class. Achaya nervously hit the play button.



The video started by showing Achaya's friends, teachers, and neighbors. Then it showed lots of great food being cooked! "I would improve our school with the food that is important to each of us. We should have a school potluck!"



Achaya's video showed how inviting all of the teachers, students, their families, and their neighbors to eat together would form a stronger community. And have more fun!



“That was fantastic, Achaya!” Teacher San said, with a big smile as the class applauded. Everyone agreed that it was a great idea, and that they were all hungry!

“I guess we’ll have to set a date for the school potluck,” winked Teacher San.

Achaya smiled. She was happy she convinced people of her idea but she was already thinking about the next topic she would work on.





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Original Story

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