

ALEMAR-PHOENIX READING FOR LEARNING AND LIVING SERIES

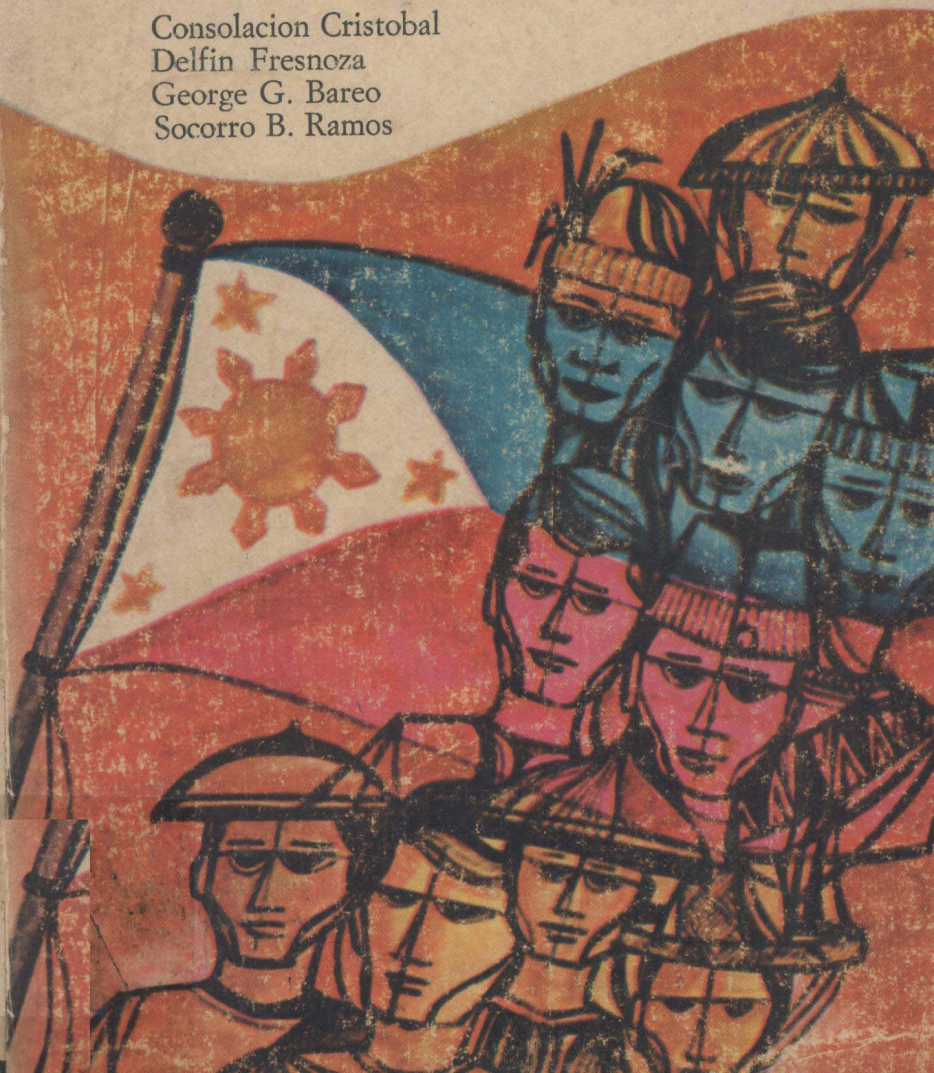


We the Filipinos

4

New Revised Edition

Consolacion Cristobal
Delfin Fresnoza
George G. Bareo
Socorro B. Ramos



We the Filipinos

Grade IV

Consolacion M. Cristobal, B.S.E., B.S.E.Ed.

Supervising Instructor

Normal Department

College of Education, U.S.T.

George G. Bareo, B.S.E.Ed., M.A.

Supervisor of Student Teaching,

Faculty of Education, UST

Delfin Fresnosa, A.B.

Instructor, National Teachers College

Socorro B. Ramos, A.B.

Chief, Research and Information Division

Department of Trade

Illustrated by

Gene Banzon

Cover design by

Bobot V. Fontanilla



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FOREWORD

I congratulate Alemar-Phoenix Publishing House, Inc., for pioneering in the publication of Filipino-oriented reading materials and for further improving them to exactly meet the current needs of Filipino children and young adolescents. The schools need reading materials like these to give our children and youth actual experiences with which they can emphasize and call truly their own.

In line with one of the major goals of the 1972 Educational Development Decree, Alemar-Phoenix has thus frontally met the challenge of producing this new reading series for Filipino children. After several years of hard but inspiring work, A-PPH's team of forward-looking, highly competent Filipino reading teachers finished these completely new Philippine readers, the *Reading for Learning and Living Series* from Nursery School through Grade VII, arranged in progression consonant with modern, well-tested pedagogical principles.

This series is a fitting memorial to the vision and courage of the late founder and president of Alemar-Phoenix, Dr. Ernesto Y. Sibal (1908-1977). Through Dr. Sibal's enlightened publishing statesmanship, the *RLL* series was designed and published simultaneously with the plans of the Department of Education and Culture to Filipinize the books used in our educational system.

I see from the long list of schools that have adopted and now use the *RLL* series how well received it has been country-wide. This is a clear affirmation of how right Dr. Sibal was in developing instructional materials precisely for our children.

Even a cursory perusal of the contents of this series shows that it provides the child with genuine experiences in Philippine culture and the Filipino way of life. As the child grows and develops, his world, as presented in these materials, widens to his barangay, his hometown, and his province. And the child's journey through reading goes on as the series leads him as he becomes a young adolescent fully aware of humanity moved by the spirit of brotherhood and understanding.

The *RLL* series of Basal Readers, Skillbooks, and Teach-

er's Guides will go a long way toward helping the teachers in the field to set the pace and spark their enthusiasm for a more valuable reading program that is truly Filipino.

JUAN L. MANUEL
Secretary of Education and Culture

*Manila,
April 30, 1977*

Preface

Reading has emerged as a right and a responsibility in our century. The printed word that is everywhere and that rolls off the presses at the rate of millions of pages per day can be informative, entertaining, and enriching. But it can be deceptive and the modern reader must be wary of the phony argument and the flashy appeal of the medium. Speed, accuracy, selectivity, and perception must characterize his response to the word.

No wonder then that the schools are deeply concerned to equip their ward with an inventory of reading skills. In the lower grades teachers develop the child's basic skills. As the child grows older reading assumes greater importance in answering his many questions about himself, the other people and the world. The child is taught to read to identify himself, to acquire information, to recreate, to understand how people have struggled and survived and to assimilate the proper attitudes and habits.

Thus reading plays a major role in orienting the individual. In a developing country like the Philippines it should help answer an urgent need to make the people aware of and involved in the issue of the day. It is unfortunate that the readers being used in our schools have failed to contribute to our people's politicalization, and even more unfortunate is the fact that only a few of our authors have shown the willingness and the enterprise to improve the situation.

The Alemar-Phoenix Reading for Learning and Living Series comes as a welcome attempt to put together relevant local reading materials specially meant for the Filipino child. Produced by a staff of experienced teacher-authors, the series is committed to the development of the reading power of every pupil. It is a double-orientation—one designed to promote love of country through selections reflecting our culture and

values and extolling the lives of great Filipinos, the other, designed to develop inter-world brotherhood and cooperation to promote lasting peace among all peoples.

This series is meant to be either basal or supplementary material for use in reading classes on the elementary level. The teachers will find here ample materials for building skills and for developing social and literary appreciation as well. The pupils will have ready opportunities to work on wide assortment of selections intended to meet the varied interests and needs of young people. It is our fervent hope that this series will contribute toward making our pupils happier human beings and well-formed, well-informed Filipinos and world citizens.

EDILBERTO P. DAGOT
*Vice-President for Academic Affairs,
Former Director of the Reading
Laboratory,
Philippine Normal College*

JESUS C. PALMA
*Asst. Headmaster, Ateneo de Manila
Grade School*

Acknowledgment

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Unit I

Life in Our Country





Barrio Scene

By Maximo D. Ramos

A girl with an earthen jar,
While fording a brook,
Sees a boy at a nook not far
With an eager look.



She quivers and shifts her gaze
Directly from him;
He comes and speaks of her grace
At the runnel brim.

Tonight a lad and a lass
Will dream one dream
Where a moment will pass and pass
At a twilight stream.

An Unforgettable Day

Mila thought that she was a very lucky girl. She was the only one in her class who had gone to Manila during the visit of Pope Paul VI.

She went to Manila with her father and mother. It was a very long and tiring trip. They had to go by bus, by boat, and by train. The whole trip took more than two days and two nights.

In Manila they stayed at the home of her mother's sister in Paco. It was Mila's first trip to the city.

On the day the Pope was due to arrive, her Uncle Julian said: "If you are all still too tired from your trip, you can watch everything on TV."

"What about it, Mila?" her father said.

"I want to see him in person," Mila said.

And so they looked at a diagram of the route the Pope was to take from the airport. They chose Roxas Boulevard. The airport itself was too far and Uncle Julian said that by the time they got there it would be too crowded. It was reported on the radio that even the night before, there had been people waiting there already.

On the way to Roxas Boulevard Mila's eyes were wide with wonder. It was the first time she had seen so many big and tall buildings. She grew confused too because of so many streets filled with cars and people.

They got to the boulevard very early in the morn-

ing. But they found many people already there. From Roxas Boulevard she could see many ships anchored in the Bay.

In just a short while her mother became acquainted with another family waiting for the Pope to pass by. The family included a man and his wife and their four young children. They had brought seats, a thermos bottle of coffee, and plenty of sandwiches. They said they had been there since five o'clock in the morning.

"Where are you from?" Mila's mother said.

"Cavite," the other said. "And you?"

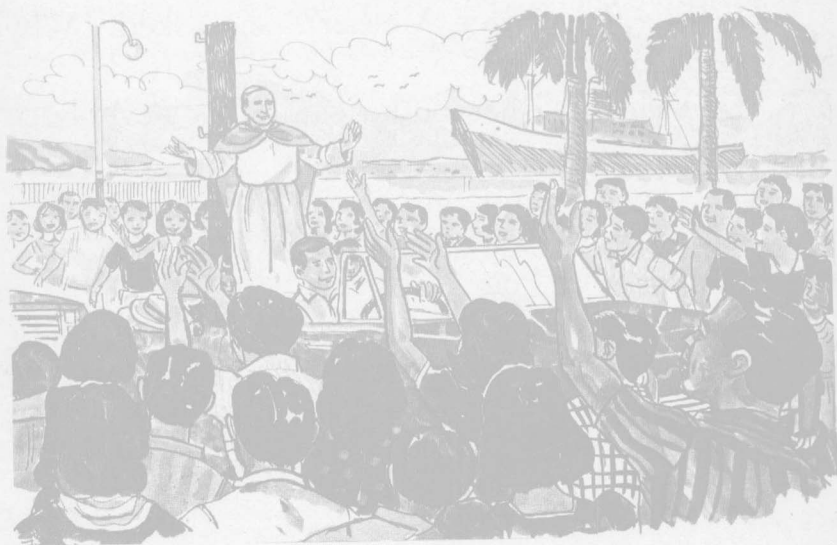
"We are from Samar," Mila's mother said.

"My, but that's a long way off!"

"Yes. It took us more than two days and two nights to get here."

The crowd kept growing. The day grew hotter too.

Shortly after ten o'clock, excitement among the



people mounted. Word had come that the Pope would soon be passing by.

At first there was only a confused sound of voices from one end of the boulevard. It soon became a thunderous roar.

Mila's excitement mounted. She asked her father to put her up on his shoulder so she would be able to see the Pope as he passed by.

"*Viva il Papa! Mabuhay ang Papa!*" The shouts from the crowd was deafening.

Mila also shouted: "*Viva il Papa! Viva il Papa!*" She waved and clapped her hands too. She was in a fever of excitement.

The car that carried the Pope moved at a snail's pace. The Pope looked very calm. His face shone with kindness. He kept blessing the crowd.

It happened that when he came abreast of Mila and her parents, the Pope smiled. Mila was certain that his smile and his blessing were for her. Mila found her mother crying softly.

"What's the matter, Mother?" she asked. "Why are you crying?"

"I'm so happy," her mother said. "I've never been so thrilled in all my life."

They saw the Pope in person the next day when they attended the Mass at the Rizal Park. But this time they only saw him from a distance.

There were almost a million people at the Park that afternoon. Mila was frightened by the huge crowd. Her parents said that they had never been in