

Winner of
CANVAS'
Romeo Forbes
Children's
Storywriting
Competition

KAKATOK- KATOK SA BAHAY NI BENOK

Knocking on Benok's House



ISINULAT NI
Mon Sy

INILARAWAN NI
Faye Abantao



Ang librong ito ay kay

Philippine Copyright ©2021
by
CANVAS - The Center for Art, New Ventures
and Sustainable Development

Philippine Copyright ©2021
by
CANVAS - The Center for Art, New Ventures, and Sustainable Development

All rights reserved.

However, anyone may share, copy, and redistribute the material herein in any medium or format for non-commercial purposes, provided that appropriate attribution and credit is given to its publisher, CANVAS. No changes to, remixing, transformation, or any other derivative of, the material herein may be made without first seeking the written permission of CANVAS.

Please direct all inquiries to CANVAS:
No. 1 Upsilon Dr. Ext. cor. Zuzuarregui St., Old Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1119
info@canvas.ph

First printed in hardcover, 2021
Originally published in Filipino with English translation
Published by CANVAS - The Center for Art, New Ventures, and Sustainable Development
Printed in the Republic of the Philippines

Story by Jose Monfred Sy
Book and layout design by Kevin Candelaria
Translation by Annette A. Ferrer
Editing by Ergoe Tinio
Photography by Ocs Alvarez

All artworks featured in this book are by Faye Abantao.

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.

KAKATOK- KATOK SA BAHAY NI BENOK

Knocking on Benok's House

Isinulat ni
Mon Sy

Inilarawan ni
Faye Abantao



Ibang-iba ang kakahuyan sa kinagisnan ni Benok. Sa Sitio San Nikolas, nagigising si Benok sa mga pukpok ng karpintero at sa anyaya sa suki ng mga tindera sa talipapa.

The woods were so different from the place that Benok knew. In Sitio San Nikolas, Benok woke up to the carpenter's hammering thuds and to the beckoning calls of the vendors of the small market nearby.

Kilala ni Benok ang halos lahat. Lagi kasing dinudumog ang karinderya ng kaniyang Nanay at Mamang. Pagkauwi mula sa iskul, agad siyang tutulong sa paghawan ng mesa para sa susunod na kakain.

Tuwing Sabado, buong hapon siyang nakikipaglaro kina Mikoy at Katkat. Tulad ng kanilang barong-barong, hindi mapaghiwalay ang tatlo.

Benok knew almost everyone in their town. You see, his Nanay and Mamang's small eatery always drew in a crowd. When he got home from school, he would immediately help out by bussing tables to prepare them for the next diner.

Each Saturday, he spent the whole day playing with Mikoy and Katkat. Just like their shanty homes, the three were inseparable.





Nagbago ang lahat sa isang katok.

Everything changed with one knock.

Hindi makatulog si Benok.
Búkas na ang kanilang eksam.

Papikit na siya nang may marinig siyang kumatok sa tapat na bahay. Sumilip siya sa bintana at nakita ang mga nakapaligid na lalaking nakaputi.

Nang makapasok sila sa bahay, biglang **TOK!**
At sa ilang sandali, nagmadali silang umalis.

Hindi nakatulog si Benok.

*Benok could not sleep.
They had an exam tomorrow.*

Just as he was about to close his eyes, he heard a knock at the house in front of theirs. He peered through the window and saw men in white circling the house.

*The men breached the house, suddenly **TOK!**
And in a few moments, they left in a hurry.*

Benok could not sleep.



Pagkapasok ni Benok sa klase,
nadatnan niyang nagbubulungan
ang mga kamag-aral.

“Nawawala raw ngayon ‘yong anak ng
mekaniko pagkatapos nilang papasukin
ang mga lalaki,” kuwento ni Mikoy.

“Nawawala rin ‘yong ale sa tindahan
malapit sa ‘min,” dagdag ni Katkat.

*Nawala rin kaya ang nakatira sa
harap namin? isip ni Benok.*

Simula noon, gabi-gabi, may
kumakatok. Gabi-gabi,
may nawawala.



*At school, Benok arrived to find his
classmates speaking in whispers.*

*“They say the mechanic’s son went
missing after they let the men in,” said
Mikoy.*

*“The lady at the store near us has also
gone missing,” added Katkat.*

*I wonder if our neighbor is missing, too?
wondered Benok.*

*From then on, night after night, there
was a knocking. Night after night,
someone went missing.*

Kinalaunan, tinawag ng mga taga-Sitio na Kakatok-katok ang pulutong ng lalaki.

“Mga engkanto kaya sila?” tanong ni Mikoy.

“O baka mga elyen. Dadalhin kaya nila tayo sa ispeyship?” pagbabaka-sakali ni Katkat.

Hindi mapakali si Benok. *Tatanungin ko sina Nanay at Mamang, pasya niya.*

Soon enough, the residents of Sitio San Nikolas called the band of men The Knockers.

“Could they be warlocks?” asked Mikoy.

“Or maybe aliens. Will they take us away in a spaceship?” Katkat mused.

Benok could not sit still. I’m going to ask Nanay and Mamang, he decided.

Ngunit pagkauwi ni Benok, nag-eempake na sina Nanay at Mamang.

“Anak, dumarami na ang nawawala,” nangangambang sabi ni Nanay. “Kailangan na nating lumikas.”

“Hindi po ba tayo hihingi ng tulong, ‘Nay, Mamang?”

Nagtinginan ang dalawa. Nakapagdesisyon na sila.

“Wala nang tutulong sa ‘tin, Benok,” paliwanag ni Mamang.

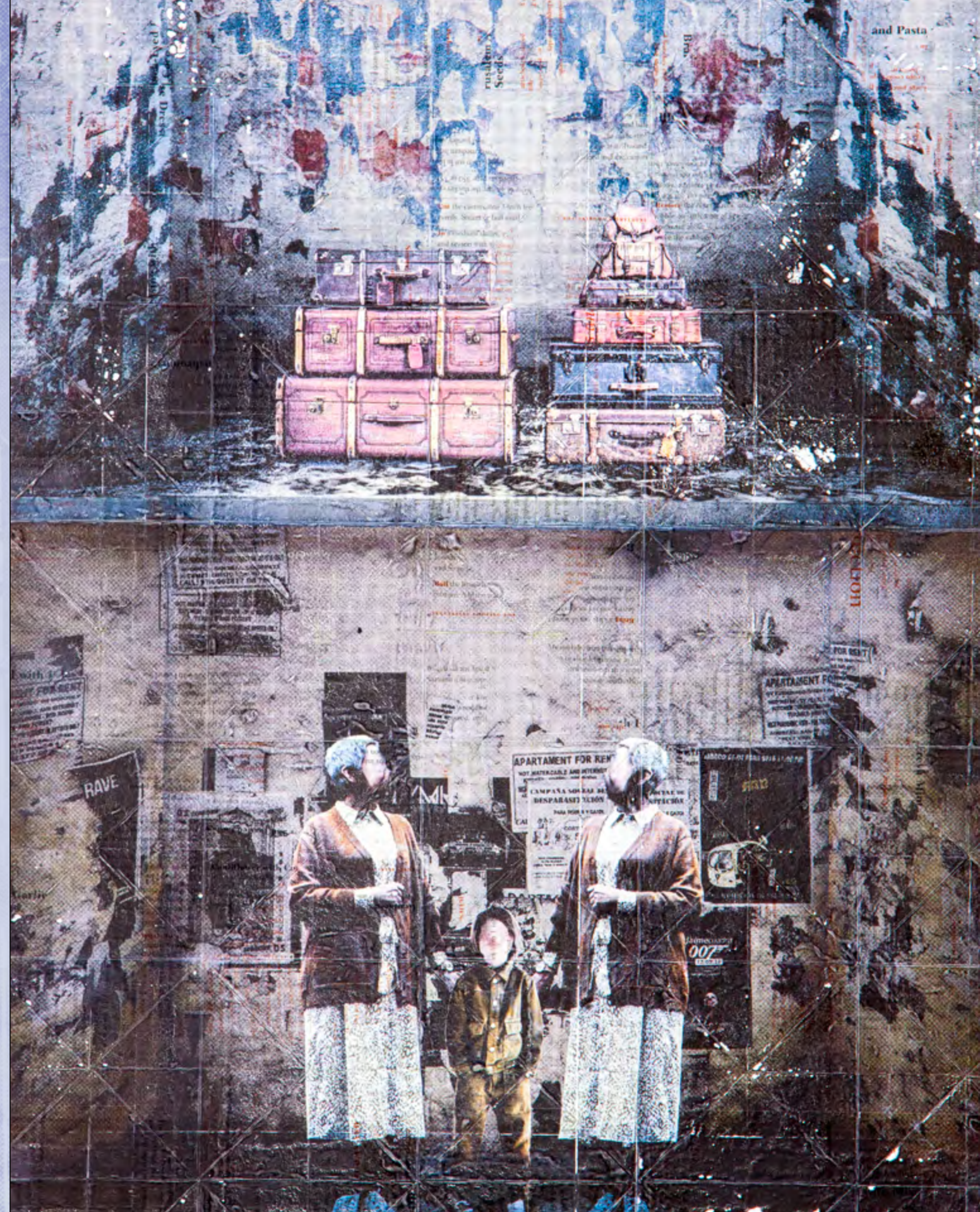
But when Benok got home, Nanay and Mamang were already busy packing.


“Anak, more and more people have gone missing,” Nanay said with worry. “We need to get out of here.”

“Aren’t we going to ask for help, ‘Nay, Mamang?”

The two looked at each other. They had already made a decision.

“No one will help us now, Benok,” Mamang explained.





Napadpad sila sa kakahuyan.
Hindi man ganoon kalayo
sa Sitio, ibang-iba ito sa
kinagisnan ni Benok.

Sa lilim ng mga antuking puno,
naging tahimik ang buhay
nila. Walang engkanto, walang
elyen, walang Kakatok-katok.

*They found themselves in the woods.
While it was not that far from the
Sitio, it was very different from what
Benok had known growing up.*

*Under the shade of sleepy trees,
life was peaceful. There were
no warlocks, no aliens, no Knockers.*



Di nagtagal, nakapasok ulit si Benok sa iskul. Hindi aabot ng isang oras ang lakad mula sa bago nilang tahanan.

Soon enough, Benok was able to return to school. School was less than an hour's walk away from their new home.

Minsan, nadatnan nina Benok at Katkat na umiiyak si Mikoy.

“Ano’ng nangyari sa ‘yo? Ba’t ka umiiyak?” tanong ng dalawa.

“Nakita ko ‘yong mga Kakatok-katok kagabi. Kumatok sila sa kapitbahay namin, tapos...*TOK!*”

At malalim na nag-isip si Benok.

“Sa ‘min muna kayo tumira, Mikoy,” alok ni Benok. “Sumama na rin kayo, Katkat.”



One day, Benok and Katkat found Mikoy in tears.

“What happened to you? Why are you crying,” asked the two.

“I saw the Knockers last night. They knocked on our neighbor’s house, and then... TOK!”

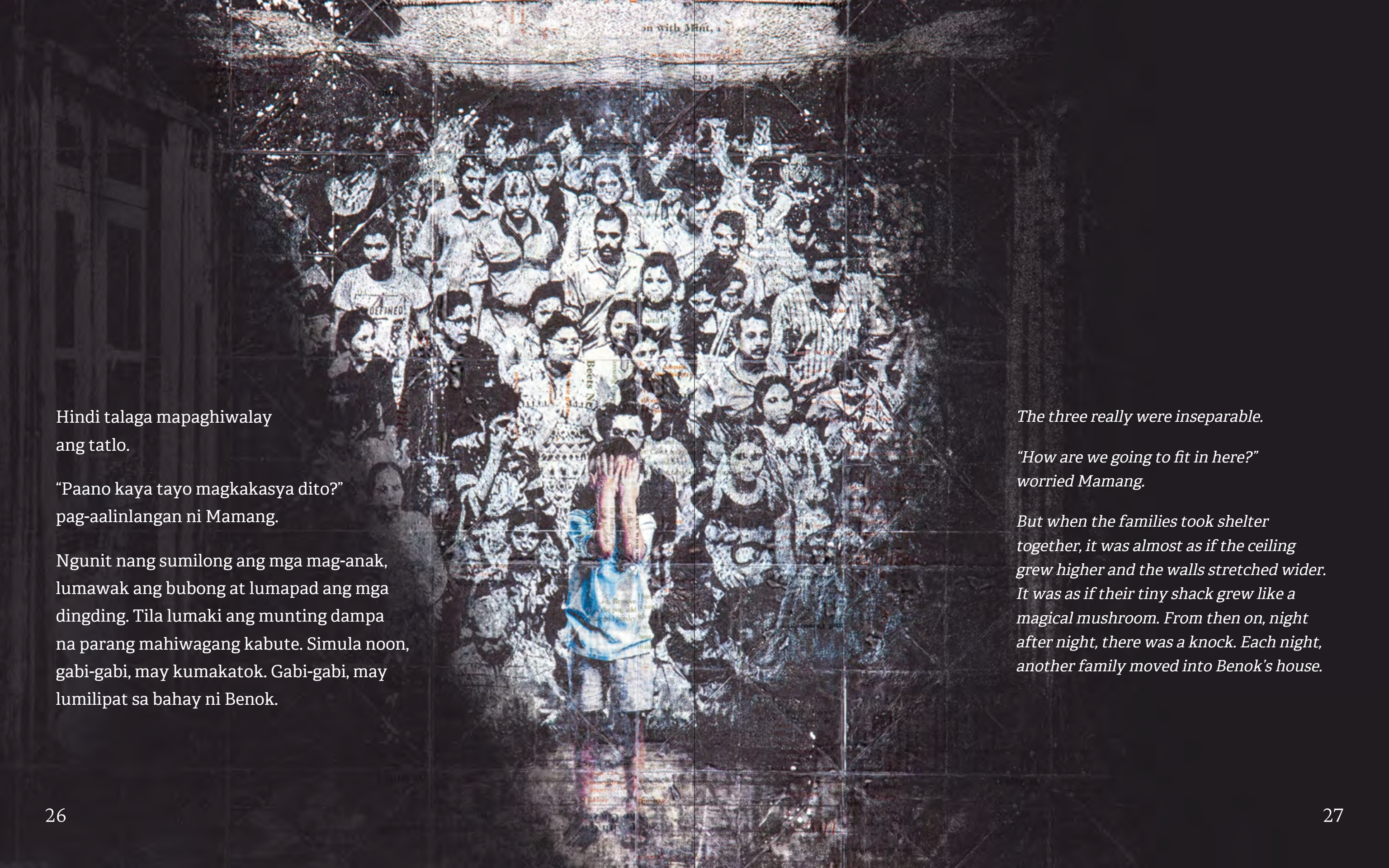
Benok thought hard.

“Come live with us for now, Mikoy,” Benok offered. “You and your family come too, Katkat.”



May kumatok sa nag-iisang bahay sa kakahuyan.
Nang buksan ni Mamang ang pinto, nadatnan
niya si Benok kasama sina Mikoy, Katkat, at mga
magulang at kapatid nila.

*There was a knock on the only house in the woods.
When Mamang opened the door, it was Benok with
Mikoy, Katkat, and their parents and siblings.*



Hindi talaga mapaghiwalay ang tatlo.

“Paano kaya tayo magkakasya dito?” pag-aalinlangan ni Mamang.

Ngunit nang sumilong ang mga mag-anak, lumawak ang bubong at lumapad ang mga dingding. Tila lumaki ang munting dampa na parang mahiwagang kabute. Simula noon, gabi-gabi, may kumakatok. Gabi-gabi, may lumilipat sa bahay ni Benok.

The three really were inseparable.

“How are we going to fit in here?” worried Mamang.

But when the families took shelter together, it was almost as if the ceiling grew higher and the walls stretched wider. It was as if their tiny shack grew like a magical mushroom. From then on, night after night, there was a knock. Each night, another family moved into Benok’s house.



Isang gabi, kasa-kasama ni Benok ang ibang kamag-aral at ang mga pamilya nila.

“Matutulog tayong nakatayo!” bulalas ni Nanay, na hindi napigilang ipagluto ang lahat ng hapunan. Mga suki pa naman nila ang iba doon.

Sa sumunod na gabi, kasa-kasama na ni Benok ang karpintero, mekaniko, at mga tindera mula sa talipapa.

One night, Benok was with a few of his classmates and their families.

“We’re going to have to sleep standing up!” Nanay exclaimed, who could not help but cook everyone dinner. Some of them were their eatery’s regular diners.

And the following night, Benok brought with him the carpenter, the mechanic, and the vendors from the small market, too.

“Hindi ligtas na magtipon tayo sa iisang lugar, Benok,” babala ni Mamang.

“Pero wala na pong tutulong sa ‘tin, ‘Nay, Mamang,” buong loob na sagot ni Benok.

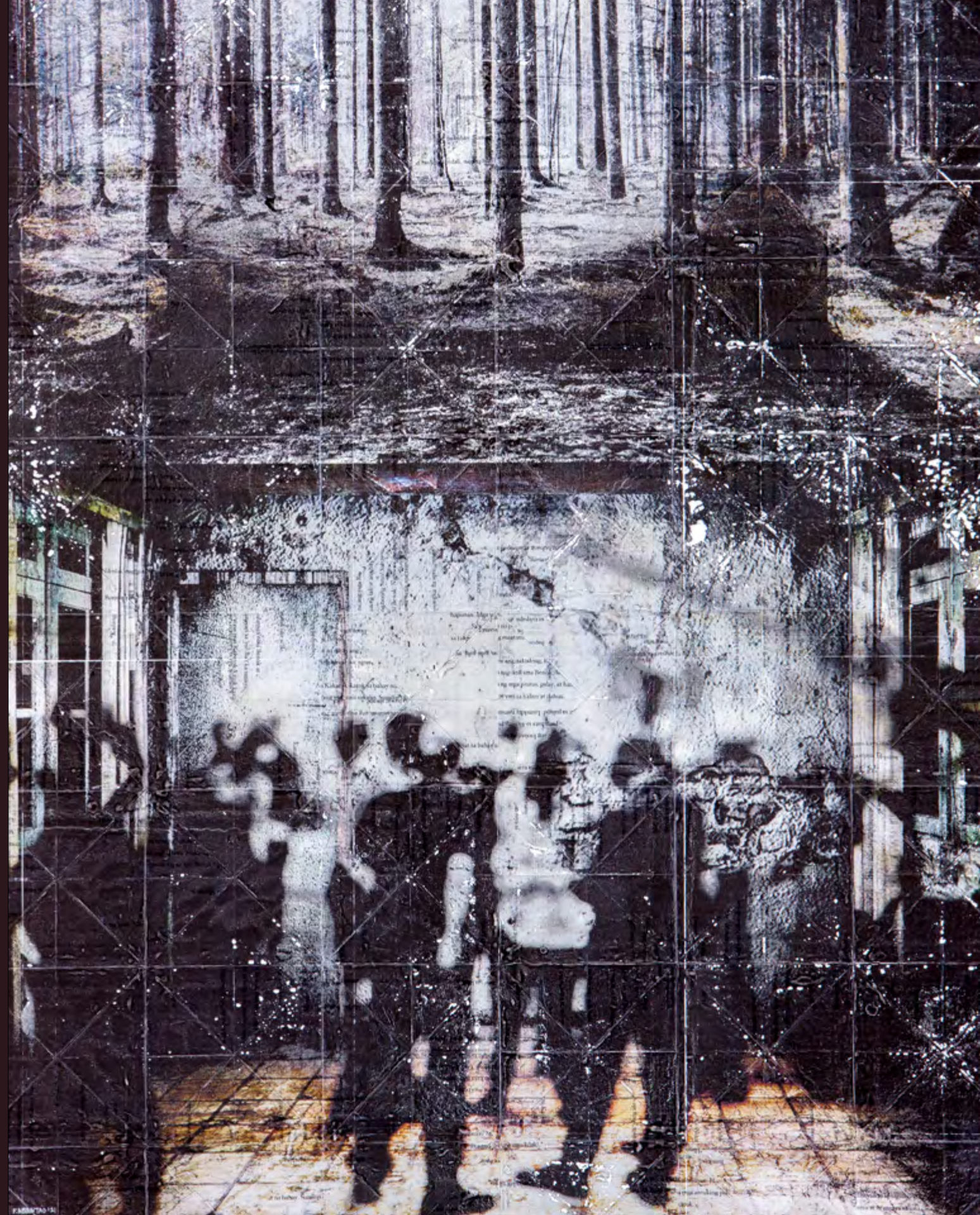
“Tayo-tayo na lang po ang magtutulongan.”

Parami nang parami ang nakisilong, kaya’t lumawak nang lumawak ang looban ng bahay.

“It is not safe for all of us to be in one spot, Benok,” warned Mamang.

“But no one else will come to help us, ‘Nay, Mamang,” Benok firmly replied. “We can only rely on each other for help.”

More and more people came to take shelter, and inside, the house grew wider and wider.





Patuloy na nag-aral sina Benok, Mikoy, Katkat, at iba pang bata sa lilim ng punongkahoy. Nagtanim ang ilan ng mga prutas, gulay, at halamang-ugat sa paligid. Lumikha naman ang iba ng mga patibong at panakot yari sa kahoy at dahon.

Sa ilalim ng mga antuking puno, naghanda ang taumbayan.

Benok, Mikoy, Katkat, and other children continued their studies under the shade of the trees. Some planted fruits, vegetables, and root crops in the area. Others made traps and scarecrows out of branches and leaves.

Under the sleepy trees, the townspeople prepared.

Isang gabi, hinihinal na dumating ang karpintero.
“Papunta na ang mga Kakatok-katok!” bulalas niya.

Napintahan ng takot ang bawat mukha.

“Narito ang buong Sitio! Sabay-sabay ba tayong mawawala?”
sabi ng mekaniko.

Napaisip si Benok. Narito na ang buong Sitio?

“Tanggalin na natin ang pinto!” mungkahi niya.

Nagtaka ang bawat isa, ngunit nagtiwala sila sa dunong ng bata.

One night, the carpenter arrived panting.

“They’re coming, the Knocking Men!” he burst out.

Fear washed over everyone’s face.

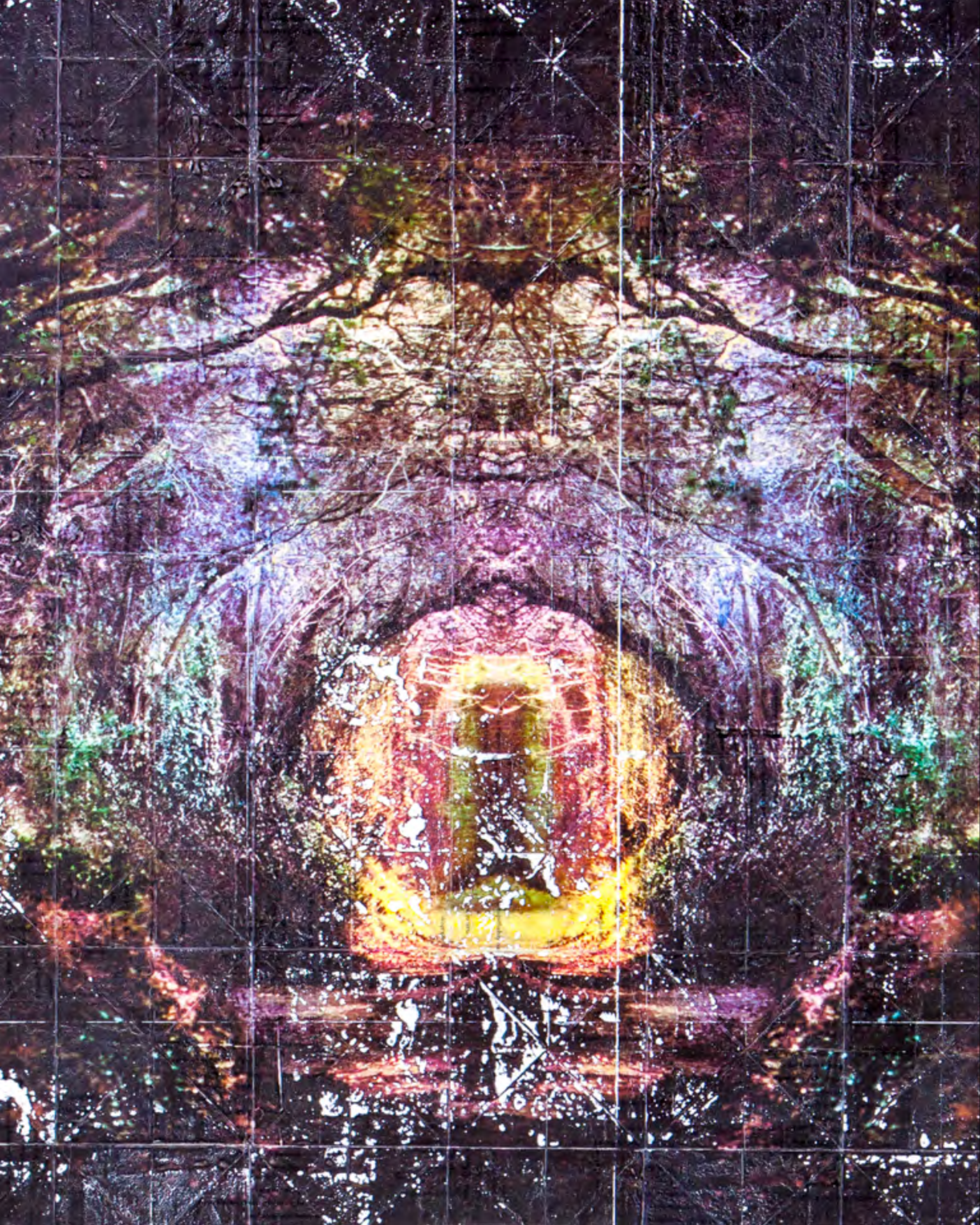
*“The whole Sitio is here! Will they make us all disappear?”
said the mechanic.*

Benok paused to think. The whole Sitio is here?

“Let’s take off the door!” he urged.

Everyone was puzzled, but trusted in the child’s wisdom.





Umaligid ang mga Kakatok-katok sa bahay nina Benok.
Nanlilisik ang mga mata. Nanginginig ang mga kamay na
parang may nais sakalin. Sumilip sila sa bawat siwang.

Ngunit walang pintong makatokan.

Naglakas-loob ang taumbayan na buksan ang mga bintana.

“Wala rito ang hinahanap niyo!” sigaw nila.

“Di kayo makakapasok dito!”

“Umalis na kayo!”

*The Knockers encircled Benok’s house. There was fire in their eyes.
Their hands trembled, looking for something to crush.*

They peered into each crack and crevice.

But there was no door to knock on.

The townspeople mustered the courage to open the windows.

“You will not find what you are looking for here!” they shouted.

“You cannot enter!”

“Leave now!”

Napaurong ang mga Kakatok-katok.
Natisod at nahulog ang ilan sa
mga patibong na inihanda ng
taumbayan. Nasindak naman
ang iba. Kumaripas sila ng
takbo palabas ng kakahuyan
kung saan nakatirik ang
bagong Sitio San Nikolas.



The Knockers fell back. A few tripped and fell into the traps the townspeople had made. Others were frightened. They sprinted as fast as they could out of the woods where the new Sitio San Nikolas had sprung.

Ilang araw nang walang kumakatok sa bahay ni Benok.
Walang engkanto, walang elyen, walang Kakatok-katok.

Naghanda ang kaniyang Nanay at Mamang ng pista para
sa buong Sitio. Niluto nila ang binunga ng naitanim ng
bagong pamayanan.

Sama-sama sa milya-milyang hapag-kainan, ipinagdiwang
nila ang kalayaan.

*It has been days and there has been no knocking on Benok's
house. No warlocks, no aliens, no Knockers.*

*Nanay and Mamang cooked up a feast for the whole Sitio.
They harvested the fruits and crops and vegetables that the
new town had planted.*

*Together, on a dining table that stretched for miles and miles,
they celebrated freedom.*

Tungkol sa Manunulat

Noong bata pa siya, pangarap na ni Jose Monfred Sy—
Mon Sy, for short—maging Champion ng Pokémon League. Ngunit dahil mapanganib ito, pinili na lang niyang magtapos ng kurso sa komparatibong panitikan. Lumalagi siya sa mga silid-aralan ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman kung saan hinihikayat niya ang mga kabataan na magbasa ng mga aklat (1/3 ng panahon niya) at magsuri ng lipunan at ng mga kakulangan nito (2/3 ng panahon niya). Kapag hindi nagbabasa, nakikipamuhay sila ng mga kaibigan niya sa mga manggagawa, magsasaka, mangingisda, at pambansang minority. Pagkauwi sa gabi, may baon na siyang mga bagong kuwento. Nagtuturo rin siya sa Bakwit Iskul ng mga kabataang Lumad na lumalaban para sa karapatan nila sa edukasyon.

Maaari siyang kontakin sa pamamagitan ng Owl Postal Service o e-mail (jcsy3@up.edu.ph).

Tungkol sa Ilustrador

Isang visual artist si Faye Abantao, mas kilala ng mga kaibigan niya bilang Banet. Bunso sa tatlong magkakapatid, siya ay lumaking masayahin at malikot ang kamay—hilig niyang manguha ng ideya sa kalikasan upang gumawa ng mga likhang-sining na sa unang tingin ay panaginip.

Mas nakakagawa siya ng likhang-sining sa gabi kapag tulog na ang lahat at ang tanging gumagambala sa kaniya ay ang mga inspirasyong natatanggap niya mula sa kadiliman at katahimikan. Madalas napapanaginipan niya ang kaniyang mga obra, na nasa loob siya ng mga ito. Madalas di na siya nakakalabas dito.

Kung nagigising man siya mula sa mga panaginip na iyon, nagdo-drawing siya para sa mga librong tulad nito.

MORE BOOKS FROM CANVAS



ELIAS AND HIS TREES
Adapted from "The Man Who Planted Trees" by Jean Giono
Adaptation by Angie Rivera
Art by Romeo Forbes



THE ROCKING HORSE
Story by Becky Bravo
Art by Elmer Borlongan



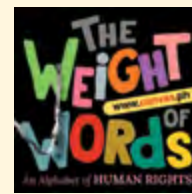
SOL: A LEGEND ABOUT THE SUN
Story by Agay Llanera
Art by Farley del Rosario



ANG BATANG MARAMING BAWAL
Story by Fernando Rosal Gonzalez
Art by Rodel Tapaya



SI LUPITO AT ANG BARRIO SIRKERO
Story by Rowald Almazar
Art by José John Santos III



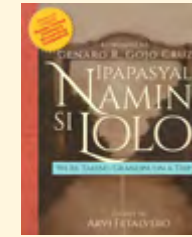
THE WEIGHT OF WORDS: AN ALPHABET OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Edited by CANVAS
Artworks by Electrolychee, Dan Matutina, Gerilya, John Ed De Vera, Jom Masolabe, June Digan, Keith Dador, Kevin Roque, Lala Gallardo, Meneer Marcelo, Palma Tayona, Wesley Valenzuela



KARAPAT DAPAT
Written by May Tobias-Papa
Art by I.N.K.



ANG AKLATANG PUSA
Story by Eugene Y. Evasco
Art by Jared C. Yokte



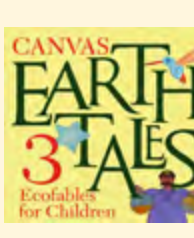
IPAPASYAL NAMIN SI LOLO
Story by Renato R. Gojo Cruz
Art by Arvi Fetalvero



RENATO BARJA'S CHILDREN'S STORIES
Stories written by Daniel Palma Tayona and Gigo Alampay
Art by Renato Barja



ANG DYIP NI MANG TOMAS
Story by Genaro R. Gojo Cruz
Art by Anthony Palomo



EARTH TALES: 3 ECO-FABLES FOR CHILDREN
"The King and the Royal Trees," by Paul Aird and art by Ivee Olivares-Mellor
"The Hummingbird," art by Plet Bolipata
"The Star Thrower," art by Liza Flores



MESSAGE IN THE SAND
Story by Charmaine Aserappa
Art by Roel Obemio



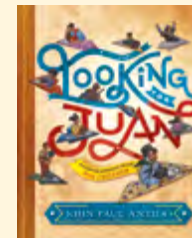
TAHAN NA, TAHANAN
Story by Maria Isabel Alarilla-Arellano
Art by Don M. Salubayba



DOLL EYES
Story by Eline Santos
Art by Joy Mallari



MAMITA'S GARDEN: AN ACTIVITY BOOK
Story by Nicolas Gabriel Garcia
Art by Pam Yan-Santos



LOOKING FOR JUAN: A CANVAS ACTIVITY BOOK FOR CHILDREN
Activities written by Annette A. Ferrer and Gigo A. Alampay
Art by John Paul Antido



SI PONYANG AT ANG LIHIM NG KUWEBA
Story by Melvin John B. Atole
Art by Sarah M. Geneblazo



ANG ANGHEL NG SANTA ANA
Story by Josephine de Dios
Art by Johanna Helmut



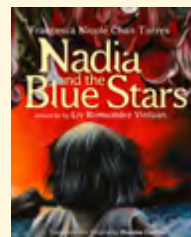
MGA MUNTING PATAK NG ULAN
Story by Jessica Luciano Olmedo
Art by Alea Garibay



RIZALPABETO
Poems by Vim Nadera
Art by Elmer Borlongan



THE CAT & THE BAT AND OTHER FABLES
Written by Rhandee Garlitos
Art by Elmer Borlongan



NADIA AND THE BLUE STARS
Story by Francesca Nicole Chan Torres
Art by Liv Romualdez Vinluan



A FISH TALE
Story by Becky Bravo
Art by Daniel dela Cruz



THE TRIANGLE MAN AND THE FLIGHTLESS DIWATA
Story by Kate Osias
Art by Dex Fernandez



ANG KAHON NI LOLA
Written and art by Ioannis Sicuya



SILENT WITNESSES
Stories retold by Gigo A. Alampay
Art by Renz M. Baluyot



DAUGHTER AND THE GREAT FISH
Story by Loren Peria
Art by Jeho Bitancor



I AM THE STORYTELLER
Educational Consultant: Ana Maria Margarita Salvador
Art by various artists



MY SUPER HANDS
Written by Annette A. Ferrer
Artworks by BLIC



HERE BE DRAGONS
Story by Victor Fernando R. Ocampo
Art by Jon Jaylo



MY BIG SISTER CAN SEE DRAGONS
Story by Rocky Sanchez Tirona
Art by Liza Flores



INANG KALIKASAN'S BAD HAIR DAY
Story by Reclé Etino Vibal
Art by John Paul Antido



BENCAB'S ACTIVITY BOOK FOR CHILDREN
Activities written by Karen Joy Desamparado-Forida
Art by Benedicto Cabrera



PANYAAN: THREE TALES OF THE TAGBANUA
Stories by Rhandee Garlitos and Annette Ferrer
Art by Sergio Bumatay III



SAFE SPACE
Written by Gigo Alampay
Art by Liza Flores, Abi Goy, Fran Alvarez, and Jamie Bauza



#YOUTHINK
Written by Gigo Alampay
Designed by Studio Dialogo



A BRIDGE FOR SILAY
Written by Agay Llanera
Art by Ronson Culbrina



SILIM, PRINSESA NG DILIM
Written by Mark Joseph Bacho
Art by Luis Lorenzana



I AM THE CHANGE IN CLIMATE CHANGE
Written by Alyssa M. Peleo-Alampay, Ph.D.
Art by Ang I.N.K

**The Center for Art, New Ventures
& Sustainable Development, 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.



www.canvas.ph

For more information about CANVAS,
and to learn how you can help and participate,
send an email to info@canvas.ph.



Learn more about us at
www.canvas.ph



Buy our books online at
www.lookingforjuan.com



CANVAS.PH



[canvasph.art](https://www.instagram.com/canvasph.art)



Looking For Juan



[lookingforjuan](https://www.instagram.com/lookingforjuan)



a campaign of the Romeo Forbes Children's Literacy Initiative

CANVAS' 1 Million Books for One Million Filipino Children Campaign

aims to inspire in children a love for reading
by donating its award-winning books to public schools, hospitals,
and disadvantaged communities throughout the country.

Imagine and believe.

A child with art and stories can change the world.

You can help us!

For more information, email info@canvas.ph,
visit our websites at www.canvas.ph or bit.ly/donatetocanvas,
or find us on social media:

**Facebook: Center for Art, New Ventures
and Sustainable Development (CANVAS.PH)**

Instagram: @canvasph.art

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.



Sa Sitio San Nikolas,

hindi makatulog si Benok. May narinig siyang kumatok sa tapat na bahay. Sumilip siya sa bintana.

May mga lalaking nakapaligid. Nang makapasok sila sa bahay, biglang TOK! At sa ilang sandali, nagmadali silang umalis.

Kinabukasan, narinig ni Benok na nawawala ang anak ng mekaniko. Simula noon, gabi-gabi, may kumakatok. Gabi-gabi, may nawawala.

Ano ang gagawin ni Benok at ng Sitio San Nikolas?

CANVAS Stories. **Real Life Told Beautifully.**

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.

For more information, please visit www.canvas.ph or follow us at www.facebook.com/canvas.ph.



www.canvas.ph

A child with art and stories can change the world.

