

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

When the laughing stopped

By Janaan Manternach
NC-News Service

Jose didn't look up much during class. He didn't look at Miss Lucy, his teacher. He didn't look around at the boys and girls sitting near him.

"I wonder what is bothering Jose?" Miss Lucy asked herself. "He looks like he wished the ground would open and swallow him up."

That is how Jose felt. He felt small and shriveled up inside. His stomach was tight. Sadness showed through his dark eyes.

His classmates made fun of him. "Hi, stupid!" one would say. Then everyone would laugh.

But Miss Lucy understood Jose. He still found it hard to understand everything in English. But he was very bright.

"Jose," Miss Lucy called out as the bell rang for recess. "May I see you for a moment?"

Several boys and girls giggled. When the classroom was empty, Miss Lucy asked Jose to sit down

by her desk.

"You seem so sad," she said. Jose just stared at the floor. He didn't feel good enough to look up at Miss Lucy.

"Jose," his teacher said, "I know you are hurting. And I think I know why. Your classmates laugh at you because you are still learning English. They call you names. But I know better. I know you are very bright."

Jose was surprised at Miss Lucy's words. "That's just how I feel," he thought to himself. "How does she know that?"

"Jose, I know you can do everything the other children do in school. I think you will write as good a story tomorrow as any of the others. Now go out and play until recess is over."

Jose seemed to walk taller when he came back into the room. He still walked at the back of the line, but he looked up to see if Miss Lucy was watching. She was.

He worked hard on a story about his life in his own country, Honduras. He described the

mountains and the beaches. He wrote of the banana farms. He told how poor his family was.

Then he wrote of his dreams for his country. "I want to grow up and help my people. I want everyone in Honduras to have enough to eat. I want people to have medicines when they're sick. I want everybody to have nice places to live. And I'm going to do something to make it happen."

When Miss Lucy read Jose's story to the class, no one laughed. His was the best story of all. The students were amazed.

When the bell rang at the end of the school day, Miss Lucy put her hand on Jose's shoulder. "I knew you could do it," she said. Jose looked up and smiled.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)



Hidden Words

Find the words hidden in the puzzle below. They can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. All the words are in this week's children's story.

A	P	F	L	R	W	X	C	K	E
H	O	N	D	U	R	A	S	Q	J
G	O	M	D	H	M	R	Y	A	E
N	R	V	I	N	T	C	N	G	N
S	J	L	S	Y	U	A	L	T	G
U	E	O	X	L	N	K	M	U	L
A	O	P	S	A	Y	Q	W	Z	I
H	B	S	B	E	A	C	H	E	S
B	I	O	T	Z	F	J	P	V	H
M	C	R	E	C	E	S	S	I	D

MISS LUCY JOSE HONDURAS BEACHES ENGLISH POOR BANANA RECESS

HOW ABOUT YOU?

□ Make believe you and your best friend are working hard, coloring pictures or making statues from clay. Then someone passing by laughs at your friend's work and says it looks funny. What would you say to help your friend feel better?

Children's Reading Corner

"Daniel's Duck" is a story by Clyde Robert Bulla for children and adults to read together. In the story, Daniel carves a duck for the fair. When it is displayed, people who see it laugh. This hurts Daniel and he runs to the river to throw it away. But a famous woodcarver stops him and with gentleness and kindness helps Daniel to realize the carving is so good it makes people happy. He offers to buy it but Daniel won't sell. Instead, he simply gives his duck to the woodcarver. (Harper & Row, Inc., 10 East 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10022. 1980. Paperback, \$2.95)



Warmth

Using split logs in a wood-burning stove to protect against the rigors of a bitter winter, Sister Consiline Flynn brings the warmth of the Gospel message to children from the ranches of the high country surrounding St. John the Apostle Mission in Paisley, Oregon.

Sister Flynn helps children with the basics of Christianity in her religion classes in Paisley and adjacent missions that receive Extension Society aid. She is one member of a team of home missionaries who, in partnership with Extension, pursue the vital and urgent task of evangelization here in

the United States. But that team is too small to do the job without help. It needs new members. It needs you.

Join us. Become a member of the Extension team. Although you won't be present in the home missions personally, your impact will be felt in this holy effort. Together we will bring Christ to those living in the home missions.

Write today for a free subscription to Extension magazine and discover the difference you can make. Together, and with God's grace, we can achieve His missionary goals here in our own beloved country.



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