

## **Material Development of the Five Selected Short Stories for Children of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan**

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**Abstract** -The study aimed to find out how Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan, a Palanca Hall of Fame awardee, impact children through his five short stories, randomly selected selected by the researcher and evaluated using the descriptive content analysis. This study ascertained (1) the subject matter of the five selected short stories for children of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan; (2) the reflection of social and cultural experiences of children in the selected short stories for children; and (3) the stories' impact on the appeal/interest/ curiosity/motivation of children. Based on the researcher's evaluation, the five selected short stories of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan mirror the children's own experiences and teach them how to deal with real-life situations, particularly on health related issues. Moreover, these stories have an appeal among children; arouse their interest and curiosity; and motivate them to read more since the way the stories were told capture the interest of the child. The imaginative way of conveying the messages through the narrative appeals to the children's mind. With the above mentioned findings, it would be safe to assume that the five selected short stories of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan do impact the children on how they view life through the science of medicine. Indeed, the significance of literature for children can never be underestimated.

**Keywords** - Material development, short stories, children's experiences, social and cultural experiences

## INTRODUCTION

Children's literature is good quality trade books for children from birth to adolescence, covering topics of relevance and interest to children of those ages, through prose and poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Children's books are about the experiences of childhood, both good and bad. Although these experiences may be set in the past, present, or future, they should still be relevant to the child of today. Enjoying birthday parties, losing a tooth for the first time, anticipating adulthood, camping out and telling host stories, getting a new pet, enduring siblings, and dealing with family problems are experiences common to children today (Tomlinson, 1996)

The manner in which content is treated also helps to define children's books. Childhood stories told in a forthright, humorous, or suspenseful manner are appropriate for young readers whereas stories about childhood told in a nostalgic or overly sentimental terms are inappropriate. Likewise, when stories show children as victims of natural and human - made disasters, the stories emphasize the hope for a better future rather than the hopelessness and utter despair of the moment.

The best children's books offer readers enjoyment as well as memorable characters and situation and valuable insights into the human condition. The problem nowadays is that many of the so - called children's books (today) are actually nothing more than advertisement for television cartoon characters and their associated products, such as candy, clothing, and toys. These books represent the low end of the quality spectrum (Tomlinson, 1996).

Children seek pleasure from a story, particularly stories that are simple in the expression of ideas, plain in terms of vocabulary, and short in terms of the length of story knowing they have a short attention span. Children respond more to stories that are simpler - both in language and in forms (Lukens, 2003)

As a tribute to the brilliance of those Filipino writers who continue to keep the fires of Philippine Literature, including children's literature that this study was conducted. These five selected short stories for children of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan, a Palanca Hall of Fame Awardee were evaluated to determine if these short stories are suitable for children.

## FRAMEWORK

Children's Literature is a powerful tool to teach children about the world, themselves, and others (Hancock, 2000). Children's literature motivates readers to think, enhances language and promotes cognitive development. Quality literature takes children beyond their own lives, broadening their background, developing their imagination, and enabling them to grow in understanding and respect for others. As cited by Hillman (1999), children can connect with the characters, events, places, and problems in literature on a personal level. Such affective responses to literature provide opportunities for students to become personally involved in reading and learning.

Children Literature can be read and enjoyed for personal purposes, but it can also be used to enhance the school curriculum. Because of the wide variety of excellent children's books, in science, social studies, health and even math lessons. Using children's literature across the curriculum provides many advantages over traditional textbooks. In comparison to textbooks, children's literature offers greater depth of content, multiple perspective, current information, engaging writing style, personal voice, options for varied reading levels, rich language, and interesting formats and structures (Tunnel & Jacobs, 2000).

PA-PROBE has a vital role seeing that a catalyst in responding to the government's thrust to make quality basic education accessible. The Project in Basic Education (PROBE) is aimed at improving the learning proficiency in science, mathematics, and English of pupils in Grades 5 and 6 in the elementary level, and first year & second year in the high school level. This AUSAID funded project is considered the most successful in the Philippines as new and innovative training approaches were used. The PROBE program consists of four components: (1) Pre-service, (2) In-service, (3) Material development, and (4) Evaluation.

The study delved only on the evaluation of short stories for children, it focused on the third component of PA-PROBE on material development. The material development component of PA-PROBE includes the following area: Subject Matter, Social and Cultural Aspect, Appeal, Interest, Curiosity, Motivation.

According to PA-PROBE, for a material to be considered as good material for children, it should be evaluated based on its subject matter, the social and cultural aspect, and the how the material appeal to the

reader and how it arouses the interest, curiosity, and motivation of young readers. These components are discussed below.

**Subject matter** refers to the appropriateness of content to the child's grade/year level, cognitive level, learning abilities, growth and development, way of living; applicable/suitable to daily life situation concerning food and nutrition, food production, water, energy, health and sanitation, shelter and clothing, environmental issues, domestic and technical living skills; relevant to the country's condition, environment, and society; uses indigenous materials rather than foreign models, portrays the natural beauty of the country as austere conditions.

The **social and cultural aspect** of a student material takes into account the diverse cultural, religious, economic, and family backgrounds of target learners, in this case, the children; uses problem derived from the children's own environment either as their own problem stimulate their interest; treatment of gender roles, occupations, takes account of possible learning resources in homes and community to allow for continuity of the learning activity initiated in the school.

A material has an **appeal** if it has the power of arousing sympathy and empathy. The children can benefit from stories that explain what life is like for people who are restricted by handicaps, sickness, or circumstances.

Another component is the material's capacity to develop the **curiosity** of the readers. This means that the state of being inquisitive among children is developed. In this case, children will be able to ask question about life in general, and medical science in particular; thus sharpening their minds knowing that curiosity requires them to view situations from perspectives other than their own and broadening their imagination.

Moreover, according to PA-PROBE's criteria, a good material should also be able to create **interest**. This term refers to feeling of excitement and curiosity about something; in this case, children will never forget stories that were so funny that they laughed out loud, or mysteries so scary that their heart thumped with fear, or with childhood experiences that made them laugh, cry, scared, etc.

Lastly, the materials should also develop **motivation** among learners. This term refers to the mental function that produces, sustains and regulates behavior in humans; in this study, motivation is when

children in particular think hard about real-life situations and may require them to make moral decisions and whether these decisions will have positive outcomes. Children may be motivated to formulate concepts of right and wrong through the stories.

The third component of PA-PROBE is geared on producing curriculum support materials (CSM) and in-service training package (INSET). Instead of buying foreign books for distribution to other schools, PROBE fellows (i.e. professors in the First Component) and In-Service Facilitators (ISFs, i.e. teachers who belong to the second component) produce the learning materials in a form that is easily understood and practically applicable in the local setting. Regional Learning Material Resource Center (RLMC) mass produce these CSMs and INSETs and distribute them to PROBE satellite schools during in-service trainings conducted either by the PROBE fellows or the ISFs.

The PROBE project does not heavily employ high tech equipment, like computers and Internet, in training teachers. It is the innovative approach of “empowering” the teacher by asking them to develop their own resources and in localizing the material that made the project successful. As an output of the project, teachers now think of themselves not merely as classroom teachers, who used textbooks prescribed by the DECS as their bible, but as curriculum planners, agents of change, and facilitators of learning.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Generally, this research evaluated the five short stories for children of Dr Luis P. Gatmaitan, a Palanca Hall of Fame awardee. Specifically, this study aimed to determine (1) the subject matters of the five short stories for children by Dr Luis P. Gatmaitan; (2) how the books reflect the social and cultural experiences of the children; (3) the impact of these books to the appeal, interest, curiosity, and motivation of the children.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The descriptive qualitative method of research was used in this study. Since the study evaluated five short stories for children of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan, the descriptive qualitative method of research was

the most appropriate method to use.

The matrix, "Evaluating Specific Elements of the Student Material" used in 1998 Philippine – Australia Project in Basic Education and in line with the Revised Basic Education Curriculum (RBEC) will serve as the main instrument in evaluating the five short stories for children of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan. This matrix is divided into three categories, namely the Subject Matter, the Social and Cultural Aspect, and Appeal/Interest/Curiosity/Motivation.

After the researcher had read all the stories, the evaluation commenced. The PA-PROBE matrix on "Evaluating Specific Elements of the Student Material" (see attached appendix) was used by the researcher to answer the problems. This matrix contains three categories and each category has been dissected into various statements and observations pertaining to the category. For example, under that relate to "Subject Matter," e.g. "Relevant to Philippine conditions, environment and society (urban, rural, island) and the researcher has to rate from 1 to 5, with 1 as NOT APPROPRIATE and 5 as HIGHLY APPROPRIATE.

The second category, "Social and Cultural Aspect," has eight (8) statements pertaining to society and culture. Again, the researcher has to rate from 1 to 5, but this time 1 as NOT AT ALL/ NOT BALANCED and 5 as VERY MUCH/ CONSISTENTLY BALANCED. The third category, last but not the least, "Appeal/Interest/Curiosity/Motivation" has six (6) questions/statements pertaining to appeal, interest, curiosity, and motivation to the readers. The researcher has to rate from 1 to 5, with 1 as NOT AT ALL/ NOT INTERESTING and 5 as VERY MUCH/ HIGHLY INTERESTING.

For the purpose of this study, the rating scale of the matrix was modified with the following rating score and description:

<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>
5	Highly Appropriate
4	Appropriate
3	Moderately Appropriate
2	Fairly Appropriate
1	Not Appropriate

All the presentations were focused on discussions, explanations,

and implications of the impact that the five randomly selected short stories for children of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan, have on all readers, as well as the possible recommendations that have been made after all discussions, explanations and implications, as expected from a descriptive qualitative research. After each statement in the matrix is rated, thorough discussions of possible implications followed. This study was the researcher's personal evaluation guided by the above-mentioned PA-PROBE matrix as it relates to learning competencies based on the recent National Revised Basic Education Curriculum (RBEC). Letting students and faculty read all the five selected short stories for children of Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan and asking them to evaluate each literary work would not only be very time-consuming but downright impractical because too much effort and time would be sacrificed by the respondents.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **The subject matters of the five short stories for children by Dr Luis P. Gatmaitan**

#### ***Ani Has a Bad Tooth (2000)***

This story is about a young girl named Ani. She has a hole in one of her teeth. Her mom says she that she needs to go to the dentist. But Ani is scared, believing the ache would just go away. Ani thinks that dentists are people who punishes children. Then she meets Dr. de Leon, a friendly and smiling dentist who does not intimidate the little girl. The doctor explains to Ani that the pain is not that bad and Ani is finally convinced by the friendly doctor.

This story is appropriate for children in all level because all children experience the same experience. Having a bad tooth is common to children who are lazy in brushing their teeth and for those who do go to the dentist's clinic for a regular check – up. The story is highly suitable to any daily life situation concerning health in particular. The subject matter of having a bad tooth is absolutely relevant to children since it reflect actual occurrences in their growing up, home conditions, environment, and society.

The way Dr. Gatmaitan presents the story is highly appropriate to any grade level because he uses very simple and understandable words

and phrases that any child will be able to comprehend and relate.

***Craak! Ferdie Broke his Bone! (2003)***

There is a little boy named Ferdie who is so curious to see what is happening inside the cemented arm or leg. At vacation time, Ferdie with his cousins – Yna and Merlene spend their vacation at their grandparent's house in Talavera, Nueva Ecija. These three children like to climb trees when they are in their grandparent's house. One time, Ferdie and his two cousins plays tug and since Ferdie is the only boy, he is chosen to be the "it". Unexpectedly, when they start to play, Ferdie steps on the scattered banana peeling and slips and it hurts himself. He is brought by his Lola Trining and Lolo Uweng with Yna and Merlene to the hospital. At the hospital, Dr. Aguda finds out from the x-ray that Ferdie has broken his bone and needs to be cast in cement. The doctor informs Ferdie that the fracture will be healed around 6-8 weeks. Out of curiosity, Ferdie, who is not curious in the beginning then begins to understand the mysterious thing that happens inside that causes the broken arm or leg.

The subject matter revolves around health and sanitation since an environment that is filled with garbage, litter, and peelings are certainly are not conducive for playing. This story promotes linkages between in – school and out – of – school experiences since all schools can cite one or two accidents regarding students or pupils who had slipped and cracked their bones in their elbows or ankles due to some scattered trash and/ or one fruit peelings.

***I Don't Want to go to Bed Yet! (2005)***

The story revolves around Joshua, a boy who does not want to sleep early because he wants to keep watching movies and television shows even until midnight. Joshua, who has gotten used to stay up so late at night, becomes always sleepy when attending classes and often falls asleep in class. When he learns about the cells in person's body needing "sleep" and rest too and the many advantages of sleeping early, Joshua begins to change his old ways by starting to sleep early. From then on, he gets used to sleeping early.

The story is all about health, tackling the importance of sleep to

health and that one needs to rest and sleep early so that one's body would be energized for the rest of the day. The way the story is told is very appropriate for any child. Joshua's refusal to sleep early is also a common experience among children. Young students can relate to such a story and may share simple yet wise insights to other students in their respective schools regarding the benefits of sleeping early.

### ***Yuck, Chicken Pox! (2006)***

The story is all about two cousins, who have experienced chicken pox, a disease that causes skin irritation, with red and watery spots as visible signs of one who has contracted the disease. Jaycee, the girl who has chicken pox, feels tortured knowing that she would get ugly with all those watery and scratchy spots all over her body. She blames Franz, her cousin and closest playmate, who has gotten the chicken pox first. But in the end, the story has a beautiful twist because Jaycee realizes that if she has not contracted the disease, she would not have read lots of interesting books since she could not go out of her house and meet her friends and classmates.

The subject matter revolves around the effects of chicken pox to one's health. The story's condition can be felt not only in the Philippines but even throughout the globe where chicken pox is an epidemic. It is a realistic scenario where everybody who may have experienced such discomfort could truly relate. Jaycee's feelings are also similar with the feelings of other children who have experienced how it is to suffer from chicken pox.

### ***Ouch! JM's Tonsils are Swollen! (2007)***

This is a story about JM, a boy whose tonsils are swollen. This belong to the fantasy genre since the tongue, molar, uvula, tonsils, strep bacteria, and other parts of the mouth have "life" qualities. This story explains in very graphic and vivid detail that tonsils, when swollen, are really acting like heroes because they (tonsils) do their best to protect the body from germs that may harm the liver and the kidneys.

The story is highly appropriate to both children and adults since everyone, once in a while, experiences tonsillitis and thus, such

story about health is applicable to all. The author creatively narrates the story by giving life to the different parts of the mouth and also highlighting their functions. The presentation of the subject matter does not only inform the reader about the function of the tonsils in the body, but also narrated it in a very exciting and suspenseful manner. The tonsils are made to appear as superheroes, defending the body from its invaders—the germs.

### **How the books reflect the social and cultural experiences of the children**

#### ***Ani Has a Bad Tooth (2000)***

The children can relate to this story since problems like toothache which is not limited to any race, gender, and status. It also discusses toothache as normal occurrence among all people especially children in particular, yet such problem (toothache) is being addressed by discussing its causes and then the solution on how to prevent toothaches. Moreover, a child is taught also how to take care of his/her teeth.

Overall, this particular story is appropriate for children because the author integrates values of honesty, concern for people, concern about consequences, helping others clarify their views and doubts, like the doctor explaining vividly to Ani that brushing her teeth everyday will prevent the teeth from decaying.

#### ***raak! Ferdie Broke his Bone! (2003)***

The story shows that one must respect the environment by not throwing any peeling or litter around and shows the terrible consequences of it. The story teaches the little children the sad result of one who unconsciously and innocently steps on peelings and then lands in a hospital with a cemented arm because of people throwing their peelings everywhere. This story manifest REAL-LIFE problems and frankly tells us the impact of irresponsible and undisciplined behavior that even the innocent children who just love to play games would be unwilling victims of an accident.

One of the Filipino cultural values that is portrayed in the story is

the importance of family. The story shows how the family of Ferdie takes care a member of the family who gets hurt. This is true to the Filipino culture, since as a closely-knit family, Filipinos are known for caring for their family's needs. In general, the story is appropriate for children in the formative years because it teaches them good Filipino socio-cultural values such as caring for a family member in need.

### ***I Don't Want to go to Bed Yet! (2005)***

The story presents a problem (sleeping late) to stimulate the children's interest because they can relate with the problem portrayed in the selection. The story integrates the value of concern about the consequences of staying up late at night knowing that this will affect the brain cells and all other cells of the body, thus weakening one's body.

This story is about Joshua, a boy who sleeps late because he wants to finish his favorite TV shows before going to bed. Young children nowadays sleep late because of the programs in the television. The media also has a bad effect for children because if they get so interested with it, the interest for their studies is loss. Even though media has a lot to offer, adults must guide their young ones so that their interest for their studies will not be at risk.

This story is appropriate for children because it teaches them how to manage and balance their time so that their performance in school will not be affected. It also tells them the importance of sleep for their physical and mental growth.

### ***Yuck! Chicken Pox! (2006)***

The story once again presents a real – life problem where any child could relate, particularly if he/she has contracted the problem (chicken pox or any disease, for this matter). The story integrates also the value of reading books and lets the child (the reader) widen his/her imagination. The story, moreover, takes into account possible learning resources in the homes like the books that are bought by Jaycee's dad for Jaycee to read while she is temporarily confined in her house.

This story of Dr. Gatmaitan shows how children can become nationalistic through reading. Good books for children must be

offered so that children will enhance their comprehension, grammar and imagination. In the story, the father give them books to read so that they will not get bored which is a good example for parents to do. Moreover the story can be rated as appropriate for children because it also integrates the values of caring, family ties, importance of reading, and sympathy for the feelings of others.

### ***Ouch! JM's Tonsils are Swollen! (2007)***

Although it is very far – fetched from reality that tonsils, tongue, bacteria, palate, etc. talk, there is certainly truth to this if one looks at the problem (tonsillitis) through the eyes of a doctor. Again, this story integrates values of concern about consequences of having one's tonsils swollen and the effects of it to the body. It will expand one's imagination that if only the tonsils, palates, tongues, and the rest of the organs could talk, then this story will also be their story. This story definitely informs and enlightens the reader(s).

This story is one unique story of Dr. Gatmaitan because the characters here come to life. The tonsils, tongue, molar and some parts of the mouth talks and acts like human. This story can be told in humorous way that every kid will like to hear. It also teaches children how to prevent tonsillitis because the story tells how scary if you have this infection. The story tells that the strep germs are really bad germs and has the ability to destroy the organs of the human person if not prevented. As a whole, this story is indeed appropriate for children since it incorporates the importance of caring for family members, and taking good care of one's health.

### **The impact of these books to the appeal, interest, curiosity, and motivation of the children**

The story *Ani Has a Bad Tooth (2000)* actively promotes learning because of the colorful pictures and illustrations, rich imagery, and beautifully simplified words and phrases. The narration certainly captivates any reader because the story is brief but very interesting. Any child or adult for that matter will truly appreciate such stories. This story is very much related to any child's or adult's experience and has meaning for him/her most, especially if he or she has experienced

toothache since it teaches young ones how to prevent tooth decay and how awful if you have one. For instance, Ani did not want to go to the dentist because she thinks that dentists are people who punish children but it went out that she is wrong. Dentists are good doctors of every people's teeth; they help us to make our teeth strong and healthy. This story will help children to be not worried of these doctors because the story tells how good they are to people specially children. The story will motivate or encourage the children to see a dentist once a month to check their teeth for them to have nice, strong, and healthy teeth.

The story *Craak! Ferdie Broke His Bone!* (2003) makes use of rural games that are common among Filipino children. Aside from the colorful illustrations and very simple narration which are motivating and appealing, the story teaches a deep lesson on responsibility and challenges the children's minds on the possible consequences if they do not dispose their garbage properly: they will end up like Ferdie who broke his bone and had his right arm inside a cast!

Since the story promotes rural games that the Filipino children used to play, this will interest them to participate on this game if their parents and grandparents will teach them on how to play this. This activity will enhance the motor skill of our child because young children of today has their interest glued on video games and no to other sports that older ones used to play. Video games make the child clumsy and lessen their interest to study.

Overall, the story is appropriate for Filipino children since it keeps their interest, and motivates them to be more responsible for their environment. The story also awakens a child's curiosity on what is inside a cemented arm or leg and how it heals through the experience of Ferdie.

Moreover, the story *Craak! Ferdie Broke His Bone!* (2003) also appeals to the children because it uses simple language that can easily be understood by them. The children can also relate to it because many children do not sleep early unless strictly told and/or reprimanded by their parents. The title of the story even catches the children's curiosity because they themselves love to stay up late by either watching the tube or playing video games.

The story will help the children learn the importance of sleeping early and how it will help them on their daily activities. If they have the energy for the whole day they can attend to all the curricular activities

that they want. In the story Joshua does not want to go to sleep early because he wants to finish first his favorite program on the television but when he goes to school in the morning he finds that he cannot answer the questions on the test, and when he joins in the track-and-field audition, when they start running for the trial, he faints because he does not have enough energy to do it because of lack of sleep.

Considering that the story highlights an issue common among children (refusing to sleep on time) this particular story is deemed appropriate for children. It motivates them to obey their parents and learn from the consequences of not sleeping early.

The story *Yuck! Chicken Pox!* is truly appealing and interesting not only because of the beautiful illustrations and captivating story but also because of the values and deep lessons children can learn like knowing for a fact that chicken pox is part of growing up and is inevitable. Children will learn to accept that there are unpleasant things that happen to their life but that they should learn to accept with an open heart and mind.

This story tells children that even if they are sick there are lots of things that they can do. In the story, the girl named Jaycee is bored because she can't go out because she has a disease called chicken pox. She can't even go to school because she might scare her classmates and might get infected by the disease. Her father helps her overcome her boredom and invites her cousin Franz who has just recovered from the disease. Her father buys books for them to read and they have fun at the same time learn a lot from their reading. The story is indeed appropriate for children since it motivates them to read and help them understand the feelings of others who are sick or confined in a hospital.

Lastly, the story *Ouch! JM's Tonsils are Swollen!* (2007) whets the interest of the children because of the very creative way the author narrates the story. It appeals to both children and adults because of the graphic and beautiful illustrations plus the beauty of science explained in a very simple and interesting manner. It absolutely relates to the reader's experience and has meaning for him/her because of the way that science is explained through the characterization of the different parts of the mouth. It engages the child's curiosity to discover more and motivates him/her to finish reading the story since the suspense is heightened.

This story is good play material for children because children like

to portray character in stories. In the story all the characters in the mouth talks and this will interest them because children like to hear stories that are out of this world aside from teaching them on how to take care of their mouths.

Dr. Luis P. Gatmaitan stories revolve around the popularization of the science of medicine in language and illustrations that young children can understand. The author makes use of universal scientific principles explained in vivid, rich, and colorful words that any child from any race, status, and culture will be able to appreciate. All stories incorporate common experiences among children like having chicken pox or tonsillitis. Employing imaginative reconstruction or retelling of what happens in the human body, the author captures the interest of the children from all walks of life.

## CONCLUSION

After reading the short stories of Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, one can truly say that children's literature is a powerful tool to teach children about the world, themselves, and others. Literature is a powerful vehicle for helping children understand their homes, communities and the world. Even before young children can read, family members, childcare providers and teachers read them stories about people in faraway places, sometimes from the distant past and sometimes about people whose lives are similar to their own. The impressions and messages contained in these stories can last a lifetime.

Short stories invite children to use their imaginations, expand their vocabularies and gain a better understanding of themselves and others. If the books reflect the diverse groups of people in the world around them, children can learn to develop respect for self and others. Literature is a mirror in which children can see themselves reflected, and also a window through which children can explore the world around them; books can illustrate the concept that people from diverse groups can play and work together, solve problems, and overcome obstacles.

Writing stories for children requires adequate skill and knowledge of the children's language and their world. A good story book for children is filled with drawings and illustrations in order to capture their interest. Moreover, the situations contained in the book are events

common among children for them to be able to understand it. Hence, Filipino children will not be able to appreciate stories about playing in the snow because there is no winter season in the Philippines. Hence, the stories used in this study are all authentic since it depicts situations and activities that are common to Filipino children.

At present, it is interesting to note that in the Philippines, there authors who can compete with internationally published books for children. There is really a need to have authentic locally produced materials for children wherein the Filipino children can relate and identify with in terms of content and socio-cultural values. The publication of Gatmaitan's illustrated story books is indeed a feat for Filipinos.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the preceding findings and conclusion, the researcher recommends the following:

1. The parents, being direct contacts of the children, must buy these kinds of books because of the latter's priceless impact to the children's education, particularly reading, vocabulary, health information, empathy, concern for issues and consequences, among other invaluable reasons.
2. The teachers, being the second parents at school, must at least recommend to their respective school administrations to allocate budget for the purchase of Filipino story books written by award – winning authors like Dr. Gatmaitan since such books are proven to widen the children's reading and imaginative skills, and more importantly, teach them to grow to be more responsible citizens one day.
3. The librarians in both public and private institutions should suggest to their respective administrators to definitely include these wonderful story books in their Filipiniana section since such literary gems greatly offer academic, emotional, psychological, and even physical benefits to all readers, young and old alike.

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