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## ANG LIHIM NI DOKDOK MANOK

ni: FRANCIS A. GUMAWA

### **Synopsis**

*Si Dokdok ay isang batang manok na lulong sa cellphone at hindi na interesado sa pagbabasa o pag-aaral. Dahil dito, nag-alala ang kanyang inang si Aling Inahen at itinago ang kanyang cellphone. Dahil sa tampo, tumakas si Dokdok at nagsimulang maglakbay.*

*Sa kanyang paglalakbay, nakilala niya ang tatlong kakaibang manok mula sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas: si Kiko Kuliglig, si Luningning Labuyo, at si Mang Pepe Panabong na tagapag-ingat ng kasaysayan. Sa tulong nila, natutunan ni Dokdok ang halaga ng kultura, tradisyon, at lalo na ang pagbabasa.*

*Sa huli, bumalik si Dokdok sa kanilang tahanan na may dalang bagong pag-unawa—na ang tunay na karunungan ay hindi lang matatagpuan sa digital na mundo, kundi sa puso ng bawat aklat at kuwento ng ating lahi.*

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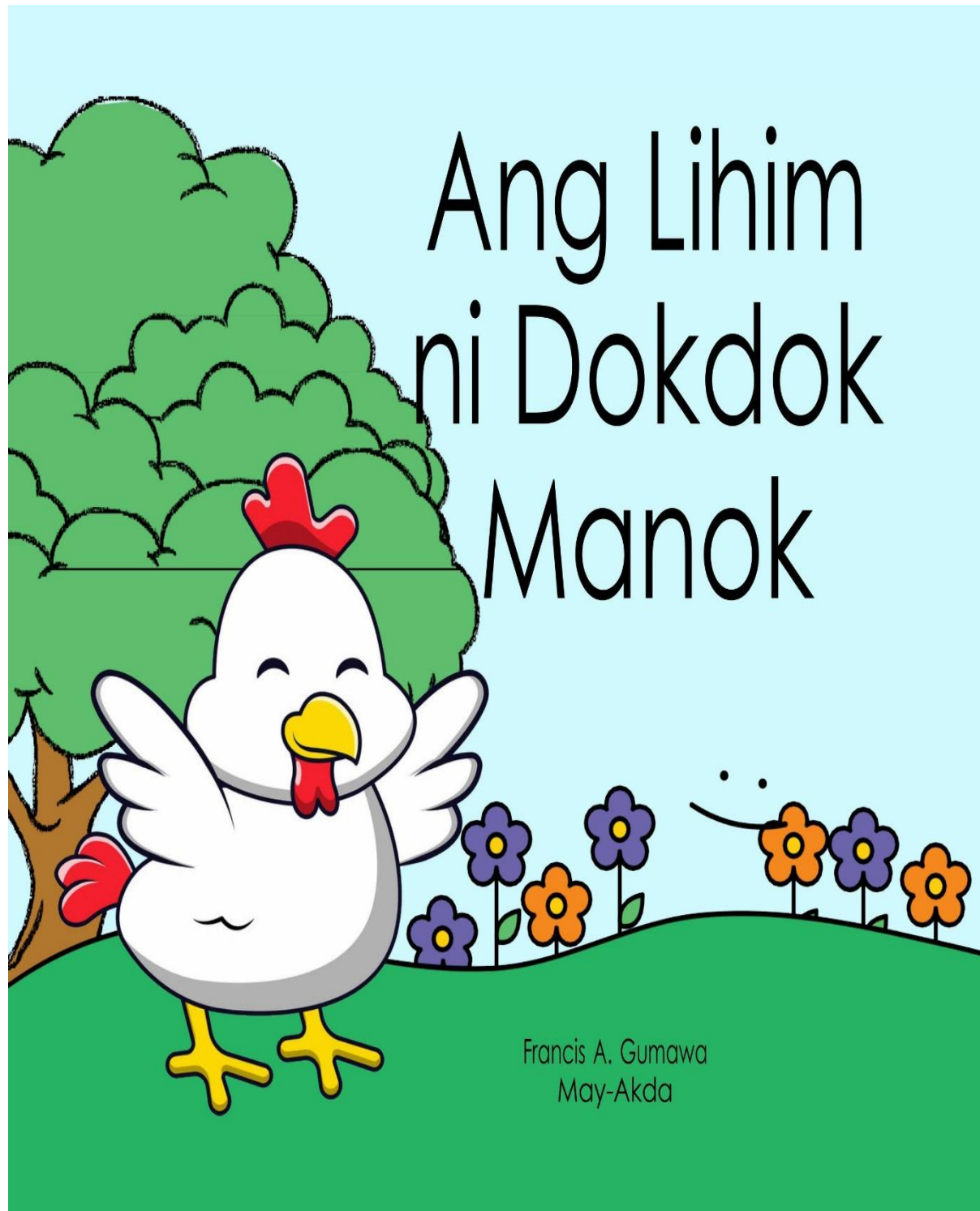
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Francis A. Gumawa  
May-Akda

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Sa payapang baryo ng Maasim,  
may isang batang manok na ang  
pangalan ay Dokdok. Isa siyang  
makulit, masigla, at palaging... naka-  
cellphone!



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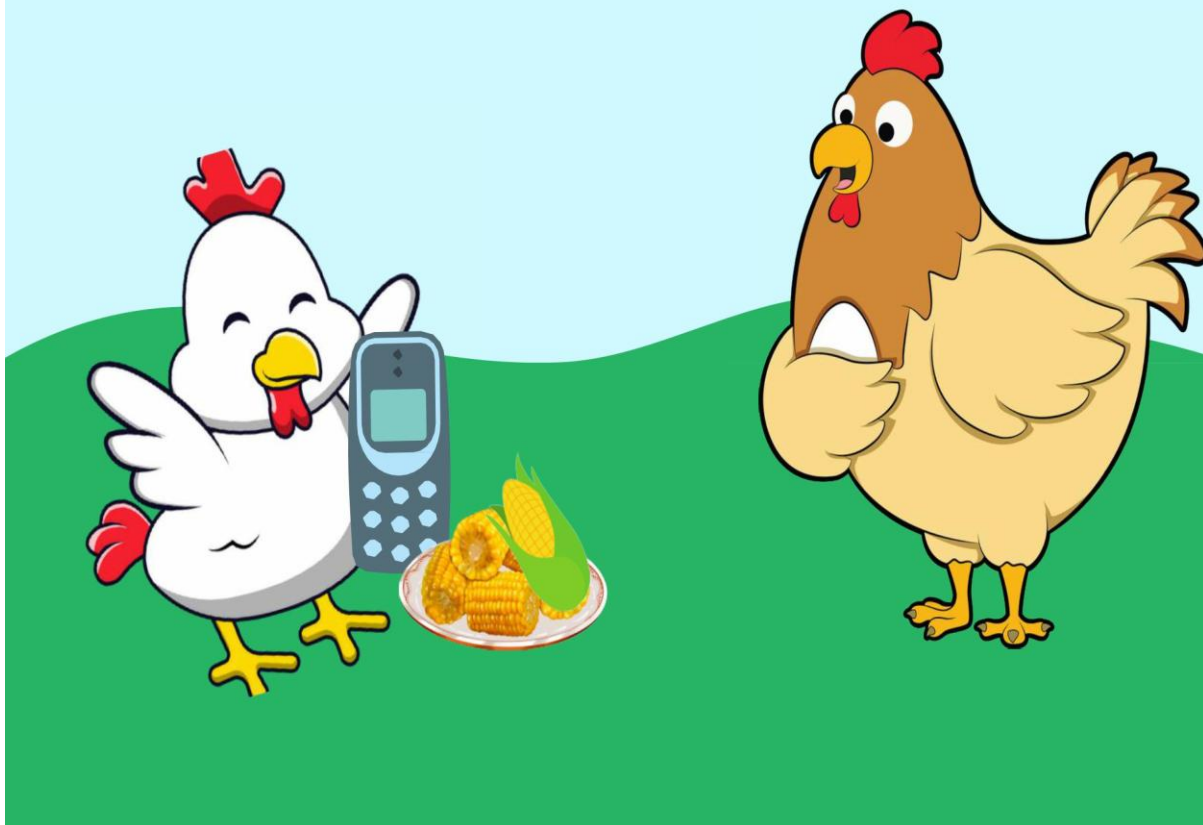
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“Dokdok! Hindi ka na naman tumutuka ng kanin,” sabi ng kanyang inang si Aling Inahen, habang naghahain ng nilagang mais. “Maghapon ka na lang diyan sa ‘ChickTok’!”



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“Ay sandali lang po, Nay!” sagot ni Dokdok, hindi man lang inalis ang tingin sa screen. “May bagong video po si Manoklyn Rae. Ang cute niya sumayaw!”



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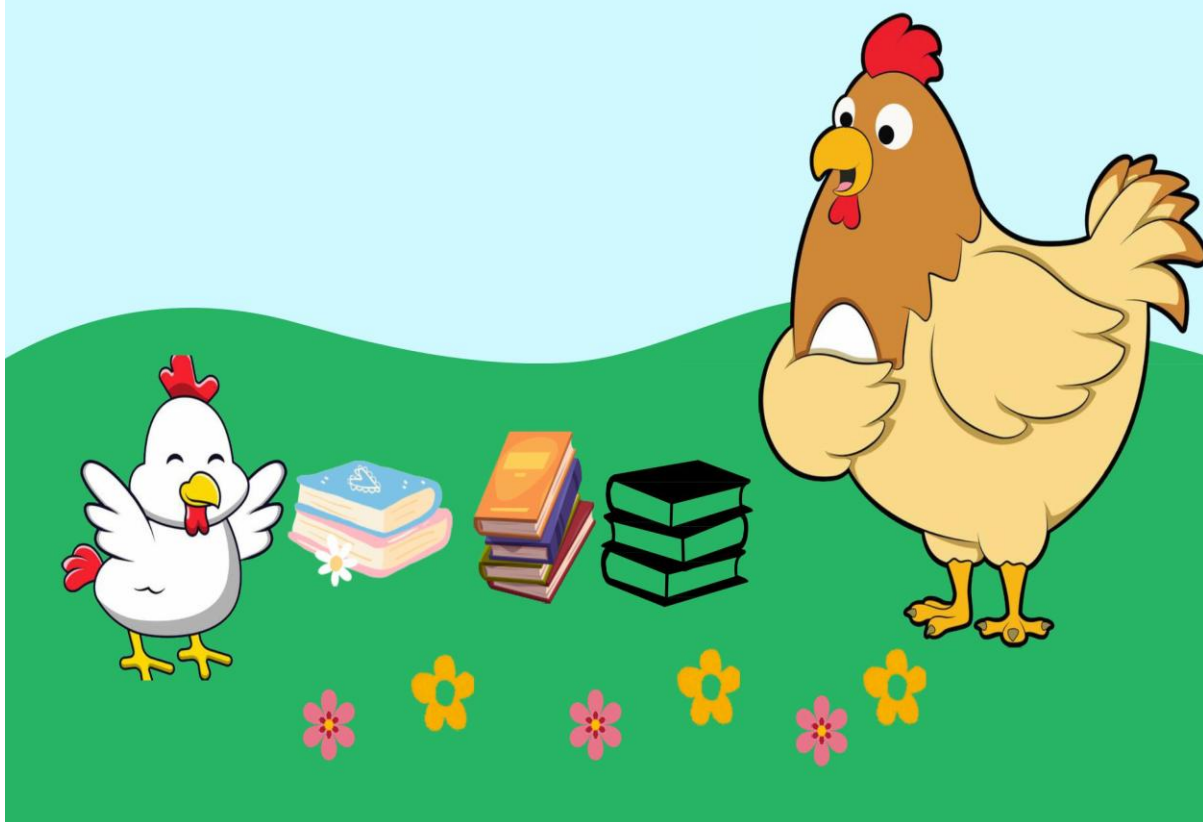
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Napailing na lang si Aling Inahen. “Kahit isang alamat, hindi mo na binabasa. Ni hindi mo na rin alam ang ‘Alamat ng Pinya.’ Naku!”



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Kinabukasan, tinago ni Aling Inahen  
ang cellphone ni Dokdok.

“Nay?! Asan ang phone ko?” sigaw  
ni Dokdok, halos maiyak.



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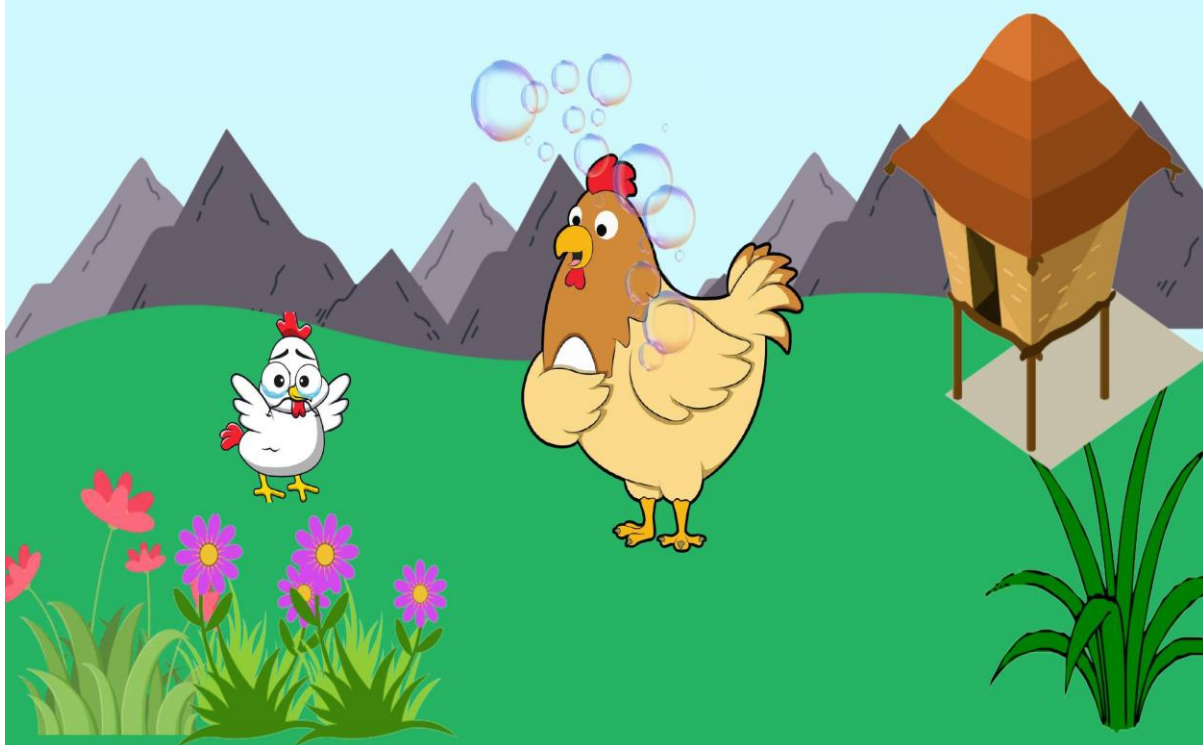
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“Anak, hindi sa pinagdadamutan  
kita,” malumanay na sagot ng ina.  
“Pero gusto kong matutunan mong  
pahalagahan ang tunay na  
kaalaman—ang karunungan hindi  
nababasa ng screen kundi ng puso.”



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Sa inis at tampo, nagdesisyong lumayas  
si Dokdok.

“Alis na ako! Hahanap ako ng lugar  
kung saan may cellphone, internet, at  
walang sermon!” bulong niya habana  
palihim na tumakas.



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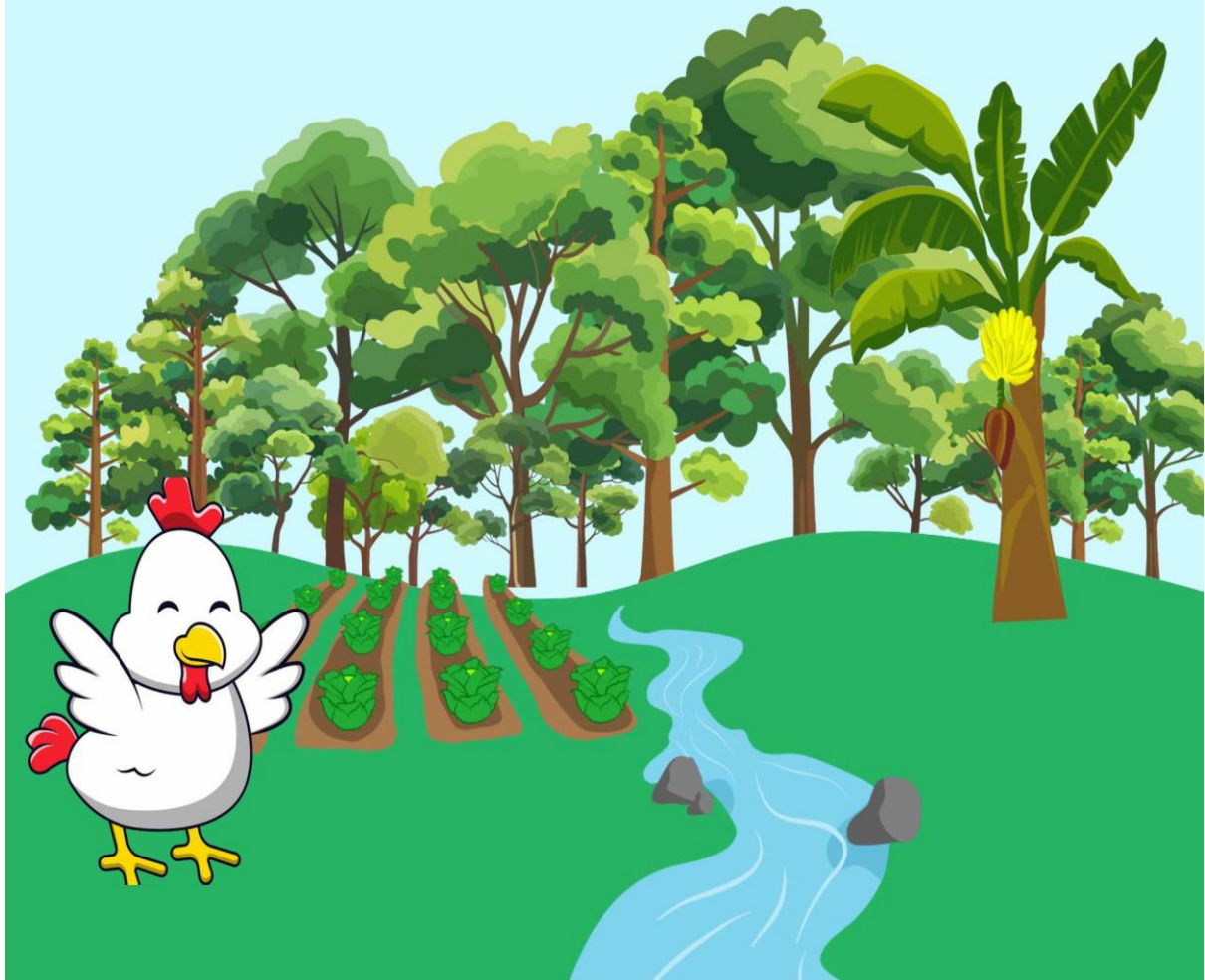
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Sa kanyang paglalakad, nadaanan niya ang gubat ng mga gulay at ilog ng saging na saba. Hanggang sa narinig niya ang boses:



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“Hoy! Saan ka pupunta, batang manok?”

Tumingin si Dokdok. Tatlong manok ang nakatayo sa harap niya. May kanyakanyang kakaibang itsura.



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“Sino ka?” tanong ni Dokdok.

“Ako si Kiko. Galing ako sa Masarap na baryo. Mahilig akong magkuwento ng mga alamat habang nag-uukit ng anito.”



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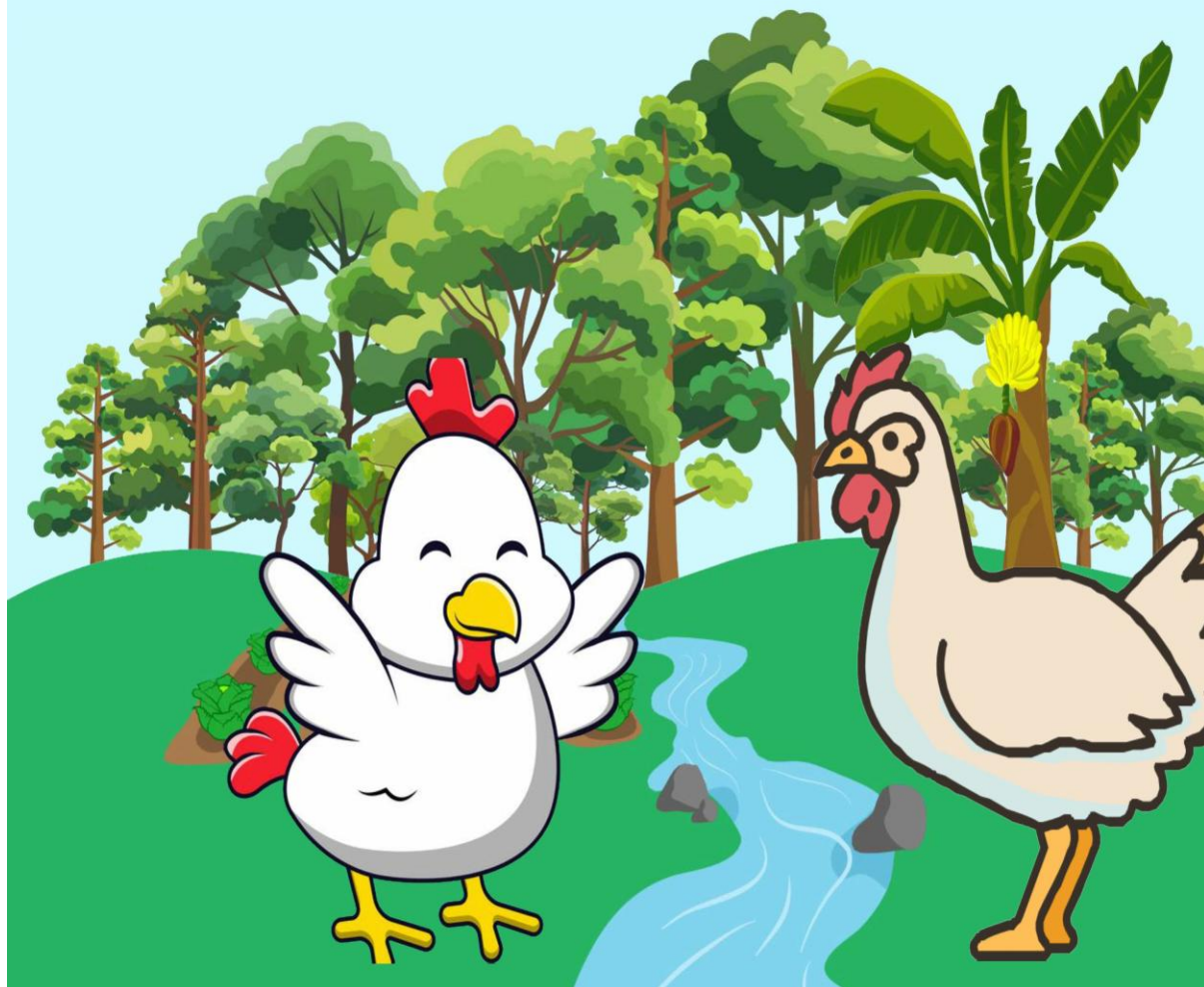
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“Ako si Luningning!” bati niya. “Galing ako sa baryo Matulungin. Marunong akong magsayaw ng pantomina at magbasa ng Ibalon!”



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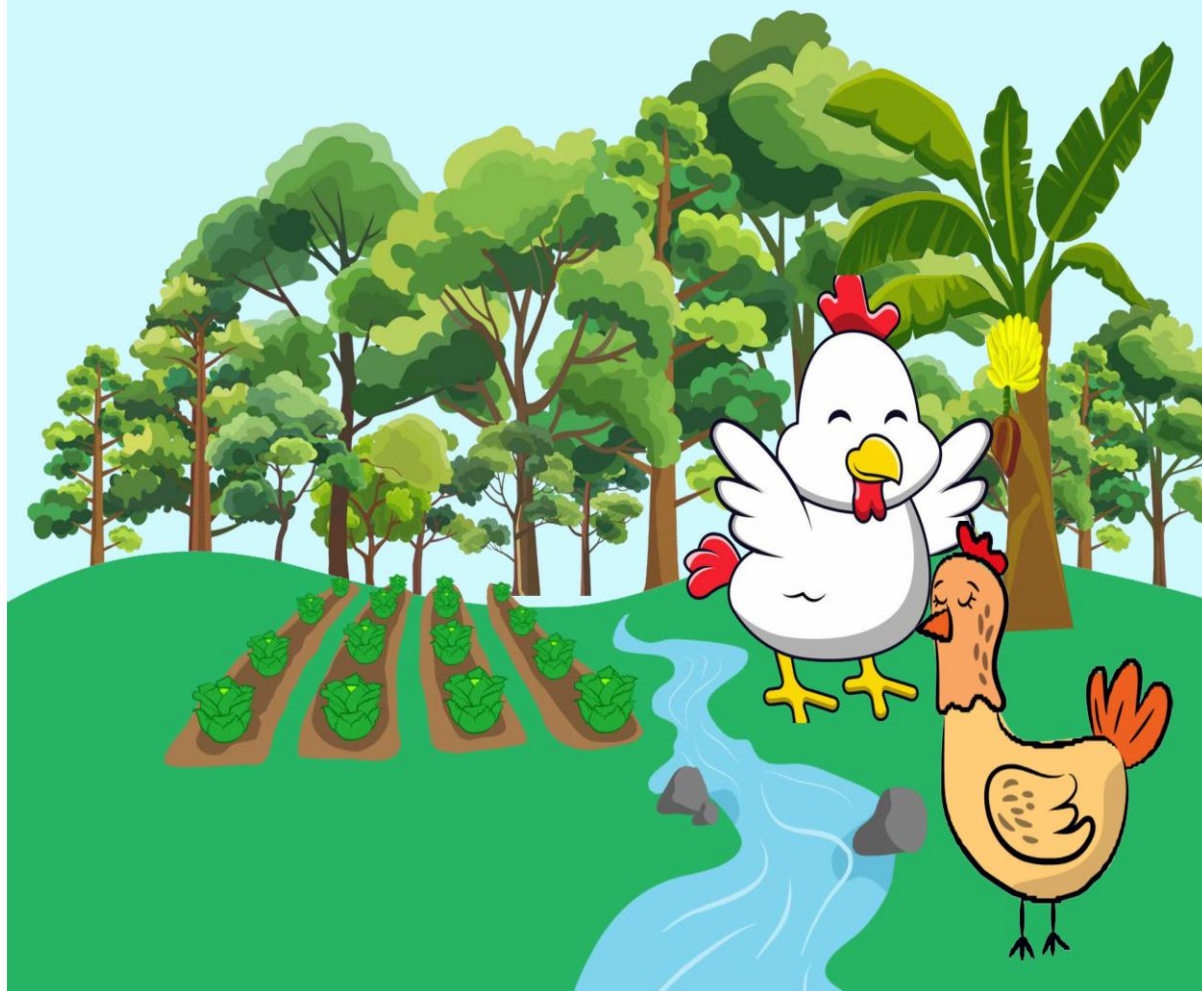
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“Ako si Mang Pepe, dating  
panabong, ngayo'y tagapagturo  
ng Baybayin!”



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Nagulat si Dokdok. "Kayo... hindi kayo nage-cellphone?"  
Sabay-sabay silang tumawa.  
"Haha! Marunong din kami, pero mas pinapahalagahan namin ang kuwento ng ating lahi," sagot ni Kiko.



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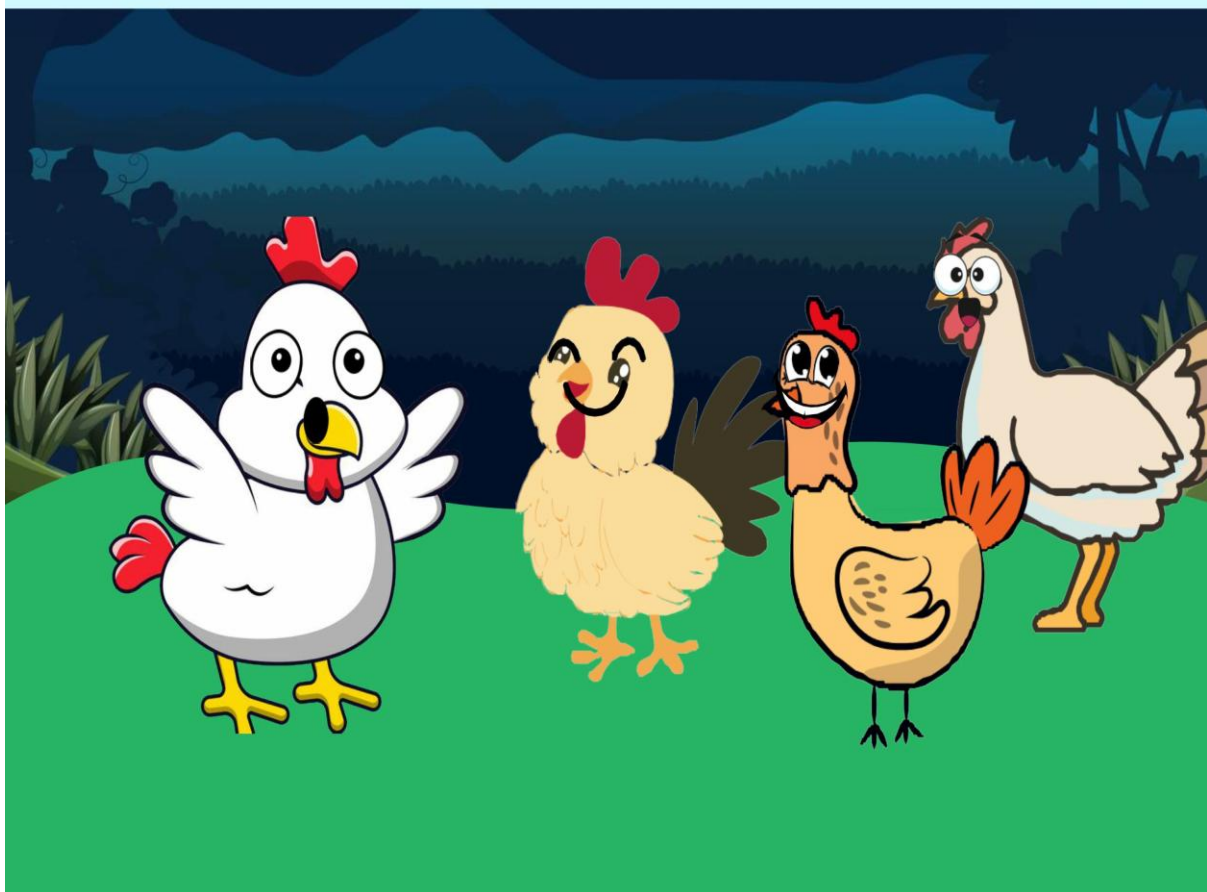
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“Halika, sumama ka sa amin. Gabi-gabi, nagbabasa kami ng mga kwento ng ating kultura,” aya ni Luningning.



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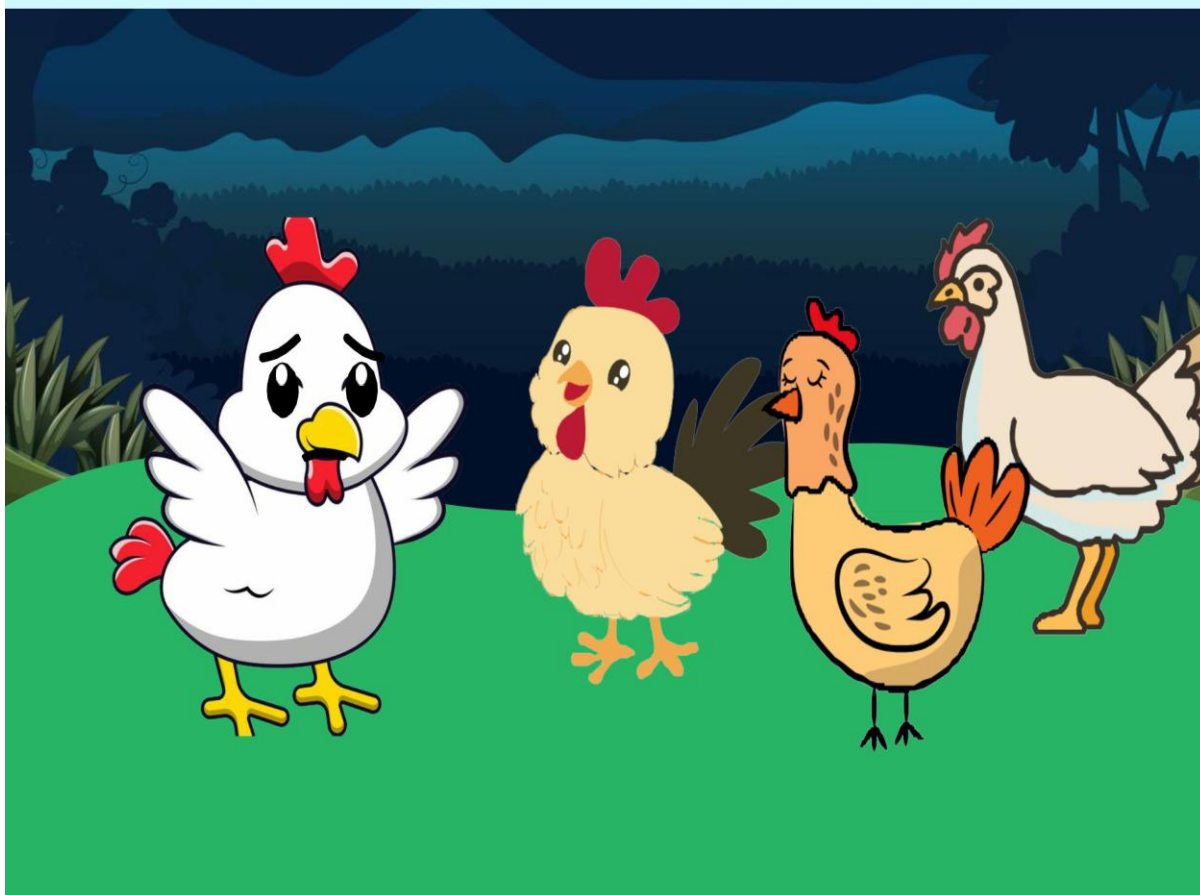
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“Noong una, naiinip si Dokdok. “Eh,  
parang boring yata...”

Ngunit nung binuksan ni Mang Pepe  
ang unang aklat at sinabing:



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“Makinig ka, ito ang Alamat ng Bulkang Mayon—isang kwento ng pag-ibig at sakripisyo...”

Napatahimik si Dokdok. Habang tumatagal, nahuhumaling na siya sa pagbabasa.



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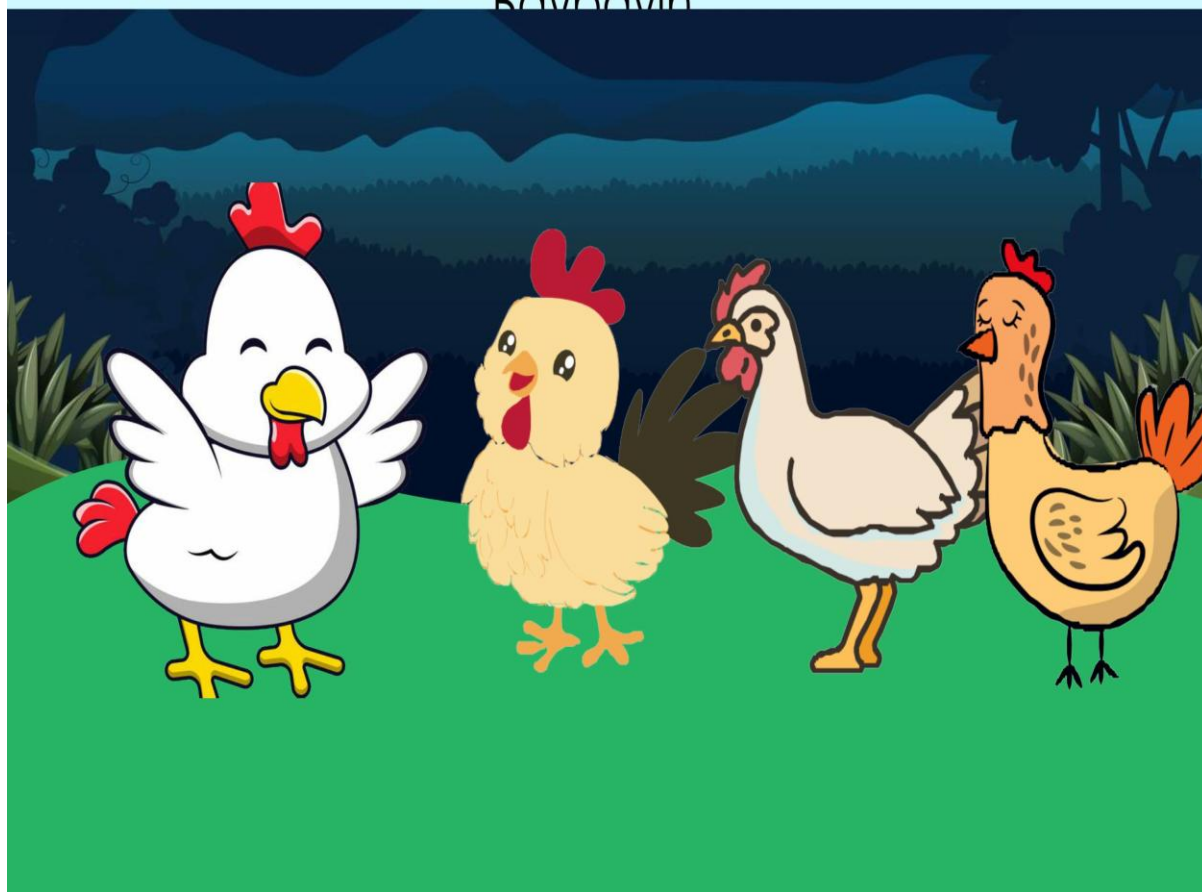
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Pagkalipas ng ilang araw, hindi na niya hinahanap ang cellphone niya. Tuwing umaga, tumutulong siya kay Kiko sa pag-ukit ng mga diwata. Sa hapon, sumasayaw siya kasama si Luningning. Sa gabi, si Mang Pepe ang nagtuturo sa kanya ng kasaysayan at Baybavin



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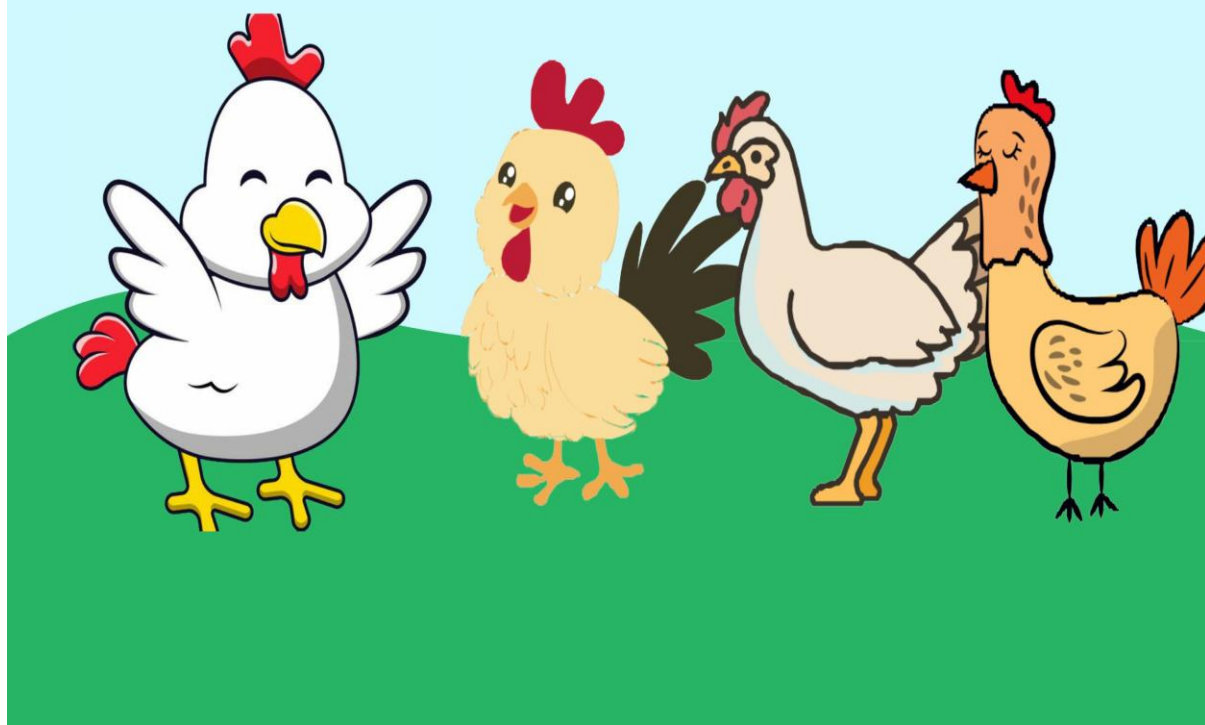
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“Ay, ang saya pala ng ganito!” sigaw ni Dokdok.  
“Mas totoo, mas masaya, mas marami akong  
natutunan!”



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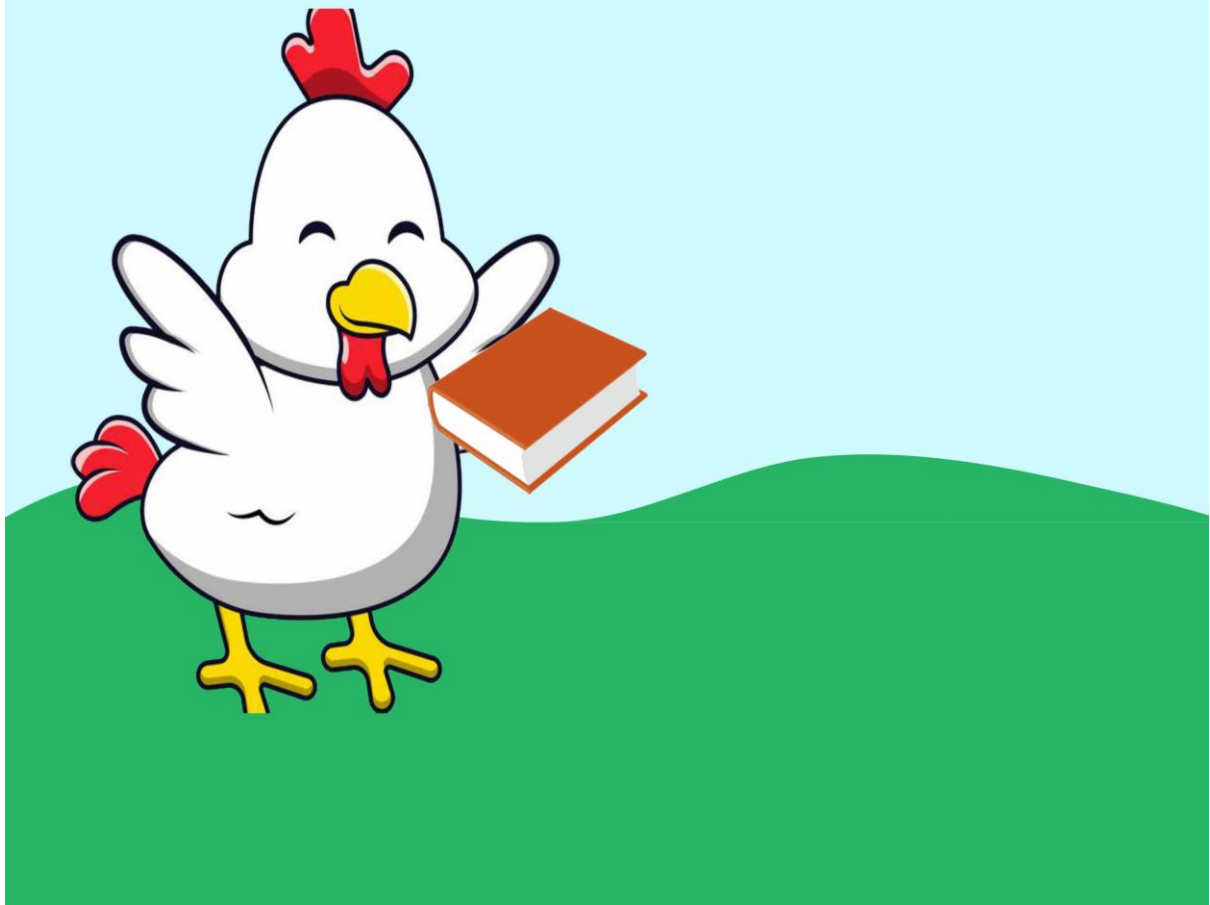
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Pagbalik ni Dokdok, bitbit niya ang aklat na  
siya mismo ang gumawa:  
"Ang Manok na Lulong sa Cellphone,  
Natutong Magbasa."



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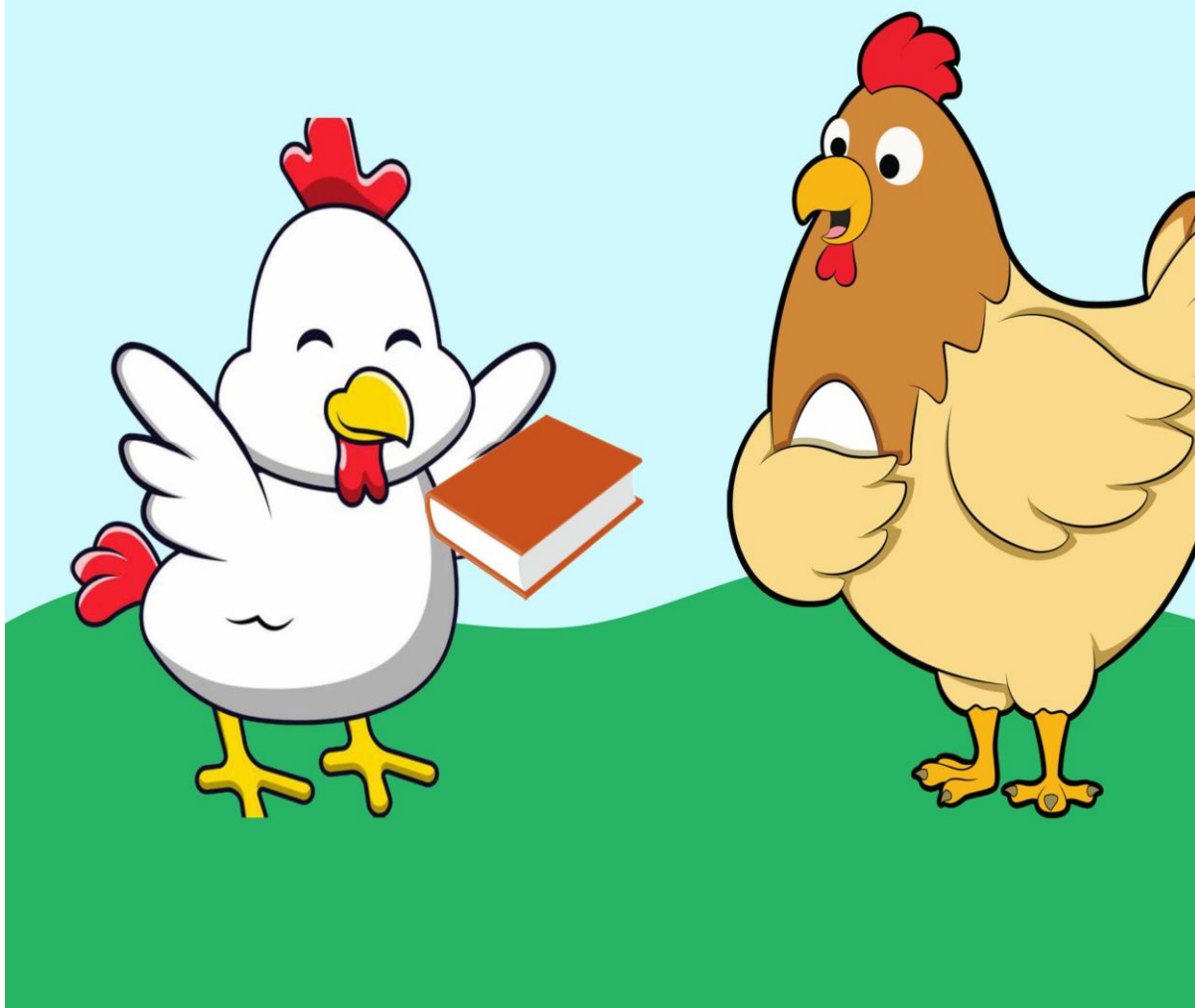
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“Nay!” sigaw niya. “Sorry po. Ngayon ko lang naintindihan. Ang kaalaman pala... hindi lang galing sa gadget kundi sa kultura, libro, at pagmamahal sa ating bayan.”



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