



### *Full Text*

## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR HAIRCUT TODAY?

Brought to us by Areté and the Ateneo de Manila Basic Education in partnership with Adarna House. Written by Russell Molina and will be read for us by Jennifer Millette G. Balisi, Adriane Mark Ungriano at Fatima Ivy Baggao.

My father is a well-known barber. Everyday a long line of people waits outside his barbershop. Even folks from the neighboring town come over for their haircut. They say his scissors are magic.

“How would you like your haircut today?”

That’s what Tatay always says as she prepares his white cape (perhaps Tatay is indeed a magician). A little snip on the right, a little snip on the left. A little shave on the sides, a little part in the middle. Tatay always gets the haircut right. Each strand of hair follows his comb’s command. No strand out of place. All strands equally cut. I always see a big smile in the mirror when Tatay completes a haircut and starts to apply powder.

“Your Tatay is really the best, iho!”

His customers say in awe.

“He really knows what I want.”

All his customers are happy. . . except for me.

I really don’t like my haircut.

One look at my pictures and you’ll know why. I have only one look: my head looks like a coconut! I’ve looked this way since I was a baby. It has never changed. It has stayed the same. No matter how I comb or style my hair, I go back to this look. I often scratch my head and wonder, why has Tatay never asked me, “How would you like your haircut today?”

I have thought of many answers to this question. Once I thought of growing my sideburns really long. Really, really looooooong, so I could attach kites to them. What fun to ride a bike with dancing kites!

What if I grow my hair thick and curly? Like a portable pillow. I can take a nap anywhere.

“Eeeebooy! Don’t be a sleepy head!” Naku, I can already hear my Nanay saying, “Come here and help me carry my goods.” Better yet if my hair were shaped like a basket. How easy to carry Nanay’s puto seko.

Or I could spike my hair and color it green! I would always win in taguan because no one would find me hidden in the grass. (Wait, do I go to a barber or to a gardener?)

Have you ever seen a nest on top of a head? It's the latest thing, my classmate said. Really messy hair with strands of hair fighting each other. But what if the bird decided to lay eggs in it? Shaped like a cockscomb or a hat, a haircut that looks like an umbrella, a soldier's cut. . . lots of hairstyles going around in my mind.

One day, Tatay talked to me. "How big you've grown, iho," he said while mussing my hair. You never used to reach this stool. Now you look like you'll grow taller than me. Time really flies. My son is no longer a baby."

Tatay sat me on the stool and put the cape around me. "Your hair is long," he said. "How would you like your haircut today?" I was shocked. I couldn't even answer. "A haircut for a young man, iho?" Tatay winked at me. I smiled and nodded "opo."

"Keep your eyes closed so you don't get hair in them," said Tatay while running his comb through my hair. A little snip on the right, a little snip on the left. A little shave on the sides, a little part in the middle.

When I opened my eyes, I saw the widest smile in the mirror. Tatay's scissors are truly magic.

\*\*\*

Source: *How Would You Like Your Haircut Today?*. Russell Molina. Adarna House. 2012

### Current Stories in the Series!

#### *English*

The Monkey and the Turtle  
Sun and Moon  
Sagacious Marcela  
The Story of our Fingers  
Why the Cow's Skin is Loose on the Neck  
The Lost Necklace  
Why Cocks have Combs on their Head  
The Light of the Fly  
The Snail and the Dear

#### *Sa Filipino*

Ang Pagong at ang Matsing  
Ang mga Paglalakbay ni Juan  
Ang Pinagmulan ng Daigdig (Si Malakas at si Maganda)  
Ang Unang Unggoy  
Ang Alamat ng Palay  
Ang Pinagmulan ng Lamok  
Kung Paano Yumaman si Jackyo  
Ang Anting-anting ni Manuelito  
Ang Gamugamo at Ang Liwanag

#### *Adarna House: Children's Stories*

Bakit Matagal ang Sundo ko?  
Why is Mommy Late?  
Asul na Araw  
Blue Day  
Ano'ng Gupit Natin Ngayon?  
How would you like your haircut today?  
Sampung Magkakaibigan  
Ten Friends  
Ang Pambihirang Sombrero

#### *Mga Kuwentong Pampasko:*

The Poor Man who Became King  
The Sultan with a Heart of Stone  
Buking si Santa  
Istairiray: Ang Bituing may Buntot  
Alamat ng Puto-Bumbong  
Felice, Noel, and the Christmas Day Disaster

The Amazing Hat

*Tabanan Books:*

*Ang Babaeng Nabulog Mula sa Langit at Iba*

*Pang Kuwenton-bayan*

Pulo ng Digmaan: Alamat ng Pulo Apo

*Ang Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang ni Severino Reyes:*

*Ang Pitong Tanga*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

### **Areté**

Ma. Mercedes Rodrigo Ricardo Abad	<i>Executive Producers</i>
D Cortezano	<i>Producer</i>
John Robert Yam	<i>Overall Sound Designer</i>
Harold André Santos	<i>Theme Music Composer</i>
Justine Ray Santos	<i>Episode Sound Designer</i>
John Robert Yam Nilo Beriarmente	<i>Sound Engineers</i>
Ivy Baggao	<i>Talent Coordinator and Production Associate</i>
Jethro Nibatén Adriane Ungriano Rey Sotto Duane Ligot Ralph Joseph Adarlo Carlos Hombrebueno	<i>Sound Design and Technical Team</i>
Vannessa Reventar	<i>Logistical Support</i>
Ross Du	<i>Illustrator</i>
Arielle Acosta Lazir Caluya	<i>Brand Developers</i>
Dreamlist Digital	<i>Web developers</i>

## **Ateneo de Manila Basic Education**

Fr. Joaquin Jose Mari C. Sumpaico III SJ *Vice President for Basic Education*

### **Ateneo Grade School**

Fr. Emerito Salustiano R. de la Rama, SJ. *Headmaster*

Jervy M. Robles *Assistant Headmaster for Academic Affairs*

Pia Christina M. Navarette *Coordinator for Kinder*

Jennifer Millette G. Balisi *Junior Teacher, Grade 1 Class Teacher  
(Voice Actor for the Episode)*

### **Ateneo Junior High School**

Jose Antonio P. Salvador *Principal*

Genalyn S. Sanvictores *Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs*

Paolo Ven B. Paculan *Senior Teacher, Subject Area Coordinator, Filipino*

Kristine Ann P. Valdellon *Master Teacher, Subject Area Coordinator, English*

### **Ateneo Senior High School**

Ma. Victoria P. Dimalanta *Principal*

Luis Allan B. Melosantos *Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs*