



Full Text **TEN FRIENDS**

Brought to us by Areté and the Ateneo de Manila Basic Education in partnership with Adarna House. Our podcast story is entitled, Ten Friends. Written by Pipa Escalante and will be read for us by Jenny L. Ablang and David Allen M. Masakayan.

There were then friends. Karlo and his nine classmates.

Slow Ben, shabby Susie, Leo, Lara, Karen, Joo-chan who was Korean, the twins Eric and Ella, and sleepy Anton.

They liked playing, studying, and helping each other,

But sometimes, Karlo was not fun to be with.

“Belat!” Karlo teased, when he overtook slow Ben in the line. Ben shook his head and walked away from Karlo.

“Gross! You’re not a friend of mine!” exclaimed Karlo when he found himself beside shabby Susie.

Karlo did not notice Leo’s tall tower of blocks. Leo’s tall tower fell to the ground. “Ha-ha-ha! Serves you right!” Karlo told Leo.

“Give that to me!” Karlo said as he grabbed Lara’s toy.

“This is mine, too,” Karlo said, as he grabbed the suman that Karen was eating. Karlo also hit the noodle Joo-chan the Korean was eating but he did not say sorry.

“Don’t you know how to play this game? Don’t join this game anymore!” Karlo taunted Eric and Ella after he lost at pompiyang and was the next “it” in their game of hide-and-seek.

Karlo tried to wake Anton up so that they could play. “Heeeey! Wake up!” Karlo shouted at sleepy Anton.

But Anton did not wake up. “You’re not my friend!” Karlo told Anton even if Anton could not hear him.

Karlo was all alone now.

One day, Karlo came to school and looked for his classmates. He wanted to play but there was no one in the classroom. There was no one in the playground. There was no one in the canteen. Karlo started to wonder.

Karlo saw his classmates playing happily in the school yard. They never used to play there. They saw Karlo but they didn’t invite him to join them.

“Do you want to play with me?”

Karlo started to cry when he realized that nobody wanted to play with him. Maybe this was how bad his classmates felt when he grabbed their toys and food. Maybe this was how painful it felt when he teased and fought with them.

It was then that Karlo thought of being a nicer classmate.

The next day, Karlo approached slow Ben while they were lining up. “You can line up ahead of me,” Karlo told Ben.

“I love you!” he told shabby Sussie and kissed her.

“You can share my snack,” Karlo told Karen and Joo-chan at recess time.

Karlo lent Lara his new toy. “You can play with it first, okay? He told Lara.

He invited Leo to make a tall tower of blocks.

“What games are you playing? Can I join you?” Karlo asked Eric and Ella.

“Shhh. . . we might wake Anton up with our noise” reminded Karlo.

There were ten friends. Karlo and his nine classmates.

Source: *Ten Friends*. Kristine Canon. Adarna House. 2008

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