



### *Full Text*

## **WHY IS MOMMY LATE?**

Brought to you by Areté and Ateneo de Manila Basic Education, in partnership with Adarna House for Sandaang Salaysay! Why is Mommy late?, written by Kristine Cannon and will be read to us by Pearl Anne P. Canlas and Jenny Ablang.

“Kriiiiing-kriiiiing-kriiiiing”

Classes are over, it’s time to go home! I fixed my things in a hurry so I can fall in line to leave our classroom. Our strollers’ wheels made a lot of noise! Even our goodbyes made a lot of noise! We ran to meet our mommies and

daddies at the gate.

My mommy will surely be there by now! I go to the bench where Mommy always sits waiting.

I was so surprised to see that Mommy wasn’t sitting on the bench at all! My eyes grew big. My heart pounded. Before tears could fall, I told myself not to get scared.

I tried looking for Mommy’s face in the sea of daddies and mommies’ faces at the gate. It was so hard because there were a lot of daddies and mommies. I tried making my eyes bigger so that I could find Mommy.

I couldn’t.

All I could do was sit on the bench, beside my bag and lunchbox. The kids who were waiting and the parents fetched them became fewer and fewer. A lot of my classmates and their strollers had already gone by, but Mommy was still nowhere in sight. After a while, everyone had been fetched except me.

“Just wait here, okay? Your mommy’s most likely stuck in traffic.” said the guard at the gate. So I waited and waited and waited. I had trouble keeping still on the bench. Mommy was still not in sight. I wonder what happened to mommy?

Maybe her car broke down! I almost jumped from my seat when I remembered our car was having trouble the past few days. Mommy was surely looking for ways to fetch me! Maybe. . . she hopped on the back of a turtle. Its steps were small and slow and that's why it's taking her so long.

But I know Mommy's in a hurry because she's excited to see me! She won't ask help from a turtle.

Maybe. . . she rode an elephant! Its steps were so huge she'd get here quickly. But the elephant can't squeeze itself between all the cars on the road! Maybe it will really take her a long time before she fetches me.

Maybe. . . Mommy made friends with an eagle. They could swiftly swoop down and fetch me. But won't it be hard for Mommy to find me? The eagle flies too high. All she will see are the clouds and treetops. She won't be able to spot me waving at her.

Maybe Mommy swung with the monkeys from one tree to another...oh! She'll be here in no time! But as soon as they reach a banana tree, the monkeys will stop swinging. It will surely take a while before Mommy gets here.

Maybe. . . Mommy thought of sailing the seas on top of a big whale. They'll dive into the waters until they reach me. But the whale is found in the middle of the sea and wouldn't be able to swim in shallow waters. Oh dear, Mommy will have a hard paddling towards me.

Oh, how will mommy come and fetch me?

I felt tired from thinking. All I could do was sigh and cup my chin with my hands.

My forehead wrinkled from everything I thought of.

Maybe Mommy forgot all about me.

Maybe she doesn't love me anymore.

Maybe she grew tired of fetching me everyday.

Maybe. . .

I felt tears rolling down and my chest hurt. I couldn't breath. I covered my sad face with my hands and a loof a sudden. . .

“Mommy! I'm so glad you're here, I thought you forgot about me.”

“How can I forget about you when you’re the most important thing to me?” Mommy said as she give me abig hug.

“Did our car break down?”

“No, I was stuck in traffic along the highway,”

All my sadness and tears turned to relief and joy. The guard was right. My Mommy was only caught in traffic.

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Source: *Why is Mommy Late?* Kristine Canon. Adarna House. 2000.

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