

ISANG MAYANG UHAW

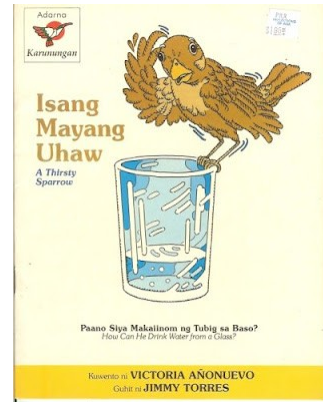
Retold By: Victoria Anonuevo

Illustrated By: Virgilio Almario

Published By: Adarna House, 1993

With English Translation: Yes

Five birds, one glass of water. This old fable, as retold by Victoria Anonuevo and illustrated by Virgilio Almario in *Isang Mayang Uhaw* published by Adarna House, is about a clever sparrow that came up with a solution to his problem. How can a small sparrow quench his thirst after four bigger birds get their fill and leave him with a nearly empty glass?



Birds

Talk about the birds in the book and how different they are from each other. Learn about the birds at the back of the book. If your child is interested to know more, you can read [Tahanan Books' A First Look at Philippine Birds](#). Make sure to practice saying the names of the birds in Filipino: *lawin*, *kalaw*, *tagak*, *tikling*, and *maya*.

If you have a garden, you can make your own bird-feeder or a bird bath. Or perhaps you can go to a park like La Mesa Eco Park and go bird-watching. The sparrow or *maya* is one of the most common birds in the Philippines, so you can also just look out your window and maybe find some perched on the electric wires!

Displacement

The clever sparrow dropped some pebbles into the glass to make the water rise. Try this with water and ice cubes! Drop one ice cube at a time, watch the water rise, and drink it when it's up to the brim. Perhaps you can experiment with dropping two ice cubes instead of just one. Compare how much the water rises when you drop just one ice cube and when you drop two.

Music And Creative Movement

There are so many opportunities for creative movement with birds. Play some of your favorite nursery rhymes, like Once I Saw A Little Bird, and hop and fly around holding scarves or handkerchiefs. You can also listen to classical music such as Vivaldi's Four Seasons to serve as your background as you swoop around.

Do you know the Filipino song *Pipit* which is about a little bird? If you don't, learn it with your child and make your own actions! Click [here](#) to listen to the song. For your reference, here is the lyric of the song, with suggested actions:

May pumukol sa pipit sa sanga ng isang kahoy (pretend to throw)
At nahagip ng bato ang pakpak ng munting ibon (hold on to one arm)
Dahil sa sakit, di na nakaya pang lumipad (wag pointer finger)
At ang nangyari ay nahulog
Ngunit parang taong bumigkas,
"Mamang kay lupit, ang puso mo'y di na nahabag, (cross arms in front of chest while shaking head)
Pag pumanaw ang buhay ko
May isang pipit na iiyak!" (pretend to cry)

Counting

Count the birds in Filipino (*isa, dalawa, tatlo, apat, lima*) and see if your child is interested to count up to ten, twenty, or more. Also discuss [ordinal numbers, or the position of objects](#):

Una – first
Pangalawa – second
Pangatlo – third
Pang-apat – fourth
Panlima – fifth

Ask your child, "*Sino ang unang uminom sa baso?*" and so on.

Art

The art of the book seems very simple, but when you look closely, you will see that the birds have different expressions. You can ask your child what she thinks a particular bird is thinking and why. An example would be how the hawk looks like after he has drank water – he looks liked he's pleased and gloating. When it's the egret's turn to drink, the sparrow looks very excited.

Take note too of the pages where there are no words and just the pictures tell the story. Look at the drawing of the sparrow with the light bulb above his head. What does that mean? How about the page before that, wherein there is a small black bubble? What story does it tell? Make your child tell that part of the story based on the drawings.

Listening

Birds, like people, have different voices! Train your child's listening skills by being intentional about listening. Look for free audio files of the sounds of the birds in the story. After listening several times, perhaps your child will already be able to identify the birds just by listening. Here's a website you may want to visit: www.sounddogs.com

Vocabulary

It is important for your child to learn Filipino words in their proper context. When teaching your child a new word, try to use it in a new sentence. Here are some of the words used in the book.

Inom – drink

Nabawasan – lessened

Baso – glass

Kakaunti – very little

Maikli – short

Ihulog – drop

Games

Print and cut out the birds below. Laminate for durability. Compare the “real” birds with the drawings in the book. Can your child recognize each bird based on the pictures on the book? After familiarizing yourselves with the pictures, play different games with the cards:

Sequencing Game

Ask your child to name the bird on each picture, then to sort the birds according to which one had a drink first, then second, third, etc. Remember to play the game in Filipino too, so use “una, pangalawa, pangatlo, pang-apat, panlima.”

Memory Game

Print two copies of each of the birds. Put the pictures face down and ask your child to open one card at a time and to find the partner of the first picture that she opens.



Photos of hawk, egret, and sparrow
courtesy of
<http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/>



Photos of slay-breasted rail and
chestnut munia courtesy of Tirso
Paris <http://www.tbparis.com/>