

Marvino's League of Superheroes (Synopsis)

This is a story about Marvino, a 6th grader who loves to draw national heroes and turn them into superheroes. Two of his wishes were to visit the newly opened toy museum in his town and join the poster making contest in his school. Marvino could not afford the entrance fee of the museum, which was full of action figures of knights, soldiers and superheroes, so he draws and imagines the toys instead. One afternoon, he meets Mr. Emilio outside the toy museum. The gentleman encourages Marvino to continue drawing and pushes him to pursue his idea for the school's poster making contest. Mr. Emilio is a visual artist who becomes Marvino's friend.

After a while, Mr. Emilio stopped hanging outside the museum. Marvino joins the poster making contest and loses. He felt doubly sad for aside from losing the contest, he felt like he also lost a good friend.

Then, one day, Marvino sees a rumpus outside the museum. He discovers that it was FREE ADMISSION day so, Marvs finally gets his chance to visit the museum. Inside, he noticed that people were flocking to a particular collection. He squeezed his way through the people and sees Mr. Emilio gesturing him to come forward. Mr. Emilio announces to the visitors that Marvino is the creator of the League of National Heroes that he sculpted. Marvino sees the collection of characters he drew in his notebook. Mr. Emilio reveals that he owns the museum and was busy sculpting so he stopped hanging outside his museum. He found Marvino's idea of turning national heroes into superheroes great that he felt inspired to sculpt the characters. He also wants Marvino's first visit to the museum to be special and to be free from then on. Marvino was consoled and felt that, at times, it was fine to lose battles or contests, just like the heroes he look up to.

Marvino's League of Superheroes

In the town of Majayjay, a museum of toys was newly opened. They said it was filled with super heroes. Marvs would hear little kids say "I like the soldiers collection the most!" or "Those were the coolest toys I have ever seen!" How Marvs wanted to enter the museum. But he could not pay the entrance fee. It was too much to ask for his parents.

He would pass by the museum after school and he would see the backs of the sculpted figures, posing with their super weapons. Marvs would love to own an action figure superhero too, but his family could not afford to buy him toys. So he kept a notebook full of illustrations of superheroes that he liked and the ones he made up. Marvs likes his history classes because he found the national heroes valiant and admirable like the warriors and knights he watched on his neighbor's television.

He drew Jose Rizal as **Pepe**, the paragon and super C7enius for he was a doctor and a polyglot (a person who knew how to speak many languages). He accomplished countless things but was first and foremost, a brilliant writer.

Dimasilaw is Emilio Jacinto. Marvs drew him as a slasher and a mage for his writings seemed to be filled with magic. He learned how Jacinto's readers felt compelled to join his group of Katipuneros after reading his works.

Supremo is Andres Bonifacio, a marksman and the supreme leader of Katipunan. He fought bravely for his country so that his fellowmen would be free from the Spanish oppressors.

He drew Apolinario Mabini, the Brains of the Revolution, sitting in a dazzling

chair. His powers comes from his mind. Marvino made him a mentalist for he can influence and convince people with his words and writings. And of course he drew bold women heroes too.

Tandang Sora is Melchora Aquino. healer of wounded soldiers. She provided the needs of the sick and wounded Katipuneros. In Marvino's drawings, she rejuvenates weak warriors for she possesses an elixir or potion of life.

Generala is Gabriela Silang; a fearless warrior who lead the Ilocanos in fighting the Spaniards. She gathered her fellow Itneg archers and men armed with arrows. *sumpit, bolos*, daggers and swords for the freedom of the people.

Lakambini is Gregoria de Jesus, a fine soldier, who used rifles and weapons to fight for her country. She is a courageous hero who was always ready to face death.

Every time he discovered a new national hero in class, he would draw him or her in his notebook. Marvs drew colorful costumes and gave them super powers and super weapons based on the stories he learned in books that he borrowed from the school library.

One day, on his way home. Marvs saw a man in a blue shirt sitting outside the museum. He seemed to be looking at something on his lap, Marvs could not see clearly because his chair was a little strange.

When Marvs went closer, he saw that his chair had wheels and that it was elaborately

designed. The man in blue shirt was actually holding a pen and a sketchbook was resting on his lap. He was drawing! Marvs glanced at the illustration and was very impressed. "Neat!" he exclaimed loudly. The man stopped drawing and looked up. Marvs didn't mean to disturb him. "Sorry, sir! I was just looking at your drawing." The man smiled and asked. "Well, is it any good?" Marvs nodded and said "*Opo*; it is very good!" "*Salamat, hijo*," replied the man. "I like drawing too, sir. I like to draw for my classmates. Sometimes, the *ales* and *kuyas* in my school pay for the sketches I make for them." "Then you must be good because people admire your drawing that they are willing to buy it." Marvino just smiled. "We have a poster making contest in school. It is about remembering the Independence Day. I really want to join." "You should join. And you should head back home because your *nanay* might be looking for you now." "*Ay naku! You* are right, sir. Goodbye, then." Marvs started to jog while waving goodbye.

The man reminded him of one of his favorite heroes, Apolinario. He also forgot to introduce himself properly.

The next day; on his way home. Marvs saw the man on the wheelchair again. He was still drawing.

"Good afternoon, sir!" beamed Marvs.

The man looked at Marvs and smiled, "Good afternoon, little boy."

"I forgot to introduce myself yesterday. My name is Marvino and I am a 6th Grader at Majayjay Elementary School.

"Hello, Marvino. Like many of our neighbors here in Majayjay, my name is Emilio." replied the man.

"Wow! Like Jacinto and Aguinaldo. I once drew Emilio Aguinaldo as a warrior with super powers. A brave man who became the first president of the new republic."

"You know. Gregoria de Jesus lead a group and fought many Spanish soldiers. People thought that she and her group possessed supernatural abilities and owned powerful *anting-antings* because they won many battles."

"Really, sir? I'm thinking of drawing a league of superheroes for our poster making contest."

"That is actually a very good idea! Have you tried making a draft?"

"I keep a notebook full of sketches of our heroes." And he showed his notebook to Mr. Emilio. The gentleman scanned through the pages and said, "These are great drawings. Where did you get these ideas'?"

"Our History teacher is so animated when she tells the story of the *Himagsikan* and other important events in the past. Sometimes, she would let us play and she would assign a classmate as Emilio Aguinaldo or Andres Bonifacio or Emilio Jacinto. We would recall the fight in some provinces by playing battle games. Often the *katipuneros* would lose because they are outnumbered,"

"That sounds like a fun History class."

"Yes, and I secretly imagine that the heroes wore capes and had super powers when we play the game."

"Keep imagining. Marvino, but it's getting dark now. You better hurry home."

"Yes. I must hurry home and help *my nanay* prepare dinner. Goodbye, Mr. Emilio!"

Marvs liked talking to Mr. Emilio. He discovered that when Mr. Emilio *was* 35, he became sick and his legs were paralyzed. So, he got into drawing and other hobbies that allow him to be creative with his hands. Mr. Emilio found out that Marvino could not afford the entrance fee of the museum. He kept waiting for the boy to ask him to take him there but Marvino never asked. He admired many of the little boy's qualities.

After some time, Marvs noticed that Mr. Emilio stopped hanging around the museum's gate. At first, Marvino thought he might be away on a vacation or must have had his legs checked in a hospital in the city. But after a few more days, he thought maybe Mr. Emilio does not want to be his friend anymore.

Marvino would feel sad whenever he walked past the museum and would not see the gentleman sitting peacefully in his beautiful wheelchair.

He was sadder when the day of the poster making contest came and he didn't win. He wanted to know what Mr. Emilio would say about his poster. He wanted to ask what was wrong with his work.

One fine afternoon, Marvino saw a rumpus outside the toy museum. "Maybe it's the owner's birthday," he thought. He halted to observe some more. He then found a sign saying "FREE_, ADMISSION". Marvino was filled with so much joy because he could finally enter the museum and see what the action figures look like, not just their backs. He could finally examine all the ninjas, soldiers and superheroes that the kid visitors talked about. Marvino slowly entered the museum and saw all the marvelous, magnificent and fantastic toys. league of superheroes, knights and soldiers. He could not believe his luck!

At the heart of the museum, a flock of visitors was gathering in a particular collection. Marvino squeezed his way through the people. Then he saw Mr. Emilio in the platform. He ran to Mr. Emilio and embraced him. He was so happy to see his friend. Then, Mr. Emilio cleared his throat so the visitors turned to him and fell silent.

"Everyone. I would like to introduce the creator of the National Superheroes Collection that I have sculpted, my good friend. Marvino'."

Marvs was puzzled. Then he saw. at the back of Mr. Emilio, a familiar group of superheroes! The ones he drew in his notebook-- only several times bigger and more real than he could imagine! It was dubbed "League of National Heroes" by Marvino Alonso.

Mr. Emilio was a sculptor and was the owner of the museum. He didn't tell Marvino that he owned the museum because he wanted his first visit to be unforgettable. "I'm sorry I stopped hanging outside my museum, Marvs. I was busy finishing these sculptures." Mr. Emilio whispered in his ears. Marvino was speechless and he heard people clapping. The kids who used to visit the museum were there clapping in admiration. And his superheroes were mounted on special bases.

Pepe, the Super Genius

Dimasilaw, the Brains of Katipunan

Supremo, the Supreme Leader of Katipunan

Apolinario, the Sublime Paralytic and Brains of Philippine Revolution

And of course there were his bold women superheroes:

Tandang Sora, the Healer

Generalala, the Itneg warrior

Lakambini, the Markswoman

The most fascinating part was that Marvino had unlimited pass to the museum. He felt that it was okay to lose battles or contests. He realized that losing battles make heroes more magnificent.