



# PEDRO & MARIA'S TRIALS IN THE FOREST

by [childbook.ai](https://childbook.ai)



Father and Mother tearfully left Pedro and Maria in the forest, unable to feed their family anymore. Pedro, being clever, had dropped pandesal crumbs along the path to find their way home. 'Don't worry, Maria,' Pedro comforted his sister as darkness fell around them. But when they tried to follow the trail, they discovered birds had eaten all the breadcrumbs.



Hungry and lost, the siblings stumbled upon a house made entirely of Filipino delicacies. 'Look, the walls are bibingka and the roof is made of puto!' Maria exclaimed excitedly. Mamang Margarita, an elderly woman with long gray hair, invited them inside with a suspicious smile. The children, too hungry to resist, followed her into the sweet-smelling home.





Pedro soon realized Mamang Margarita was a mangkukulam who planned to cook them for dinner. Quick-thinking Maria tricked the witch into showing how to check if the pot was hot enough. When Mamang Margarita peered into the boiling pot, Maria pushed her in. The children fled into the forest where they met Tito, who apologized for his sister's wickedness.



Tito gave them a small wooden box, saying it would bring blessings to kind hearts. Pedro and Maria finally found their way home to their bahay kubo and their surprised parents. When they opened the box, golden light transformed their humble home into a prosperous farm. The family promised to always help others in need, just as they had been helped.





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