



## **IT'S MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES? THOUGHT EXPERIMENT WORKSHOPS**

These worksheets are to be given out to students during the relevant part of the session.



## GOING TO SCHOOL

“Maria lives in a remote area, where everything—her school, the shops, the groceries—are at least 40 miles from home. In her village, there is only one train and one bus that goes to your school. Both arrive once every hour, and are a mile away (by foot) from her house. Her father died when she was 3 and she lives with her mum and two sisters. Maria’s mum, Carmina, leaves the house at 4.30AM every day to work as a nanny and is not usually home until 9PM.

Due to Carmina’s work schedule Maria being the eldest child, has the responsibility for caring for her siblings. She has to make sure they wake up in the morning, prepare their breakfast, walk with them to the local school near to the train station, travel by train to her own school, dash home as soon as the school bell rings to pick up the children, prepare their dinner and make sure they do their homework. When this is done she has to study for your exams and complete her own homework. This is hard as when it is dark they only have one lightbulb in the kitchen.

Maria knows without passing her exams she will not have many job opportunities. You could be a nanny like your mum, or go and work in someone’s house as a maid. She needs to get good marks in her school exams to get a scholarship to the technical college so that she can get skills for a good job. This is proving to be difficult, especially as she has also been working part time at a local shop to earn extra cash to help Carmina to pay for the electricity bill.”

## BEING INDEPENDENT

Maria won a scholarship and has now graduated from school and has a good job. Once she has paid her living expenses she have £200 left over each month to spend. If you were Maria how would you spend it?

- 1) Spend it. You deserve a treat.
- 2) Save the money
- 3) Find someone nicer to live. Now you can have parties!

## WORKING FOR YOUR DREAMS

Maria could only afford to pay for one of her sisters, Angela, to go to the technical school as her mother got sick and she had to send money home so her sister Yana and mother could eat and pay their bills. Despite how hard she worked at school, Yana had to spend a lot of time looking after her mother when she got sick as her sisters had already left the village. Sometimes she did not have enough money to get to school if her sister had not sent enough home. Because of this she did not do very well in her exams and couldn't get a scholarship.

Yana finished secondary school two years ago and has been working as a nanny for a rich family in her village. She gets paid the minimum wage, £4 a day, and cannot find a better paying job so she has applied to work in Saudi Arabia. She will be looking after three children and living in their home. The family have been recommended by her cousin who also works there, but they only speak Arabic and have customs unfamiliar to you. As a wealthy family, the money they offer Yana is twice as much as you could get in a job as a nanny in her village, where there are limited opportunities, but until you get there she won't know what the family is like. The flight is very expensive and if she is going to save any money she will only be able to come home after 2 years, when the family will pay for her to return home. She hopes that working in Saudi Arabia will give her the chance to save up money so she can pay for her teacher training.



## MAKING DECISIONS

Yana has now been in Saudi Arabia for a 6 years. She has been able to improve her Arabic and is are getting along well with her host family. She skyped her family one a week constant contact and sends them money to help care for their mother. She has saved enough to go to teacher training college but is now worried that she will be the oldest student. If she works for 6 more years she will be able to buy a house in the Philippines.

Her sisters, Angela and Maria, are both married and now have children. Yana has good friends in Saudi Arabia – on Sundays she is given the afternoon off and she meets other Filipino nannies for an icecream – but she knows that she will never have a family is she stays working as a nanny . What should she do?

For more information on the Wonder Foundation or on using these resources please contact Olivia Darby  
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