

## The Seven Happy Villagers

### - A Philippine Folktale

Adapted by Dr. Mike Lockett

*(Teaching hints are in italic print.)*

Seven happy villagers decided to take a day off from work to go fishing. They gathered in the morning at the edge of the village. *(Teaching Hint: Select seven student volunteers, one at a time. Count them out loud as you have them stand in a line in the front of the room.)* They told the wife of one of the men who walked with them, “Tell all the people to start their fires early tonight, and bake sweet potatoes and bread in the coals. *(Select someone to represent the wife, and pretend to talk directly to the person.)*”

“We will bring fish enough for everyone in the village to eat. We will hold a celebration for the great day we intend to have. It is good to celebrate being alive!”

The wife was kind enough to count the men before they left the village to make certain that everyone was there. *(When telling the story to young children, take the hand of the wife and point at each person as the entire class counts.)* “One-two-three-four-five-six-seven! Yes, you are all here! Please enjoy your day. Everyone will be gathered for a celebration when you return.”

Off, the men went, along a jungle path from the village to a special place where they liked to fish on the banks of their favorite river. *(As you say this, take the hand of the end person in line, and walk all seven people along an imaginary path.)* They fished and they played, just like when they were young boys. They had a delightful and relaxing day. Their numbers of fish grew as the day went on.

## 七個快樂的村民 – 菲律賓民間故事

*(斜體字為教學建議指南)*

七個快樂的村民決定放假一天去釣魚。他們一大早在村裡相見。〔選七個自願當村民的學生，一次選一位，邊選邊數數。並請他們排排站在前面〕

他們告訴其中一位村民的太太：「告訴大家今天晚上早點生火，並烤地瓜和麵包。」

〔選一位學生出來當太太，並假裝對她說話。〕

「我們將會帶回足夠的魚給村裡所有的人吃。我們來慶祝這很棒的一天，慶祝美好的生命。」

這位太太在村民離開前先數人頭確定人數。〔當聽眾為兒童時，渥起扮演太太的兒童的手指著扮演村民的兒童們，並請所有的兒童一起數人頭。〕

「一、二、三、四、五、六、七！七個人沒錯。祝你們有個美好的一天。當你們回來時，大家將會聚在一起慶祝。」

村民們出發了。他們沿著一條森林小徑來到他們常釣魚的河邊。〔同時握著隊伍中的學生，引導大家走一條想像的小徑。〕他們在河邊釣魚、像小孩一樣玩耍。他們有個輕鬆美好的一天。時間越來越晚，他們釣的魚也越來越多。

*(Select one person to play the role of the eldest. Have them stand and face the other six. Take care not to stand with your back to the listeners.)* In the late afternoon, the eldest suggested, “It is time to go home. I am hungry, and I know the fires will be ready for our celebration. Everyone will be happy to see the fish we bring for dinner.” He had been the leader of this group of men ever since they had been young. “I think that before we go, we should once again count ourselves to see that we are all still here,” he said.

He lined up his companions and began to count, *(Hold the person’s hand and pretend to point as you count out loud.)* “One-two-three-four-five-six! Six! Only Six! One of us is missing! Oh, no,” he worried out loud. *(Face the person to the listeners, and wave the person’s hands in an upset manner while talking. Talk louder and hold up seven fingers, then six.)* He had forgotten to count himself. *(You do not need to say this line when telling the story out loud.)* “We were seven when we left, and now we are only six. One of us must have fallen into the river and drowned.”

“That cannot be correct,” said the second eldest. *(Select someone to be the second eldest, and repeat the counting and act of being upset.)* “You must be mistaken. I do not recall anyone falling into the river, and I do not recall anyone leaving early. Let me count everyone.” Then he lined the other men up in a row and counted, “One-two-three-four-five-six! Six! Only Six! You are right! One of us is missing!” *(He also forgot to count himself.)*

“We were seven when we left, and now we are only six. One of us must have fallen into the river and drowned.”

All of the men dived into the river, trying to find the missing man who had fallen in. When they could find no one in the river, they came out and stood on the bank and lined up once more.

〔從七個人裡選一位扮演較年長的村民，請他和其他六位面對面。注意不要背對著聽眾。〕  
黃昏時，較年長的村民提議：「該回家了。我肚子餓了，而且營火也應該準備好等我們回去慶祝。大家一定會很高興看到我們帶魚回去當晚餐。」他從年輕時就一直是團體中的領導。他繼續說：「在我們走之前，我們應該先數人頭確定大家都在場。」

他將他的同伴排成一排開始數。〔舉起年長村民的手，邊指邊大聲的數人頭。〕「一、二、三、四、五、六！只有六個人！其中一個人不見了！天啊！」他很擔心的說著。〔年長的村民面對聽眾，邊說邊揮手表現出不高興的手勢。大聲的說並比七根手指，然後六根。〕他竟然忘記把自己數進去了。〔敘述故事時不需要把這一句唸出來。〕「我們離開時有七個人，現在我們只有六個人。一定是有一個人掉進河裡溺死了。」

「這不對喔，」第二位年長者說。〔從七個人裡選一位扮演第二年長者，做數人頭的動作並表現出不悅。〕「你一定是數錯了。我不記得有誰掉進河裡，我也不記得有人提早離開。讓我來數一下。」然後他將大家排一排開始數：「一、二、三、四、五、六！只有六個人！你說的沒錯，少了一個人！」〔他也忘記把自己數進去。〕只有六個人。

「我們離開時有七個人，現在我們一定是有一個人掉進河裡溺死了。」

大家都跳進水裡找尋不見的那個人。但是他們在河裡沒有找到任何人。於是他們爬到岸上再次的排成一排。

“This time I shall count,” said the third oldest man. “One-two-three-four-five-six! Six! Only Six! One of us is still missing! We were seven when we left, and now we are only six. Our celebration will be ruined. One of our wives will be very sad. We need to decide who drowned, so we know which of our wives to tell.” (*With your hands, lower the heads of the seven villagers to make them look sad.*)

While the men stood sadly talking and shaking their heads, a very old man came by. (*Select a listener to be the old man, and make them walk by.*) “What troubles you on such a beautiful day?” he asked. “It looks like a good day for fishing and for celebrating being alive,” he said.

“That is the problem,” answered one of the men. “We were seven (*show seven fingers*) when we left the village to go fishing. We planned to hold a celebration when we returned home. But, now there are only six (*show six fingers*) of us. One of us must have drowned. We cannot celebrate when one of us is no longer alive.”

“Let me do the counting,” said the old man. (*Hold the old man’s hand and help the class count as he points.*) He lined the men up and counted, “One-two-three-four-five-six-seven! You are all here! Now, you can go home and celebrate.”

“You must join us,” said the eldest, and everyone agreed. “You saved one of our lives!” (*Tell the listeners, “And everyone was happy and clapped, yeah!”*) Then the old man joined the seven, who now became eight happy villagers returning home to celebrate being alive.

「這次換我來數，」第三年長者說。「一、二、三、四、五、六！只有六個人！其中一個人不見了！我們離開時有七個人，現在我們只有六個人。現在也沒有心情慶祝了。我們其中一位太太一定會很傷心。我們要找出是誰溺死，這樣才知道要告知誰的太太。」〔把你的手放在他們的頭上，讓他們低頭表示悲傷。〕

當所有人悲慟的談論著，一位老先生剛好經過。〔從聽眾中選一位當老先生，並經過村民的身邊。〕「有什麼事情可以在這美好的一天讓大家這麼的煩惱啊？」老先生問道。「這是個釣魚和慶祝生命的好日子。」

「問題是，」其中一位村民回答。「當我們離開村裡時是七個人〔比七根手指〕。我們計畫回家後要慶祝。可是我們現在只有六個人〔比六根手指〕。我們其中一位一定是溺死了。我們實在沒有心情慶祝生命。」

「讓我數數看，」老先生說。〔舉起老先生的手，老先生的手邊指大家邊數。〕他請村民排成一排開始數：「一、二、三、四、五、六、七！大家都在啊！你們現在可以回家慶祝了。」

「和我們一起回家，」較年長的村民邀請老先生，大家也同意。「你救了我們一條命！」〔告訴聽眾，「每個人都很開心的拍手！」〕老先生加入了七位村民，於是八位村民很高興的返家慶祝生命。