Peling

By Maria (Lia') Terlaje Barcinas Featured in *Storyboard*: A Journal of Pacific Imagery, Vol. 19

Questions to Consider

- 1. The poem "Peling" was inspired by the author's memories of her grandfather and the lessons he shared. What lessons have you learned from your elders?
- 2. How has life changed from the time when Peling and your grandparents were your age? What are some of the chores they did as children to help their family? What chores do you do today to help your family? Why is it important to help your family?
- 3. Peling spent a lot of time in nature and caring for the environment. How do you connect with nature and care for your environment? Are there things you'd like to learn to do in nature? Describe.
- 4. Peling brought mañåhak to family gatherings and parties. This rare and delicious fish made people happy when it was on the table. Sharing food is a special part of our culture on Guam. What are your favorite foods to eat at gatherings and parties? Why? What dish does your family like to prepare for gatherings?

Creative Prompts

- 1. Write a poem that captures something you like to do. Describe the steps from beginning to end.
- 2. Go outside and spend some time in nature. Bring a notebook and pen or pencil to log what you can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. Turn your observations into either a poem or short story.
- 3. Write about a memory at the ocean.
- 4. Interview someone who is at least two generations older than you (a grandparent or great aunt or uncle) about their life. Turn your interview into a poem or short story.



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