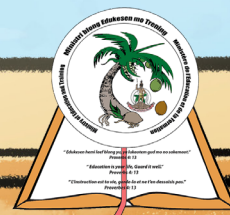
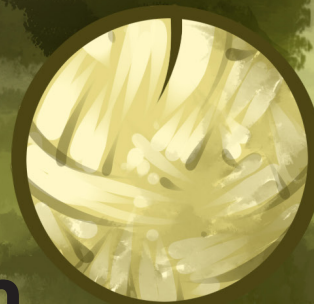


Level 4



The Coconut Shell Game



By Mali Jurin
Illustrated by Michael Magpantay

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One sunny day, Peter said to John,
“Let’s go and play the coconut shell
game in the field.”







They called for some of the other kids to join them, then collected a pile of coconut shells before heading to the field.

Altogether, ten kids came to play,
so they divided themselves into two
teams of five.





John led one group, and Peter led the other.

“We’ll start,” John said. Everyone set up the shells and gathered their ball. Then the game began.







Peter sent his teammates to stand behind John's, waiting until they could strike.



John held the ball,
aiming carefully, then
threw it towards the
stacked coconut shells.



They fell! John started running, followed by his teammates.

Peter and his friends ran for the ball. Now, they had to hit one of John's teammates before they could rebuild the coconut shell tower!



Peter tried so hard, but none of his team could hit John.





John and his teammates darted in to start rebuilding the coconut tower. One of Peter's friends threw the ball too far away, so they had lots of time.

Before he came back with the ball, John's team scattered.





One of John's friends just barely dodged the ball! John gathered the others to go back to the shells and build them up.



As soon as John managed to recreate the coconut tower, he would win. Once Peter managed to hit one of John's teammates, he would win.



They played until late in the afternoon.
John's team won. They all cheered to
celebrate their afternoon of fun.



**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



How many coconut shells did John and Peter collect to play with?



Why would John's teammate distract Peter's?

How could John's team have avoided Peter's?



Have you ever played the coconut shell game?



Gather some coconut shells and try stacking them like John and Peter did, all while timing yourself. How long did it take you?

About the author

Mali Jurin is from Malekula but now lives in Port Vila. He enjoys playing games with children and loves to read stories. When with family and friends, he enjoys attending church fellowships to sing and pray.



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Original illustrations by Michael Magpantay

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Jurin, Mali

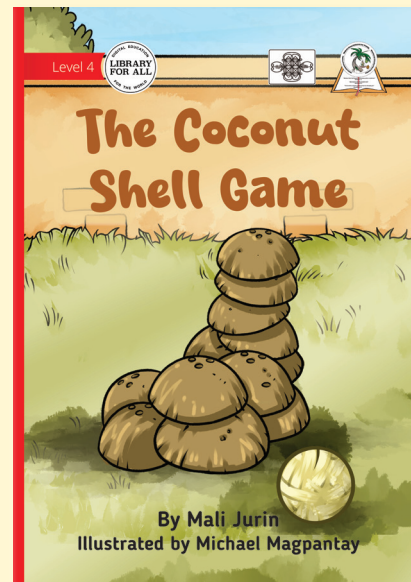
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Peter and John decide to play the coconut shell game with some friends. Who's going to win?



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