



ABSTRACT

THIS THESIS EXAMINES, through a critical analysis of select literary works as well as my own creative practice, the experience of childhood and coming of age. In the critical component of this thesis, I define coming of age as the particular moment in a child's life when he recognizes evil in the world, which comes hand in hand with the recognition of that which is good. Through a reading of texts from our anglophone literary tradition, I attempt to particularize good and evil as a Philippine good and a Philippine evil as recognized by a Filipino child as he comes of age. Using tools from both literary and cultural studies, what this thesis offers is a possible theorizing of the coming-of-age story in Philippine literature in English.

The creative component of this thesis builds on this theorizing. In this component, I reflect on my own writing practice, given my particular subject position as Filipino writer. The seven stories collected here comprise a collection of coming-of-age fiction, which illustrates what it means to come of age in the Philippines of today.

