

Bradley Estacio

Character Bios - *Ang Gagamba Ko*

The Protagonist

Ethnicity: Filipino

Age: ~16-17

The Protagonist goes to school, pays attention in class, stays up a little too late doing homework, does well on tests; the usual things a do-good student does in high school. They never had the time to get into *gagamba* and *laban ng gagamba* because they care so much about their academic life.

But they feel like something is missing. High school is nearing its end and classmates all around them are discussing their futures. The Protagonist feels stuck. It scares them. The last thing they want to do is ask for guidance. They feel that by doing so it's an admission of weakness, so they stay quiet.

It's only when the yearly *laban ng gagamba* tournament starts rolling around again that The Protagonist sees a way out of feeling like they are stuck in the middle of nowhere. This gives them the motivation they need. By learning about *gagamba* and entering into the tournament, they now have a bit of direction in life—seemingly the only direction.

As they participate in tournaments around Vale, they find themselves increasingly more aware of how threateningly present Engineered Automatons Inc. is invested in the tournament with its robotic *gagamba* being used by some competitors. They may not be the most street smart person out there, but they can spot a fishy company from a mile away. The Protagonist is then further motivated to push themselves to do well in the tournament to further investigate Engineered Automatons Inc. But is this truly a task they can take on alone?

John Cumulus, CEO of Engineered Automatons Inc.

Ethnicity: Caucasian (White)

Age: 50s-60s

A guy with his head in the clouds, self-proclaimed “biggest blue-sky thinker”, the CEO and goldenboy of Engineered Automatons Incorporated. He dyes rapidly graying hair and has had so much plastic surgery to the point where there appears to be a permanent smile on his face. Though it may be an unintentional consequence, he uses it as a facade to the outside world.

John Cumulus was born in a nation outside of Vale. Throughout most of his education, he coasted. John did try when it came to robotics at least. That was the turning point in his life; he could use these robotics to further advance humanity's progress in the world. And maybe at one point he truly thought he could do good with them. He believes that robots are a part of the future.

But when the angel investors started shoving money his way, the way that people on social media sing his praises for his current tech and new outlets say there is a promising potential with his future designs, and the stocks of his company starts rising, the greed and power gets to him. It starts to consume him. Robots are the only way forward.

So when John hears of gagamba and their magical properties of them and their silk, he quickly plans his next business venture: to replicate gagamba in their exact likeness and get people to use tournaments and prove that they are the future. Even if getting to that point means destroying the land he walks upon.