

TEACHERS

WELCOME ABOARD: HOW ONE TEACHER VEERED AWAY FROM THE CONVENTIONAL CLASSROOM

MUSICA ADRINEDA (9-1)

Would you rather sit tediously in the classroom or have fun cruising at sea? If you pose this question to a responsible teacher, it is likely that he will prefer the former for a regular school day. After all, risking learning for a trip to the sea does not sound like something a teacher truly concerned about the education of his students would do. This surely makes sense, until you meet Patrick Sebastian, a Grammar teacher. In his class, Sir Sebastian of Grades 7 and 9 wants his students to leave the classroom and to stop being a student. Convention does not exist in his vocabulary.

This became a reality the moment he handed each of his students a boarding pass; the item which reflects that

he truly admonishes the idea of sitting down in class while being bombarded with hard facts. The students have officially embarked on the ship as sailors, together with Sir Sebastian as the captain.

The captain ensures that the ship is smooth sailing. He carefully checks each sailor as they “discover the marvels of writing” at one of the decks. He shows them an image of a ship in an eerie setting, and tells them to juice creativity out of their brains as they imagine what could be happening in that image. As the sailors pen down their thoughts, Captain Sebastian utters, “compass check” while switching with thumbs-up, thumbs-down, and thumbs-sideways as the forms of his fingers. This is his

way of asking the sailors about how they feel towards the task. Everyone flashes a thumbs-up.

Just like most journeys, the ship braves rough seas. As the water whips the surface of the ship, the vessel starts to wobble. This causes some sailors to be puzzled with the task they are performing. Committed to providing his sailors a feeling of safety, Captain Sebastian asks them, “S.O.S.?” Those who need help simply raise their pinkies and he courageously attends to them. He makes sure that every sailor is capable of withstanding the waves.

After about two months, they arrive at their destination, feeling revitalized and full of wisdom. Who would have thought that their skills could expand through such educational approach? Truly, it was a magnificent two-month trip. It was worthwhile.

Amidst the glory of this journey, there is one thing that nobody bothers to mind, perhaps because the experience was too lovely to do so. They had never actually left the classroom to board a ship. Sir Sebastian simply conditions his students to think that they were stepping on a different world as a different person.

Nevertheless, it was a wonderful journey, as proven by the gloomy expression on the “sailors” faces as their captain bid farewell, calling them “sailors” for the last time. Then, the Captain tells everyone to prepare for the next world they are about to conquer.



EDITORIAL

THE IMAGE OF A FILIPINO WOMAN: WHY IT'S UNREALISTIC

SAMANTHA MACEDA (9-3)

I admit it; I wasn't aware of the overbearing standard for Filipinas until recently. Never did I notice that perhaps, there is just too many advertisements exuding women with pale and radiant skin accompanied by a tagline championing her complexion. I didn't notice either how some cosmetic brands subtly implied dark skin was "not beautiful." I never thought twice about how nearly all famous Filipinas are light-skinned, or how models and beauty queens that represent our country adorn Eurocentric features or actually are half-European or half-American. And it was only recently I discovered that women with the aforementioned qualities are the only results you will find once you search up "beautiful Pinay" on Pinterest.

All these factors add up to create a standard for Pinays; a standard that expects them to have light skin and foreign features. These expectations are indubitably unrealistic

and unfair to many Filipino women and sadly, this standard evidently affects the mindset of the youth today. There have been several times I have heard my peers showcase disgust to the idea of them getting dark, may it be by voicing it out or applying many whitening products or sunblock. Not only that, but it's nothing new for a case of bullying or disassociation with someone due to appearance (more often than not, it's complexion). Occasions such as these can influence the thinking of the youth in many ways, and for some, it can lead to depression or hatred of oneself.

And it's all due to this standard.

In the ancestry of the Filipinos, the notion that Filipinos are genetically dark is irrefutable. However, as we were colonized by different countries (both literally and mentally), this expectation thus ensued. Although, it's honestly

futile—these expectations were derived from other countries, not our own, but as time passed, this "ideal" image has made many Filipinos want to look foreign.

With all this in mind, know that you shouldn't comply with social standards just because you are being told that that is what is beautiful, that that is what you should be. In line with the physical expectations of the Filipino woman, if you are light-skinned, that's okay. If you aren't, that's okay. It is unnecessary for you to change what you look like to appease society's demands.

In conclusion, the standard of Filipino women is unrealistic—for many, it's not even in their genes to be light-skinned or to have sharp noses, prominent cheekbones, etc. Beauty in itself is dependable; it's okay to find something beautiful and to find something not as beautiful, but it is not okay to force someone to fit your standard of beautiful. It's not bad to look like Liza Soberano or Pia Wurtzbach and it's nothing to be ashamed of if you do want to look like them, but they shouldn't be exemplars of a beautiful Filipino woman because there are so many diverse Pinays out there. Do not tolerate this expectation no matter your skin tone. Whatever your complexion may be, wear it proudly. It's your skin, not anyone else's.

END

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