

This (Dis) Ability

BY: JOHN PAUL R. BAUTISTA

"In the canvas of life, where colors collide, A soul with a
vision, undeterred by the tide. Despite the chains of
disability's hold, an artist emerges, courageous and bold."

CHARACTERS

KRISTEL: A talented senior high school student from the SPED department

IVAN: Kristel's enthusiastic Parnassian supportive friend.

SETTING

An inclusive public school surrounded by greenery.

Classrooms filled with talent, a haven of imagination.

ACT 1 - SCENE 1

Int- Classroom - Day

(The classroom buzzed with an infectious energy; each corner was adorned with vibrant artwork displaying the students' creativity. Kristel sat at her desk, her pen dancing across the paper as she poured her thoughts into verse. The gentle hum of her classmates' conversations mingled with the soft rustle of paper as their teacher discussed the upcoming SPED DAY Event in the afternoon.)

Kristel: (sigh) I hope there is going to be a poem-writing competition. So, I could represent our class. (excitedly)

(Then their teacher mentioned there would be a poem writing competition for the upcoming event. Krystle heard this and raised her hand.)

Kristle: (raising her hand timidly) Um, Miss, do you think... I mean, could I participate?

(The teacher then wrote Kristel's name as a representative. Some of her classmates laughed at her and questioned her why she would be a good representative.)

Kristel: (whispering to herself) Maybe I shouldn't have raised my hand... What was I thinking? Poetry competition? Me? I can barely string two rhymes together without thinking I'm copying someone else's words. (She fidgets with her pen, eyes scanning the blank page in front of her, feeling the weight of her classmates' laughter lingering in the air.)

(As the teacher talks about the competition, Kristel feels a knot tighten in her stomach. She imagines her classmates' mocking whispers echoing in her mind, questioning her ability to stand out.)

Kristel: (mumbling to herself) What if they're right? What if I embarrass myself in front of everyone? Poetry's supposed to come from the soul, but what if mine's just... empty?

(As her classmates snicker, Kristel's doubt only grows. She wonders if she's deluding herself or if her desire to participate is just a futile attempt to prove something to herself.)

Kristel: (voice barely audible) Who am I kidding? I'm not special... well they say it but not this kind of way. I'm just... me. And that's not enough, is it? (She looks down at her notebook, feeling like each blank page is a mirror reflecting her insecurities at her.)

(Despite her inner turmoil, Kristel forces herself to stay after class, determined to at least try. She clutches her pen tightly, willing herself to believe that maybe, just maybe, her words have the power to break through the walls of self-doubt she's built around herself. The class then proceeds to laugh and mock her even more. The bell rings as the class dismisses. Kristel is given a notebook by an old student who used to be a good poet, to draft her poems and reassure her that she is a great representative of her difference.

Kristel: Thank you, Miss. I'll do my best... (Smiles and walks nervously)

Act 1 - Scene 2

Ext. School Garden - Day

(Kristel proceeds to go outside their room under a tree and sit down.)

Kristel: (sighing) It's not easy... But I'll show them. I'll show them that I have a voice worth listening to.

(As Kristel opens the notebook, she feels a sense of determination wash over her. With each stroke of her pen, she pours her heart onto the page, crafting verses that speak of resilience and strength. And as the words take shape, she begins to believe in herself and in her ability to make a difference.)

Kristel: (determination) With every ink that comes out of this pen of mine, I will show them that anyone can be an artist despite my disabilities (breathes deeply).

(However, with every letter she writes in the notebook comes internalization of doubts and questions. With every crumpled piece of paper, she wonders if she's good enough. A brush of wind blows into her face)

Ivan: (approaching, his eyes sparkling with enthusiasm) Kristel! There you are. I heard about the competition. You're going to knock their socks off!

Kristel: (forces a smile) Thanks, Ivan. It means a lot to have your support. But I'm still not done with my poem, and the submission for the contest is this afternoon. I'm in trouble. (voice quivering)

Ivan: (noticing Kristel's unease) Hey, what's wrong? You seem stressed about this.

Kristel: (hesitant) It's just... I'm not sure if I'm good enough. Maybe I'm just fooling myself into thinking I have talent.

Ivan: (surprised) What? Kristel, that's ridiculous! Have you read your work? Your poems are incredible. They have depth and emotion, and they make people think. Don't let your doubts overshadow your talent.

Kristel: (defensive) Easy for you to say. You don't understand how hard it is for me to believe in myself sometimes, especially with my disabilities.

Ivan: (firmly) That's not true. Just because you have disabilities doesn't mean you're any less capable or talented. I think it makes your achievements even more impressive. You've overcome so much already, Kristel. Don't let your doubts hold you back now.

Kristel: (tears welling up) But what if I'm not good enough? What if everyone laughs at me?

Ivan: (gentle) Kristel, listen to me. You are good enough. You are more than good enough. And as for what others think, who cares? The only opinion that matters is your own. Believe in yourself, Kristel. You have a gift, and it deserves to be shared with the world.

Kristel: (sniffling) Thank you, Ivan. I needed to hear that.

(Together, they sit beneath the shade of the tree, the gentle rustle of leaves providing a soothing backdrop to their conversation. As Kristel shares her hopes and fears, Ivan listens intently, offering words of encouragement and friendship.)

Ivan: (placing a hand on Kristel's shoulder) You've got this, Kristel. Believe in yourself, and anything is possible. Remember, poetry is not just about impressing others; it's about connecting, about touching hearts and minds. And I do not doubt that your words have the power to do just that.

Kristel: (sniffles, but manages a small smile) Thank you, Ivan. I'll try to believe in myself.

(With Ivan by her side and the weight of her teacher's encouragement in her heart, Kristel feels a glimmer of hope amidst

her doubts. As she looks up at the vast expanse of blue sky above and closes her eyes, the bell rings.)

Act I - Scene 3

Int- Classroom - Afternoon

(Kristle opened her eyes with Ivan out of her sight; she remembered the contest and rushed through the crowd as she entered the classroom.)

Kristel: (panting) Ma'am, I'm here.

(As Kristel entered the room, the air seemed to crackle with anticipation. She took her seat, her notebook resting before her like a canvas awaiting the stroke of a master's brush. With a deep breath, she dipped her pen into the inkwell of her imagination and began to write. Her hand moved across the paper with a graceful rhythm, each word weaving a tapestry of emotions and thoughts. The words flowed from her like a river rushing to the sea, carrying with them the essence of her soul. In her poem, she painted a picture of resilience.)

"This (dis)ability"

On the canvas of life, where colors dance free,

A soul with a vision is unbound and carefree.

Despite the chains of disability's weight,

An artist emerges, undeterred by fate.

With brushstrokes of courage, they paint their way.

Defying the darkness and bringing light to the day.

For within every struggle, there's strength to behold.

An artist emerges, their story untold.

With each stroke of resilience, they create their art.

A masterpiece of perseverance, straight from the heart.

For it is not in their limitations but in their ability.

True greatness shines with unwavering stability.

So, let us celebrate their journey and their untold triumphs.

Within every challenge, a story unfolds.

On the canvas of life, where colors collide,

Their spirit shines brightly, and their courage is undeniable.

By: Kristel

(As Kristel focused on her poem, the room seemed to fade away, leaving only her and the words dancing across the page. The pressure of the competition melted away as she poured her heart into each line, her pen becoming an extension of her soul. Around her, the classroom hummed with activity as her classmates also worked on their entries. But for Kristel, there was only the rhythmic scratch of her pen and the steady beat of her heart.)

Kristel: (She looked out the window and saw Ivan.)

Ivan: (thumbs up) Fighting!

(Finally, with a satisfied nod, Kristel set down her pen. Her poem lay before her, a testament to her resilience and strength. She could not wait to share it with the world. As the judging began, Kristel watched anxiously, her heart pounding in her chest.)

ACT I - SCENE IV

Ext- School Garden - Afternoon

(Outside in the school garden, Kristel rushes eagerly and looks for Ivan to release her franticness. She spots someone sitting under a tall tree and makes her way towards them.)

Kristel: (Excitedly) Ivan, I did it but I think I haven't done my best.

(Ivan, who is just a figment of Kristel's imagination, smiles warmly at her.)

Ivan: (Encouragingly) Kristel whatever the result I am proud of you and amazed at how you proved that your disability doesn't define your capabilities.

Kristel: (Beaming with pride) Really?... Thanks to your support, I dared to believe in myself. (sigh)

(She holds onto Ivan and stares at the blue skies, though he is only a creation of her mind. But to her, his presence feels real and comforting.)

Ivan: (With a twinkle in his imaginary eyes) I am so proud of you, Kristel. You have shown everyone what you're capable of.

Kristel: (Gratefully) I couldn't have done it without you, Ivan. You have been my rock through it all.

(They share a moment of silent understanding, the gentle rustle of leaves above providing a serene backdrop to their conversation. the speakers of the school's gym commend the announcement of winners. Kristel asked Ivan to join her in the awarding ceremony.)

Kristel: (With determination) Now, let's go celebrate this victory together, Ivan.

Ivan: (Sigh) Kristel you know I cannot go... I'm just an image that you created through your creativity.

(The somber air lingering as she realized....)

Kristel: (Smiles softly, acknowledging the truth)

(As the bell rang and the break was done Kristel remembered that she had forgotten to drink her medicine and ran to get them as she proceeded to the gym.)

Act 1 - Scene V

Int - School Gym - Afternoon

As the announcer called the winners from each category one by one, Kristel's heart began to race, and doubts crept in. Sweat dripped down from her head into her eyes, as if tears of nervousness were forming, while the crowd anxiously awaited the announcement.

Kristel: (Nervously sighs) What if I don't win? What if all the assumptions thrown at me are true?

(Her heart pounded, and she closed her eyes as the crowd went wild. Kristel's name was called the winner of the poem-writing competition, her poem touching the hearts of all who had read it. Tears of disbelief shed from her eyes as she got up on the podium to receive her award and give a speech.)

Kristel: (shockingly) I... (inhales) Thank you for allowing me to show my talent in writing despite the disability I have. A wise man once said to me that your disability doesn't define your ability. And I am a testament that this is true. (proudly screams) This is for past, present, and future artists with disabilities.

(With tears of joy, Kristel accepted her award, knowing that she had proven herself to be more than just a student with a disability. She was an artist, a poet, a force to be reckoned with.

As she looked out at the smiling faces of her classmates, she knew that she had made them proud. However, someone was missing in the crowd. As she glanced around, a silhouette appeared at the back of the gym. She saw Ivan nodding in approval and smiled at her. Tears of bittersweet happiness fell down her cheeks.)

Ivan: (mouthing) I'm proud of you, and my time here is done.

Kristel: (mouthing) Thank you...

(As she stepped down from the stage, she remembered the notebook her teacher had lent her and returned it to her. Upon reading her poem, she noticed the initials "I.V." written at the back.)

Kristel: (curiously asked) Excuse me, ma'am, may I ask whose notebook this is? Why does it have "I.V." written at the back?

(The teacher explained that it belonged to a poetic student who used to attend her class and had committed suicide after experiencing bullying.)

Kristel: (deeply sighs) If only I could have talked to that student, to comfort him and raise his spirits, to make him believe in himself.

(Once again, the bell rang, and she realized she still hadn't taken her medicine and rushed home happily, carrying her certificate and medal and the warmth of her imaginary friend who supports her.)

Kristel, the poet with schizophrenia, defied the boundaries of her diagnosis, embracing her creativity as a beacon of hope for others walking similar paths. In her words, they found not just empathy, but a source of strength to navigate their journeys. For Kristel, poetry was not just a means of expression, but a lifeline connecting hearts, inspiring countless souls to embrace their uniqueness and find beauty in their struggles.

-END SCENE-



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DAVAO REGION

February 24, 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
CLMD-2025-114

CONDUCT OF 2025 REGIONAL FESTIVAL OF TALENTS (RFOT)

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Chief Education Supervisor, CLMD

1. Pursuant to the annual conduct of National Festival of Talents, this Office through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD) will lead the 2025 Regional Festival of Talents (RFOT) with the theme "*Galing, Talino, at Husay ng mga Batang Makabansa sa Diwa ng Matatag na Adhika*" on March 26-28, 2025 (excluding of travel time) in Malita, Davao Occidental.
2. Specifically, this activity aims to:
 - a. provide meaningful learning opportunities for basic education learners to display their talents and skills anchored on the learning competencies achieved in schools;
 - b. guide learners on which career path to take relevant to the four curriculum exits (higher education, middle-level skills development, entrepreneurship, and employment) of the K to 12 Basic Education Program; and
 - c. serve as a culminating activity of gauging learning mastery and skill development in accordance with learning standards.
3. The RFOT shall consists of the following skills exhibitions:

Event	Learning Area/ Program	In-charge	No. of Participants and Coaches
Lingo Stars -Spanish, Mandarin, Nihongo and Korean Composition -Spanish, Mandarin, Nihongo and Korean Exposition	SPFL	Maria Cielo Estrada	8 pax 8 coaches
Musabaqah -Oration, Alpha Touch, Arabic Reading, Arabic Spelling	MEP	Danilo Dohinog	4 pax 4 coaches
HistoPop -Kasaysayan Kwiz, PopDev and Speak Up	AP		3 pax 3 coaches



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DAVAO REGION

-Kasaysayan Kwiz, PopDev and Speak Up			
Read-A-Thon -Story Retelling, Story Resolution Challenge, 5-min Pecha Kutch	English	Joeisa Presbitero	3 pax 3 coaches
Read-A-Thon -Bidyokasiya, LikhaWento and TahiRawan	Filipino	Mary Jane Mejorada	3 pax 3 coaches
Sining Tanghalan -Katutubong Sayaw, Guhit Salaysay, Direk Ko, Ganap Mo, Bayle sa Kalye, Sineliksik and Likhawitan	SPA	Jeselyn dela Cuesta	30 pax 8 coaches
Abilympics -Story Interpretation in Fil Sign Language & Story Interpretation in Braile Reading	SNED		2 pax 2 coaches
STEMazing -AghaMazing	Science	Ma. Liza Berandoy	3 pax 1 coach
- NumbeRace	Math	Herminia Bantiding	2 pax 1 coach
Technolympics -Invitational Card Making, Extension Cord w/ Switch Assembly, Food Preparation, Dish Gardening, Technical Drafting, Electrical Installation and Maintenance, Bread & Pastry Production, and Food Processing	TLE	Pedelina Huevos	12 pax 8 coaches

4. Specific guidelines to be used for each area shall be sent through email of the Division Education Program Supervisor (EPS) In-charge of the respective competition by the Regional EPS/In-charge.

5. The official participants in this activity are the division winners of the different contest with their respective coaches, Division Education Program Supervisors/Program Coordinators, Chief Education Supervisors of Curriculum and Implementation Division, Schools Division Superintendents, Assistant Schools Division Superintendents or Head of Delegations, Regional Officials spearheaded by the Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director and Technical Working Group



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DAVAO REGION

6. There shall be **no registration**. Travel expenses, provision of food and other expenses (honorarium, supplies or contest materials, etc) shall be charged to the 2025 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) Funds, local funds, school MOOE or other eligible fund sources, all subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
7. Further, all shall be entitled to service credits (in case the dates fall under legal holidays) in accordance with DepEd Order 53, s. 2003 entitled: Updated Guidelines on the Grant of Vacation Service Credits to Teachers and Compensatory Time-Off (CTO) as per Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Joint Circular No. 2, s. 2004 on Non-Monetary Remuneration for Overtime Service Rendered on Saturday.
8. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

ALLAN G. FARNAZO
Director IV

ROC04/dr/d

RECORDS SECTION
RELEASED

IV: *Feb. 26, 2025*
Total: *463rr*