Beginning Teachers….Let Us Brace Up Teaching Problems Gracefully
VIOLA T. DE GUZMAN, Teacher - I
Pablo Roman National High School

Teaching has remained an attractive course to be taken by fresh graduates from the secondary schools, not only for lesser expenses to be incurred compared to other college courses, but most importantly it has immeasurable joys and rewards no pot of gold can buy, as told by their present and former teachers. According to them, the rewards derived from it are more psychological than economic. Such blessings range from the personal and practical satisfactions, like, “they are given the chance to be creative, to reach a certain stature, to offer a part of themselves and to contribute significantly to the lives of the young by continuously touching and shaping their lives.”

The start of the school year 2013-2014 is a red letter day for the eighteen new teachers including myself who fortunately acquired a Teacher I position at Pablo Roman National High School, Pilar Bataan. However, our happiness is coupled with anxiety because of the so-called “Neophytes Complex”. Like other beginning teachers we worry about the proper way of handling classes, emotional tensions that some class pranksters give like impertinent remarks and disturbing behavior. According to Corpuz and Salandanan (2007) beginning teachers must be aware of the following problems caused by learners and how they can overcome them.

1. **The Aggressive, the Excitable and the Boisterous**

   At present, many students are hyperactive because of many factors. The aggressive ones stand out and tend to draw class attention. They try to monopolize the recitation, they give uncalled for “smart” comment, they shout answers, before the teacher can finish the question. The teacher must treat them tactfully, with their energies and talents properly directed. Have a big patience in your heart. A praise for their good performance may bolster their ego, but if they abuse this, then you should more firm in cutting down the excess.
2. The Extremely Shy

These learners are reluctant to recite, or participate in class activities but most of them do not have much “Love” IQ, this may be due to a long and difficult adjustment.

These students need endless moral support, some need high level of motivation. The teacher can give pep comments to boost their morale. “oh I like the way Maria sits up, nice and tall, but she should also participate in the discussion.”

“Lina is listening and I’m sure she has an answer different from or similar to Mario’s

3. Learners with Superiority or Inferiority Complex

Here, the teachers grasp of psychology comes to the fore, at the start, remind your students, that in your class “no man is an island” that the gifted and the less talented need one another, and that the latter, given the opportunity and the inspiration to develop their talents, may shine along their lines of interest.

4. The Discourteous

Being in a difficult stage of growing up, sometimes the young find it hard to conform to the approved social norm like showing politeness to their elders and to their peers. Because of their exposure to modern media like the internet, tv and radio they find themselves amidst a culture conflict and consider it “in” to disregard the age old Filipino amenities like greeting people courteously, voluntarily lending a hand, acknowledging act of kindness.

5. The Inattentive

This is a common problem among students. The cause may range from physical to emotional. A student who is all, tired, sleepy or hungry can hardly concentrate, neither can one who is preoccupied with things outside the lesson nor one who loses his interest in a too-easy or too-difficult lesson. Some find noise, warm or bad weather, lack of space, the teacher’s voice, appearance and techniques distracting.
6. The Emotionally Disturbed

Emotions are always involved in teaching and learning. Troubles arising from personal relations will be manifested in the form of disciplinary problems. Find out the causes of the learners emotional problem. Can it be your teaching style, your appearance or others. Invite their parents to come over. If you cannot tackle the problem ask the assistance of the Guidance Counselor.

7. Those With Poor Health and Less Gifted

Health is important to a student. Authorities in education recognize the importance of health to school discipline. Learners with poor health or physical handicaps complicate problems of discipline and bad health conditions often leads to irritability and restlessness.

8. Those Prone to Cheating and Stealing

Fear of failure, grades, academic competence give rise to cheating of students. Teachers can reorganize their tests or assignment and lift pressure on habitual cheaters by giving them other ways of gaining recognition.

9. Other Behaviour Problems

Drinking liquor, smoking, refusing to do assignments. Defiance of rules, vandalism, littering, bullying when done by students, can lead to more serious problems.

References: