GIFTED AND TALENTED LEARNERS: THE CHALLENGES THAT THEY MAY ENCOUNTER

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With each second, new babies are being welcomed to the world. Each one deserves smiles and touches of care and love. I’ve seen happy faces of awe and anticipation as parents meet their child in person for the first time. Each little milestone a baby unfolds give extraordinary proud moments to the watchful eye of a mother. And with each little baby steps, a father hopes that his child would go farther than he had ever reached. But, what if the child is not like most children. How would a father and a mother react the moment they found out that their child is actually gifted and talented?

Perhaps, there will be more joy, more hope, more expectation, and more priceless proud moments. And, it should be the same with the eventual teachers, since they will be the second parents after all. Personally, I would be very excited to meet just one. And one thing I had to ask myself, if ever I happen to meet one: do you feel any pressure or challenges at all?

My curiosity is just as impractical as the curiosity of the cat, since I should know the answer. I only need to feel the experience of asking the question, and more so when the gifted answers back. Yes, it is given, that challenges are always around – with or without gifted and talented learners inside the classroom. The pace of learning is the most glaring problem to solve. The gifted and the talented would breeze through the process, as expected of them. And if there are any form of competition, they would dominate the class, again, as expected of them. So, their challenges would normally cascade to the teachers handling them, and to the classmates around them. Since, we are in the age of inclusive education, thankfully, everybody else should be on board to solve the
challenges they encounter and they pose to the individuals around them. As the philosophy of inclusion dictates, they should be included as part of the class and the learning community. With that said, teachers should see to it that they are exposed to normal teaching experiences whilst their extra need are being addresses and taken care of as well. One of the solutions that have been going around already is to accelerate the gifted and talented learner to the higher classes. This would be just fine, since it is still their right to learn and improve according to their kind of pace.

Whatever the challenges of being different and the countermeasures made, everyone should feel that at one point or another, we all have our own unique challenges and difficulties along the way. Maybe, the practical question suited should be: what challenges would they encounter in their education? Believe it or not, as gifted as they are, most of them may not have the full grasp of the imposing problems they can bring in a normal classroom set-up. And perhaps, this should be the greatest challenge of putting gifted and talented learners in the mix. After all, they are still learners.

References: