

Jose Rizal's educational experiences

1. , Educational Experiences

2. The Hero's First Teacher vThe first teacher of Rizal was his mother. vHe learned the alphabet and prayers at the age of three. vAs a tutor, Doña Teodora was patient, conscientious and understanding. o She first discovered that her son had a talent for poetry. o She encouraged him to write poems.

3. vShe related many stories to lighten the monotony of memorizing the ABC's and to stimulate her son's imagination. El Amigo De Los Ninos o Ang kaibigan ng mga Bata The Moth story

4. Rizal's parents employed private tutors to give him lessons at home. Maestro Celestino – First tutor Maestro Lucas Padua – Second tutor (Arithmetic)

5. Leon Monroy A former classmate of Rizal's father. This old teacher lived at the Rizal home and instructed Jose in Spanish and Latin. He did not lived long and died five months later. • After Monroy's death, the parents of Rizal decided to send him to a private school in Biñan.

6. Rizal Moves to Biñan • Sunday afternoon of June 1869, Rizal left Calamba to move in Biñan. • Paciano accompanied Rizal in his trip on board a carromata. • Their travel lasted for one and a half hour. Then proceed to their Aunt's house, where Rizal was to lodge. Calamba Biñan

7. • That Sunday night, his cousin Leandro invited him for a walk around the town to familiarize Rizal with the place but at that time, he felt homesick as he remembered his mother and sisters.

8. First Day at the Village School • He was accompanied again by Paciano to the village school under the charge of Maestro Justiniano Cruz, Paciano's teacher during his elementary school days. • Pedro – son of Maestro Cruz • Laughed at Rizal because of his response to the Maestro's question.

9. • Afternoon of Rizal's first day in school, he challenged Pedro to a fight.

10. • After the class in the afternoon, his classmate named Andres Salandanan challenged him to an arm-wrestling match. • In succeeding days he had other fights with the boys of Binan. He was not quarrelsome by nature, but he never ran away from fight.

11. Academic Studies at the Village School • Even at this level of education, Rizal was able to demonstrate his intellectual superiority– the best in his class in Latin, Spanish, and the rest of the subjects. • Because of this, he was the object of jealousy by his classmates; and thus was made to look bad in front of the maestro and was punished.

12. Academic Instruction at the Village School • He did not enjoy his schooling at the village school, under Maestro Justiniano Cruz. He did not even like his teacher, who he described as a tall man with a long neck and a sharp nose and a body bent slightly forward.

13. üBut though he did not like him, he considered him an expert in Latin and Spanish grammars. x One thing he hated from him was his use of corporal punishment in making the pupils learn the lesson for the day (he considered it barbarous). x He highlight his hatred for that type of instruction in his Noli me Tangere x For him (Ibarra), a school has to be a playground of the mind and not a torture chamber.

14. Life at Biñan ØHe had a very systematic and disciplined life ØWakes up 4:00 in the morning, attends the mass, go home and study lessons, take his breakfast, and attend class until 10:00. ØHe then goes home for lunch; after resting for an hour, he returns to school for afternoon classes from 2:00- 5:00; by 6:00, he had to pray with his cousins and study for a while.

15. ØAfter suppertime, when there was a moon, he played with his nieces in the street. ØHe also took painting and drawing lessons under Maestro Cruz's father-in-law, the old Juancho, and eventually became his apprentice. ØThe rigorous life he had as an elementary pupil at the village school equipped him with the competencies for secondary schooling in Manila; and strengthened his body and soul as a young lad.

16. End of Schooling at the Village School vHe then returned to Calamba after receiving a letter from his sister Saturnina. vBy December 17, 1870, he was able to return to his hometown. vHe went home by boarding a steamship named Talim

17. Studies At Ateneo and UST

18. SCHOLASTIC TRIUMPHS AT ATENEO DE MANILA (1872-1877) • Jose was sent to Manila four months after the martyrdom of Gom-Bur-Za and with Dona Teodora still in prison. He studied in the Ateneo Municipal,, a college under the supervision of the Spanish Jesuits

19. • Bitter rival of the Dominican-owned College of San Juan de Letran • Formerly the Escuela Pia(Charity School)- for poor boys in Manila established in 1817 • In 1859- name was changed to Ateneo Municipaly the Jesuits and later became the Ateneo de Manila

20. RIZAL ENTERS AT ATENEO • June 10, 1872- Jose, accompanied by Paciano, went to Manila to take the entrance examinations on Christian Doctrine, arithmetic, and reading at the College of San Juan de Letran, and passed them. • His father was the first one who wished him to study at Letran but he changed his mind and decided to send Jose at Ateneo instead

21. • Father Magin Ferrando, college registrar of Ateneo Municipal, refused to admit Jose because: • He was late for registration and; • He was sickly and undersized for his age (11 years old)

22. • Upon the intercession of Manuel Xeres Burgos, nephew of Father Burgos, he was admitted at Ateneo. • Jose adopted the surname 'Rizal' at the Ateneo because their family name 'Mercado' had come under suspicion of the Spanish authorities. • Ateneo was located in Intramuros, within the walls of Manila. He boarded in a house on Caraballo Street, 25 min walk from the college. The boarding house was owned by Titay, who owd Rizal family P300. Jose boarded there to collect part of the debt

23. JESUITS SYSTEM OF EDUCATION • Jesuits trained the character of the student by rigid discipline, humanities and religious instruction. They heard Mass early in the morning before the beginning of daily class. Classes were opened and closed with prayers. Students were divided into two groups: Roman Empire Carthaginian Empire

24. Each empire had its rank. Students fought for positions, with 3 mistakes, opponents position could lose his position. 1st Best: Emperor 2nd Best: Tribune 3rd Best: Decurion 4th Best: Centurion 5th Best: Standard - Bearer

25. RIZAL'S FIRST YEAR IN ATENEO (1872-1873) • Rizal's first professor in Ateneo was Fr. Jose Bech. • Rizal was placed at the bottom of the class since he was a newcomer and knows little Spanish. • He was an externo (Carthaginians), occupying the end of the line. But at the end of the month, he became 'emperor' of his Empire.

26. • He was the brightest pupil in the whole class, and he was awarded a prize, a religious prize • Rizal took private lessons in Santa Isabel College during noon recesses to improve his Spanish language paying three pesos for those extra lessons.

27. Summer Vacation (1873) • Rizal didn't enjoy his summer because his mother was in prison so Neneng (Saturnina) brought him to Tanawan. • But without telling his father, he went to Santa Cruz to visit her mother in prison. He told her of his brilliant grades. • After summer, he returned to Manila and now boarded inside Intramuros at No. 6 Magallanes Street. Dona Pepay, who had a widowed daughter and 4 sons, was his landlady.

28. SECOND YEAR IN ATENEO (1873- 1874) • At the end of the school year, Rizal received excellent grades in all subjects and a gold medal • • The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas- the first favorite novel of Rizal which made a deep impression on him • • Universal History by Cesar Cantu- Rizal persuaded his father to buy him this set of historical work that was a great aid in his studies • Dr. Feodor Jagor- a German scientist-traveler who visited the Philippines in 1859-1860 who wrote Travels in the Philippines

29. THIRD YEAR IN ATENEO (1874-1875) • Rizal's grades remained excellent in all subjects but he won only one medal—in Latin • At the end of the school year (March 1875), Rizal returned to Calamba for the summer vacation. He himself was not impressed by his scholastic work.

30. FOURTH YEAR ON ATENEO • June 16, 1875- Rizal became an interno in the Ateneo • Padre Francisco de Paula Sanchez- a great educator and scholar, one of Rizal's professors who inspired him to study harder and to write poetry • Rizal described this Jesuit professor as "model of uprightness, earnestness, and love for the advancement of his pupils" • Rizal topped all his classmates in all subjects and won five medals at the end of the school term.

31. LAST YEAR IN ATENEO (1876- 1877) • Rizal- The most brilliant Atenean of his time, and was truly 'the pride of the Jesuits' • Graduate with Highest Honor • March 23, 1877- Rizal, 16 years old, received from his Alma Mater, Ateneo Municipal, the degree of Bachelor of Arts, with highest honors • The night before graduation, he could not sleep. Early morning on the day of his graduation, he prayed to the Virgin to commend his life and protect him as he stepped into the world.

32. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN ATENEO • He was an active member, later secretary, of Marian Congregation a religious society. He was accepted because of his academic brilliance and devotion to Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, the college patroness. • He is also a member of the Academy of Spanish Literature and the Academy of Natural Sciences. • He studied painting under Agustin Saez, a famous painter, and sculpture under Romualdo de Jesus. • He continued his physical training under his sports-minded Tio Manuel.

33. SCULPTURAL WORKS IN ATENEO • He carved an image of The Virgin Mary on a piece of Batikuling (Philippine hardwood) with his pocket-knife. The Jesuits fathers were amazed. • Father Leonart requested him to carve for him an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He intended to take the image with him in Spain but forgot to do so. So the Ateneo boarders placed it on the door of their dormitory. It plays a significant part in Rizal's last hours at Fort Santiago.

34. ANECDOTES ON RIZAL, THE ATENEAN • Felix M. Roxas- He related an incident of Rizal's schooldays in the Ateneo which reveals the hero's resignation to pain and forgiveness. • Manuel Xeres Burgos- his anecdote on Rizal illustrates his predilection to help the helpless at the risk of his own life.

35. FIRST ROMANCE OF RIZAL • He experienced his first romance with Segunda Katigbak, a pretty 14 year old Batanguena from Lipa. • One Sunday Rizal visited his maternal grandmother in Trozo, Manila with his friend Mariano Katigbak. One of whom was an attractive girl, who mysteriously caused his heart to palpitate with strange ecstasy was Segunda. His grandmother's guests urged him to draw Segunda's portrait. 'From time to time, he reminisced, she looked at me and I blushed'

36. • Rizal came to know Segunda more intimately during weekly visits to La Concordia College, where his sister was boarding student. Olimpia and Segunda was a close friend. Theirs was indeed 'a love at first sight'. But Segunda was already engaged to be married to Manuel Luz.

37. RIZAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS • Fortunately, Rizal's tragic first romance, with its bitter disillusionment, did not adversely affect his studies in the University of Santo Tomas. His love for higher education proved to be greater than his love for a pretty girl. • In April, 1877, Rizal, who was then nearly 16 years old, matriculated in the University of Santo Tomas, taking Philosophy and Letters.

38. He enrolled in this course for Two reasons 1. His father liked it 2. He was still "Uncertain as to what career to follow. Pablo Ramon - Rector of Ateneo, who had been good to him during his student days in that college, asking for advice on the choice of career. -Unfortunately, the Father Rector was in the Mindanao and during those days it took several months for a letter to travel between Manila and Mindanao.

39. • First year term (1877-79) in the UST, he studied Cosmology, Metaphysics, Theodicy, and History of Philosophy. • (1878-1879) Rizal took up medicine, enrolling simultaneously in the preparatory medical course and the regular first year medical course He studied Medicine Because: 1. he wanted to be a physician so that he might cure his mother's failing eyesight 1. the Father Pablo Ramon, Rector of Ateneo, whom he consulted for a choice of career, finally answered his letter, recommending medicine.

[40.](#) Rizal's Romances • There are nine (9) recorded women in Rizal's life, however some historians suggest that there have been more. Below are brief accounts of Jose Rizal's romances:

[41.](#) SEGUNDA KATIGBAK: RIZAL'S FIRST LOVE • Jose Rizal was only a young boy of sixteen (16) when he first fell in love, and it was with Segunda Katigbak, a girl from Lipa, Batangas and two years his junior. • According to Rizal, "She was rather short, with eyes that were eloquent and ardent at times and languid at others, rosy-cheeked, with an enchanting and provocative smile that revealed very beautiful teeth, and the air of a sylph; her entire self diffused a mysterious charm."

[42.](#) Unfortunately, Segunda was already engaged to be married to her townmate, Manuel Luz, and although Rizal had gotten hints of the lady's affection for him, he timidly decided to back away and did not propose. Years later Segunda returned to Lipa and wed her betrothed, leaving a frustrated Rizal to the mercy of his nostalgic memories.

[43.](#) MISS L" • The girl after Segunda Katigbak • The name was not revealed • The romance died a natural death because: • The sweet memory of Segunda was still fresh in his heart • His father did not like the family of "Miss L"

[44.](#) Leonor Valenzuela : Private letters • When Rizal was a sophomore at the University of Santo Tomas and was boarding in the house of Dona Concha Leyva in Intramuros he met Leonor "Orang" Valenzuela. • His next-door neighbor and daughter of Capitan Juan and Capitana Sanday Valenzuela. • She was a tall girl who carried herself with grace and elegance.

[45.](#) Exchanging Love Notes • Rizal was always welcome at the Valenzuela home. He eventually courted Leonor by sending her love notes, which he wrote in invisible ink made from a mixture of water and table salt. • He taught Leonor how to read his letters by heating them over a lamp or a candle to allow the words to surface. • Unfortunately, as with his first love, Jose failed to ask for the lady's hand in marriage.

[46.](#) LEONOR RIVERA : THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT • Jose boarded in Casa Tomasina (No. 6 Calle Santo Tomas, Intramuros) • Daughter of his landlord-uncle from Camiling, Antonio Rivera • She was a student at La Concordia College, also the school of Soledad, Jose's youngest sister • Born in Camiling, Tarlac on April 11, 1867

[47.](#) A Secret Relationship • Leonor was "tender as a budding flower with kindly, wistful eyes." She and Rizal eventually became engaged. • In her letters, she signed her name as "Taimis" in order to hide their intimate relationship from the girl's parents.

[48.](#) A Lady's Infidelity • Autumn of 1890 - Rizal received a letter from Leonor telling him of her coming marriage to a man whom her mother chose to be her mate -- an Englishman -- and begged for his forgiveness. This broke Rizal's heart deeply.

[49.](#) Consuelo Ortega Y Rey : A sacrifice for friendship • In 1882, when Rizal was a student at the Universidad Central de Madrid, he frequented the home of Don Pablo Ortega y Rey, the former city Mayor of Manila. He lived with his son Rafael and his daughter Consuelo.

50. An Escape from Loneliness Being lonely and somewhat isolated in a foreign country, Rizal found comfort in Consuelo's vivacious company. • August 22, 1883 - He wrote her a poem entitled A La Senorita C.O. y R. (To Miss C.O.y R.), in which he expressed his great admiration for the lady.

51. The poem speaks of Rizal not being happy and definitely confused on the relationship he has with Consuelo: "You wish to learn the cause of this dejection Delirium of despair that anguish wove? You wish to know the wherefore of such sorrows, and why, a young soul, I sing not of love?"

52. Backing Out • Rizal's romance with Consuelo did not turn into a serious affair; • He decided to take a step back for two reasons: ① He was still engaged to Leonor Rivera at that time; and ② He was aware of his friend's (Eduardo de Lete) affection for the girl and he did not want to ruin their friendship over her.

53. O-SEI-SAN : LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT • When Rizal was in Tokyo a few days after he had moved to the Azabu district in 1888. • He spotted a pretty Japanese girl walking past the legion gate. He was captured by the lady's regal air and charisma and endeavored to find ways to meet her.

54. • The girl's name was Seiko Usui. • She lived with her parents and often took afternoon walks by the legation. Rizal waited by the gate one afternoon and introduced himself. Sayonara • Because of his deep affection for her, Rizal was almost tempted to settle down in Japan. • Conveniently enough, he was also offered a good position at the Spanish Legation during that time. Rizal, however, had set his sights on other matters

55. • He decided to leave Japan and forget his romance, which pained him gravely as attested by an entry in his diary. • His 45-day sojourn in Japan was one of the happiest interludes in his life.

56. Gertrude Beckett : A Chiseled beauty • In May 1888 Rizal visited London for a short time, boarding the house of the Beckett family: Mr. & Mrs. Beckett, their two sons, and their four daughters. • The eldest daughter was named Gertrude.

57. • Rizal withdrew before his relationship with Gettie could become more serious, realizing that he had a greater mission to fulfill and that in order to accomplish it he could not yield to the option of marrying her. • He suppressed the yearnings of his heart and decided to leave so that the lady may forget him.

58. SUZANNE JACOBY : A LOVE UNREQUITED • On January 28, 1890, Rizal left for Brussels, Belgium. • He stayed for a considerable time, paying for room and board. His landladies had a pretty niece named Petite Suzanne Jacoby. • She was taken by Rizal's charm and gallantry, and provided him good company. Rizal could have flirted with the lady, considering that his beloved Leonor was far away and he was a lonely man in a strange and foreign land, but he realized he could not deceive her.

59. NELLIE BOUSTED ; A FAILES PROPOSAL • In 1891, Rizal took a vacation in Biarritz in order to find reprieve from his troubles in Madrid. • He was a guest of the Boustead family in their winter residence, Villa Eliada. Mr. and Mrs. Boustead had two beautiful daughters, Adelina and Nellie.

60. A Broken Engagement Rizal's marriage proposal failed for two reasons: 1. Nellie demanded that he give up his Catholic faith and convert to Protestantism, which was her religion. Rizal did not like this idea. 1. Nelly's mother did not approve of Rizal, as she had no desire to entrust her daughter to a man who was wanting in wealth and persecuted in his own country. In spite of the circumstances, Rizal and Nellie parted as good friends.

61. JOSEPHINE BRACKEN : TRUE LOVE IN EXILE • Rizal's exile in Dapitan was one of the most lonesome and sorrowful periods of his life. • He missed the company of his friends and family, and the death of Leonor Rivera on August 28, 1893 left a gaping void in his heart.

62. • Rizal and Josephine fell in love at first sight. Their romantic interlude went on for about a month, after which they decided to marry. • The priest of Dapitan, however, refused to conduct the ceremony without consent from the Bishop of Cebu.

63. • When Mr. Taufer heard of his daughter's plan to marry he became so enraged at the thought of losing Josephine that he attempted to kill himself with a razor to his throat. • Rizal prevented this tragedy by holding the man's wrists back. • Josephine left with her father on the first available steamer to Manila in order to avoid more trouble. Since Mr. Taufer's blindness was venereal in nature, it was incurable.

64. Exchanging Vows • Mr. Taufer went back to Hong Kong alone, and Josephine stayed in Manila with Rizal's family. • At length, she returned to Dapitan. Since no priest would marry them, Rizal and Josephine held hands, exchanged vows, and married themselves before God.

65. The Loss of a Child • Rizal and Josephine lived together in Dapitan as husband and wife, and in early 1896 they were expecting a baby. • Unfortunately, Josephine had to go into premature labor after Rizal played a prank and frightened her. • A little boy of eight months was born, who lived for only three hours. • Rizal named him Francisco in honor of his father, and buried the child in Dapitan.

66. VICTIM OF SPANISH OFFICER'S BRUTALITY • Setting: Dark night, summer vacation 1878. Calamba • He passed by a lieutenant of the Guardia Civil but failed to recognize the latter. • Insulted, the lieutenant slashed Jose's back with his sword. • Jose reported to General Primo de Rivera, Spanish governor general, but no resolution was done because of racial discrimination. – March 21, 1887: "I went to the Captain-General but I could not obtain justice; my wound lasted two weeks."

67. TO THE FILIPINO YOUTH (1879) • Literary contest by Artistico-Literario (Artisitic- Literary Lyceum) • Rizal, 18 years old, submitted his poem entitled A La Juventud Filipina (To the Filipino Youth) • The first prize, a feather shaped, gold ribbon decorated silver pen was given to Rizal. • In the poem, Rizal beseeched the Filipino to rise from lethargy, to let their genius fly

swifter than the wind and descend with art science to break the chains that have long bound the spirit of the people.

68. The poem is a classic. Two reasons: 1. It was the first great poem in Spanish written by a Filipino whose merit was recognized by Spanish literary authorities. 1. It expressed for the first time the nationalistic concept that the Filipinos and not the foreigners were the “fair hope of the Fatherland.”

69. HE COUNCIL OF THE GODS (1880) • Another literary contest by the Artistic-Literary Lyceum to commemorate the fourth centennial of the death of Cervantes, Spanish and author of Don Quixote. • Manuel De Cervantes – Spain’s glorified man of letter. • Rizal submitted an allegorical drama, El Consejo de los Dioses (The Council of the Gods) • The allegory was based on Greek classics

70. • Rizal was aided by Father Rector of the Ateneo in securing the needed reference materials • The contest was participated by priest, laymen, professors of UST, newspapermen and scholars. • Rizal won the first prize; he received a gold ring engraved with bust of Cervantes. • D.N. Del Puzo – a Spanish writer won the 2nd prize

71. CHAMPION OF FILIPINO STUDENTS • There were frequent student brawls between the Filipinos and the Spaniards • 1880: Rizal founded Companerismo (Comradeship), a secret society of Filipino UST students. The members were called “Companions of Jehu”. • He was the chief of the society. • His cousin, Galicano Apacible was the secretary. • In one of the skirmishes, Rizal was wounded on the head. His friends brought him to Casa Tomasina where Leonor Rivera took care of him.

72. DECISION TO STUDY ABROAD • Rizal decided to study in Spain after finishing the fourth year of his medical course. The people who approved : o His older brother Paciano o His sisters Saturnina (Neneng) and Lucia o Uncle Antonio Rivera o The Valenzuela family o Some friends The people who did not know his decision: -Rizal’s parents -Leonor Rivera -Spanish authorities

73. UNHAPPY DAYS AT THE UST • Rizal was unhappy in the Dominican institution because; oThe Dominican professors were hostile to him oThe Filipino students were racially discriminated against by the Spaniards oThe method of instruction was obsolete and repressive.

74. DECISION TO STUDY ABROAD • Rizal decided to study in Spain after finishing the fourth year of his medical course. The people who approved : o His older brother Paciano o His sisters Saturnina (Neneng) and Lucia o Uncle Antonio Rivera o The Valenzuela family o Some friends The people who did not know his decision: -Rizal’s parents -Leonor Rivera -Spanish authorities

Education

Education in Binan

- During the time of Rizal, education was characterized by the 4Rs: reading writing, arithmetic, and religion.
- Rizal, although he was born a physical weakling, became an intellectual giant.
- His first teacher was his mother.
- At the age of 3, Rizal learned to recite the alphabet and prayers.
- Jose had private tutors to teach him lessons at home: Maestro Celestino, then Maestro Lucas Padua.
- Leon Monroy, who as a former classmate of Jose's father, taught the young boy Spanish and Latin.
- When Leon Monroy died, Jose's parents decided to send him to a private school in Binan.
- When Jose left for Binan, he was accompanied by his brother Paciano.
- Jose lodged at his aunt's house in Binan.
- Rizal's school in Binan was in the house of his teacher, Maestro Justiniano Aquino Cruz.
- Pedro, the teacher's son, was not very fond of Jose. He bullied Rizal, and this led to Jose's first school brawl.
- Jose also took painting lessons in Binan, and was taught by an old painter named Juancho, his schoolteacher's father-in-law.
- He was the best student in school, beating all the Binan boys.
- His schooling in Binan lasted for a year and a half.

Education in the Ateneo de Manila

- Jose was sent to Manila four months after the friars Gomez, Burgos, and Zamora were martyred.
- He studied in the Ateneo Municipal, which was under the supervision of the Spanish Jesuit priests.
- The Ateneo Municipal was later named Ateneo de Manila.
- Jose's father had intended him to study at Letran, but changed his mind and sent him to the Ateneo instead.
- At first, the college registrar, Fr. Magin Ferrando, refused Jose's admission because the boy had registered late and he was sickly and small for his age.
- Rizal was nonetheless admitted to the Ateneo with the help and intercession of Manuel Xeres Burgos, a nephew of the martyred priest.
- Jose adopted the name *Rizal* to escape suspicion. His brother Paciano had used the name *Mercado*, and was now known to the authorities as Jose Burgos' favorite student.
- The quality of education in the Ateneo was more advanced.
- Students were divided into two groups: the "Roman Empire" (boarders) and the "Carthaginian Empire" (non-boarders).

- The best student in each empire was the emperor, followed by the tribune, then the decurion, the centurion, and the fifth best was the standard-bearer.
- The Romans had red banners, and the Carthaginians had blue.
- Jose's first professor at the Ateneo was Fr. Jose Bech.
- To improve his Spanish, Jose took private lessons in Santa Isabel College at noon breaks.
- Rizal's first favorite novel was *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas.
- He won a medal in Latin.
- Jose considered Fr. Sanchez as his best professor in the Ateneo.
- He obtained the highest grades in all subjects and graduated with the highest honors.
- When Rizal was 16 years old he had his first romance with Segunda Katigbak. Unfortunately, the lady was already engaged to be married. Rizal, as a shy and timid lover, failed to propose despite her encouragement.

Medical Studies at the University of Santo Tomas

- After finishing one year in Philosophy and Letters, Jose transferred to the medical course.
- He enrolled in UST for two reasons: (1) to appease his father, and (2) because he was still unsure of what career he should pursue.
- Rizal took up medicine following the advice of Fr. Pablo Ramon, the Rector of the Ateneo. He also did so to be able to cure his mother's growing blindness.
- He finished a surveying course in the Ateneo, but was not given the title of Surveyor because he was still 17 and underage.
- After finishing four years in the medical course, Rizal decided to study in Spain. He did not seek his parents' permission for this, because he knew they would not allow it.

Jose Rizal's Educational Background

Rizal's first teachers:

1. Dona Teodora

- was his mother she was patient, conscientious and , understanding
- she discovered that her son had a talent for poetry
- she encouraged him to write poems

2. Private Tutors of Rizal

- Maestro Celestino
- Maestro Lucas
- Leon Monroy

Rizal goes to Binan,Laguna:

- June, 1869 Rizal left for Binan
- Was accompanied by Paciano his older brother
- He was taught by Maestro Justiniano
- In academic studies, Rizal beat all Binan boys
- He surpassed them all in Spanish, Latin, and other subjects

Life and Studies in Ateneo

- Ateneo De Municipal established by the Jesuits
- Rizal entered in 1872
- He belonged to the class composed of Spaniards, mestizos and Filipinos
- His teacher was Fr. Jose Bech
- He was considered as an inferior and was placed at the bottom of the class
- By the end of the month he became the emperor and received a prize, a religious picture
- To improve his Spanish Rizal took private lessons in Santa Isabel College
- During his 4th year in Ateneo he received 5 medals and graduated as sobresaliente
- He graduated on March 23, 1877(16 years old)
- Received the degree of bachelor of arts, with highest honors not a valedictorian

Extra Curricular Involvement

- an emperor inside the classroom
- campus leader
- active member and became a secretary, the Marian Congregation Religious Society
- member of the Academy of Spanish Literature and the Academy of Natural Sciences
- poet
- studied painting under the famous Spanish Painter, Agustin Saez
- improved his sculpture talents under the supervision of Romualdo de Jesus
- engaged in gymnastics and fencing and continued the physical training under his sports-minded Tio Manuel.

Medical Studies in University of Sto. Thomas (1877-1882)

- After graduating , he continued his education at UST
- He finished a year in Philosophy and Letters
- He decided to shift to a medical course
- UST was under the Dominicans , rival of the Jesuits in education
- Remained loyal to Ateneo participated in extracurricular activities in Ateneo and completed a course in surveying
- As a Thomasian he won more literary laurels
- During his first term in 1877-1878 in UST, he studied Cosmology, Metaphysics , Theodicy and History of Philosophy.
- It was during the school term 1878-1879 that Rizal pursued his studies in medicine

Reasons why Rizal wanted to study Medicine:

- He wanted to be a physician so that he could cure his mother's failing eyesight
- Fr. Pablo Ramon, the Father Rector of Ateneo whom he consulted for a choice of career, finally answered his letter , and recommended medicine

Pre- Med Course

- Curso de Ampliacion or Advanced course in Physics, Chemistry and Natural History.
- Out of the 28 young men taking Ampliacion only four including Rizal were granted the privilege of taking simultaneously the preparatory course and the first year of medicine
- Rizal also received his four year practical training in medicine at the Hospital de San Juan de Dios in Intramuros
- During his last year at the University, Rizal had obtained the global grade of Notable(Very Good) in all of his subjects, and he was the second best student in a decimated class of seven who passed the medicine course. After which, Rizal decided to study in Spain.

Academic Journey To Spain (1882-1885)

- His departure for Spain was kept secret from Spanish Authorities, friars and even his parents especially his mother because she would not allow him to go
- To avoid detection , he used the name Jose Mercado
- On May 3, 1882 he boarded on Salvadora bound for Singapore where he was the only Filipino passenger
- On November 3, 1882, he enrolled in Universidad Central de Madrid taking up two courses: Philosophy and Letters and Medicine
- On June 21, 1884 , he conferred the degree of Licentiate in Medicine
- The Following academic year , he studied and passed all subjects leading to the degree of doctor of medicine
- Unfortunately, he was not able to submit the thesis required for graduation nor paid the

corresponding fees

- With that, he was not awarded his Doctor's Diploma
- Jose Rizal also finished his studies in Philosophy and Letters with higher grades
- He was awarded the Degree of Licentiate in Philosophy and Letters by the Universidad Central de Madrid June 19, 1885 with the rating of excellent.

Ophthalmology studies and travels in Europe

- Jose Rizal went to Paris and Germany in order to specialize in ophthalmology. Among all branches, he chose this specialization because he wanted to cure his mother's failing eyesight.
- In 1885, after studying at the Universidad Central de Madrid, Rizal, who was then 24 years old, went to Paris to acquire more knowledge in ophthalmology

Rizal friends in Europe:

- Maximo Viola
 - Senor Eusebio Corominas
 - Don Miguel Morayta
 - Dr. Louis de Weckert
-
- On February 3, 1886, after gathering some experience in ophthalmology, he left Paris and went to Heidelberg, Germany
 - He worked at the University Eye Hospital under the direction of Dr. Otto Becker, a distinguished German ophthalmologist
 - On April 22, 1886, Rizal wrote a poem entitled A Las Flores de Heidelberg (To the Flowers of Heidelberg) because he was fascinated by the blooming flowers along the Neckar River, which was the light blue flower called "forget-me-not".
 - On August 14, 1886, Rizal arrived in Leipzig. There, he attended some lectures at the University of Leipzig on history and psychology

Reasons Why Rizal choose to reside in Germany longer:

- to gain further his studies in science and languages
- to observe the economic and political conditions of the German nation
- to associate with the famous scientists and scholars
- lastly to publish his novel Noli Me Tangere

Jose Rizal earned a Licentiate in Medicine at the Universidad Central de Madrid, where he also took courses in philosophy and literature. It was in Madrid that he began writing Noli Me Tangere. He also attended classes in the University of Paris and, in 1887, he completed his eye specialization course at the University of Heidelberg. It was also in that year that Rizal's first novel was published in Berlin.

Educational Background of Rizal During the Studies in Ateneo de Manila, UST and Abroad

Rizal's Educational Background.

IN ATENEO:

Four months after the martyrdom of GomBurZa, Jose Rizal's parents decided to send him to a school in Manila. He passed the entrance examination in San Juan De Letran but during his stay for fiesta in their hometown, his father changed his decision and sent him to Ateneo instead. Ateneo Municipal was run by the Jesuits which was the rival of the Dominican priests. The Jesuits were great educators which attracted most of the prominent families to send their children to their school.

Rizal was eleven years old when he first studied there. He can understand Spanish but cannot speak the language fluently. He was placed at the bottom of the students rank, but in just a week's time, Rizal showed excellence in all of his subjects. He learned the Spanish language incredibly fast and within one month, he was the schools emperor, meaning the top student.

Rizal's first teacher was Father Bech. In the second half of the first year, his performance declined and was not able to maintain his academic supremacy that he held during his first half of the term for the reason that he was affected so much by the remarks of some professors. He placed second at the end of the year although his grades were marked excellent.

The second year, Jose had the same professor as in the previous year. At the end of the term, he visited his mother, who was still in prison, and told her the good news of his school performances. He was more inspired when he came back to school after his visit with his mother because he was told that she will be released three months from then.

In his fourth year, he befriended his professor father Sanchez, who became his favourite teacher. Father Sanchez inspired Rizal in poetry and to study harder. He showed appreciation to Jose's God-given wisdom. For this reason, Jose Rizal regarded the Jesuits as "model of uprightness, earnestness, and love" for the advancement of the students.

At the age of 16, he graduated in Ateneo and received a bachelor in arts with highest honor but not as the valedictorian.

IN UST:

The Bachelor of arts degree during Spanish times was equivalent to a high school diploma today. Thus Rizal's brother, Paciano , and his mentors in Ateneo urged him to pursue higher education which his mother strongly disagreed. Donya Teodoro was afraid of what would happen to his son if he gained more knowledge, for she knew the fate of the Filipino intellectuals during their time.

Regardless of his mothers warning, Rizal pursued higher education in UST. He enrolled in philosophy and letters because his father liked it. Rizal was still uncertain about his career and seeks the advice of others. Not long enough, Rizal received a letter from Father Recto whom he consulted for advice which course to take. He then shifted to Medicine, not only because of Father Recto but more importantly because of his mother who was losing her sight in those days.

During his study in UST, Jose was also enrolled in Ateneo, he took a vocational course leading to a title of expert surveyor. Rizal remained his loyalty in Ateneo and participated in the schools activities. He loved the Jesuits more than the Dominicans who run his present school. The Dominicans showed racial discrimination for Filipinos and Rizal doesn't like to be treated that way.

Rizal joined contests in UST and showed his excellence in writing poems. He won first prize in two different major contests. His works were the "To the Filipino Youth" and "The Council of the Gods". His winning piece showed the Dominican priests that an indio could equal the Spaniards, or even better than them.

IN SPAIN:

After finishing his medicine course in UST, Jose decided to go abroad to widen his knowledge about ophthalmology. Knowing his mother would disagree for his departure, Jose left the country in secret. Only his brother Paciano and his sister Saturnina knew of his plans. Jose Rizal first came to Barcelona, and then later on moved in Madrid, for education was cheaper in Madrid. He enrolled at the Central University in Madrid for licentiate in Medicine. He also took up lessons in painting and sculpture in Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando and in his free time he studied French and German language in Ateneo de Madrid.

The next academic year, he studied and passed all subjects leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine. However, he did not submit the thesis required for graduation nor paid the corresponding fees. He was not awarded his Doctor's Diploma. Jose Rizal also finished his studies in Philosophy and Letters with higher grades. He was awarded the Degree of Licentiate in Philosophy and Letters by the Universidad Central de Madrid with the rating of excellent.

In November, Rizal moved to Berlin where he stayed four months and worked as the assistant of the leading ophthalmologist, Dr. Louise de Weckert. He easily learned the medical techniques of eye operation during his stay with the doctor.