

Lesson 2:

Crafting the Character: Depth vs. Action

Writing Exercise by Angelo Esperanzate

Exercise 1: Character Sketch

Character

Carla is a transgender girl who dreams of winning the baranggay Miss Gay. She recently lost her abusive father to tokhang and now she and her mother are left to fend for themselves.

Character journey

Carla dreams of finally expressing her femininity by joining the Miss Gay. She'll finally be able to join now that her father is dead, but she's at a point in her life where she is discovering for the first time a new side of herself. Is she gay or is she really a woman?

Character's response to his journey

She makes it to the finals of the pageant but unfortunately loses. But this experience made her realize that she isn't who she thought she was. Now she is faced with the reality of not only accepting their current situation, but also who she truly is.

Character's objective

She finally realizes that being a woman is not just a point to point two step transition. She finds out that being a woman is a continuous journey of self discovery. She figures out that the world is not always a safe space for this discovery but that doesn't mean she can't continue finding them or making these spaces for herself. She finally helps her mom make a decision to move out of the barangay, so that they'll be safe from the darkness looming in their barangay and to finally find and make a safe space for her and her mom to live in.

Exercise 2: Make a monologue

HOST

What is the essence of being a woman

CARLA

Thank you for that wonderful question. And I have an equally wonderful answer. What is the essence of being a woman? I think that dapat, I mean uhm... Dapat, ay shet. The first thing we ask about is what is a woman? Is she about the boobs and the ano?

Carla points at her tuck.

CARLA

If hers then is taken away because of the cancer, is she no longer a woman? Is it the household chores or the light of the home? What happens if she starts working and then the boy is the houseband? No, I think the woman is all about being the true you. To know who you are. And to accept that not all woman are the same, and in time the meaning of changes. Yesterday, a woman is supposed to stay at home. Today, the woman can work. Tomorrow, who knows? In conclusion, a woman is about knowing who you are and accepting that you are a woman. And the true essence of a woman is me, because I accept who I am. And I am not gay, I am a woman. And I thank you!