STUDENT:

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***WRITING EXERCISES***

***LESSON 2***

**Exercise 1:**

I believe that teaching in a religious school is oppressive, not only to the students, but especially the teachers. It does not only oppress teachers’ truest selves, it also forces teachers to teach principles that run counter to their true and authentic selves, authenticity that is not really anti-God, or anti-love. This conflict creates a void, self-doubt and helplessness, and can never be good for a person. But people choose to endure because they fear. They fear a future where there’s no food on their tables and there is no avenue for their passion.

**Exercise 2:**

Religious education is not oppressive. It is in fact, corrective. And this applies specially to teachers. Because as God recognizes that we are sinners and are not all perfect, we as adults, and as educators, have the responsibility to make ourselves a reflection of God in order for us to create children of God. If you have beliefs and lifestyles that run counter to God’s teachings, how can you teach our young ones the truth? The despair that you feel when you are ‘oppressed’ is the devil preventing you from making the right choices. Do not be afraid of just losing your job or a career, be afraid of losing a seat in heaven.

**Exercise 3:**

A: Teaching in a religious school is oppressive. It oppresses your true self.

B: It is not oppressive. It is corrective.

A: How can it be corrective?

B: Because as adults and as educators, you have the responsibility to make yourself reflect God’s image, so anything that runs counter to that must be corrected.

A: But a life and a self you were born in is not anti-God.

B: But your choices are.

A: I feel so helpless. I want to quit.

B: But can you? How will you put food on the table?

**Exercise 4:**

Scene with object

*Gilbert and his co-teachers are rehearsing a K-Pop number for the faculty concert. In this number, Gilbert dons a wig and pretends to be part of the all-female group they are imitating. As the number draws to a close, Ms.Remedios walks in.*

**Ms. Remedios:** Mr. Latorena, take that wig off!

**Gilbert:** Ms. Remi, it’s part of the number.

**Ms. Remedios:** But you dressing up as a woman should not be part of that number.

**Gilbert:** I’m not dressing up as a woman. It’s just a wig, and this part of the humor of the number.

**Ms. Remedios:** Well para sabihin ko sa iyo Mr. Gilbert Latorena, hindi siya nakakatawa. In fact, it offends me.

*Matitigilan si Gilbert. Tuluyan nang maiinis.*

**Gilbert:** With all due respect Ms. Candida Remedios, why do I feel that this more about me than the dance number we are trying to rehearse?

**Ms. Remedios:** Think about what you want, but I am not going to allow you to influence the children into being like you.

**Gilbert:** I am not going to sit down and take this anymore. This is clearly oppression and discrimination.

**Ms. Remedios:** Kailan pa nagging discrimination ang sitahin ka dahil hindi ka sumusunod sa itinuturo ng paaralan?

**Gilbert:** Kailan pa naging kasama sa itinuturo ng paaralan ang pagiging mapanghusga sa pagkatao ng iba? We always teach our kids to have empathy and to neve judge, to put love first before everything else. Why are you doing the exact opposite to your teachers?

**Ms. Remedios:** Because you are adults, you are educators, and if there is any person who should uphold the truth, that should be you. But the kind of life you lead is not the kind of life we teach the children.

**Gilbert:** I do not see anything wrong with me being a gay teacher.

**Ms. Remedios:** Exactly the point. Our curriculum teaches that God created man and woman, Kaya wag nyong sasabihin that you are oppressed. This is not oppression. This is correcting your actions.

**Gilbert:** Are you telling me that I am a mistake?

**Ms. Remedios:** I am telling you that your choices are a mistake.