Tell us about who you are. How would your family, friends, and/or members of your community describe you? If possible, please include something about yourself that you are most proud of and why.

Danet is Danet. Probably the words I hear the most when getting described. In middle school I held the record for wearing the same outfit eight Fridays in a row, while others were showing off their trendy clothes. I was getting hooked on stand-up comedy, while everyone was discussing their favorite anime. Being in my own lane has always been my identity; I take pride in being different and expressing myself the way I want to, no matter of people’s opinions.

However, I have a knack in sensing my surroundings, and at times I realize that some of my friends still don’t have the confidence to accept themselves as who they are. I have always believed that there are 7 billion people for a reason: each of us has our own roles. I have an inner urge that it is part of my duty to spread the message that self-acceptance is a superpower.

Just two nights ago, I was on a call with my friends when I saw one of my friends, Aidan, wasn’t his usual self. By instinct, I reached out to him and comforted him. Coincidentally, he had a self-confidence problem after he made a mistake; he felt like he didn’t belong. I told him how much he meant to the community in his own way and that his mistakes don’t define who he is. At the end of the day, I like to be who I am. I let people see that and hopefully encourage them to be themselves.