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.

Having said that, I have an impression of being funny. I find remedy in comedy as a mechanism to deal with my problems. During class, hangouts, or group projects, I have a knack of cracking jokes to lighten up the mood. There was a time when I came to a hangout feeling sad, not cracking a single joke, and everyone just went silent. That’s when I knew my role as a friend was being the clown, which I am more than happy to play.

However, there is another side of me as a friend. I take joy from others’ well-being. Many of my friends say I have a sixth sense on detecting when someone is feeling down. I remembered the one time we were in a group call, then I noticed my friend Aidan not talking at all, which isn’t like him. I quickly messaged him, and we ended up calling each other until dawn. Instead of being tired, I got a feeling of joy, being able and trusted to help him in my own way.

Overall, I just enjoy being myself and caring for my friends. What others think of me stay as their opinions, so I let myself write my own story.