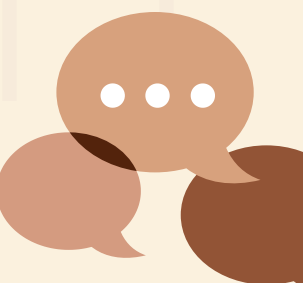
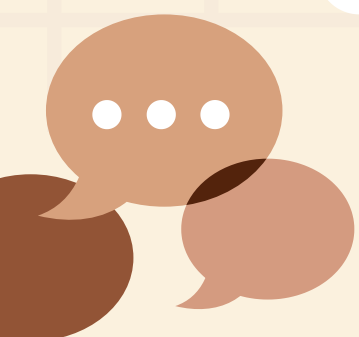


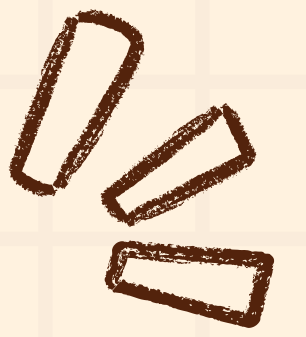
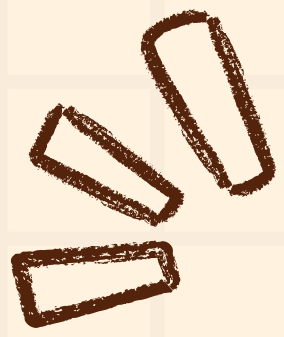
HOW THE FLOWER BLOOMED

Growing up, I never really thought about how I became "me." But nowadays, I reflect more, and especially after reading our latest module, I've come to realize that our "self" is not something we are born with. It's something we become through the people and experiences that surround us. According to Mead, the self isn't present at birth, but develops over time through social experiences. I agree because this is also how "me" came to be. I was raised in a quiet household, where I was a bit spoiled. This is reflected in how I acted when I first entered school, because I always thought I was the main character. I had a strong sense of entitlement, but that changed when I realized I wasn't the only person in the world. My classmates, my teachers, and being part of different social groups humbled me. I learned how to listen, adapt, and care about others.

My family was my first agent of socialization. They taught me basic values like kindness and respect. However, I was truly challenged and shaped at school. All the friendships, mistakes, experiences, and even the crushes that rejected me, helped me to become more empathetic and socially aware. According to Berger (2000), socialization is a process of internalization. We don't just learn rules, but absorb them into how we see ourselves and others.

Friends are another agent of socialization. I was, and still am, a typical "gamer kid." At school, I mimicked the popular kids to fit in, which made me more confident but also made me question who I really was. Eventually, I found true friends who accepted the real me. The ideas of Goldenberg in the readings can be applied in this context because, as they said, we don't have one fixed self. Our identity is shaped by our interactions and relationships.



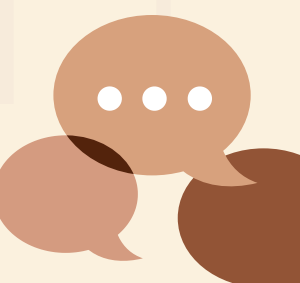
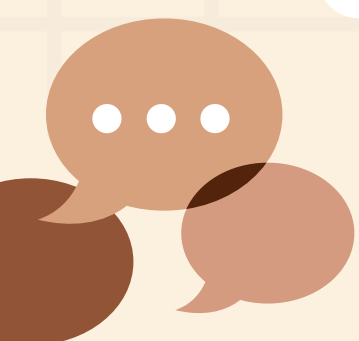


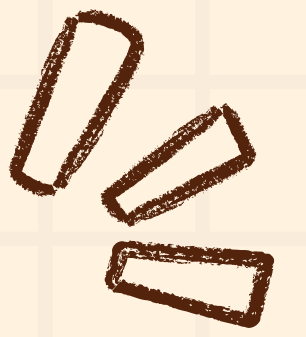
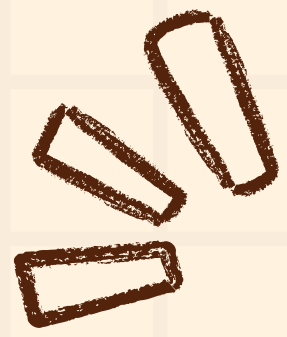
HOW THE FLOWER BLOOMED

Another agent of socialization that had a major impact is the church. I used to hate attending mass and even quit my altar server training at school. But when I was given a chance to serve in the cathedral, I enjoyed it and found its purpose. It started as an obligation to please my parents, but it turned into something I loved and valued. It taught me discipline, spirituality, and service, not just to God, but also to the people around me. This made me realize that sometimes those that we resist can also be agents of self-development.

The last agent is media, or specifically online gaming. I used to play Minecraft a lot and I talked to a lot of strangers there. It helped me improve my English and understand people from different cultures. I can say that those interactions were my "secret stories." People outside of myself did not see it, but those interactions shaped how I talk, think, and express myself. In a sense, those strangers were also my "secret agents" because they influenced me unknowingly.

I also read about Genie in the module. It really shows how socialization impacts our behavior and basic human development. Without it, we don't become fully human. Socialization teaches us the norms of society and also how we see ourselves. As Ratner (2000) says, we negotiate with culture, choosing which parts to internalize. This quote is also true for me. There were things which I embraced, like humility, humor, and faith, and there are also others that I let go of, like blindly following trends and copying other people.





HOW THE FLOWER BLOOMED

I've also come to realize that being part of society comes with responsibility. As the readings point out, young adulthood is a time of great uncertainty. Resilience is essential, but it's not just about putting on a smile. It's learning to adapt, recover, and move forward, not just for ourselves but for others too. In the Philippines, we face a lot of natural disasters like typhoons, and being resilient is not optional but part of survival. However, it must go beyond that. As said in the modules, work is changing. The concept of being a worker must now include creativity, innovation, and community contribution. Citizenship today is about being a producer and not just a consumer. I believe that self-expression, whether through how I serve in church, how I interact with my friends, or how I write music, is a form of contributing to society.

As a future UPM graduate, I know I have a role to play. I'm not just preparing for my future career but also to become someone who uplifts others, especially in hard times. I've learned that socialization isn't just about following society's norms, but about finding your place within it and making that place meaningful. It's easy to be human, but it's hard to live with purpose, integrity, and empathy. With the help of the socialization agents in my life, like family, school, and friends, and also through self-reflection, I'm learning how to be a person. I hope to use these lessons not just for my own growth, but for the good of the community, my country, and the world. I am like a flower nurtured by many hands. I continue to grow not just for myself but to help others bloom too.

