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Good morning fellow schoolmates. What is your vision of “secondary school life”? Would it be an ordinary one, going to school on time and study and leave at 3:40 if you have nothing academic to do? Or would it be an exciting one, full of challenges, various activities and joyful interpersonal interactions? Or simply, you have no plan at all so you would just go with whatever happened to you?

In Form 1, I was the last type of people, slowly adapting to the new environment and doing what I was told to do, with no clear goal in my mind. Our education during our younger times told us to follow all the rules so that we are a good kid. Yes, that’s what I was. A good kid (snickers). Perhaps.

Now I am Form 6, what am I now? For those who know me, I am definitely no longer a good kid. I don’t always follow everything I am told to do. I am not the type of typical and good student you can find somewhere else. What makes me different from the others are my characters and personalities. I build them throughout these 5 years of secondary school life, by trying and trying.

Trying is the start of basically everything. If you do not even try, you cannot take the first step and mark your first footprint on the path you are going to embark on. Not trying would only result in idling and failing because everyone around you is marching forward already.

Of course, one may say that not trying is the only way not to make any mistakes and meet any obstacles. Well, on first glance, that may be true. However, Albert Einstein once said, “anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new”. Doing nothing wrong does not mean that you are perfect, it can only mean that you have done nothing. Fortunately, you may be able to survive secondary school by doing nothing. Unfortunately, you will be cut by the brutal and harsh reality once you graduate. There is no way you can take that plunge if you do not know how to deal with disappointments.

Therefore, I have a concept that may seem somewhat peculiar. To me, what’s important is not the success and glory you enjoy, but the failures and shame you suffer from. What makes things memorable is not its regularity, but its suddenness. A planned plot may seem all-well but somehow too expected and boring. We need some kind of accidents, of course not tragic and severe ones, but relatively milder and inspiring ones, in our lives on and off, to make it more meaningful and unique. And when would accidents occur? The time when you are testing a way out, trying some new things and experimenting.

Great things never come from comfort zones. Sitting there and doing nothing will get us nowhere. Therefore, to try is to step out of your comfort zones and meet the world that is out of your comfortable little bubble. And a perfect time to try is

this very moment, when you are still in secondary school. The reason is that you have nothing to lose at all. I mean it. What exactly can you lose? You have no fixed asset. You have no financial or family burden. You have no social reputation to uphold. Why can't you attempt to experience a few new things, even if it means failures? The really shameful part is never the defeat itself, but our failure to face our weaknesses. With nothing to lose and thus nothing to fear, boldly try and you will probably get something much more than your expectation. Remember, the barrier is not in front of you, it is inside of you. Once you overcome your timidity, you can achieve more than you believe you can.

You only have one secondary school life. Would you still merely do what you are told to do and live plainly? Or, would you rather make it enjoyable, make it remarkable and make it matter? The decision is up to you. Thank you.