



# What kind of book are you?

Going to a bookstore can be overwhelming if you don't have a particular book in mind. If you haven't bought a book for yourself in a long time, try this test to see which aisle you should be combing next time you enter a book store. BY CHARY MERCADO

**FUN TIP**  
Adapt this quiz for kids for your students!



### 1. My idea of a great movie is:

- A) *The Lord of the Rings*
- B) *Imelda* (the documentary)
- C) *Legally Blonde*
- D) *The Notebook*

### 2. I wish I could make a trip to:

- A) Heaven, so I could talk to God and ask him to explain the meaning of life
- B) Mars, to see whether there is intelligent life out there
- C) The USA, to attend graduate school
- D) Paris, where I want to fall in love

### 3. If you were to be stuck on a desert island with only one other person, it would be:

- A) A witch doctor who knows magic and can conjure stuff from thin air
- B) I would rather be stuck with a computer and an Internet connection to keep me company
- C) A fisherman, so at least I'll always have food
- D) My husband, boyfriend or loved one because life is meaningless without love

### 4. Choose your plot: Girl meets boy. They fall in love and then....

- A) Boy disappears without a trace. Girl finds a magic staircase that takes her to a new world where a dragon has enslaved her lover. She has to find the magic within her to break the spell.
- B) Girl finds out she can't have babies. She finds out about a tribe in the Mountain Province that gives her a special herbal brew. She gets pregnant, leaving doctors astounded.
- C) In order to save money for the wedding and a new home, couple embarks on a 10-step program that will teach them to cut expenses, maximize their borrowing power and invest wisely for the future.
- D) Boy learns he has five months to live. Girl sells all her possessions to buy a boat. They fulfill his dream of sailing around the world before he dies.

### 5. What comes closest to your motto in life?

- A) Some men see things as they are and say, "Why?" I dream of things that never were and say, "Why not?"

- B) An unexamined life is not worth living.
- C) When life hands you lemons, learn to make lemonade.
- D) All you need is love.

**ABOUT THE WRITER:**  
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## IF YOU ANSWERED...

### Mostly A's

You are a dreamer with boundless imagination. Satisfy your inner child in the fantasy section. Look for the Harry Potter books of JK Rowling, the Chronicles of Narnia by CS Lewis, and the works of JRR Tolkien, Jostein Gaarder, Philip Pullman, and Stephen King.

### Mostly B's

Your mind constantly needs new data for stimulation. Look for books that give you real answers about everything from the latest scientific discoveries to the life stories of modern-day heroes. A book that

stirs up a lot of questions would also give you a boost. Try *Einstein's Dreams* by Alan Lightman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* by Thomas Friedman or *A Personal History* by Katherine Graham. Business and history books and might also interest you.

### Mostly C's

You're always motivated to improve yourself. Self-help books will give you advice from the experts on everything from making money to raising happy children to finding success in life. Some "Bibles" of self-help are: *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Steven Covey; *How to Win Friends and*

*Influence People* by Dale Carnegie; *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* by Robert Kiyosaki; and books by Deepak Chopra and Bo Sanchez.

### Mostly D's

A true romantic, you still believe in "happily ever after." You crave stories that affirm your heartfelt belief that in the end, love is all that matters. You also love novels that help you forget real life for a while. Head for the romance section and try *Persuasion* or *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *Bridget Jones' Diary* by Helen Fielding and *Message in a Bottle* by Nicholas Sparks.



## DEAR TITA LITA

Angelita L. Sta. Ana, Ed.D. is the English Schools Division Supervisor of the City of Marikina. She has been an educator for the past 30 years and also does editorial consulting. Through the years, she has inspired and helped many young teachers to grow professionally and personally.

# My principal dislikes me!

### Dear Tita Lita,

My principal doesn't like me. She always praises other teachers at meetings, but never me. *Para siyang nagpaparinig sa akin.* Worse, she singles me out in front of others for writing the wrong report or holding a class that's too noisy, even though I feel like my class is not any worse than others. I'm not a lazy or *pabaya* teacher. I try my best, but she doesn't see this. What can I do to improve my relationship with her?

Your problem may seem very oppressing right now because you are affected emotionally. However, take this as a big opportunity to grow in the teaching profession. I also think that your principal is very lucky to have you in her school, since you realize the value of good rapport. A good relationship with the top official in school does bring joy and satisfaction to the entire school community.

Accomplishing reports and disciplining children are both part and parcel of your routine, but difficult to perfect. It's normal after only one or two reports to come up with errors, and the top leader in school, your principal, must explain and monitor the errors. The quality of a teacher's performance does reflect the principal's own efficacy. On your part, don't be "onion-skinned" or overly sensitive when you receive criticism. Be patient and positive. Maintain your enthusiasm and don't let the situation create wrinkles in your soul.

On the other hand, a certain level of regulated noise indicates that pupils are enjoying the activities. But noise can also signify discomfort or unhappiness on the part of the children, specifically in the classroom. A progressive principal will do research on reasons why a particular class or teacher has this type of problem, instead of uttering embarrassing remarks. But anyway, forgive your principal and talk to her nicely.

Humble yourself and be the one to open the line of communication between the two of you. Tell her how her words and actions make you feel. Believe that everything will be put to right if you open your heart to her. Remember the saying: "you cannot direct the wind but you can adjust your sails." If you are flexible, the sure winners will be your pupils who will benefit most from your good relationship.



### A FAKE DEGREE?

### Dear Tita Lita,

I heard that a co-teacher in my school bought a fake master's degree diploma to get her promotion. Unfortunately, we don't have concrete proof. But imagine honest teachers spending all that money, time and energy when others are just doing it the easy way. *Nakakahiya talaga!* Is there anything I can do to help put a stop to this practice that's giving our profession a bad reputation?

I admire your courage. You are a true role model for honesty, fairness, and prudence. You are unfolding a very sensitive problem that can turn the system upside down if it remains unattended. Teachers and

school officials who are aware of this menace must join together and find out if this is just an allegation or a fact. Whatever the findings are, this is a good opportunity for the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to check and sanction responsible officials.

"You can tell what teachers are by what they do." Teachers who want to be great must become honest servants. Promotion through fake credentials is ridiculous and unsound. It is not inspiring at all. On the other hand, stopping the menace you mentioned demands concrete evidence and a compelling force to prove the allegation.

In the meantime, let your and other teachers' awareness about this matter become the first stepping stone towards correcting this problem. I hope that other teachers and school officials reading this will become inspired to come together to do something about the problem. And let the publication of this letter become a wake-up call to those who want easy and short-cut promotions. Let Proverbs 18:9 be the lead message for the mischievous ones, to wit: "He who is slothful in work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer."

#### DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM?

Write to Tita Lita! Send your letter to:

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