A LEADER EMERGES

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: HOW TO BE CEO IN 2040
PAGES 6–7

Open to Learn
Why we first need to unlearn bad habits
Pg 03

SET IN STONE
Does your university degree open or shut doors?
Pg 08

VERITAS
Be true to your word for all is watched, scrutinized and revealed
Pg 10

HOME INVASION
Fascinating fables and friends from faraway fantasy fiefdoms
Pg 12
LEARNING THROUGH VIDEO GAMES

By TARA THIAGARAJAN
editor@leaderonomics.com

Many young children experience difficulties when they first begin reading or learning a new language. Some of them learn at a much slower pace compared to their peers. Although old-fashioned teaching methods do work, children with difficulties reading or understanding are in need of more stimulation to remain engaged in the learning process.

This method can be effective, it also takes a lot of time to reach desired results due to the child’s dwindling interest.

Spending a lot of their time with a teacher telling them to read paragraph after paragraph from a piece of text will definitely bore them, making them lose interest after a while.

Therefore, it is important we find different, more engaging ways to teach these children so that they learn and can catch up with their peers at a faster pace.

GAME ON!

One such method that has shown positive results is the educational computer game, FastForWord, which was especially designed to improve language, literacy, and reading skills among school students.

"Imagine learning to be one or the other. Goldfish?" helps us to imagine learning to be one or the other, very balanced, and personal answer.

Another soul searching question: "Are you a Shark or a Salmon?"

While we have established that learning doesn’t (or at least shouldn’t) stop, it does have to start somewhere! Millie Ong kindly shares her pearls of wisdom on how we can begin to build tomorrow’s leaders today.

So what happens if you lay the groundwork, then the build-up plan changes completely? Too obscure? Jonathan Yabut asks, “How do you make someone one, starting young, can be wired to learn for life.”

To impose my version of help.

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QUOTES

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I learn. I do and I remember." –Lao Tzu

"Learning never exhausts the mind." – Leonardo da Vinci

"I am a woman in process. I’m just trying like everybody else. I try to take every conflict, every experience, and learn from it. Life is never dull!" – Oprah Winfrey

"He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger." – Confucious

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." – Benjamin Franklin

"If you have any suggestions or feedback on our content, get in touch with the Leaderonomics team at editor@leaderonomics.com. For advertising and sponsorships, please contact Pravin Kumar at pravin.kumar@leaderonomics.com or +6011 2377 7850.

This programme has shown statistically significant improvements in Language, Arts, Maths, and Reading Skills among students between the ages of 10 to 14. With its colourful, interactive and fun interface filled with rewards and points to keep the learner engaged, FastForWord definitely catches and maintains the learner’s interest in continuing with the programme.

Points are awarded to the players as a form of motivation for them to continue improving their reading, language, or literacy skills.

Indeed, video games are not the first thing that come to mind when we think of alternative learning mediums, especially when learning to be more fluent in reading or a language.

FINAL THOUGHTS

However unconventional it may seem, games like FastForWord seem to be the new way of doing things when it comes to education. This is most definitely the dawn of a new era in learning.

Things are evolving rapidly and as humans who are constantly learning, we should adapt to these changes in hopes of improving the way we educate children and improve their skills in hopes of a better, more progressive future.
Learning from life requires the classroom of life and where this is concerned, we can have multiple teachers – as for the student, there are only two requirements – humility and teachability.

Herein lies the paradox. While teachability is what it takes for one to learn from life, we are not wired to be humble. In fact, the opposite is generally true. It is easier for one to be proud than to be humble.

In other words, my natural disposition is one of pride rather than teachability. How then can one “unwire” himself from a state of self-directed attention to a condition of humble learning?

There are those who may claim to have an open mind but once opened, they are unwilling to change it. When it comes to certain core values, I admit that there should be certain non-negotiable elements.

However, not all ideas are created equal, so when you encounter an idea that is better than yours, are you willing to change your mind with the nobler goal of accepting another perspective for the common good?

Along the road of life, we all make mistakes – both the wise and the foolish. However, when the wise makes a mistake or holds on to a way of thinking which is unproductive, they are quick to make the necessary changes.

They are quick to repent (intentionally chose this word because the root meaning for repent is a change of mind).

The foolish may recognise his or her fault but still choose to hang on to their self-centred ways. In other words, those who are foolish are typically stubborn and unwilling to learn.

While one may have lots of ideas to share, it is equally important how you share those ideas. When working with those in authority and especially those who are older than you, it is critical that we demonstrate respect in the manner we converse with them.

They may not be as technically competent as you but their experience and life journey deserve respect. It is almost impossible for one to learn from life if there is an absence of respect.

By Joseph Tan
joseph.tan@leaderonomics.com

Unwiring #2: It’s Not OK to Disrespect

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Unwiring #3: It’s OK to Talk Less

Many young people are looking to take post-graduate programmes to learn and progress in their career – however, they could also learn life lessons over a cup of coffee with someone who has gone through the hard knocks of life. I am not saying that formal education in advancement is not important but don’t miss out on the precious lessons we can learn by just reaching out respectfully to the more senior members in our network.

She realises that personal attention is a precious gift that can be bestowed on another fellow human being. He realises that when he talks less, he actually learns more.

Examine your conversation today – are you spending more time broadcasting your thoughts at the expense of reflecting on what the other person is saying? Practice using this line a little bit more – “This is what I hear you are saying...”

The Final Wire

At the end of the day, how I am wired to learn from life depends more on the content of my character rather than on the content of my education curriculum.

The “one wire” to remember is this – we are all inter-connected in this web called “life” and in this world of wireless communication, it is easy to lose the wired connection with others through a neglect of cultivating conversational relationships. To learn from life, experience triumphs over education.
TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER OF SINGAPORE, MR. LEE

By STEPHANIE HO
stephanie.ho@leaderonomics.com

I was indeed a dark week for our southern neighbour Singapore. They lost their founding father and leader extraordinaire, Lee Kuan Yew at age 91. He will, unfortunately, not see the golden 50th year of independence this August.

That Sunday I bore witness to a nation weeping in sorrow. The dark clouds and rain seemed to weep in sympathy. The masses, of all ages and cultures, braving the heavy downpour to send him off during the 12.30pm procession was touching to behold. He was given a farewell, complete with 21-gun salute by four ceremonial 25-pounder howitzers.

There is no one word to describe him. The collection of moments in history tell of his years of transforming and propelling Singapore to where it is today; an independent, harmonious and internationally recognised successful nation. Through the years and challenges, one can witness his exemplary drive and perseverance.

I am not a person who followed his years of growth and tenacity in leadership, but in sharing the solemn occasion, I witnessed, heard and felt how he is indeed well-admired, respected and loved. A commendable Asian leader indeed felt how he is indeed well-admired, respected and loved. A commendable Asian leader indeed

Lee was known to be a man who lived his life frugally, sleeping only 3-4 hrs daily during his days as Prime Minister, yet ensuring a balance of family time.

WHAT LEADERS SAY ABOUT LEE KUAN YEW

“A far-sighted statesman and a lion among leaders. Mr Lee Kuan Yew’s life teaches valuable lessons to everyone. News of his demise is saddening.”

– Narendra Modi, prime minister of India.

“With his incomparable leadership and unparalleled insights, His Excellency Mr Lee Kuan Yew played, for more than half a century and throughout his life, a key role not only in achieving Singapore’s remarkable economic growth and prosperity but also in securing peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region and the world. He was highly revered all over the world... I still vividly remember how much I was impressed by his profound wisdom, including when I met him in person in 2014.”

– Shinzo Abe, prime minister of Japan.

“I saw evidence of peace and love amongst the citizens regardless of race and religion during the moments of paying their final respects, which was what LKY fought for all his life! Truly I have never seen such a legacy that brought people together all over the world.”

– Melanie Ong, ex-leaderonomer currently working in Singapore

We like to express our deepest condolences to the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong and his family, for the passing of his father and to the nation who lost their founding father.

Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Rest In Peace.

LEADERSHIP QUOTES BY LEE KUAN YEW

“The task of the leaders must be to provide or create for them a strong framework within which they can learn, work hard, be productive and be rewarded accordingly. And this is not easy to achieve.”

– The Singapore Story: Memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew

Wrong ideas have to be challenged before they influence public opinion and make for problems. Those who try to be clever at the expense of the government should not complain if my replies are as sharp as their criticisms.”

– From Third World to First: The Singapore Story: 1965-2000

“I have never been overconcerned or obsessed with opinion polls or popularity polls. I think a leader who is, is a weak leader. If you are concerned with whether your rating will go up or down, then you are not a leader. You are just catching the wind... you will go where the wind is blowing. And that’s not what I am in this for.”

– The Telegraph on his most memorable quotes, Mar 23, 2015

INTERESTING FACTS OF MR. LEE:

• He was only of 36 years old when he became the first prime minister of Singapore
• He first eloped with his late wife while studying law in England, and had a traditional marriage later in Singapore. In Cambridge, she had been his academic rival.
• Lee’s English educated parents named him “Kuan Yew”, which stands for “light and bright glory” and an alternate meaning “bringing great glory to one’s ancestors”. His paternal grandfather gave him the English name “Harry”.

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A nation weeps in sorrow

Leaderonomics can partner corporations and

Join us in our mission to help leaders create a better world. Connect with us at

mystarjob.com, Saturday 11 April 2015

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A PART from winning the Malaysian Institute of Human Resource Management’s coveted Malaysia HR Awards – Gold Award in 2014, Starbucks Malaysia recently added a feather in its cap by emerging as ‘Best of the Best’ Employer in Aon Hewitt Best Employers – Malaysia 2015. Starbucks mission: to inspire and nurture the human spirit — one person, one cup and one neighbourhood at a time.

DISTINCTIVELY STARBUCKS

Starbucks employees are known as “partners,” and they are the organisation’s biggest assets, making them an integral part of the company. Through the “Tens of humanity,” Starbucks goes the extra mile in taking care of them. Committed in delivering a total Starbucks Experience to its customers, Starbucks is firmly grounded by these four pillars:

EMPLOYER BRANDING

Branding has always been one of the most essential elements for Starbucks’ success as it gives its partners an opportunity to be more than just employees. Starbucks Employee Value Proposition (EVP) is aimed at retaining, engaging and motivating partners in exchange for their productivity and performance. Known as the “Starbucks Experience”, this includes extrinsic (rewards, benefits, opportunities for career development) and intrinsic elements (management style, work environment and culture). In aligning its EVP with employment and corporate brand, Starbucks Global Employer Brand Team has launched a company-wide campaign with narrative concepts on “opportunities.” It strategically supports its talent attraction channel where Starbucks plans, attracts, selects, hires, and provides attractive compensation and benefits.

PARTNER DEVELOPMENT

The organisation provides learning and development programmes to support partners’ career development process. Aligned with its mission, Starbucks strives to engage its partners to achieve their daily best by engineering internal promotion opportunities. The most inspiring moment is to know that there is always opportunity to grow with the company. Starbucks believes that internal promotion supports its key business objective, i.e. store growth in Malaysia. Starbucks also encourages partners to develop others. With this, Starbucks facilitators and coaches are actually selected store managers based on their passion (for training), expertise, and ability to engage others positively. The sustainability of a company often relies on the speed of knowledge transfer, and this is achieved through sharing its best practices.

COFFEE AND CULTURE

In cultivating coffee culture at Starbucks, the company generously share coffee knowledge with all partners to empower them to become brand ambassadors. For Starbucks partners who want to elevate their coffee passion, the following two platforms are provided: Coffee Master Programme and Latte Art Programme. At Starbucks, opportunities are ample for partners to connect to where it all started – the Coffee Farm. The Origin Experience Programme is an immersive coffee education trip that allows partners to experience coffee origins from different parts of the world. Starbucks partners are also empowered to take ownership of their actions, and are highly trusted to create inspiring moments of connection with their customers, by providing the best customer service possible.

HUMANITY AND LOVE

The Starbucks Malaysia CUPFund (CUP stands for Caring United Partners) was inspired and created in June 22, 2007. This initiative empowers partners to help each other when experiencing significant hardships due to unforeseen circumstances, and it is funded solely by partners’ monthly contribution and fundraising activities. Starbucks takes pride in human connection, both with customers and with partners. There is even an operations services team which facilitates best operations practices by enhancing customer and partner satisfaction.

AN EYE-OPENER COFFEE FARM TRIP

I had the opportunity to visit a coffee farm located at a tribal village in the northern hills of Chiang Mai, Thailand. It was an adventurous and educational three-day two-night trip where I learnt so much about coffee origins. It was definitely inspiring to be able to experience touching cherries on coffee trees – it was my first time! I have read doing so and being in an actual coffee farm is an exceptionally amazing experience. I was delighted to meet the local coffee farmers and their families as they go about their daily lives. I had the chance to witness the entire process from growing to packaging coffee grains into famous Starbucks Muan Java Blend.

It is remarkable how Starbucks supports local sourcing and has contributed back to the coffee farming communities that they work with. This trip was an eye opener and my coffee knowledge has definitely expanded after gaining better insights on the field. This that they work with. This trip was an eye opener and my coffee knowledge has definitely expanded after gaining better insights on the field. This has further developed my passion towards coffee, and I would definitely share this knowledge with my partners, customers, and family too. Thank you Starbucks for rewarding me with this amazing experience!

Nur Azlitin binti Jumali
14-year partner
Starbucks district manager

Sydney Quays
Managing director

“From the very beginning, Starbucks sets out to be a different kind of organisation — one that not only celebrates coffee and its rich tradition, but one that also brings a feeling of connection.”

June Beh
Partner resources and compliance director

“Setting expectations is a culture at Starbucks. By knowing what to expect, partners are empowered to chart their own career paths and success.”

Starbucks also organises fun and engaging activities for partners all year round. These include local and overseas leadership conferences in Asia Pacific countries. As a responsible organisation, Starbucks believes businesses should leave a positive impact on Earth and on the communities they serve. By walking the talk, Starbucks is dedicated to focusing on two main areas: community and the environment.

BUILDING LEADERS OF LEADERS
WHERE WILL YOU STAND IN 2040?

Whether we would like to admit, or not, a future CEO must be:
- and how leaders have evolved since then.
- and examined the earliest “seeds” of leadership identity to an internalised sense of personal leadership.

RELATIONAL LEADERSHIP
One of the key benefits of this model is the importance of “relational leadership”, characterised by the formation of strong relationships to achieve a common goal. This is very much aligned to the prediction of the CEO of 2040

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Hi Jonathan,

My name is Linh from Hanoi, Vietnam, and I am a big fan of “The Apprentice Asia”! I am a high school student and will soon graduate. I am a big fan of “The Apprentice Asia”! I am a high school student and will soon graduate. I would like to share one interesting note with which I think a lot of people will be able to relate to:

As you start working, you will realise that many university degrees and careers do not match what they do. I had a boss once in the marketing department who was a Philosophy graduate. I have a friend who works as a producer for a theatre company but finished engineering in school.

Doctors need to study medicine to be able to practise in hospitals. Engineers need to study engineering to be able to participate in construction and architecture projects. Artists take art lessons to refine their creativity, and so on. However, let me make an exception to this that is not strictly the case in all situations.

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The general answer to Linh’s question (on the importance of paper qualifications for a job) is yes. Your university degree will greatly influence the job you choose because careers are defined by a set of skills, knowledge and competencies that match with what you learned in school.

For example, a Philosophy graduate could move into the marketing department or the political sector. An engineering graduate is likely to work in IT or engineering companies. They’re likely IT or engineer graduates — not marketing or advertising graduates. And all those folks in Silicon Valley who built and managed their own start-up companies? They’re likely IT or engineering graduates — not marketing or advertising graduates.

1. UNLESS YOU ARE TAKING UP A HIGHLY-SPECIALISED COURSE (MEDICINE, LAW), KNOW THAT YOU CAN STILL BRANCH OUT TO OTHER FIELDS THAT ARE RELATED TO YOUR COURSE.

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2. YOU HAVE TO LOVE WHAT YOU’RE DOING TO BE GOOD AT IT.

What does it take to become a marketing or sales man? From my personal experience, it takes more than effective absorption of textbooks and the receipt of a diploma to be successful in a career. The good news for those who feel “trapped in courses” is that shifting gears is still possible and manageable.

It’s an intensely mathematical course, but I actually have a degree in Economics. Most people think I have a marketing or advertising degree because I’ve been practising marketing for 10 years now, but I actually have a degree in Economics. It’s an intensely mathematical course, suited for working in government positions that involve research and analytics. Have you heard of people who study and predict a country’s inflation rate, GDP growth, interest rates, and the like? That’s a classic example of what could have been my first job. I could have ended up as an economist, analysing growth rates of developing economies for the central bank, but I didn’t.

When I was about to graduate, a telecommunications company recruited me to become a management trainee and I gave marketing a try. Because I was always fascinated with branding, advertising and product development, I went for it.

I realised later that marketing wasn’t just about the glamour of making the most talked about TV commercial or most watched YouTube video; it also involved a lot of mathematical analyses such as forecasting. My forecasting acumen (thanks to my Economics degree) has been helpful in marketing — from forecasting my product’s inventory in grocery shelves, or forecasting the number of times a passenger will travel. There were many skills and disciplines in Economics that were related to marketing, too — analysis, research, finance, budgeting, and the like.

In most cases, what you learn in university is the general discipline, skillsets and knowledge that will further expand your capacity and tenacity to learn. Your industry can also be an influencing factor. An engineering graduate who is also creative can work as a marketing or sales executive in the IT (information technology) industry.

And all those folks in Silicon Valley who built and managed their own start-up companies? They’re likely IT or engineering graduates — not marketing or advertising graduates. Linh is definitely not alone with his concerns. Many high school students (including myself years ago) fear the same thing.

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Here are some insights:

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experience, getting a marketing degree can give you advantage from a theoretical perspective. However, being a successful marketer also involves an immense amount of love and passion for it.

I smile from ear to ear when my brand recently stole market share from my competitor. I get a morale booster whenever I see my brand’s video being shared on Facebook. Simply put, marketing makes me exercise what I’m good at – being creative and strategic.

So even if I often spend sleepless nights developing PowerPoint presentations, or visiting a remote farm to interview a customer under the scorching heat of the sun, I still get motivated to succeed because I love what I’m doing. Likewise, you need to love your job for you to be good at it.

YOU WILL LEARN THE MOST WHILE DOING THE JOB, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

You may have heard of the popular 70-20-10 model of learning and development based on a research crafted by Morgan McCall, Robert W. Eichinger and Michael M. Lombardo at the Center for Creative Leadership.

In this study, they concluded that lessons learned by successful managers come from the following sources:

- 70% from doing the job (doing the job routinely and repeating what works)
- 20% from people (feedback and observation shared by your boss, colleagues, etc.)
- 10% from courses and reading from school books, online articles, case studies of other businesses, etc.

What does this mean? It means that even if you miss all the marketing lessons in university, you still have the opportunity to catch up as long as you persevere to learn (and be humble) while on the job. I made many mistakes when I developed my earliest TV commercials. As I did more, I made less and less mistakes as I got better at it.

Practice perpetually breeds perfection. I was always a curious learner. I loved asking questions from my mentors and bosses, even if it got to the point of irritating them at times.

I requested to sit in at meetings of other marketing departments that had nothing to do with my project because listening taught me a lot of things. I went to events and concerts organised by other industries so I could learn and apply best practices.

Learning by doing was my mantra. This, coupled with an open mind to constantly ask people for feedback on what they think I can further improve on, and constantly reading articles and watching videos on the Internet about success and failure stories of popular brands – I found my way towards becoming a marketer.

TAKE THIS ADVICE WITH A GRAIN OF SALT

Of course, not everyone will fall into the same situation as I did. I am arguably a fortunate case of being at the right time, at the right place and with the right heart.

This article is not declaring that anyone can be an instant marketing or sales executive regardless of his/her course I took and I am not alone in this experience.

Gallup conducted a study and asked people to identify the best and worst event of their life. They found that there was an 80% correlation between the two events.

There was also a British study of 500 “charmed” people. They seemed to have it all, wealth, success, great relationships, etc. The researchers were surprised to discover that every one of these “charmed” people had bad things happen to them in the past.

They all experienced challenges and adversity. However, every one of them turned the bad into good and their misfortune into fortune.

WAVES OF CHANGE

The truth is that challenges and change are a part of life. The waves of change are always coming our way. But when the wave hits, we have a choice – we can embrace it and ride it to a successful future or resist it and get crushed by the wave.

Embracing our waves of challenge and change is all about how we perceive and respond to the events we face. In The Shark and the Goldfish, I share the positive success formula.

E + P + O

We can’t always control the Events (E) in our life but we can control our Positive (P) response to these events and this often determines the Outcome (O).

When the change hits, instead of focusing on the challenge, we can choose to look for the opportunity. We can ask what this event is teaching us and identify how we can grow stronger and wiser from it. We can live in fear or move forward with faith and take positive action.

SHARK VS GOLDFISH

We can decide to be a shark instead of a goldfish. Goldfish become paralysed by fear. They stay in their comfort zone and wait for someone to feed them. On the other hand, sharks (nice ones!) move forward with faith and take action. They trust that their best days are ahead of them, not behind them.

Instead of waiting to be fed, they venture out into the ocean of possibility in search of food. Their beliefs and actions create a self-fulfilling prophecy; because when they expect to find food and take action to find it, they do.

I was always a curious learner. Learning by doing was my mantra.

in university the marketing geniuses of our times such as Steve Jobs and Bill Gates didn’t even finish college, mind you.

Neither is this article suggesting that marketing students and leaders are simply wasting their time. Marketing students study dozens and dozens of case studies about the rise and fall of various companies and brands, so they are obviously more knowledgeable than an engineer or education student.

This article celebrates the fact that we are living in a time where opportunities are plentiful, whether they may be in the fields of marketing, medicine, or law. Opportunities can be tweaked to our advantage. Today, technology has levied the playing field almost equal for everyone.

If you succeed, please do reach out and share your success story with the rest of the world. Good luck!
WATCH THE WALK BEFORE BELIEVING THE TALK

BY RICHARD NEWTON
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I have a client whose chief executive officer (CEO) has been talking up a strategic change. He has adopted a set of words to encapsulate, explain and encourage the change. He uses them a lot. If you listen to the words of the CEO, everything will soon be profoundly different from the way they are now.

The words imply change. Radical change. As someone who spends his life helping organisations with change, I am interested in these words.

But my interpretation is that little is going to happen. The reason? When I observe behaviour, there is no support or real drive to change. No responsibilities, budgets, targets or performance measures have been altered to align to the messages the CEO is giving.

Nothing has been re-prioritised or de-prioritised. Everyone is still behaving in the same way on a day-to-day basis, and people get praised or admonished for the same things.

Behaviour does not match the words – everyone is still walking the same walk. When you are trying to interpret such a situation, believe the behaviours. By all means, keep note of the words, try to understand why the CEO or anyone else is using them, but don’t get too excited about them.

A change in words may be superficial, but be...
TAKING TIME TO LEARN
In DIODE leadership camps, we focus on teaching young people from ages 8 to 19 a simple model called AVP where “A” stands for awareness, “V” for vision and “P” for plan.

In this model, we help youths understand themselves better. We start off with simple personality tests that help them be aware of who they are and how they’re naturally wired. By presenting scenarios in a group setting, these young participants will observe and understand how others are wired as well.

The activities at DIODE camps focus on creating an awareness within. The external awareness comes when the campers accomplish challenging assignments together, such as through day projects, which require thinking and teamwork, and are planned throughout the camp. The bottom line for the project is to achieve one important thing, which is to “Make A Difference”, or as we fondly call it, MAD. We believe that when youths begin to find out how they can make a difference in their community, they will begin to ask questions and develop a sense of curiosity about how society serves them and vice versa.

By doing that, they will then get the opportunity to embark on a journey of learning and discovery!

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS
Those who really want to learn should never stop asking questions. They might be the very people who will one day find answers to the questions that have yet to be solved.

As a facilitator of youth programmes, my position on learning is that failure is okay. Just take a good look in history, and you will discover great men and women who have failed countless times, yet they are the ones who have learnt the most throughout their lives.

Do not fear failing, for all you need to do is to pick yourself up and try again. As long as you do not stay beaten, as long as you do not give up, life will always present itself with an opportunity to learn. At the end of the day, that truly is the beauty of life.
HOME INVASION

OH BOY, WHAT A COMICAL ADVENTURE!

By TARA THIAGARAJAN
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PORPLE aliens populating the Earth, a flying car powered by a slushie machine, and leaders who are admired for being cowards. That’s DreamWorks’ latest movie, Home, in a nutshell. Home tells the story of a young Barbadian girl named Gratuity “Tip” Tucci, who along with a misfit alien called Oh, goes in search of her mother after being separated during the invasion of an alien race known as the Boovs.

The Boovs are a nomadic race of aliens that move from planet to planet. In this movie, they chose planet Earth as their latest home, which sets the premise of the movie.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY
Home exhibits many lessons that can be applied to our lives. First of all, this movie teaches us to be accepting of other cultures.

As human beings, we have diverse cultures and customs that are familiar to some, but are foreign and strange to others.

Imagine, if it is confusing for us to comprehend cultures from other countries, what more a whole other species of individuals hailing from different planets?

In the movie, Boovs and humans are different in almost every imaginable way. One example of this was when Oh mistook Tip’s anger as a display of gratitude; an innocent mistake since he was obviously unaware of human customs at that point.

Similarly, in life, we are bound to encounter individuals from different parts of the globe who may behave in ways that make us uncomfortable and confused. As far as foreign customs go, it is our need as humans to learn to acknowledge these differences and accept them.

Instead of harping on each other’s differences, we should instead use our diversity to our advantage, in order to gain different and unique perspectives.

NO PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED BY RUNNING AWAY
Early on in the movie, it is revealed that the Gorg destroyed every planet that they moved to, because they wanted to annihilate all the Boovs.

However, later in the movie, Oh discovers that the Gorg were attacking them for a completely different issue, one that could be resolved through simple communication. Similarly, in any situation, be it in the workplace or anywhere else, it is important that we never avoid tricky or difficult situations and assume the worst of things. What we run away from will usually come back to haunt us.

NEVER BE AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS
In the movie, another big difference between Tip and Oh was the way they approached similar situations. One example of this was when Oh encounters a drone from the Gorg. Tip approaches the drone despite Oh’s protests. In the end, both of them find an important, powerful chip that would help the Boovs escape the Gorg.

This goes to show that hope and determination can help us take more risks and even come out successful in the end. If we spend too much time harping on the probability of failure, instead of just taking action to find out, we might never have the chance of succeeding.

DON’T BE A BLIND FOLLOWER
In the beginning of the movie, Oh was a loyal follower of the Boov leader, Captain Smek.

Although he was clearly an inadequate leader who chose to run from the enemy. Oh only seemed to focus on his good qualities and praised him for his cowardice. Only later in the movie, after being exposed to the ways of the human race, Oh realises how incompetent a leader Captain Smek is. Oh learns that more effective leaders take charge of situations instead of constantly opting to run away.

Once he realises this, he calls out Captain Smek on his ineffective leadership and in the end, their issue is solved after they take a different approach.

FINAL THOUGHTS
Home teaches us many lessons about acknowledging our differences, dealing with our issues, taking risks, and also about never blindly following a leader just because they are in the position of power and authority.

It would do us all well to remember these lessons in our daily lives as we will undoubtedly encounter similar, less dramatic situations parallel to those in the movie – minus the purple aliens, of course!

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Also next week:

- The ASEAN story of economic cooperation
- Celebrating diversity for a positive community
- An expat shares his insights
- Cameras are always rolling