

of the responsibilities, *napunta sa akin*.

That didn't stop you from enjoying your youth?

Oh no! I still do go out. Well, it also depends on how you define and perceive enjoying one's youth. For instance, most of the young ones enjoy drinking and partying. I enjoy the bonding and talking that comes with that, but not really drinking. I go to parties, but in limitation. I believe in creating a balance in all aspects of your life: school, friends, relationships and family.

So what are you into?

Computer, going out with friends, swimming, traveling. And I enjoy modeling, too.

You didn't harbor any ill feelings towards your dad?

Ah, *wala*. Before *pa naman*, I understood *na*. Whatever happened, it was for a reason. I'm actually thankful also that my parents separated because if not for that, I will not be the person I am today. I wouldn't get this kind of training and responsibility if my dad was here. No hard feelings whatsoever. I still love him. Of course, *nami-miss ko na rin siya, matagal na kaming hindi nagkikita, mga 10 years na*. We communicate through email *lang*, and sometimes he calls.

Growing up, who did you look up to as your role model?

The person I really look up to is my mom. She is everything that a son or daughter could ask for. She brought us up in a way that we are free to make decisions. She would only guide us, not impose, like on what course we want to take, which is why I'm really enjoying everything that I'm doing.

Why did you decide to author a book on parenting?

I began tinkering with the idea of writing a book because a lot of people were asking me and my mother how she raised us. So I thought, instead of explaining one by one, I could reach a larger audience if I wrote a book. It contains principles on how my mother raised us and technical applications of these principles. I wrote it from two vantage points: one from being the influenced and the other is, being the influence and guide to my siblings as the elder brother. I interviewed some teenagers on how they interpret statements of their parents. I hope it will help parents and kids communicate well with one another. It's still on the verge of completion, I'm still getting more ideas.

You strike us as too serious for your age.

Palabiro rin ako 'eh. That's actually a misconception that I'm too serious. Like your question earlier if I was able to enjoy my youth... that's also the initial reaction of a lot of people ... "*Kawawa ka naman, nasa bahay ka lang, nag-aaral ...*," but if you ask my close friends, *maingay din ako* and I like trying out different things.

What's your type of girl?

I like girls who are *chinita*, fair-skinned and tall, but *'yung gusto ko talaga* is a girl who's simple but classy. Personality-wise, I want someone who's understanding, not boring, intellectually-stimulating, creative, adventurous and trustworthy.

How do you show a girl that you like her?

I don't believe in courting *kaagad*. Getting to know *muna*, we have to be friends first. *'Yung courting ko masyadong mahaba*. I'm not really a ladies' man, *nakaka-isang girlfriend pa ako*. I'm actually a romantic person. I'm an old-fashioned guy, I go for surprises, I pen love letters. I research on what the girl likes. I want to give the best for a girl. And being a model, I'd meet a lot of other girls, so I have to make her feel secure.

TV shows you like watching?

"Prison Break," "Heroes," "CSI," "The Apprentice" and anime shows.

Is there a story behind your first name Mc Billy?

"Mc" in Irish actually means "son of." And Billy is another word for William, which is my father's name.



Good to Know!

Gina Prohhorov



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Sam, our great potential

SAM is a high school teen who couldn't finish the whole school year due to some emotional baggage. He had been transferring schools until he dropped out again.

This started after his parents separated. He wanted to be with his working mom, a brilliant lawyer who heads a government agency. When his mom called me about the problem, I studied his case.

I met Sam at his mom's office and found him to be refined and soft-spoken. I realized that deep inside the boy was a wonderful person who just wanted to protect his mom from being hurt again and thus didn't want to leave her.

I knew it would take much to convert all the fear into something positive. I was right because nothing pushed through last year. It was only after several months that the mom called again, to ask me to handle her child.

Again, we made a special module for Sam. But before we could start things, he begged his mom to postpone the tutorials, saying that he wasn't ready. He needed time to condition his mind to go to school again.

Finally, one day, his mom pushed him to start the program. She was bent on putting Sam back in school. He should be in third year high school although already turning 18 soon.

Sam wants to take up Culinary Arts in college since he loves cooking and they own a restaurant. Of course he has to finish high school first.

It is just good that the Department of Educa-

tion's Alternative

Learning System (ALS) is available. And so, Sam's modules are preparation for the ALS exam today (Oct. 19).

Sam has been with us for the past five months. It was a slow start, with some absences. There was even a point when he wanted lessons to be done in his mom's office, which I didn't grant or he would never outgrow his environment.

Soon Sam started coming to school regularly. At first he would just sit on the chair, with only me as the teacher for the moment. He wouldn't leave the room to go to the canteen or the restroom. Then we started letting another great teacher handle him, then another, then another.

Then we began introducing him to other schoolmates taking another course. We invited him to judge our team-building games. He did well. He did not even want to go home until he had brought his new friends to their homes. After that, Sam became their hero, for bringing them home. But it did not end there because he invited them to their beach house in Batangas a week later.

It made me happy to learn about this. Now Sam's reaching out and making other people happy. Finally, his potentials of becoming a great person — something beyond a high school diploma — is being uncovered.

Good luck in your exam, Sam. I and the whole GP staff are honored to train and develop a young man with a great potential like you.