PROBLEM STUDENT:

Confronting non-conformity in the class

Klaus is not like others in class

He knows the answers to questions but seldom speaks –

Dreamily he often gaze out windows and smiles at passing clouds

And why does Klaus often write in foreign languages that his peers cannot read?

When talking of democracy this kid gets peeved

When modern history is discussed he's invariably high-keyed

Recently when asked about his career plans he vigorously replied,

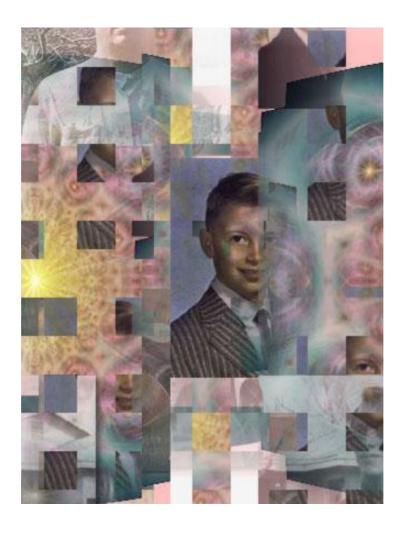
"An eco-terrorist sounds grand!"

Though outwardly polite

I sense a palatable anger inside

Is it because Klaus lives in an urban cage?
Or his single mother toils at minimum wage?
Or his family is from a war-torn place?
Or are the medications he takes influencing his brain?

What should I do with pupils like Klaus?
Should I pretend no problems exist
and everything will work out?



Liao: Notice how some kids become easily labeled 'problem students'?

Tim: More often than not the 'problem' is in the system rather than the student.

Satoru: Nearly all systems have self-norming tendencies: there are subtle mathematical laws at work. Some will pass and others invariably be left behind.

Tim: Too bad – so much human potential is wasted.

Liao: Well, isn't the system designed to turn most folks into McDonaldized consumers?

Tim: Yeah. At that it does a smashing job . . .

- T Newfields

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