

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

Begun: 2007 in Tokyo, Japan * Finished: 2020 in Yokohama, Japan

