

Blossoms of Verdance: A Short Webtoon-style Graphic Novel About Self-discovery Through Realistic Optimism

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Abstract

Like most things in life, self-discovery can pose challenges due to past trauma and existing hardships that a person is facing. The difficulty of going through a journey of self-discovery can also be affected by the mindset or philosophy in life someone adheres to. As such, realistic optimism may be a vital tool to incorporate in a self-discovery journey. It provides an optimistic outlook that helps to perceive the world in a positive way, and at the same time, it also provides a realistic outlook that reminds not to disregard or pretend problems do not exist. Because of this, the main concept for the work will be self-discovery through realistic optimism and this will be expressed by telling a story through a digital comic, specifically a short webtoon-style graphic novel, and this mainly will be focused towards teenagers and young adult readers. As such, apart from concepts relating to self-discovery and realistic optimism, the visual inspirations for the creative output which is mainly the works of Webtoon illustrators will also be discussed.

Keywords: realistic optimism, webtoon, graphic novel, colors

Introduction

I have always been immersed in the analog-visual art form since childhood and this led to the growth of my interest in pursuing a profession wherein, I would be able to express myself through this practice. At first, I wanted to take architecture for my tertiary education because back then, it intrigued me that you can be successful by putting your illustrating skills to use. But after having a taste of the rigorous planning process through a Technical Drafting subject, I realized that it would not be for me. I learned that although I had above-average skill in illustrating that would have given me an advantage, architecture would have not provided me and fulfilled the freedom of expression that I seek. Hence, even though I do not have above-average skill in photography, film production, sound designing, typography design, etc., I still decided to follow my passion and pursue a course that specializes in utilizing these techniques, multimedia arts.

I am a firm believer that we should always explore our own capabilities in different areas whenever an opportunity presents itself. We should not be afraid of failure, but we should still expect and work toward good outcomes. Optimism is helpful in maintaining a healthy and positive attitude, but too much will make you careless. Realism is necessary in

keeping yourself grounded and adaptable, but too much can cause you to avoid taking risks entirely. Therefore, I decided to pursue and create a work focusing on finding oneself through Realistic Optimism. Realistic Optimism is the capacity to balance out the bad and good aspects of situations, circumstances, and individuals. It is the fortitude to pursue chances when others are thwarted by danger and failure, with the conviction that the future will be better than the past (Smeich, 2021).

The main concept for the work will be self-discovery through Realistic Optimism. To convey this idea properly, I want to express it by telling a story through a digital comic, specifically a short webtoon-style graphic novel. It will be created mainly utilizing a pen tablet as well as digital tools and software. Once a compelling storyline is finished, it will then be followed by preliminary digital sketches. Inking and coloring will be applied to clarify lines and add hues. Following this, lettering will be effectively integrated to incorporate the dialogue and narrative. Each page's layout and paneling will be precisely formatted, influencing the flow of the story and improving the reader's experience. When the digital comic is finished, the files will be prepared to fit digital platforms and optimized for different devices.

Because I will be creating a short webtoon-style graphic novel, I will be taking inspirations from Webtoon illustrators such as Youngchan Hwang, Ji-hun Jeong, 911, and Park Subong. Youngchan Hwang is best known for being the artist behind Sweet Home; Ji-hun Jeong is an author and artist that created The Boxer; 911 is the writer and illustrator of The Build Up; and Park Subong is the artist responsible for illustrating Double Click. But why a graphic novel? According to Forni (2021), in general, graphic novels cover contemporary themes and directly address the daily realities of young readers, highlighting their worries, difficulties, dreams, sentiments, and conceptions of their own identities. Contemporary graphic novels seek to convey the difficulties, changes, and sensations that characterize the stage in life known as adolescence. They provide young readers with an opportunity for amusement as well as indirect teaching and thought. Overall, graphic novels can be beneficial for teenagers and young adults because It helps them discover more concepts not only about our world, but also concepts about the inner self.

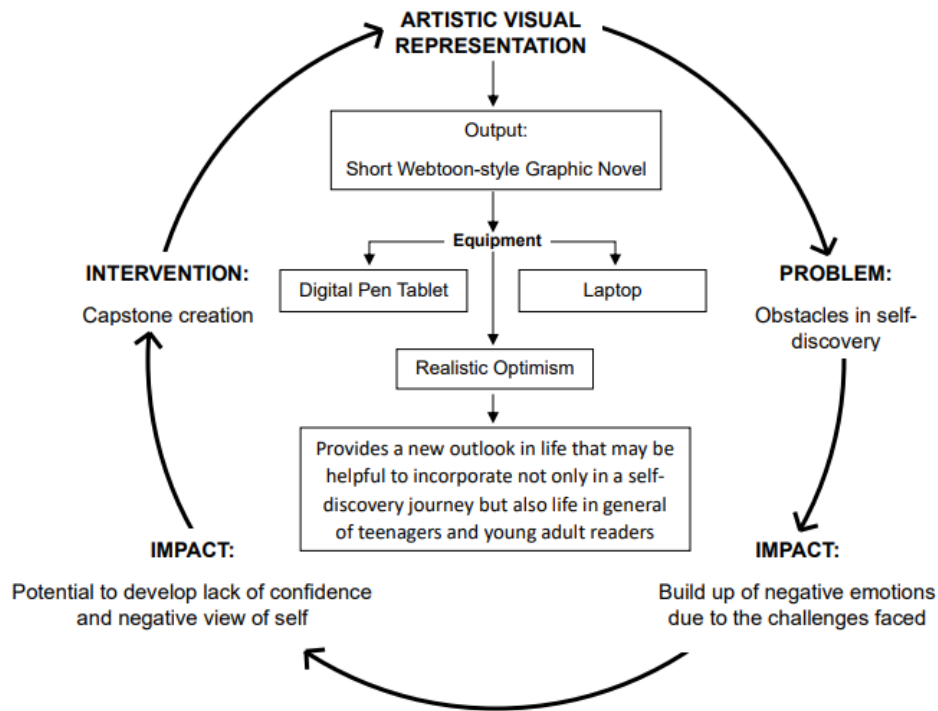


Figure 1. Framework of the Visual Representation of Overall Concept and Methods of Thesis Project: Webtoon-style Graphic Novel

The creative framework I applied presents the foundations of the concepts and ideas about the topic of the project, Self-discovery Through Realistic Optimism. This section includes a thorough discussion of the information regarding the background, problem, and impacts of the desired output of the project. As part of the creative framework, the research design, targeted audience, and design process will also be discussed in the following paragraphs of the section.

To further explain the idea of self-discovery through realistic optimism, desk research will be used as a **data gathering method**. According to Villegas (2023), desk research is a study based on existing material published in reports and similar documents that are available for public use. These materials include information available on the internet, data from government and non-government organizations, public libraries, educational institutions, and other sources found in newspapers, radio, television, etc. These data are gathered and summarized in order to improve the overall efficacy of the study. Overall, this will aid in the exploration of the concepts of Self-discovery and Realistic Optimism, as well as how applying the Realistic Optimist attitude is beneficial for an effective self-discovery journey.

Hovde (2022) states that Ryan Howes a psychologist, writer and professor in Pasadena, California defines the discipline of self-discovery as "taking a look at your own thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and motivations and asking why." He also discusses how having a strong sense of self may be a valuable tool for living deliberately. At its heart, self-exploration is about better knowing who you are and what makes you, you. But self-discovery is not a straightforward and smoothsailing journey. Hence, there will definitely be challenges that will be encountered along the way. According to Howes, the three most common obstacles to self-exploration are distraction, weariness, and prior trauma (Hovde, 2022).

According to Oppong (2022), optimism is having a "glass half full" perspective or a positive outlook in life. Optimism may help us cope with life's problems by preventing us from feeling overwhelmed or disheartened by life's ups and downs. While according to Carver and Scheier (2014), optimism is a cognitive construct. It is expectations about future events that is also related to motivation: optimistic individuals invest in effort, whilst pessimistic people do not. However, Hanssen et al. (2015) concluded in their study that motivated coping appears to be a way via which optimism may impact several aspects of well-being. The researchers discovered that flexible goal adjustment is a particularly important motivational coping mechanism in comparison to the persistent pursuit of objectives, which may affect psychological well-being in a bad way.

Magari and Nishaat (2022) looked at other groups of major studies related to optimism and pessimism. They found that there are research being done on dispositional optimism and pessimism, explanatory style, strategic optimism and defensive pessimism, unrealistic optimism, and lastly, realistic optimism. Carver and Scheier (2014) define dispositional optimism as a widespread expectancy of optimistic outcomes. This is supported by the review done by Magari and Nishaat (2022) wherein they found that dispositional optimism refers to the anticipation of good future events and results, whereas dispositional pessimism refers to the expectation of negative future events and consequences, as well as the inclination to see things negatively. Adding to this, they also found that the explanatory style implies that a person's optimism or pessimism is determined by how he or she interprets a situation or the outcome of an event. Supporting this statement, Guiang-Myers (2019) mentions that the negativity bias or mindset is linked to a pessimistic explanatory style, or how a person explains the cause of an event. Therefore, a positive bias or mindset is nurtured through a optimistic explanatory style. On the other hand, Magari and Nishaat (2022) discovered that strategic optimism and defensive optimism are cognitive strategies. People who are strategic optimists believe they have control over their own results and are not generally concerned about it. While defensive pessimists sets low expectations of the future to make it easier for them to manage the impact of possible challenges they will face.

Oppong (2022) also then defines Realism as a point of view, attitude, or philosophy that emphasizes the facts or reality of a situation rather than its idealized or exaggerated form. But being a realist does not imply that they have no dreams; it just means that they can tell the difference between what is and what may be. Adding to this, Collingwood

(2016) also defines realists as people that describe occurrences exactly as they occur. Hence, he believes that both optimism and reality are necessary elements for living a happy and healthy life. While they appear to be opposing forces, they really function in combination as a stressor balance. They are both necessary for planning for the future and dealing with life's difficulties. It might be difficult to establish a balance between optimism and realism, yet neither is useful without the other (Oppong, 2022).

Supporting this statement, Smiech (2021) defines Realistic Optimism as the capacity to balance out the bad and good aspects of situations, circumstances, and individuals. It is the fortitude to pursue chances when others are thwarted by danger and failure, with the conviction that the future will be better than the past. Furthermore, Magari and Nishaat (2022) believes that the idea of resilience is central to realistic optimism. Hence, they describe realistic optimism as having an optimistic view on the future even when confronted with adversity.

Excessive optimism can lead to flawed expectations and undesirable consequences, while excessive pessimism can lead to wasted opportunities. Furthermore, pessimists think that terrible things are their fault, that they will always happen to them, and that everything in their lives will suffer as a result (Smeich, 2021). They frequently believe that good fortune is unrelated to them and will not be repeated (Collingwood, 2016). However, by combining the good aspects of optimism with the objective lens of realism, you may become a realistic optimist (Oppong, 2022). Collingwood (2016) describes them as cautiously optimistic about beneficial outcomes, yet they do everything they can to achieve them. The unrealistic optimists think that everything will work out in the end and do not take the necessary steps to actually achieve it. While on the topic of unrealistic optimism, Shepperd et al. (2015) describes unrealistically optimistic people believe that a personal future outcome will be better than that predicted. Unrealistic optimism also happens when people overestimate their personal outcomes in comparison to their peers' outcomes. The researchers also pointed out that when expectations are not satisfied, unrealistic optimism can lead to disappointment, regret, and other issues.

According to Smiech (2021), there are several benefits with having a realistic optimism mindset. It helps to develop personal effectiveness, emotional resilience, relationship management, patience, social responsibility and much more. Adding to this, one of the main aspects that lead to happiness is one's perception of realistic optimism. Strong will, goal setting, persistent effort, the ability to see the future, to persevere in the face of adversity on the path to attaining one's goals (resilience), the flexibility to see adversity as a chance for growth, and a manner of living in harmony with those around are all components of the idea of realistic optimism (Magari and Nishaat, 2022). This is because when faced with the issue of whether to base our decisions and actions on a pessimistic or optimistic view of the future, it is important to realize that we do not have to operate in this dichotomy. There is still realistic optimism, which considers all every condition and provides us hope for the future (Smeich, 2021).

This is supported by Oppong (2022) wherein he also states being balanced involves not dismissing reality nor allowing our fantasies to take precedence over facts. It is about finding a happy middle ground between optimism and pessimism so that you may focus on finding solutions rather than dwelling on problems. Subsequently, Collingwood (2016) states that optimism and pessimism exist on a spectrum, with reality serving as the middle. He adds that whether you're optimistic or pessimistic, the phrase "hope for the best, prepare for the worst" is a good philosophy to live by. To do so, you must be honest with yourself about your typical way of living. Find out how your past is affecting your present, which will help improve your grasp on the truth.

Consequently, Realistic Optimism may be a vital tool to incorporate in your self-discovery journey. It provides you with an optimistic outlook that helps you perceive the world in a positive way and a place where good things are more likely to happen. At the same time, it also provides you with a realistic outlook that reminds you to not disregard or pretend problems do not exist. Instead, you anticipate that there will be problems and will plan for them appropriately, as well as give you the courage to take calculated risks (Oppong, 2022).

As for the **research design**, my concept of Self-discovery through Realistic Optimism will be expressed through a short Webtoon-style digital comic story. I will use a combination of both Youngchan Hwang and Ji-hun Jeong's artistic style and techniques for visual inspirations. This will give me various tools to use in order to clearly and deliberately convey my story not just narratively, but also through the aesthetics. Youngchan Hwang uses clean line art, desaturated colors, lights, and shadows for his visual style. I will apply this to my work to illustrate my character's feelings and emotions. This will help me guide the readers to have a better connection with my protagonist. While, Ji-hun Jeong's artistic style is sharper and looser, which can be seen in his line art. He also uses more vibrant and pure colors which contrasts that to the more desaturated hues of Youngchan Hwang's works.

The **target audience** of the output of my project are teenagers and young-adult readers, specifically in the age range of 13 to 24 years old. It is catered towards all genders because everyone goes through a journey to get to know themselves better and have to go face different challenges to achieve it. The aim of my project output is to aid the audience not only in their self-discovery journey but also through life in general by providing a different perspective on how issues should be approached and effectively resolved.

As for the **design process**, it will begin with a comprehensive and rigorous pre-production. This will ensure the smooth development of the critical production stage where the short digital comic will actually come to life. Lastly, the postproduction step will be the polishing phase of the project. In this stage, taking into consideration comments and criticisms will be vital in achieving the most ideal final output of the short digital comic.

Pre-production Stage

During the pre-production phase, I will focus on idea creation and conception by building an interesting and engaging storyline, creating a relatable protagonist, and developing an appealing visual style, all customized to fit smoothly with Webtoon's vertical-scrolling format. The making of the storyline, protagonist description, scriptwriting, and curation of the inspirations for the visual style will be done using Microsoft 365 tools such as Word, PowerPoint, and OneNote. Following this, the storyboarding, character and environment designing, and everything related to visuals will be accomplished using digital art software like MediBang Paint Pro. These steps are critical factors in capturing the essence and feel of a Webtoon's aesthetic. It will be given extra consideration to ensure their appeal and tone with the intended webtoon audience. The use of digital technologies and a thorough grasp of the Webtoon format's unique needs will provide the basis for the upcoming production phase.

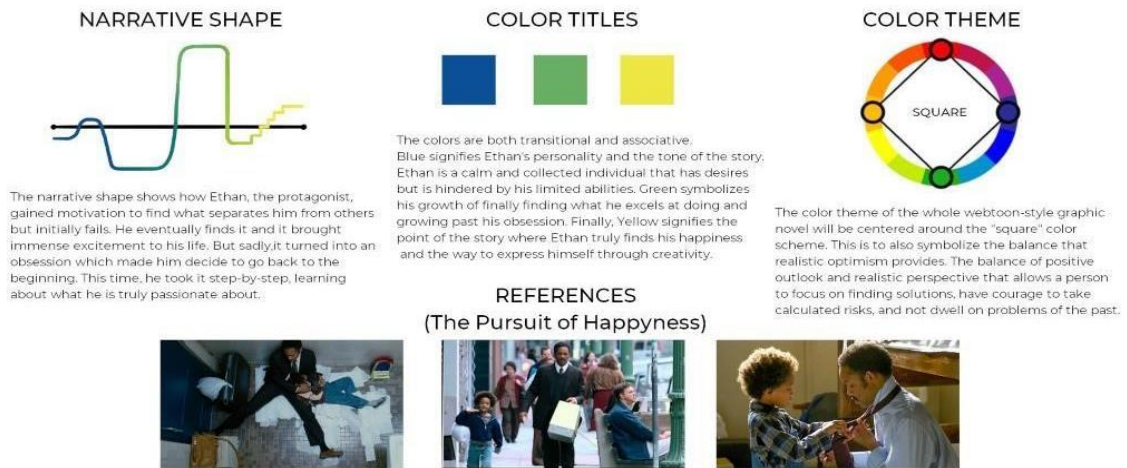


Figure 2. *Color Direction Study*

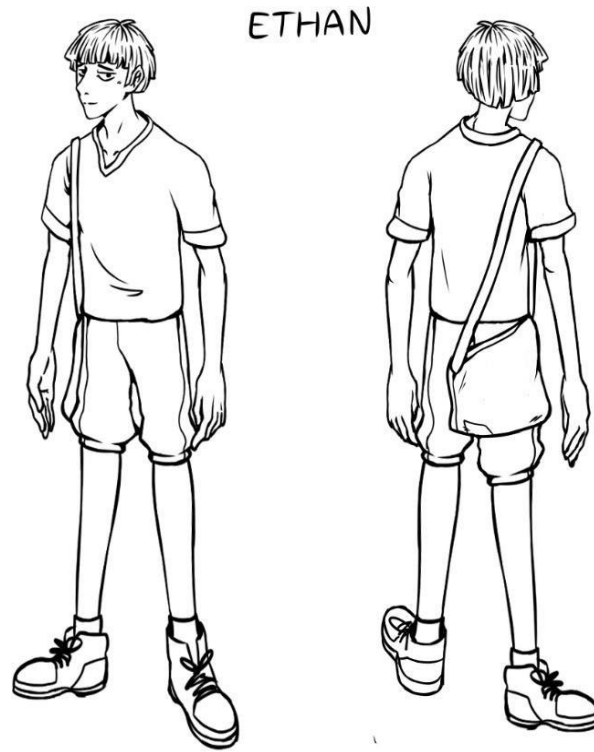


Figure 3. *Ethan Character Design*

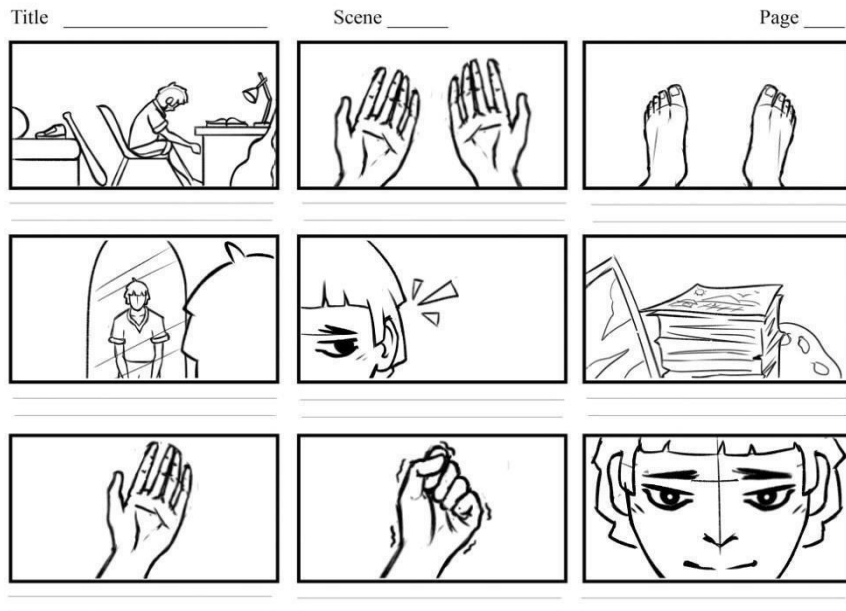


Figure 4. *Storyboard Sample*

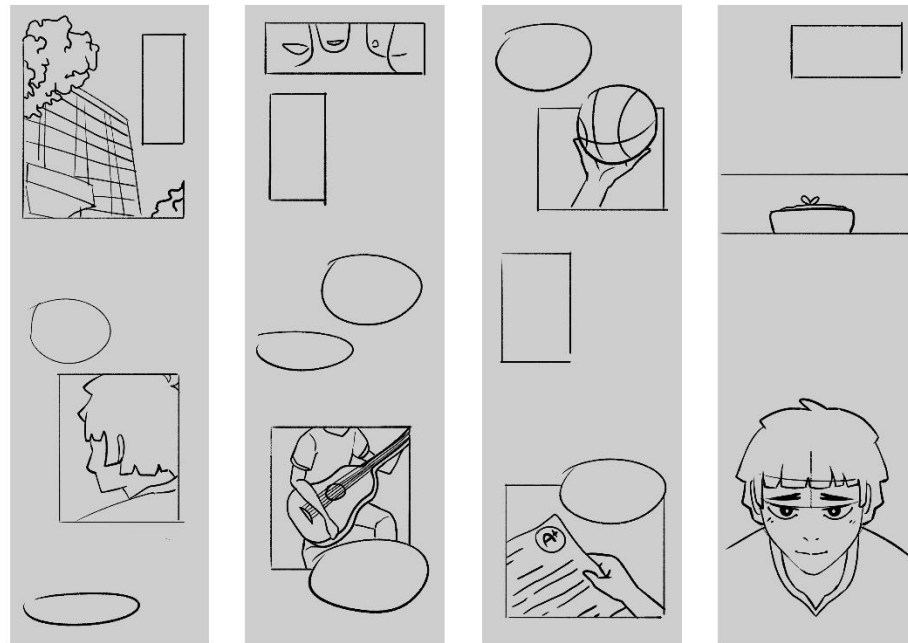


Figure 5. *Updated Storyboard Sample*

Production Stage

When the pre-production requirements have been finalized, I will move on to the production by starting with digital drawing and inking, where the vertical orientation will be used to efficiently construct each panel, aligning with the Webtoon format. This will be achieved through MediBang Paint Pro, specifically using a canvas size of 800 pixels by 2560 pixels based on the specified size needs for the WEBTOON website. The comic's aesthetic, appeal, and readability will be enhanced by using vibrant color as well as clear text and dialogue, which will also be done using MediBang Paint Pro. I aim to provide a continuous and compelling flow for the readers by paying great attention to panel arrangement and page design, enticing them to continue scrolling down the vertical canvas and immersing themselves in the story I want to tell. The production process will heavily rely on making good use of the benefits of the digital medium, allowing for exact detailing, vibrant colors, and a dynamic layout—all of which are vital parts of the Webtoon aesthetic.

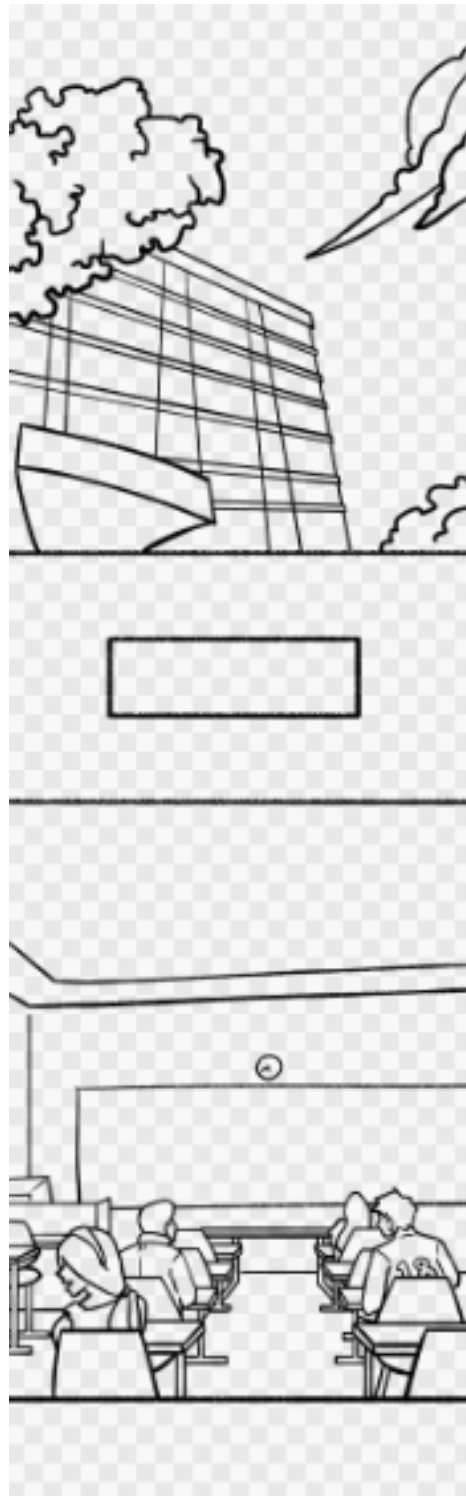


Figure 6. *Line Art Sample*



MORNING, AT SCHOOL



Figure 7. *Coloring Sample*

Post-production Stage

After successfully completing the production stage of the project, comprehensively reviewing the digital comic and implementing constructive input will be the main focus of postproduction. It will help to improve the final output's quality and coherence. The last editing touches and enhancements will guarantee that the digital comic is in accordance with the Webtoon platform's standards, improving the reading experience on mobile devices. Finally, the last step will be publishing on the WEBTOON platform and promoting the digital comic mainly through social media, but other avenues will also be explored.

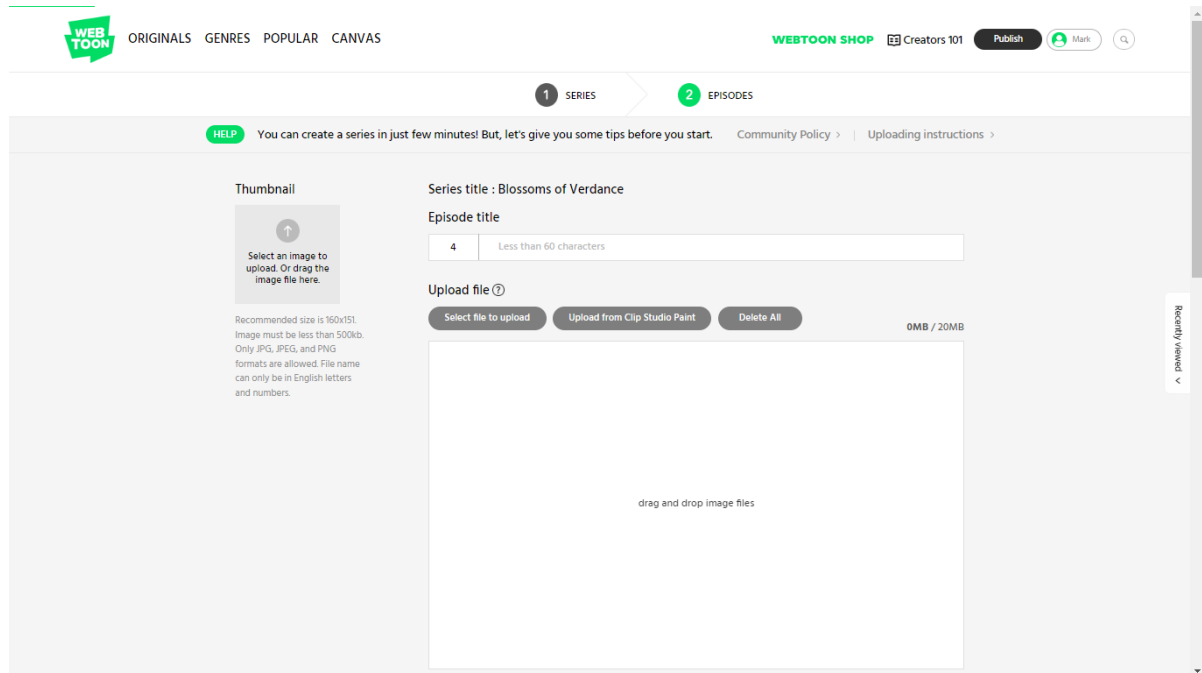


Figure 8. *Publishing on the Webtoon Platform*

Review of Related Literature and Related Works

The main concept for the work will be self-discovery through Realistic Optimism. Selfdiscovery is not a straightforward and smooth-sailing journey. There will be challenges the will be encountered along the way. But Oppong (2022) believes that that both optimism and reality are necessary elements for living a happy and healthy life. While they appear to be opposing forces, they really function in combination as a stressor balance. Hence, my work will be focusing on how Realistic Optimism may be a vital tool to incorporate in a self-discovery journey.

To convey this idea properly, I want to express it by telling a story through a digital comic, specifically a short webtoon-style graphic novel. Because of this, I will also be discussing the works of illustrators such as Youngchan Hwang and Ji-hun Jeong. Youngchan Hwang is best known for being the artist behind Sweet Home. Ji-hun Jeong is an author and artist that created works such as The Boxer. I will also explore a biographical drama film titled The Pursuit of Happyness, which I believe has a protagonist that embodies the core of Realistic Optimism.

The article *The Optimistic Realist: A Practical Approach to Win the Game of Life* written by Thomas Oppong (2022) and published on September 20, 2022, defines optimism and reality as separate concepts before exploring the idea that a happy and healthy life requires both optimism and realism. Optimism aids in dealing with difficulties, whereas realism accepts the world as it is. It talks about how combining the two as a Realistic Optimist provides for a positive attitude while acknowledging and dealing with challenges. In handling life's challenges, balancing optimism with realism leads to stability and perseverance. I agree with the statements provided in this article because I also try to maintain a similar attitude. This way of thinking has helped me get through challenges and difficult times. Compared to the previous article, this article breaks down reality and optimism at its core idea separately. It also provided a short discussion on pessimism which helped me gain a better interpretation of what Realistic Optimism actually is.

Literature for self-discovery. Looking into adolescence through graphic novels was an academic paper written by Dalila Forni (2021) and published in 2021. It talks about how graphic novels, which depict the complex lives of teens and young adults, are a popular genre in children's and adolescent literature. It discusses how these works represent real-life aspects such as gender, sexuality, friendship, family, and social interactions, as well as topics regarding identity, self-discovery, and equality. It explores the idea that during the transitional period of youth and early adulthood, graphic novels stimulate contemplation, self-discovery, awareness, and independence. I also agree that graphic novel works are beneficial for teenagers and young adults by being an avenue for them to know themselves better. It introduces them to new ideas that enable them to discover more not just about the world, but also about their self.

Miyanaga (2023), a Senior Art Director at Minto STUDIO published an article in 2023 that discusses the expression techniques that can be used in Webtoon to enhance reading experience. Mainly he emphasizes the use of expressions such as “Bae-ru” and “Emo-i” as techniques to increase visual engagement. According to Miyanaga (2023), “Bae-ru” is a Japanese slang that means “photogenic in social media” and “Emo-i” is also a Japanese slang meaning “nostalgic and emotional.” However, as techniques, “Bae-ru” is utilizing high contrast, high saturation, polychromatism, and luminosity/HDR, and “Emo-i” is adding a fade effect based on the manipulated “Bae-ru.” Miyanaga (2023) argues that since “Bae-ru” and “Emo-i” are usually used in animation and movies to express “beauty and glamor,” it can also be applied to Webtoon because it is also a visual experience. Some examples include the overall high contrast and color saturation in backlit panels, exaggerating the glamor of light source, using rich colors in night scenes, and high brightness and luminosity with effects. Personally, I highly agree with the aim of the article, which is to make the readers think deeply about what they want to show to attract the audience and apply various visual techniques to their works. I will be using these expression techniques positively in the production of my short webtoon-style graphic novel.

Webtoon – From IDEAS to COMPLETED STORY is an informative article that was written by an author named tokyolondon (2020) and it serves as a guide for readers and artists how to conceptualize and produce their own Webtoon story. The author presented 5 steps in creating a webtoon and it includes; the idea, design process, creating a storyboard, drawing, and finally, publishing. The idea section consists of brainstorming about the plot, character/s, location/s, timeline, and the innate meaning or message of the story. After finalizing these aspects of the narrative, the design process comes next. In this step, mainly the visual designs of the backgrounds, location/s, and character/s needs to be considered. Afterwards, the storyboard is the next phase of building a Webtoon. It typically has multiple scenes and information regarding the character/s, place, time, and event can be also found. Once the storyboard has been fully accomplished, it is time to prepare the workspace for drawing. According to tokyolondon (2020), the ideal canvas height to avoid seeing pixels is at least 1000px. The author also emphasizes the use of harmonious colors for it to be more appealing to the eyes. Apart from this, taking advantage of layers to separate each element is vital in not only cleanliness but also organization. Once everything has been set up, transferring the storyboard to the canvas is the next step. It is important to note the comfortable spacing between two frames and visual flow (tokyolondon, 2020). The author also included some examples of arrangement of frames within the article which are; the basic rectangle, the conversation, and chain of action. When all frames and panels have gone through the finishing and refining process, the last and final step of creating a Webtoon is publishing. It can be done in different platforms such as what the author used, Clip Studio, or what I will be using which is WEBTOON. I find the guide and tips presented in the article to be extremely helpful and will do my utmost to apply them to the production of my own work.

A Webtoon creator named LOZOLZ (n.d.) published a tiptoon in the WEBTOON platform titled Webtoon Editing Tips. This is intended to help the readers and artists

understand vertical storytelling better. According to LOZOLZ (n.d.), the three key things that need to be remembered is readability, clarity, and pacing. Having good readability means that the story is easy to read in mobile devices and to achieve this, the panels must be laid out vertically, readers should extend less effort in reading the texts, use limited legible fonts, and keep font sizes consistent LOZOLZ (n.d.). On the other hand, having good clarity means that the story is easy to follow and this is done through not overloading readers with information, making sure the focal point of the scene is clear, using time and/or location stamps when necessary, applying grayscale to represent flashbacks, utilizing establishing shots, and having continuity in actions LOZOLZ (n.d.). Lastly, good pacing should make the readers want to keep scrolling, as such, it requires making use of varying gutter space or anticipation and using repeat and zoom in intense moments. To conclude, readability, clarity, and pacing are the most important things to note of according to LOZOLZ (n.d.) when creating a Webtoon story. Since I will also produce Webtoon work, I will consider these elements when creating my project.

The Pursuit of Happyness is a 2006 biographical drama film directed by Gabriele Muccino. It depicts the actual life of Chris Gardner, who overcomes homelessness and misfortune while following his ambition of becoming a stockbroker. The protagonist of this film embodies Realistic Optimism because of his constant persistence and positive outlook in the face of reality. Chris Gardner pursued his goal of becoming a great stockbroker despite experiencing homelessness and financial struggles. He sincerely believed in himself and the possibility of a better future, having a clear vision of what he needs to do and working tirelessly to achieve them. Gardner demonstrated adaptation by accepting a difficult, unpaid internship to pursue his passion, exhibiting perseverance in the face of rejection and hardship. Importantly, he kept a realistic perspective on his situation, recognizing the difficulties he faced while staying focused on finding answers and refusing to get consumed by the problems. Gardner's firm optimism, even in the face of harsh reality, demonstrated his capacity to endure and eventually achieve his goals, which represents the essence of Realistic Optimism. Thus, I will be taking inspiration on how this film portrayed the Realistic Optimist attitude of the protagonist. Within my work, I will attempt to give a hopeful impression on certain parts to help readers understand the goal of the story I aim to tell.



Figure 9. Scene from *The Pursuit of Happiness*

Youngchan Hwang, a South Korean webtoon artist, is well-known for his distinct and clean visual style. Hwang's art is distinguished by a dark and gritty look, and it frequently delves into dark settings that is filled with shadows and touched with an ominous feeling. Hwang's characters are designed with features and characteristics that consider how they affect and enhance the plot. One of the artists' talents is their ability to communicate a wide range of emotions through facial expressions, which allow readers to connect closely with the characters and the plot as it unfolds. Hwang also utilizes dynamic paneling and pacing techniques, using angles and compositions that sustain tension and suspense, perfectly matching the story's mood. The artist heightens the mood, especially in horror-themed works such as "Sweet Home," by deliberately using shadows and lighting, establishing a gloomy feel. Notably, Youngchan Hwang's meticulous attention to detail, which includes locations, objects, and character anatomy, contributes to the realism and depth. Since Youngchan Hwang's works are mainly in the horror and thriller genre, I will only be focusing on how he uses clean line art, desaturated colors, lights, and shadows for his visual style. I will apply this to my work to illustrate my character's feelings and emotions. This will help me guide the readers to have a better connection with my protagonist.



Figure 10. Works of Youngchan Hwang – Sweet Home

Another artist that I will take visual inspiration from is Ji-hun Jeong. He is well known for his webtoon "The Boxer," and has a distinct and identifiable graphic style. The designs in the webtoon are distinct and memorable, as is typical of Jeong's work. Notably, the characters' facial expressions are finely drawn, allowing a wide range of emotions to be properly expressed through their features, particularly the expressive eyes. The essence of "The Boxer" is its action-packed plot, and Jeong's technique excels in showing powerful and dynamic action moments, filled with energy and meticulously composed movements. This action-oriented approach is supplemented by the strategic use of panel layouts and pace, which improves the flow of the narrative and keeps the viewer engaged. The sequences feel genuine and is aesthetically intriguing because of the artist's attention to choreography. Furthermore, the use of a proper color palette enhances the visual appeal, with vivid tones used during action sequences and more muted colors used during contemplative or tragic scenes. Despite the emphasis on action in his webtoon "The Boxer," Jeong pays close attention to environmental details and backgrounds, which enhance the storyline by adding depth and meaning. Overall, Ji-hun Jeong's artistic style encompasses distinct character designs, expressive representation of emotions, dynamic sequences, thoughtful panel composition, smart use of color, and meticulous attention to both character movement and environmental elements, all of which contribute to an engaging and visually pleasing webtoon. Compared to Youngchan Hwang, Ji-hun Jeong's artistic style is sharper and looser, which can be seen in his line art. He also uses more vibrant and pure colors which contrasts that to the more desaturated hues of Youngchan Hwang's works.



Figure 11. Works of Ji-hun Jeong – The Boxer

The Build Up is a Webtoon created by a Korean webcomic creator named, 911. Maru Kang is the protagonist of the story of The Build Up and like the main character of my own story, Ethan, Maru Kang is just an ordinary kid with ordinary interests. He continued to live in this way to the point that he was given the title “King of the Losers” by his peers and classmates. But this eventually changed once he watched a soccer game on the television, thus igniting something within him. It was a spark of obsession with soccer and since then, he became determined to be an amazing soccer player like the ones he witnessed. Just from the synopsis of the story it can be seen that there are some conceptual similarities between Maru Kang and the protagonist of Blossoms of Verdance, Ethan. They are both ordinary, gained realizations, and developed an obsession. But their obsession differs. Maru Kang’s brought him relentless drive and courage, while Ethan’s eventually took from him his passion and enjoyment. However, this does similarity does display something important. It shows that truly, there is something for everyone. May it be an innate talent or a hobby requiring hard work. Visually, I find it really appealing how 911 utilizes simple and most of the time flat, yet saturated colors. It is refreshing whenever a soccer field is within a scene and the characters are surrounded by vibrant green colors. However, 911 also makes use of effective rendering techniques whenever a scene is focused on a specific character or their action. As such, from analyzing this work, I intend to apply certain aspects of 911’s visual style. I hope that in doing so, it will aid me in effectively representing the character development of the protagonist of my own story.

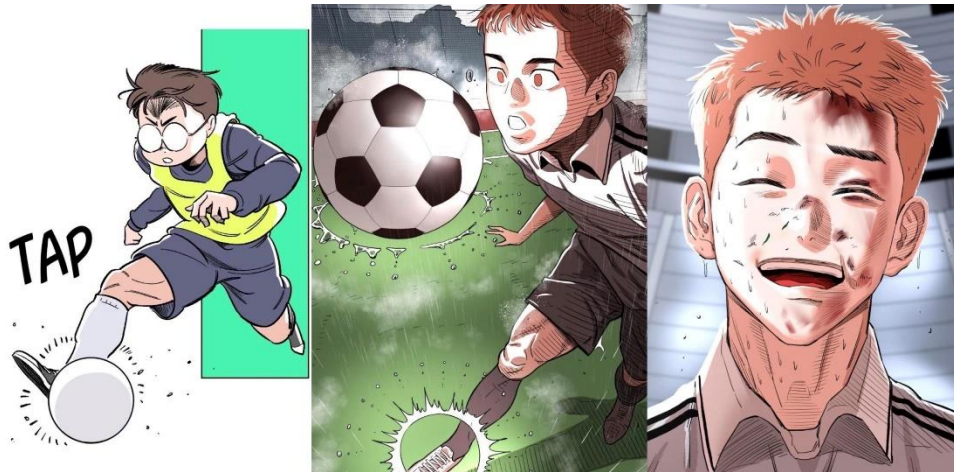


Figure 12. *The Build Up* by 911

Double Click is a webtoon that was written by Kim Janghun and illustrated by Park Subong. The protagonist, Jiho Seong, surprisingly had already found what he is best at during middle school. He was the number one player in the whole world in an online action game titled One Sword. However, before even getting to high school, he lost it all. Feeling defeated and frustrated, his interest in competitive gaming seems to have been lost. That is until he discovers a worldwide sensation team-based online action game that bears odd similarities to his former conquered game. As such, he sets out to regain his lost skills and rise to be the best in the world again. I was surprised to see the parallels this Webtoon and my story has conceptually. Ethan also eventually finds what he is really good at doing, decides to lose it, and does find it again in another way. It may not be in the same practice, but because Ethan has gained new knowledge and has grown as a person, he still carries with him his talent, while also pursuing the thing he enjoys the most and finds passion in doing. Visually, this Webtoon also mostly utilizes flat and saturated colors. However, what stood out to me are the use of cell shadings, gradients, and visual effects to give the colors depth, variety, and interest. Because of this, I aim to incorporate these visual design aspects to my own work and take advantage of the impact it provides to the overall feel of the output.



Figure 12. *Double Click* by Park Subong

Results and Discussion

For this study, I conducted desk research analysis that allowed me to gather my results consisting of insightful information regarding self-discovery and the spectrum of mental attitude relating to realistic optimism. The key contribution of this process is enabling the consideration of other attitudes holding different beliefs which are mainly dispositional and unrealistic optimism, but also includes; explanatory optimism, strategic optimism, as well as defensive pessimism. The results further solidified the idea of realistic optimism as a vital tool in mitigating problems when tackling a journey of self-discovery.

Self-exploration: Benefits and tips for getting started is an article written by Michael Hovde. This article was updated and medically reviewed on September 28, 2022. Hovde builds upon the claims of Dr. Ryan Howes, a clinical psychologist, writer, and professor in Pasadena, California. It discusses that at its heart, self-exploration is about better knowing who you are and what makes you, you. He claims that having a strong sense of self may be a valuable tool for living deliberately. Active strategies to help increase self-awareness and the most common obstacles in self-discovery is also talked about within the article. Mainly how distraction, exhaustion, and trauma affect self-exploration. I agree with the article because I also believe that it is necessary for us to develop a way to get to know ourselves. This will help us to understand our own desires as well as our own likes and dislikes. But it would have benefited the article to provided other sources other than the claims of Dr. Ryan Howes. It would have given readers the opportunity to understand how various perspectives regarding self-discovery can be related with one another.

Andrzej Smeich published an article on January 7, 2021 titled How to Incorporate Realistic Optimism in Your Life. This article defines Realistic Optimism and talks about how the Realistic Optimism mindset can be learned. Along with this, it also discusses the effects of optimism on our physical wellbeing. All the information is backed by evidence such as the studies of Richard J. Davidson on how an optimist's brain works. Aside from this, the article also states how the perception of a Realistic Optimist can be advantageous to apply in professional, personal, and social fields. I do agree with the statements provided within this article. But I believe that although they claim the information are backed by existing studies, they could have done a better job in specifying the sources of these claims. Although the term Realistic Optimism may be self-explanatory, breaking it down into its separate parts would give readers a better grasp of Realistic Optimism compared to optimism and pessimism. When the article was also discussing the benefits of Realistic Optimism, it would have improved clarity by going more in-depth as to why it is beneficial for professional, personal, and social aspects.

Ginna Guiang-Myers wrote an article titled Tips for Teaching Realistic Optimism and it was published on March 19, 2019. It focuses on how Realistic Optimism can be taught to other people, specifically students. The viability of Realistic Optimism as a way for people to view unpleasant events as learning opportunities is also emphasized reasoning that optimism is more than just optimistic thinking; it is a strategy for combating the learned helplessness that results from approaching a situation with a defeated perspective. The ideas of positive reevaluation, careful focus, avoid catastrophizing, use of humor, and adapting optimistic explanatory are all explored with the use of effective examples. The author also stated that a learner who has learnt helplessness will adopt an internal, long lasting, and global attribution. This approach might emerge as early as infancy because self-talk may become automatic and habitual. Hence, the author promotes the idea that there should be a place in the classroom for teaching optimism. Overall, I agree with what the article aims to do which is to help educators be able to help students alter their viewpoint on mistakes and misfortunes in life. But supporting sources and evidences would have helped cement the articles credibility.

The article Realism and Optimism: Do You Need Both? was written by Jane Collingwood and was published on May 17, 2016. It cites and discusses the findings of psychologists such as Dr. Martin Seligman and Oliver James regarding topics within the spectrum of optimism, pessimism, and reality. It discusses how optimism is often viewed as a desirable trait, but having unrealistic optimism may become more of a hindrance. This is because it might make it difficult to change your direction when you are unable to perceive the danger ahead. The midpoint between optimism and pessimism is reality, but what separates a realistic optimist from a realist is that although they recognize situations as they are, realistic optimists still maintain hope of better outcomes. Adding to this, people who are realistic optimists tend to be extroverted and happy. However, negative thoughts and moods are equally necessary and are not always "bad." I find the goal of the article to help readers gain a better

comprehension of these concepts agreeable. The information the article provides is beneficial in better recognizing the distinct differences of these mental attitudes.

Haruo Magari and Aneesah Nishaat published a thesis journal in 2022 titled *Current Status of Research on Optimism and Pessimism*. It discusses the present state of major studies regarding optimism and pessimism as well as other complex relating ideas. It explores the various groups of research that are related to optimism and pessimism such as dispositional, explanatory, strategic optimism and defensive pessimism, unrealistic optimism, and lastly, realistic optimism. It also talks about how these different attitudes affect a person's life. Concluding that realistic optimism is the solution to the challenges in all the groups due to it being a tendency to maintain a positive outlook within the constraints that exist in the natural and social world. I highly agree with the objective approach the researchers took. They discussed the differences of each major study and what makes them better or worse before stating that realistic optimism may be what resolves all issues potentially faced.

Another research paper that discusses optimism and its implications is *Optimism, Motivational Coping and Well-being: Evidence Supporting the Importance of Flexible Goal Adjustment*. This was written by Marjolein Hanssen et al. and was published in 2015. It mainly tackles positive outcome expectation, or dispositional optimism, which is connected to improved physical and psychological well-being. The result of the study showed that coping manages this connection, primarily through the idea of flexible goal adjustment. This is because the confidence of optimists in their capacity to pursue goals and overcome adversity is a major aspect in this connection. Another result showed that the general population found that coping by adjusting their objectives flexibly is a more plausible option that leads to happiness than tenaciously pursuing goals through sheer force and will. I agree with the idea within this thesis journal because sometimes to resolve a problem, a new perspective is needed. Persistence can be a good trait to have, but pushing through forcibly may bring more stress when trying to accomplish a goal.

Dispositional Optimism written and published by Charles S. Carver and Michael F. Scheier in 2014. This thesis journal analyzes how the study of optimism began primarily in health contexts, with favorable connections discovered between optimism and evidences of better psychological and physical health. This is because physical health impacts are most likely caused by variations in both health-promoting activities and physiological coping factors. But recently, the scientific study of optimism has expanded to the area of social relations and recent findings suggest that optimists have better social ties, partially because they work more at them. I do agree with the statements provided in the thesis journal. Optimists are often faced with better outcomes and build better relationships because of their overall positive outlook in life itself. But the paper also stated how optimism can be bad and this is due to overconfidence and perseverance. An example provided is gambling. According to studies on gambling, optimists had more favorable gambling

expectations than pessimists and were less inclined to limit their bets following negative outcomes.

Regarding the topic opposite of realistic optimism, James A. Shepperd et al. wrote and published an academic paper titled A Primer on Unrealistic Optimism. This paper discusses how people foresee many situations with unrealistic optimism, believing that the results of their future will be more pleasant than what is possible. The thesis journal reviews the extensive literature on unrealistic optimism by concentrating on four basic questions which are: what is unrealistic optimism, when does it occur, why does it happen, and what are the repercussions of unrealistic optimism. The researchers discovered that unreasonable comparative optimism can result from a mistake in personal outcome estimations, an error in outcome predictions made on behalf of others, or both. Overall, the information provided by the thesis journal about unrealistic optimism proved to be insightful and informative. It clearly illustrates why it happens and its effects on a person's life.

Conclusion

This study delves into self-discovery and the range of mental attitudes, with a specific emphasis on realistic optimism. Desk research was used to explore several attitudes, including dispositional and unrealistic optimism. The findings highlight the importance of realistic optimism as a useful tool for navigating the self-discovery process. Furthermore, publications authored by the primary writers added to our knowledge, application, and consequences of optimism. These sources provide useful insights, and the combination of these works adds to our understanding of realistic optimism and its role in promoting human growth and wellbeing. Overall, having that positive outlook to expect ideal outcomes while also being grounded to reality is helpful when a person is trying to learn more about themselves and what they are capable of. Furthermore, graphic novels being a good avenue for self-discovery enables utilizing a modern form such as a webtoon to be a beneficial visual representation of the message.

Recommendations

Research Topic

This research topic is still open to future improvements in terms of providing much more in-depth information regarding self-discovery and mental attitudes, specifically realistic optimism. Other forms of data gathering methods can also be explored to further solidify ideas and achieve greater impacts to audiences. Furthermore, expanding the demographic of target audiences may also be beneficial in accomplishing larger proposed objectives.

Creative Process

The process of how the webtoon-style graphic novel was made as the output of the study can still be improved in terms of general aspects such as narrative, art style, and programs used. Additionally in relation to this, specific details such as page count, canvas size, and illustration methods can also be explored. Building a much more profound narrative of the story can greatly impact the interest of the audience with the storyline and maintain the audience's attention when reading the graphic novel. This will also allow the consideration of using more pages to be beneficial in maintaining good pacing and progression of the story. Making use of modern popular art styles can also contribute in garnering attention especially when it is shown to be clean and consistent. With this, utilizing a larger page size compared to the 800 pixels by 2560 pixels used can be beneficial in providing much more creative freedom in terms of setting transitions and framing of key scenes. Lastly, the programs used to illustrate the graphic novel is also important as the capabilities of some programs provides certain advantages. In this study, MediBang Paint Pro and FireAlpaca are the two main digital painting and graphic novel creation software used, due to them costing none to access all features. However, paid programs such as Clip Studio Paint may be a better alternative as one of its key features is the availability to use 3D assets. Having access to make use of 3D assets for references significantly affects the illustration process and workflow efficiency, which may possibly result in a better production.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Initial Story Information

Topic - Realistic Optimism

Statement - There is nothing necessarily wrong with being a master of none and that one thing you excel at may not even be what you love or passionate about

What is the Story About - A boy trying to find what separates him from others.

What is the Story Really About - Self-discovery and perseverance.

Group or Individual - Individual

Format - Graphic Novel (Digital Comic)

Appendix B - 60 Words Storyline

Ethan, a mediocre student in every way, pursued various hobbies, including art, but found himself falling short. Inspired by an elderly man, he developed an interest in gardening. However, after years, he realized his life had become repetitive and decided to return to his love and passion of creating art. Despite his mediocrity, he found peace in exploring new learnings.

Appendix C - Revised Storyline

In every way, Ethan was an ordinary youngster, with no extraordinary qualities or skills. He wasn't the brightest or the most athletic student in school. He always has an unassuming aura and a slouched frame. Ethan always seemed to fall short of his goals, no matter what he tried. He sees his classmates develop their hobbies and polish their skills throughout the years, excelling in mathematics, athletics, arts, and many others. He puts on a smile as he admires them genuinely at their achievements, but the more his friends shone, the more Ethan realizes deep inside that he desires to discover that one thing he could genuinely excel at.

He looks at first his hands, his feet, then his whole-body. He thought to himself “there must be something, right?”. He yearns to feel the rush of achievement, to have a goal that would set him apart from the crowd. And so, before he goes to college, Ethan decided to set out on a journey of self-discovery in order to find his hidden potential. He tried dabbling in a variety of pastimes, such as playing musical instruments, writing poems, participating in local sports teams, and what he enjoyed the most, visual art. He realizes within himself that since he was a child, he always liked to observe. Observe his

surroundings, others, and the passing of daily life, but never himself. So, he decides to keep doing what he found most enjoyable. However, even after indulging himself in making these artworks up to the point his hands became rugged, each one simply served to confirm his mediocrity. He could not properly transfer what he sees onto paper. Frustration threatens to overtake Ethan, but he refuses to give up. One day, as Ethan was walking home, he saw his elderly neighbor watering cleaning his garden outside and Ethan decided to help. The old man was thankful and he complimented Ethan's diligence. As Ethan was helping in taking care of the plants, he was reminded that the reason why he liked to observe was because he has always admired nature's brilliant hues and beauty. So, he decided to give gardening a shot. Ethan is focused to learn everything he can. He decided to read books, follow courses, and sought help from knowledgeable gardeners. He developed a strong interest in plants and the natural world. Ethan's great gardening gift became obvious in his care to resurrect dying plants, his eye for building harmonious garden designs, and his green thumb, which appears to easily bring life to every seedling he touches.

Ethan finally discovers his means of making a difference through his remarkable ability for gardening. He had a bright satisfied smile. Ethan was fixated. Weeks turned to months, but one day he feels that his life has become repetitive, he is tired. He likes taking care of his plants but he has become too obsessive with how everything should be. He looks around and he sees that even his room is full of a variety of them. He decides it would not be best for him to continue going down this path for the time being. He went back to the start. To what he decided to forget in exchange for polishing his uniqueness, his enjoyment of making art. Of course, he is now back to being his mediocre self. But surprisingly, he is fine with it. Once again, he smiled. He found peace and happiness in exploring this new journey to gain new knowledge. Although he is not good, he knows he will get better slowly. He starts by drawing and painting the plant life he is familiar with. He decided to read more books, follow more courses, and admire the artists he discovers as well as the ethereal works they create. This further inspires him to improve and develop his way of creatively expressing himself. He realizes that there was also serenity in tackling a journey he is truly passionate in.

Appendix D - Character Awareness Chart

CHARACTER AWARENESS CHART

OUTER SELF (TAO SA LABAS / PHYSIOLOGICAL)													
BIO-DATA (PROFESSION, EDUCATION, ETC)		APPEARANCE			OBJECTS & PROPS		ACTION AND BEHAVIOR			DESIRE			
										WANT	STAKE	EXTERNAL OBSTACLE	TIME BOMB
Highschool Graduate		Lanky, usually slouched and scuffed			Wears baggy casual clothes and his personal messenger bag filled with materials		-Polite and timid -Keeps to himself but is observant -Explores different hobbies			Wants to find what he excels at doing which separates him from others	Fears to be alienated and judged by strangers, friends, and even his family	Has no clear sense of direction what he wants to do. Only concerned with the perception of others	He is getting older and is still not finding what he is good at

INNER SELF (TAO SA LOOB / PSYCHOLOGICAL)													
HISTORY (BACK STORY)			IDENTITY 2 (SPLINTERED SELF)		WORLD VIEW		EMOTIONAL CENTER		INTERNAL OBSTACLE	DESIRE			
IDENTITY 1 (WHOLE SELF)	INCITING INCIDENT	BUBOG	LIVED LIFE	UNLIVED LIFE	RIGHT BELIEFS	MISBELIEFS	LOVE	FEAR		AWARE NEED	UNAWARE NEED	LEARNINGS	TRANSFORMATION
He is just like any other child born in a middle class family	He realizes he is mediocre at almost everything	His friends and strangers are finding their calling, except for him	Lived as a timid and mediocre person	Still mediocre, but happy and confident self. Achieved his passion	Everyone must have something they excel at	The world is unfair because he is mediocre unlike everyone else	Trying different things to find what makes him unique	Fears to be alienated and judged by strangers, friends, and even his family	Thoughts of inadequacy and innate mediocrity	Need to find what he excels at doing which separates him from others	Need to realize that what he is truly passionate in is more important	Learns that although he excels at gardening, he will achieve contempt through finding his passion. What gives him joy	He goes back to trying his mediocre skills in creating art. His true passion.

SOCIAL SELF (SOCIOLOGICAL)						
STATUS (SOCIAL HIERARCHY)			PRIMARY RELATIONSHIP	SOCIAL AND EXTRA-SOCIAL OBSTACLES	SHADOW / MIRROR	RELATIONSHIP WITH STORY WORLD / CONTEXT
POSITION	RELATIONSHIP	SITUATION				
Middle Class	Single	Well-off	Himself	Strangers as well as his parents judge his mediocracy	Family, friends, acquaintances, strangers. Everyone	Protagonist

Appendix E - Storyboard Format Script

MEDIUM: SHORT WEBTOON-STYLE GRAPHIC NOVEL.

PROPONENT: MARK GERALD G. MORALES

STORYBOARD FORMAT SCRIPT

SEQ/ PANEL	PANEL DESCRIPTION	DIALOUGE / NARRATION	PROPS
SEQ.01 - THE MEDIOCRE			
SEQ.01/ PANEL 1	Full shot of Ethan, a seemingly ordinary youngster, surrounded by his successful and talented classmates.	“In every way, Ethan was an ordinary youngster.”	Classroom table and chair.

SEQ.01/ PANEL 2	Medium shot of Ethan’s classmates chattering.	Classmate 1 said “Man that math test was hard, but I managed to get a perfect score on it.” “I didn’t do too well. But yesterday, I set a new school record for the 100-meter dash!” Classmate 2 replied. “That’s all really nice. I’ll share is this sculpture I did last week for our art class because I only did decently on those.” Classmate 3 added and they all laughed with each other.	Test paper and clay sculpture.
SEQ.01/ PANEL 3	Close-up shot of Ethan's thoughtful face, observing his classmates.	“He yearns for something extraordinary, something to set him apart.”	
SEQ.01/ PANEL 4	Establishing shot of Ethan’s home.		
SEQ.01/ PANEL 5	POV shot of Ethan looking at his hands, feet, and then the mirror, contemplating his potential.	“A desire to discover his hidden potential started to grow inside him.”	
SEQ.02 – DABBLING IN HOBBIES			
SEQ.02/ PANEL 1	Montage of Ethan trying various hobbies - practicing musical instruments, writing, playing sports, etc.	“He tries different things, searching for what he truly excels at.”	Guitar, pencil, paper, piano, soccer ball, Books, and volley ball.
SEQ.02/ PANEL 2	Medium shot of Ethan actually smiling and liking a hobby he is trying.	“This is not so bad.” Ethan thought.	
SEQ.02/ PANEL 3	Dreamy flashback of Ethan remembering himself as a child observing everything around him.	“I see. I think I know why now.” Ethan thought.	

SEQ.02/ PANEL 4	Over-the-shoulder shot revealing that the hobby is sketching and making art, but		Table, pencil, and papers.
	it can be seen that Ethan is just mediocre at it.		
SEQ.02/ PANEL 5	Extreme close-up shot of Ethan’s eyes showing impatience and frustration.	“Frustration threatens to overwhelm Ethan...”	
SEQ.02/ PANEL 6	Over-the-shoulder shot of Ethan crumpling a piece of unsuccessful artwork.	“...but he refuses to give up.”	Table, pencil, papers, and crumpled paper.
SEQ.02/ PANEL 7	Wide shot of Ethan sitting on the chair exhausted.		Chair, table, bed, shelf, cabinet, and lamp.
SEQ.03 – UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY			
SEQ.03/ PANEL 1	Establishing shot of Ethan’s neighborhood casted in warm light.		
SEQ.03/ PANEL 2	Medium shot of Ethan showing a discouraged face while walking home.		Messenger bag.
SEQ.03/ PANEL 3	Close-up shot of Ethan’s face noticing something.		
SEQ.03/ PANEL 4	Wide shot of an elderly man having trouble tending to his garden because of a bad back.		Towel and gardening tools.
SEQ.03/ PANEL 5	Over-the-shoulder shot of Ethan approaching the old man and offering his help.	“Good afternoon, Sir. I’m sure you don’t know me. I just noticed you having a hard time so I wanted to ask if you need a hand?” Ethan asked.	Towel, gardening tools, and messenger bag.
SEQ.03/ PANEL 6	Reverse shot of the old man responding.	“Oh, I would be happy if you could help! Thank you so much, you’re a very kind young man.” the old man responded.	Towel, gardening tools, and messenger bag.

SEQ.03/ PANEL 7	Montage of Ethan learning from the old man and him helping tend to the garden.	“Ethan did not know...”	Towel, gardening tools, and messenger bag.
SEQ.03/ PANEL 8	POV shot of Ethan’s dirtied hands.	“...that this would be an unexpected discovery.”	
SEQ.03/ PANEL 9	Dreamy flashback of Ethan as a child always admiring nature's brilliant hues and beauty.		
SEQ.03/ PANEL 10	Extreme close-up shot of Ethan’s eyes showing interest and determination.	“I wonder...” Ethan thought.	
SEQ.04 – NEW PATH			
SEQ.04/ PANEL 1	Montage of Ethan sitting on a chair in his room as it becomes filled with plants because of him reading books, following courses, and talking with people online about gardening.	“Ethan has discovered an interest for gardening and nurturing life.”	Chair, table, plants, books, and laptop.
SEQ.04/ PANEL 2	Close-up shot of Ethan’s excited expression.	“This is it!” Ethan muttered	
SEQ.04/ PANEL 3	Over-the-shoulder shot of a flourishing plant that Ethan has been nurturing.	“Ethan's talent for gardening becomes evident, bringing life to every seedling.”	Potted plant.
SEQ.04/ PANEL 4	Establishing shot of Ethan’s beautiful garden on his home.		
SEQ.04/ PANEL 5	Medium shot of Ethan standing tall and looking satisfied.	“He has finally found it...”	
SEQ.04/ PANEL 6	The frame is blocked by plant leaves.	“...what makes him unique. His means of making a difference.”	
SEQ.05 – OVERCOMING OBSESSION			
SEQ.05/ PANEL 1	Wide shot of Ethan’s back doing something while sitting on a chair in his room.	“Weeks have turned to months.”	Table, chair, and plants.

SEQ.05/ PANEL 2	Worm’s eye view shot from Ethan’s table showing Ethan’s unkempt and rugged appearance revealing it has been months.		
SEQ.05/ PANEL 3	Extreme close-up shot of Ethan’s eyes showing exhaustion.		
SEQ.05/ PANEL 4	Establishing shot of his room filled with plant life.	“Ethan has become obsessed.”	Plants.
SEQ.05/ PANEL 5	Extreme close-up shot of Ethan’s closed eyes.	“I’m... tired.”	
SEQ.05/ PANEL 6	Montage of Ethan clearing up some space on his desk and he finds his old sketches.	“He decides it would not be best for him to continue going down this path for the time being. He decides to go back to the start.”	Table, chair, plants, and papers.
SEQ.05/ PANEL 7	Close-up shot of Ethan’s face showing that he is reminiscing of his experiences.		
SEQ.05/ PANEL 8	Close-up shot of Ethan picking up a pencil.		Pencil.
SEQ.05/ PANEL 9	Wide shot of Ethan taking his time sketching on paper.		Pencil, paper, and plants.
SEQ.05/ PANEL 10	Worm’s eye view shot showing Ethan’s expression as he feels at peace.	“To what he decided to forget in exchange for polishing his uniqueness.”	
SEQ.06 – END			
SEQ.06/ PANEL 1	Establishing shot of Ethan’s room now neatly kept and adequately accented with plant life.	“Although he is not good...”	Chair, table, plants, books, and laptop.
SEQ.06/ PANEL 2	Montage of Ethan sitting on a chair in his room as it becomes filled with plants because of him reading books, following courses, and talking with people online about making art.	“...he knows he will get better slowly.”	Chair, table, plants, books, papers, pencil, and laptop.

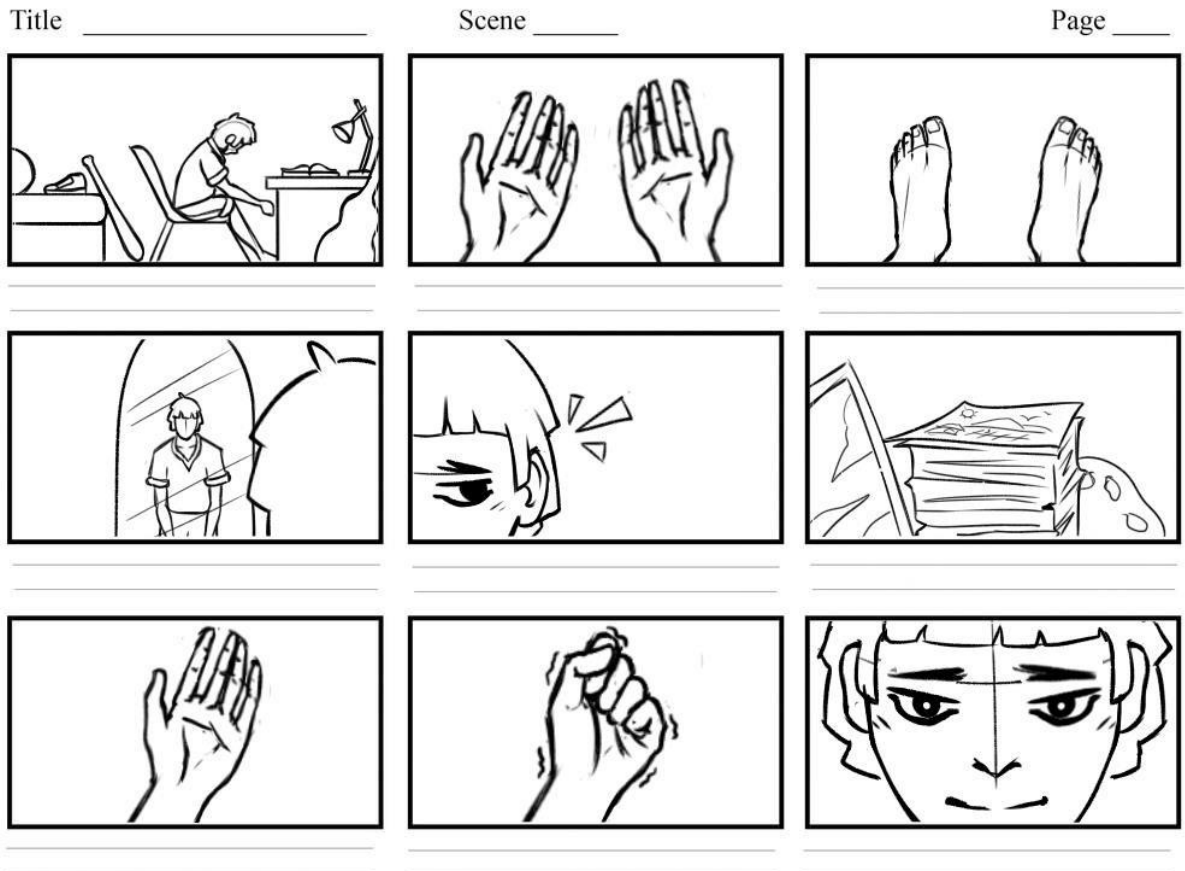
SEQ.06/ PANEL 3	Close-up shot of Ethan’s artwork of a Marigold flower.	“Ethan has changed. He finally realizes that there is also serenity in tackling a journey he is truly passionate in.”	Paper and pencil.
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Appendix F - Wordless Storytelling

SCENE 1: Ethan, with a contemplative expression on his face, is sat in the middle of the classroom surrounded by his classmates and peers that have each found their path. Every one of them is holding an item that represented diverse fields they have succeeded at. This prompts Ethan to come into deep thought and realize that he longs to find his own distinct talent. Ethan resolves to experiment with many activities and hobbies as much as he could, such as musical instruments, writing, athletics, visual art, and many more in order to discover what is truly for him.

Title _____ Scene _____ Page _____




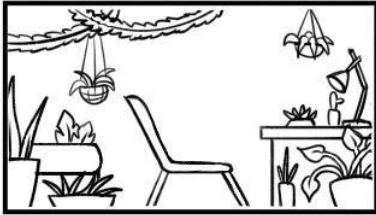




SCENE 2: Ethan sits in a slouched position at a messy desk in his poorly lit room. He looks blankly at his hands, then his feet, and then the mirror near the wall. An assortment of items, clothes, and tools are scattered about the room. What caught his attention is a pile of unfinished sketches and crumpled pieces of paper. Ethan clinched his hands and his eyes is shown filled with persistence.



SCENE 3: Ethan is outside, his face showing uncertainty and doubt. As he is about to go home, Ethan encounters an elderly neighbor that is having trouble while tending to their garden. Ethan approached the elderly man to offer his help. The elderly man smiled happily and excitedly shows Ethan the plants. Ethan felt shy and laughed awkwardly, but as the elderly man is showing him what to do, Ethan notices he is doing really well in taking care of the plants. Ethan wanted to know more and his face shows that it has piqued his interest.



SCENE 4: It has been months since Ethan started pursuing his hobby and talent in gardening. His room is now filled with numerous plants, which reflect his growing obsession. It came to a point that he forgets to take care of himself because he is so engrossed in his study and taking care of the plant lives, he is nurturing. He looks unkempt and is feeling trapped in this routine, he decides to step back and reevaluate his journey.

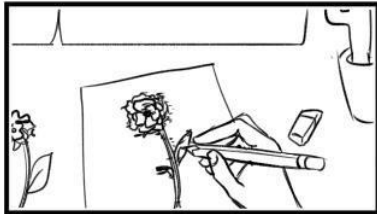
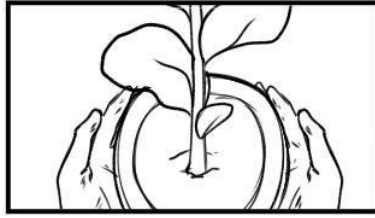
Title _____	Scene _____	Page _____
		
		
		

SCENE 5: Ethan's eyes showed the feeling of reminiscing. He remembers how he enjoyed making sketches when he was trying out different hobbies. Ethan decided to put out some of the plants that is stuffing his room and table. He wanted to rediscover the feeling of passion he had in making art. Ethan started embarking on another new journey, embracing the diversity of his interests and his mediocrity in doing them. He shows a satisfied smile. He finds peace and happiness in pursuing his artistic passion, knowing that growth and improvement will come with time and dedication.

Title _____

Scene _____

Page _____



Appendix G – Scenography Midterm



Initial Sketch

The feedback I received for my 1-page storyline gave me a new perspective on how I should show the development of my character's emotional journey. I really liked the idea of showing his room full of plants to convey his interest and fascination with nurturing plant life to the point of obsession. I was also wondering before what I should make him draw when he finally decided to continue his true passion of making art, and it made sense that he should draw what he is familiar to the most.

The elements within the scene would be various plants, a lamp, a piece of paper, pencil, and his cat.

The various plants are to show his interest and natural ability to take care of plant life. The lamp is an element that would provide light when he is doing work on his desk. The piece of paper and pencil is to show how beginner and learning artists start their artistic journey. Lastly, I believe that a cat embodies his calm, unbothered, yet determined personality.



Final Rendered Illustration

Note: The plant that he is drawing is a marigold because it is the flower that came up when I searched what plant symbolizes passion. Marigold is known as "the herb of the sun" because it symbolizes passion and creativity.

Appendix H – 3 Scenes

