*,,Problems are not stop signs: they are guidelines.”*

*-Robert Schuller*

A wise man named Robert Schuller once said: „Problems are not stop signs: they are guidelines”. While the sentence might sound simple, naive or just clichéd, you cannot denny that it brings forth an issue that every single one of us struggles with every day. Human beings are fragile by nature. Driven by emotions, we often fall victim to our own mind, creating an invisible prison not everyone could escape. Complexes, insecurities, loneliness or just plain unsatiable anger are very present in most humans’ lives. This could cause depression, anxiety, violence or even push people towards crime when unattended. Especially nowadays psychologists are becoming increasingly popular to the point where almost everyone has one. While it certainly is healthy and advisable to visit a specialist, we must remember that the real work starts with us. With us, acknowledging our true selves, our strengths and weaknessess, quirks and insecurities, and start working towards becoming a better person. That is, in my opinion, the true genius of Schuller’s sentence, and why I agree with it.

Life proves at every corner that it can be cruel and there is not much we can do to omit such cruelty. There is, however, something we can do, and that is deciding how to cope with certain circumstances. As an example, I will bring forth the character of Maya Angelou, the protagonist of ,,I know why the caged bird sings” by the same author. Maya never had an easy life. Her parents got divorced when she was little and sent her to live with her grandma at a small town of Stamps in Arkansas. Due to her dark black skin color, she was often bullied, and at a later point in life, she couldn’t get the job because of her race. When she was 8, she was sexually abused by her mom’s boyfriend, Mr. Freeman. Becuase of that, she went almost completely mute for several years. However, she never got discouraged and stopped fighting for her place on earth. Every time life was hard on her, she just pushed her boundaries with the sheer amount of effort, courage and strong will. Maya decided on her own how to deal with problems and came out victorious becoming a very succesful writer and activist.

It is easy getting discouraged by your own limitations, but they are not an excuse to give up. The second argument actually comes from my experience, and as I can see, from many others as well. I always had a strong passion for creating. Whether it was a card game clumsily put up with friends, a script for a film or just a simple school essay, I always had fun with it. One thing in particular that had me interested turned out to be filmmaking. I wanted to make films. Maybe not a full-blown movies for starters, but saying a bunch of words to the camera and then editing it for a few painstakingly long hours. However, there was a single problem that bothered me deeply and became my insecurity, and that was my manner of speech. I have a hard time speaking some of the sophisticated words and it often turns out as and unpleasant lisp. For a narrator not speaking fluently is unacceptable, so it was a field I had to develop in the most. The point is, even though it is considerably harder for me to do what I do, I have not got discouraged and try my best to overcome this obstacle. I believe that one day I will be able to speak as clear as my mentor, *Krzysztof Ibisz*.

All things considered, I believe that every person has a potential to grow on its own. The only limitation lies deep inside our mindsets and it is in our best interest to delve into that place and push our boundaries towards better tomorrow. We must above all remember that no matter how hard it seems or gets or if everything is crumbling beneath our feet- there is always a way out. Because problems are not something to be beaten by. Problems are the guidelines that guide us through our lives.