

Dance Drama

An activity of "Compassion without borders"

In "**Compassion without borders**" (page 8, *What's Up* July 2017), we read about one community that had its own problems but went ahead to help another faraway community. This is a very touching story about compassion. Even communities that are very different from each other can stand together to weather the storms of life. Apply this important lesson by choreographing and performing a dance drama about two local families.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read "**Compassion without borders**" (page 8). Divide your class into three groups. It helps to have at least one person in each group who is a good dancer and is able to lead the group in coming up with dance moves.
2. Work in your group to develop a story about two families that are very different from each other. The storyline should be set in an HDB block, and be about how they come to live in harmony. Use scenarios where these neighbours might meet. As the story would be told through dance and not words, it should be action-packed. Make it an exciting performance by depicting the challenges of meeting new people and living harmoniously together while, at the same time, practicing different faiths or lifestyles. There can be disagreements, misunderstandings and so on along the way.
5. Select music that fits your story. Choreograph the performance with dance moves that tell the story clearly, including hand gestures and facial expressions that need to be used to communicate what is happening.
6. Perform your group's dance in class, with a brief introduction explaining what it is about. Consider having all three groups stage a performance for your school to celebrate Racial Harmony Day.
7. Reflect, as a whole class, on what this activity meant to you.