



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

JAM Wishes

An extension of "Fighting cholera in Yemen"

Read "**Fighting cholera in Yemen**" (page 6, *What's Up* January 2018). The story describes a very sad situation. Yet, there is hope: thousands of volunteers and professionals are working hard to make life better for the children there.

Even then, it can be very hard to reach certain kids in the war zones of Yemen. They are the children who have been forced to join the rebel groups. Some of these kids are made to fight as soldiers, while the rest help with cooking and other work at the rebel camps. There are child soldiers in other places as well.

Using children for war is wrong. That is why **12 February** is the International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers. Also called **Red Hand Day**, kids in schools around the world have special projects on this day. If your class would like to do something for Red Hand Day, here is an activity to try.

This year, in the same week as Red Hand Day, people will be celebrating Chinese New Year (CNY) and Valentine's Day. On these happy occasions, we greet our family and friends by expressing our hopes for them. Let's channel some of that goodwill into wishes for child soldiers on Red Hand Day.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Jot down all the typical wishes you hear during Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. Using these to stimulate your thoughts, make a list of what you sincerely hope will come true soon for the child soldiers in Yemen and elsewhere.
2. Prepare a JAM speech using your list of hopes and wishes. JAM stands for "Just A Minute". Packing all you want to say into 60 seconds may not be easy, but when JAM speeches are well done, they are powerful.
3. Take turns to present your JAM wishes in class on Red Hand Day (12 February). Although the child soldiers will not be there to hear you, expressing aloud your hopes and wishes for these victims takes you one step closer to helping them in some way. One day, your hopes and wishes may morph into ideas for action.
4. Share your Red Hand Day activity with other *What's Up* readers by emailing a note to letters@whatsup.sg.