

## Firm, Kind & Caring

*An activity of "Fairer is better? That's not fair!"*

What should you say to someone who is rude and mean? Would you attack with your words, tit for tat? That is what many people might feel like doing. However, this approach grows hate, and that makes the problem worse. "An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind," warned Mahatma Gandhi, one of the world's greatest leaders for peace.

There is another option. But, it is much harder to do. You can be firm and, at the same time, kind and caring to those who are not. It is a good approach because you would add to the peace in the world. Also, you could be a role model who can change that nasty person into a more decent human being.

Being kind and caring does not mean that you are shrugging off the rudeness and cruelty of others. Instead, your words should clearly say what you believe is wrong. You may already be doing this. For instance, many kids tell their friends that stealing, cheating, littering, hurting butterflies, and other acts like that are bad. There are situations, however, when the words are harder to form. Racial discrimination is one of them. Practice can be very helpful.

Let's practice using kind and caring words in a firm way. Work in pairs. Read the article "**Fairer is better? That's not fair!**" on page 19 of *What's Up* January 2019. Imagine that you were in Molly Dass's class when she was a child. What would you say to each of these people? Explain what is wrong with their logic. Remember to speak firmly in a kind and caring way.

	How some kids and a teacher treated Molly	What you would say to each of them
1	Sarah refused to partner Molly when the class lined up to go to the hall.	
2	Tara borrowed an eraser from Molly. When Molly handed it to her, Tara used a piece of tissue to take the eraser to avoid touching her hand.	
3	The teacher told the class that they would be as dark as Molly if they did not have proper baths.	
4	The same teacher explained to Molly that her artwork would be more beautiful if she coloured all people peach.	

Share your responses with your class. Listen to the responses that the other pairs composed. Hearing their words can give you more ideas for how to be kind and caring as you firmly explain to people why racial discrimination is wrong.