

Storybook Power

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

Racism is a problem the world is trying to get rid of. One type of racism is called colourism. A colourist person looks down on — and may even be mean to — people who have dark skin. To learn more about colourism, read the article "**Fairer is better? That's not fair!**". You will find it on page 19 of *What's Up* January 2019. There are also posters of this article at your school.

Good people everywhere are working hard to get rid of colourism. Thanks to them, there are now wonderful storybooks, songs, and videos that help children to see how wrong colourism is. To do your share, carry out this activity. Work in small groups of three or four students.

PART 1: REVIEW

As a group, select one storybook or song that teaches kids to see all skin colours as equally good. There are many such resources around. For instance, we found these four books at the National Library, and several local bookstores.



An example of a famous song is Sesame Street's "Colour of Me". An older song is "Ebony and Ivory", which Paul McCartney wrote and then sang with Stevie Wonder. These and many other songs against colourism can be found on YouTube.

Critically review your selected book or song. Do you think it is suitable for kids in Singapore? How could it help them? What would you change to make it even better? Discuss your thoughts.

PART 2: CREATE

Next, write and illustrate a storybook about skin colour. Think of all the kids your group knows who are in kindergarten. This is your target audience. Agree on which group members will be the authors and who will illustrate the book. Work together to develop your plot and flesh out your story. As you create the storybook, visualise your target audience reading it. That way, you will focus on making it attractive and meaningful for those little kids. The book can be either a paper hardcopy or an e-book. Make a copy for every group member.

PART 3: SHARE

Share your group's book with your class. Then, read your book to young kids you know. We encourage you to scan and send a copy to *What's Up* (email letters@whatsup.sg). If your book is published at our website, your group would win a prize.