

Clean Up Your Classroom!

An activity of "Some words hurt. Put them in the dustbin."

Read "Some words hurt. Put them in the dustbin." on page 17 of the *What's Up* May issue. The article is also found at <http://more.whatsup.sg/welcome-2/icerd/>.

When people are rude to one another, the words have a bad effect on everyone in that shared space. Even the person being rude is affected. And, simply overhearing unkind words can be stressful as well. While this may not surprise any of us, we seldom bother to clean up our classroom environment by throwing out unhealthy words. Artist Linda Yew has illustrated this beautifully for the *What's Up* article. Do you see how the two friends are sorting out words for either the dustbin or the treasure chest? Now, do the same in your classroom. Work in pairs to list words and phrases you have heard in class — decide which belong in the dustbin and which are truly worth keeping in your treasure chest.



The illustration shows a leopard and a panda standing in a grassy field. The leopard is on the left, and the panda is on the right. They are surrounded by words and phrases. Some words are being thrown into a grey dustbin on the left, while others are being placed into a wooden treasure chest on the right. The words include "SMILE", "CRITICISE", "GUILTY", and "THANK".

For our dustbin:

For our dustbin:

For our dustbin:

For our treasure chest:

For our treasure chest:

For our treasure chest:

For our treasure chest:

In the three spaces on the left, fill in examples of unkind words that you want to throw into the dustbin.

In the three spaces on your right, fill in examples of kind, caring words that you want to keep in the treasure chest.

In your mind's eye, visualise this scene when you choose words to express yourself.