

Inclusive Artwork in Singapore

An activity of "Help all kids feel they belong"

Posters, banners, murals, and other artwork reflect what kind of society we live in. If there are images showing people of different colours, sizes, and shapes, then we get the feeling that diversity is valued. Also, those who look different from the majority will feel they are part of that society if the images around them show people with whom they can identify. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have every single person in Singapore feel he or she belongs here?

Read "Help all kids feel they belong". The article is on page 15 of *What's Up* June 2019. You will also find it on a poster at school and online at more.whatsup.sg/welcome-2/icerd/.

PART I: Seeing yourself in artwork



1. Study the artwork for this article. The scene illustrates the section "A sense of self". Artist Linda Yew's poster of the Hilo advertisement is very **inclusive** because it shows healthy, happy players of different colours, shapes, and sizes competing together.

2. On the back of this sheet, jot down your responses to the following questions. Then, share your thoughts with your friends.

- *From what you can see, why do you think the young zebra is so excited about the Hilo advertisement?*
- *How would the young zebra's sense of self be affected if the advertisement had made zebras look clumsy and ugly?*
- *On the other hand, what would happen to the young zebra's sense of self if there were no other zebras in town and no pictures of them either?*

PART II: Looking for inclusive artwork

1. For a week, look at the artwork around you — posters, murals, advertisements, banners, magazine covers, and anything else that shows images of humans. Be critical: ask whether the scenes show people who all look alike or whether there is **diversity**.
2. Pick the two that you feel best represent multicultural Singapore. Capture the images: either take photos or sketch what you see. Note where and when you saw the inclusive artwork.
3. Work in small groups. Pool together all the images you collected. Pick four that your group agrees are the most inclusive in terms of showing local diversity.
4. Develop a presentation of your group's selection. You may make a poster, use PowerPoint slides or even show a series of tableaux. A tableau is a scene presented by a group of silent, still humans (your group members, in this case).
5. Present your group's sampler of inclusive artwork in class. Explain why, in your group's opinion, each of your best four items was selected for your sampler of inclusive artwork.