

A Giraffe on Your Roof!

An activity of "Art to Heart"

- 1) Turn to page 23 of the September issue of *What's Up*. Spend a few minutes enjoying the scene by artist Linda Yew. Then, have a go at the activity below. For this activity, Ms Yew has written a poem for you to have fun completing. As you can see, the poem is about a family that discovers a giraffe on their rooftop. They worry about how to get it off their roof safely for everyone (including the giraffe).

Help the family come up with creative solutions to their problem by completing the poem. You may choose to work with a partner. (Rhyming adds a nice touch, but it is not really necessary, so don't worry about it!)

Giraffe on the Roof

One morning, I woke, to hear my dad screaming,
 "There's a giraffe on our rooftop! NO! I am NOT dreaming!"
 I joined Dad on the rooftop and the strange sight greeted me:
 There sat a giraffe drinking bubble milk tea.

The giraffe was gigantic, it weighed a ton!
 It was tall as a tree and seemed wide as the sun.
 Mum and Sis came up in a while.
 They stared at the giraffe, jaws dropping a mile.

"How on earth did it get here?"
 Dad replied, "I have no idea."
 "But we need a plan to get it off our roof!"
 "Maybe, we can tie a rope, pull it down by its hoof?"

"Absolutely not!" I protested. "You'll harm the poor creature!
 Maybe, we can _____?"

"I don't think we should," Dad frowned. "That may harm us instead.
 Maybe, we can _____?"

"No, no," laughed Sis. "That is too silly!
 Maybe, we can _____?"

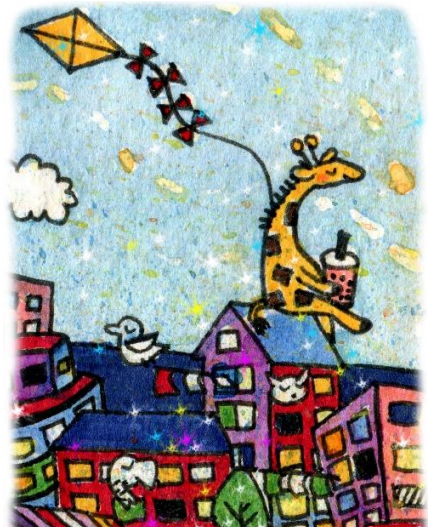
Mum shook her head, "That's awfully messy.
 Maybe, we can _____?"

"Better not," Dad disagreed. "That sounds too crazy!
 Maybe, we can _____?"

"I don't think so," I objected. "That's impossible!"

Just as we were in the midst of discussion,
 The giraffe spoke up, "Sorry for my interruption.
 I'd like to say hello,
 and thank you for your rooftop.
 But now, I'm afraid I have to go."

With that, he humbly bowed, gave a little wave,
 Then flew off into the clouds on a big, yellow kite.



2) In real life, we will also face unexpected problems (though, not literally a giraffe on the roof!). In small groups, think of a situation where you may be caught in a dilemma. Here is an example:

Example of a dilemma: <i>I was playing with two good friends, Lili and Jane. They both wanted me to be their best friend. I think I like Lili better. Lili told me, "Let's go play somewhere by ourselves." I am afraid Jane will feel left out and hurt if I agree. What should I do?</i>		
Possible Solutions	Advantages	Disadvantages
1) <i>Go off to play with Lili without telling Jane.</i>	<i>I will have fun as I like Lili better. I avoid breaking the unhappy news to Jane.</i>	<i>Jane will feel left out and hurt. I will feel bad.</i>
2) <i>Ignore Lili's suggestion and continue playing together with both of them.</i>	<i>Jane will not feel left out and hurt, and we can carry on playing as usual</i>	<i>Lili will feel ignored if I do not take up her suggestion. She may feel hurt too.</i>
3) <i>Go off to play with Lili and tell Jane that Lili wants to play with me alone.</i>	<i>I am being honest. I will have fun with Lili, and Jane will know it is Lili's idea, not mine.</i>	<i>Jane may feel left out and hurt. I am pushing the responsibility to Lili for suggesting it.</i>
4) <i>Fix another time to play with Lili alone, but play together with Jane this round, as we have already agreed to do so.</i>	<i>Lili and I can still have fun by ourselves on another day. We can still enjoy playing together as a group of three and Jane won't feel left out and hurt.</i>	<i>None I can think of!</i>
Best option: <i>I think No. 4 is the best solution to my dilemma.</i>		

Now, it is your turn! Using the table below, write down a dilemma one of you is facing. Brainstorm solutions. Then, list down the possible solutions. Weigh their advantages and disadvantages. Calmly thinking through your options can help you decide the best course of action to take.

Our Group's Dilemma:		
Possible Solutions	Advantages	Disadvantages
Best option:		