

In Another's Shoes

An activity of Stories of Casual Racism

In "Was that a trick question?", the writer shares examples of questions that are not sensitive to individuals of another race. Read the article at <http://more.whatsup.sg/>.

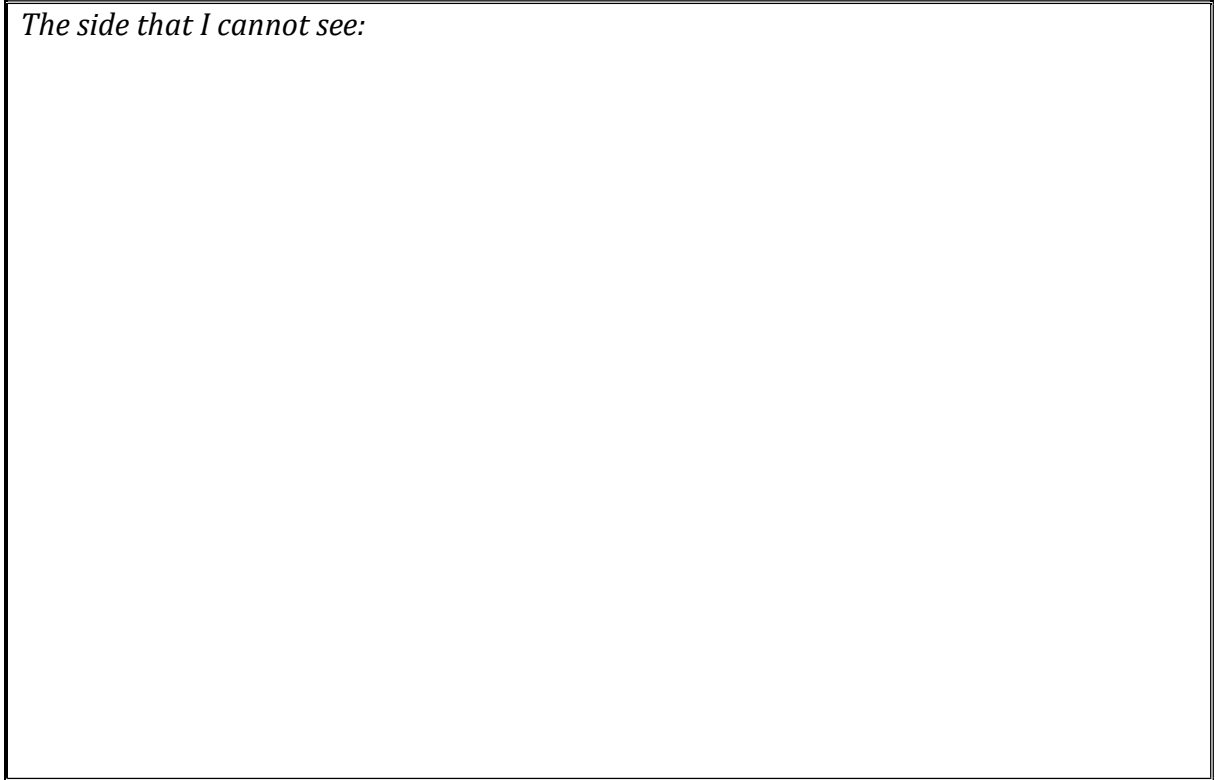
- 1) Fill in the **five speech bubbles** below with such questions. Then, fill in the **thought bubble** (the second bubble from the left) with what the responding child may be thinking. You may use examples from the article or make up your own words.



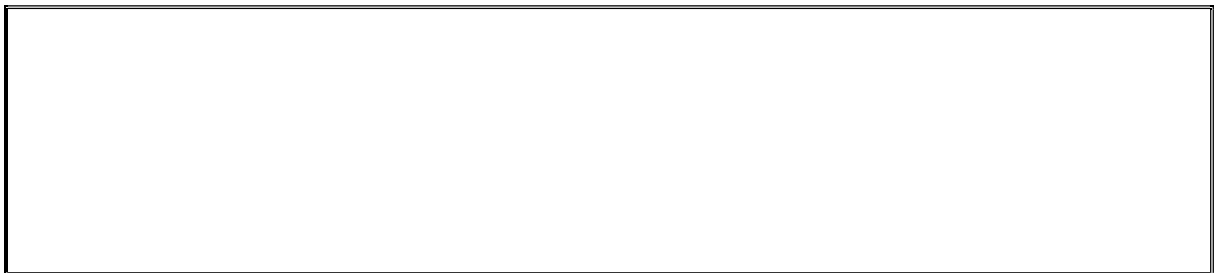
- 2) The insensitive questions may tell us some things about those asking them. As we have no way of knowing for sure, we can only guess. Step into the shoes of each questioner, and imagine. Do you think those asking the questions realise that their questions are not welcome? Give reasons for your guesswork.

- 3) Pick a simple object that has an irregular shape to draw a still life. The challenge for you is to draw the side of the object that you are not able to see — the side that is not facing you.

The side that I cannot see:



- 4) Flip the object 180 degrees around to compare how your finished drawing above looks beside the actual object. How easy or difficult was it for you to draw what you could not see?



Seeing something from another person's perspective is a little like drawing the side of the object that you could not see. In the case of the object, you could easily turn it around to look at the hidden side. Otherwise, you could simply walk around it.

In the case of human beings, it is not so easy to see their thoughts, intentions and attitudes. On page 1, you had to guess what was going on in the questioners minds.

In real life, you can do more than guess what people are thinking! You have the option of asking them. Use questions in ways that will help us all to understand one another better. Thoughtful questions can build understanding and that is a big step towards a kinder, more caring world.