



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Quotable Quotes

An activity of the Maria Hertogh series

First, browse through all the Maria Hertogh stories to get a good overview. You will find the stories at <http://more.whatsup.sg>. Then, zoom in on the six quotes presented below to think more deeply about what happened. Work in small groups of two or three.

PART I — Look for the following extracts within the stories so that you see them in their contexts. Respond to these questions by discussing them within your group.

1 Maria in court [Story 2]

"If other people are upset about this, then I am upset a thousand times more."
— Aminah Mohamed

QUESTIONS

- What were the other people upset about?
- Why did Aminah say that she was a thousand times more upset than others?
- How would you have felt if you were Maria's close friend in Malaya?

2 Maria in the Netherlands [Story 6]

"I saw many photographers, reporters, and other people at the airport. However, I didn't care about all that at all. I was too preoccupied with what I was going through." — Maria Hertogh

QUESTIONS

- What do you think Maria was too preoccupied with?
- Why was there such a big crowd focusing on her at the airport?
- How could Maria have been spared the ordeal of facing these strangers?

3 Different races, same kampung [Story 9]

"To me, it was nothing about heroism. It so happened that I was there and I knew him. I would have done the same for anybody I knew." — Dick Yip

QUESTIONS

- What did Dick Yip do that was heroic?
- Do you think many people would have done what Dick did for his friend?
- If something like that happened today, would you do what he did?

4 **Love could have won** [Story 10]

"I decided to write about the riots because there are a lot of important lessons on racial harmony and tolerance that we can learn from the tragedy." — Isa Kamari

QUESTIONS

- a) What helped Isa give a more balanced account than the 1950 news media did?
- b) Of the anecdotes that he shares, which do you find the most heart-warming?
- c) If you were to write a book about a recent event, what would it be about?

PART II — Now, it is your turn. Pick your favourite sentence from any of the 10 stories in the Maria Hertogh series. Set three questions and discuss your responses.

STORY: _____

QUOTE: “ _____

_____”

QUESTIONS

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____