

A Letter to the Past

An activity of the Maria Hertogh Riots series

As you read the Maria Hertogh stories, you will see that there are a few key people who are within Maria's inner circle. While Maria is the protagonist in the stories, the people she considered family members would have gone through a difficult time as well. If you could go back in time and talk to them, what would you say? Work in pairs to share your thoughts and feelings with any one of these key persons. Be empathetic as you imagine what it might have been like to be in their shoes.

1. Read the first nine stories of the Maria Hertogh series at <http://more.whatsup.sg>.
2. Select any one of these four persons to write to:
 - Adeline Hertogh
 - Adrianus Hertogh
 - Aminah Mohamed
 - Mansoor Adabi
4. Work together to compose your letter. Jot down your main points here →. Then, write the letter on the other side of this worksheet.
5. Discuss with your partner what it was like to:
 - (i) imagine what your focus person went through when it was so long ago
 - (ii) put into words your own thoughts and feelings about that person's experience of Maria Hertogh's life.
6. Share your letter and your reflections with your class.

