



Teacher's Guide Maria Hertogh Giant Quiz

Lesson objective: That students engage more fully in the stories of the Maria Hertogh series.

This online quiz is to be projected on a screen to enable the whole class to participate fully. The quiz is available at <https://ideas.whatsup.sg/activity-ideas/>.

The class forms four teams, each with a leader. The teacher appoints a game host. A hard-copy list of the questions and answers is provided to the game host, who then conducts the quiz.

The teacher serves as the referee who settles any answer disputes and decides on the acceptability of answers for the more challenging “Thoughts” (TH) questions.

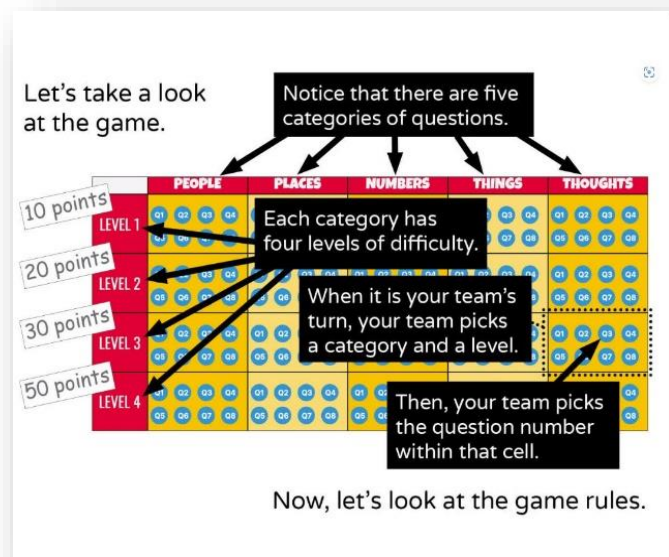
Quiz questions are based on articles from the Maria Hertogh series. There are five categories: People, Places, Numbers, Things, and Thoughts. Each category has four levels of difficulty, with eight questions per level per category.

Team A chooses a category, level, and question number (e.g. “Places, level 2, question 3”). When the game host clicks on the chosen button, its question pops up on the screen. Team A members discuss and decide on an answer which its leader calls out.

The teams may refer to the Maria Hertogh stories at our children’s website — <https://more.whatsup.sg/maria-hertogh-series/>.

The game host refers to the print copy of answers. If Team A’s answer is correct, the game host clicks the “answer” tab and awards the points accordingly in the score table. If the answer is wrong, the game host invites the other teams to attempt the question until the correct answer is given. The points then go to the team that gives the correct answer.

Team B then chooses a category, level, and question number. The game continues as far as time allows, or until all the questions have been answered. The team with the most points wins.



Resources provided:

- Maria Hertogh stories at <https://more.whatsapp.sg/maria-hertogh-series/>
- Online Giant Quiz at <https://ideas.whatsapp.sg/activity-ideas/>
- Ready-to-print list of game questions and answers emailed to schools.
- Answers to “Thoughts” questions in this Teacher’s Guide for the Referee.

A Giant Quiz

Suggested answers to “Thoughts” questions

The answers below are not meant to be comprehensive or restrictive. As most of the Thoughts questions call for some speculation and reflection, the teams’ answers are acceptable as long as they are logical and possibly true. The teams should be encouraged to elaborate and offer alternative views. The referee decides whether to give the full points or less for each answer.

LEVEL 1 (10 points each)

1. Why do you think Aminah fought for Maria’s custody when she was not her birth mother?

Aminah loved Maria as if she were her own child/daughter. (MHR-1)

It is possible that Aminah might have considered what was in the best interest of the child.

Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.

2. How do you think Maria felt while waiting out her court case in Singapore?

She was clearly upset to be away from her adoptive mother, Aminah. (MHR-2, MHR-4) / She might have been frightened to stay with strangers and away from the family she loved (Aminah). (MHR- 4, MHR-6) /

She might have felt all alone separated from her adoptive family, husband and friends. (MHR-4, MHR-6) /

She might have been worried about the outcome/verdict/future.

Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.

3. How can we be media smart and decide what in the media might most likely be true?

We can think about the context, and how, when, and why the media reports were made or photographs taken. (MHR-3)

We can compare what is reported or claimed with other media accounts.

We can ask those who were there or know the situation first-hand.

Any other good strategies.

4. What contributed to the Maria Hertogh riots?

Information about the placing of Maria in a convent when she was raised as a Muslim, and the newspaper images and reports of Maria in the convent were exploited to arouse people. (MHR-4)

The political climate might have been ripe for such an uprising, the Maria’s case providing a good-enough reason.

Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.

5. Why did Maria not want to go with her birth parents?

Maria had been looked after by Cik Aminah since she was five years old, and had not seen or heard from her birth parents for more than seven years. She was happy with Cik Aminah’s family. (MHR-2) /

Maria loved her adoptive mother, Cik Aminah, dearly. After being separated from the Hertoghs for seven years, she felt she did not know them. (MHR-6)

Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.
<p>6. How did the Communists take advantage of the Maria Hertogh story? They tried to show that colonial systems were unfair and that the European officers were racists. They appealed to all races to show their unhappiness with colonial rule. (MHR-5) Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>7. Why do you think Jewish children in Germany were moved to Britain during the Nazi rule? It helped children survive the Nazi's terrifying rule. / It helped save their lives from the genocide by the Nazis. (MHR-7) Any other answer reflecting understanding of the situation.</p>
<p>8. How do we know that Maria's adoptive mother, Aminah, loved her? Maria's adoptive mother, Aminah, took good care of her. When Aminah was offered compensation for taking care of Maria, she was offended by the idea of putting a price on her parenting. She did not want to let Maria go and fought for her in court. (MHR-1) Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>

LEVEL 2 (20 points each)

<p>1 Aminah took Maria to Malaya although Indonesia gained independence in 1945. Why do you think she did that? The Dutch did not recognise Indonesia's independence and Aminah wanted her family, including Maria, to be safe from the fighting. (MHR-1) Aminah might have had a stronger social network in Malaysia at her hometown. Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>2 Do you think journalists and photographers should have been allowed inside the convent when Maria was staying there? Why or why not? No. Their presence added to Maria's misery. Protecting a child's identity from the media is an important way to limit harm to the child. (MHR-8). Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>3 How did the reports and images of Maria in the newspapers in 1950 affect the Muslim community? These articles and images were seen as proof of how unfair the colonial government was being towards Muslims. The images and newspaper reports of Maria's stay in the convent were exploited in a way that worsened local people's resentment of British authority. Anger mounted quickly, and erupted during the demonstrations that quickly became riots. (MHR-3) Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>4 Why did Maria's stay at the convent make many people dislike the colonial government? The news of Maria's transfer to a convent greatly angered some members of the Muslim community in Singapore. They believed she did not belong in a convent, since she had been raised as a Muslim for seven years (MHR-2). People were already unhappy about Singapore's colonisation. They also felt that the courts favoured the Hertoghs' European culture and their Catholic faith rather than Aminah's Malay Muslim upbringing. (MHR-4) Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>5 If a custody case similar to Maria's were to happen today, what could be done to prevent groups of people from exploiting the situation to arouse the public? The authorities could be more attuned to the sentiments of the people and avoid making controversial decisions such as placing a Muslim child in a convent. They should also prevent journalists from taking photographs of the child or speaking to her. (MHR-4)</p>

Any other good strategies.
<p>6 How do judges today make decisions on family disputes involving children? Judges often want to know the child’s views and concerns, and consider them together with other important points, for example, the parents’ wishes. The judge will then make her decision based on what is in the best interest of the child. (MHR-8) Any similar answer accurately describing today’s justice system.</p>
<p>7 How do we know that Maria’s birth parents loved her? Her birth parents searched for her for years, and made great efforts to seek help. They fought for her custody until they won. (MHR-6) Any other evidence for this claim.</p>
<p>8 Why were people upset about Maria’s custody case and why was Aminah upset “a thousand times more”? Some people in Singapore felt that the court did not really respect Cik Aminah and Maria’s religion and culture (MHR-1). Some members of the Muslim community claimed that the judge showed a lack of respect for their religion when the High Court refused to accept Maria’s marriage to Mansoor (MHR-2). Some people felt that, like the Dutch, British colonialists regarded Asians as inferior to Europeans. They felt that this must be why the court sided with the Dutch family (MHR-1). Some newspapers also treated the tussle as a fight between different nationalities, races, and religions (MHR-3). Aminah was upset because she was separated from Maria, whom she considered her beloved adopted daughter. (MHR-2) She might have also considered the decision to be unjust and not in the best interest of the child. Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>

LEVEL 3 (30 points each)

<p>1. Why were Adeline and Maria received as returning war heroes in the Netherlands? Maria’s case seemed to have become a matter of national pride in the Netherlands. While the Dutch lost Indonesia, Adeline won the court battle for Maria. (MHR-5) Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>2. Why did the British authorities close the Causeway during the 1950 riots in Singapore? They wanted to regain control of Singapore’s streets. Since it was a racial riot involving Malays and Europeans, the British authorities did not want more rioters entering Singapore from Peninsula Malaysia. (MHR-1) Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>3. Why did Maria feel like a prisoner in her new life in the Netherlands? Maria felt trapped in the Netherlands. Due to fears about her safety, she was made to live an extremely limited and sheltered life. For example, she had police escorts outside of her house and could communicate only with her family. (MHR-6)/ She was taken away from the people she had come to love — her adoptive mother and family as well as her husband — more than her birth family. Any other answers reflecting understanding of the events.</p>
<p>4. What do you think will happen if a country today tries to occupy another country? The global community will disapprove. The UN may step in to ensure the people’s freedom to choose their own government. (MHR-5) Any similar answer reflecting some understanding of current sentiments about colonisation.</p>

5. How do you think naming the riot after Maria Hertogh might have affected her?

She must have felt uncomfortable and embarrassed that the media made her appear to be the cause of the riots. (MHR-6)

Any other answer reflecting some empathy for Maria.

6. Why are journalists today not allowed to reveal the identities of children involved in court cases?

This is in order to protect the identity of the child / to safeguard the child's emotional well-being / to limit harm to the child. (MHR-8)

Any similar answer reflecting some understanding of current child protection practices.

7. How might Isa Kamari's novel, *Nadra*, help people to better understand Maria's story?

Through retelling the story and bringing the characters to life, readers may see more clearly what happened and empathise with the significant characters. Kamari's depiction of the story as a series of unfortunate events could help readers to interpret the birth and adoptive parents' emotions and the dilemma faced by the courts. (MHR-10)

Any similar answer reflecting some understanding of the power of re-storying historical events based on fresh understandings.

8. How do you think the apology from the Australian government helped the Stolen Generation children?

At least, their suffering and existence were officially acknowledged, and they felt that they mattered at last. (MHR-7).

Any other points that reflect some understanding of the sentiments of the Stolen generation as older adults.

LEVEL 4 (40 points each)

1. Why do you think many Malays and other locals sheltered the Europeans and Eurasians from harm during the 1950 riots?

These Malays and other locals might have known that not all Europeans and Eurasians were at fault for how the situation was evolving. (MHR-5)

Some of them might have protected the Europeans and Eurasians out of the conviction that violence was not a solution.

Any other answers reflecting an appreciation of those of sheltered others from harm.

2. Why do judges consider children's views and concerns in a family court?

When adults fight over a child, it is the child who would be affected the most. Judges often want to know the child's views and concerns, and consider them together with other important points, for example, the parents' wishes. The judge will then make his or her decision based on what is in the best interest of the child. (MHR-8)

Any similar answer accurately describing today's justice system for children.

3. How are Racial and Religious Harmony Circles, formerly known as IRCC, helpful in Singapore today?

The Racial and Religious Harmony Circles have the potential to restrain hotheads from doing foolish things, rebuild confidence between racial and religious groups, and prevent our society from splitting apart. (MHR-9)

Any other points that reflect an appreciation of the value of the Racial and Religious Harmony Circles.

4. Why do you think Dick Yip's neighbour, Mat, rode his bicycle along the road although there were riots that day in July 1964?

Mat was probably heading home to be safe. Mat was an Indian so he might have thought that he would not be attacked during the racial riot between Malays and Chinese. (MHR-9)
Any other points that show an understanding of the scenario.

5. What was ironical about the Dutch newspapers calling Maria “jungle girl”?

Maria’s lifestyle with Cik Aminah and family was very civilised. Aminah was well educated and wealthy. Maria even had her own servants (MHR-5).
Any other points that compare and contrast the stereotypical “jungle girl” with Maria as a person and her upbringing.

6. How do riots affect people’s lives?

People get hurt. Property gets damaged. Movements and travel may become restricted by curfews. People’s lives are disrupted (eg school closures and lockdowns).
Any other points about the harm riots can cause.

7. What are some lessons you learnt from the Maria Hertogh story?

Clear communication is very important. (MHR-1)
We must let love bring us together, not tear us apart. (MHR-10)
A very personal quarrel can escalate into even large-scale riots when exploited by others.
Any other meaningful takeaways.

8. Why do you think the descendants of the Stolen Generations also suffered?

Since the Stolen Generations went through much pain, suffering and hurt, they may have passed on these hurts to their children. Thus, their children might have suffered emotionally and mentally too. (MHR-7)
Any other points that might be possibly true for the descendants.

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