



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Soliloquys of Hope

An activity of the three stories of war and peace

In the June issue of *What's Up*, you will find these three stories about war and peace (listed below). For this activity, imagine that you are someone in one of the places and present a soliloquy (a monologue) from the standpoint of that person. Doing this helps to strengthen your ability to look at the world through someone else's eyes and develop greater empathy. And, empathy helps to grow peace.

1. Browse through these three stories:

- "Gaza's borders need to re-open to save its people from starvation" (page 1 & 28)
- "Vietnam celebrates 50 years since the end of the war with the US" (page 6)
- "Fighting war and growing peace between India and Pakistan" (page 7)

2. Select any *one* of the ten listed below as your focus person:

- A World Food Programme (WFP) worker who ran a kitchen in Gaza (page 1)
- A Palestinian teenager in Britain who follows the news on TV (page 28)
- A Vietnamese elderly person who resettled in Malaysia as a child (page 6)
- Mr Tô Lâm, who is Vietnam's current top leader (page 6)
- A Vietnamese child who has read about the Vietnam-US war (page 6)
- An air-force pilot who flew a fighter jet in the 50th anniversary parade (page 6)
- Indian peace activist Nitin Sonawane (page 7)
- Pakistani Irshad Ahmad, a friend of the peace activists (page 7)
- A child with relatives in both Indian- and Pakistan-administered Kashmir (page 7)
- An elderly war veteran who fought in the 1999 war over Kashmir (page 7)

3. Write a two-minute soliloquy from the standpoint of your selected person. Include what you know of the person from the *What's Up* article. Add imaginary but probable details. Include what you imagine would be that person's hopes for the future.

4. Present your soliloquy to your class. Listen thoughtfully as your classmates present their soliloquys.

5. Have a whole-class discussion. Share what it felt like to step into your selected persons' sandals for a little while in order to write and present your soliloquys.