

A-OK!

Agents of Kindness

Issue
03

2023

Primary 5-6



RACIAL HARMONY DAY

Our Multicultural Mosaic



Dear Agents of Kindness,

Every year, Singapore commemorates Racial Harmony Day on 21st July. It is a day to remind ourselves about the importance of racial harmony.

This year's theme is "Our Multicultural Mosaic". In Singapore, we are fortunate to learn about the different cultures from our friends. We celebrate one another's festivals and enjoy the food. Our multicultural mosaic reflects the rich diversity that is unique to this island we all call home.

In this issue, let's look at the ways we can contribute to our multicultural mosaic, such as respecting our differences and celebrating our similarities. Join us as we explore how we can strengthen racial harmony in Singapore!



*Cheers,
Kindness Headquarters*

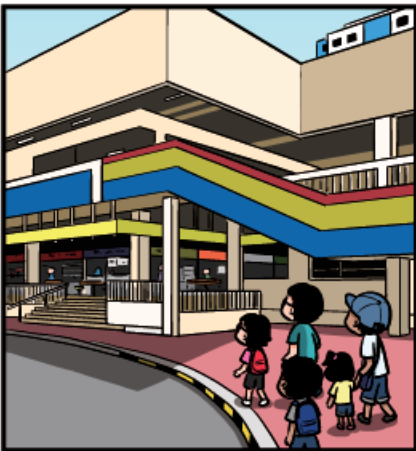
Find out more as you turn to these pages!

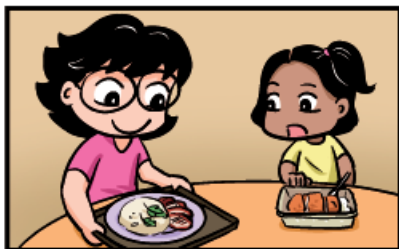
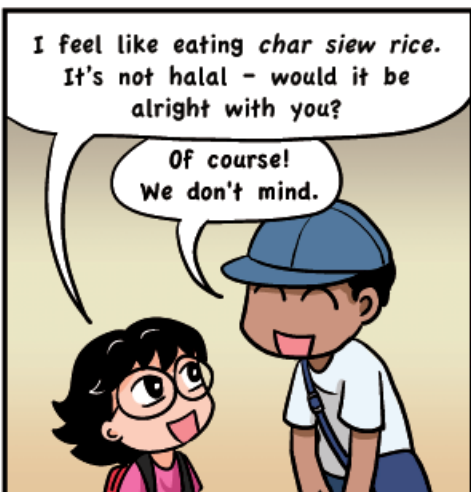
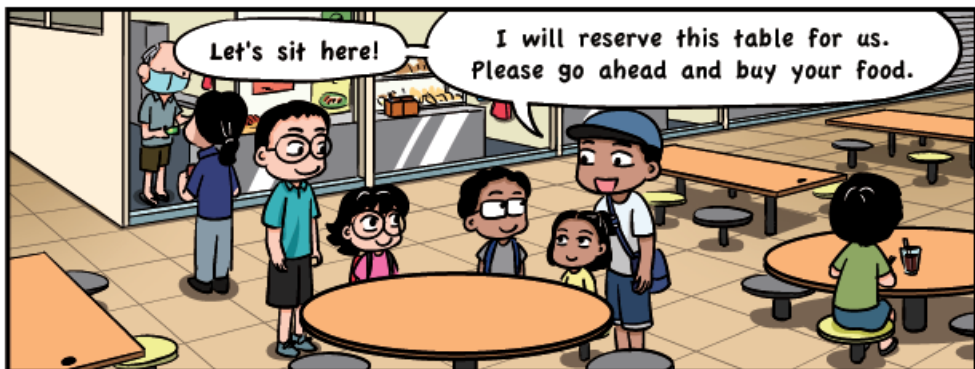
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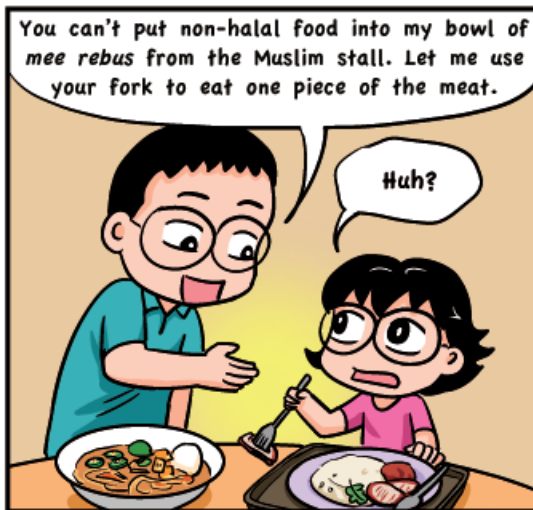
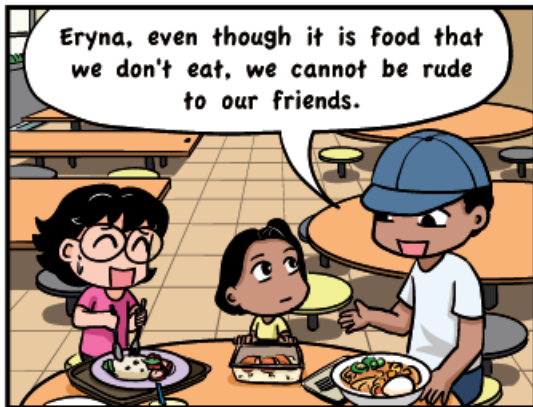
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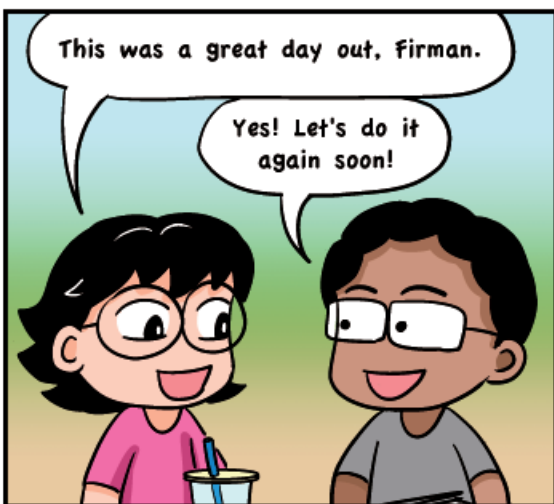
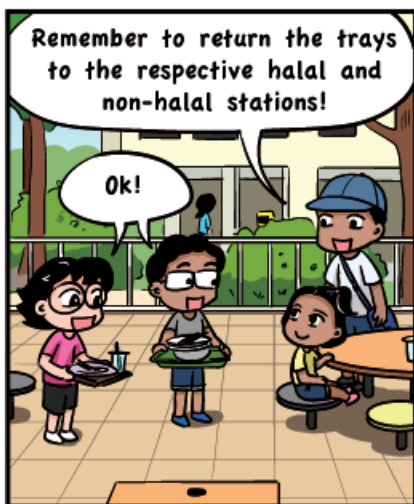
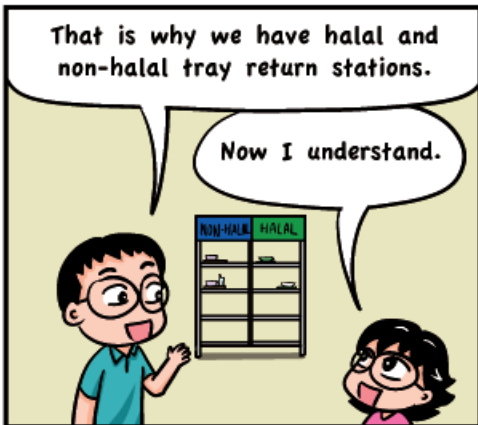
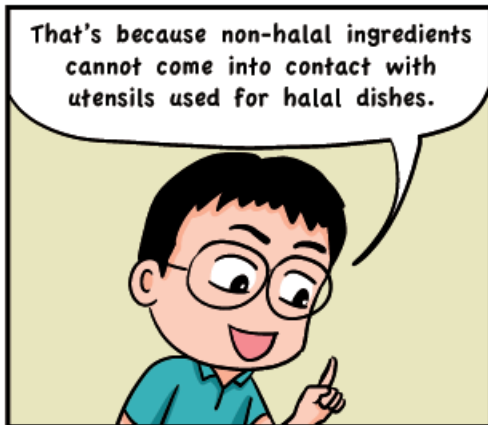


Let's Eat Together









End

A-OK CHALLENGE



SHARE something new you have learnt after reading the comic

I Used to Think ...

Now I Think...

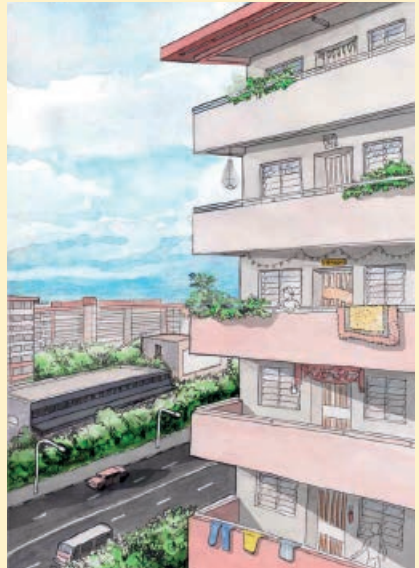
Choose the stickers which best represent what you would like to do to strengthen racial harmony in Singapore.

Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage

Many of us may not be aware of the rich diversity within our Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian communities. People within each of these communities practise different religions, speak different languages and celebrate different festivals. All these communities have unique cultures that together form our Singaporean identity. Let's learn more about some of them!

Within the Chinese community, Taoism, Buddhism and Christianity are among the main religions practised. Besides Mandarin, the group within Chinese also speak dialects such as Cantonese, Hokkien, Hakka and Teochew. The majority of the Malay community practise Islam and besides Malay, they speak other Malay languages such as Baweanese. The main religions practised within the Indian community are Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism, and different languages are spoken such as Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Hindi. Many Eurasians are Christian and have mixed European and Asian heritages.

Interestingly, in Singapore, you might be able to identify the religion of the occupants of a household by observing the entrance. For instance, a Taoist household may have an eight-sided mirror above the door or a small altar and an urn for incense at the entrance. Very often, you may see a hiral (crescent moon and star) or a small, framed plaque with Quranic verses on the door of a Muslim family. Hindu households may have a string of mango leaves hung at the entrance or a picture of a Hindu deity above their door. A cross or an icon of a saint is likely to be seen on the door of a Christian home.



Illustrated by Jafri Janif, courtesy of National Heritage Board.

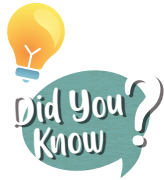
Chinese



Thian Hock Keng is Singapore's oldest Hokkien temple.



Photograph of a Peranakan couple.



Within the Chinese community here, there are the **Hokkien**, **Cantonese**, **Teochew**, **Hakka** and **Hainanese**, among others. The **Peranakan Chinese** or Straits Chinese are also part of the Chinese community. Peranakan Chinese are of mixed Chinese and Malay heritage, and their heritage can be traced back to 15th Century Melaka.

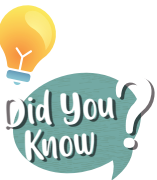
Malay



Masjid Sultan, a historical mosque in Singapore



Minangkabau women in traditional clothes



The Malay community here is largely made up of the **Javanese**, **Bugis**, **Minangkabau** and **Baweanese**. The Malay community has a close relationship with the **Arab** and the Indian-Muslim community because of their shared religion, Islam.

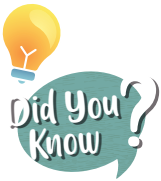
Indian



A Sikh family

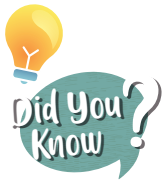


Gujarati couple performing a folk dance



Among the Indian community here in Singapore, there are the **Tamil, Malayalee, Gujarati, Sikh, Kannadiga, Bengali, Telugu, Sindhi, Marwar** and **Bihari** communities. Also part of the Indian community is the **Chetti Melaka**, also known as Peranakan Indians. Chetti Melaka are descendants of South Indian traders from the Coromandel Coast who married Malay and Chinese women in 15th Century Melaka.

Eurasians



Cultural performance by Eurasian Association, Singapore

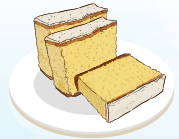
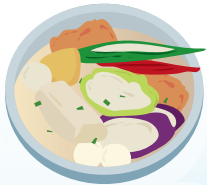
Eurasians are of Asian and European descent and trace their heritage to Melaka, India, Sri Lanka, Bencoolen, Macau and Penang as well as Portugal, Holland, and Britain. Many Eurasians of Portuguese-Melakan descent spoke Kristang, which contains Portuguese and Malay words.

Our Multicultural Mosaic

Singapore is home to many people from different communities and ethnic groups, which makes life here interesting and rich!

In Singapore, we celebrate different festivals together. When we take public transport, we hear people speaking in different languages. And...we enjoy a wide variety of food! When we visit a food court or food centre, there are many delicious dishes from different cultures to choose from!

The great variety of festivals and food make Singapore a multicultural mosaic. Scan the QR code below and watch a video to find out more!



Why Do We Commemorate Racial Harmony Day In Singapore?



Image source: [notsafefortv.com](https://www.notsafefortv.com)

21 July is Racial Harmony Day and you will be celebrating Singapore's unique cultures with your friends. But...what is Racial Harmony Day? Why is it important?

In 1964, two riots broke out in Singapore between the Chinese and Malay communities. The July and September riots lasted five days each and these were the worst and most prolonged riots in our post-war history, with 36 people killed and about 560 people injured. These

incidents, which happened in the past, are a reminder of how important it is for us to be friends regardless of our race, religion or language. Schools commemorate Racial Harmony Day by organising activities to help students understand and appreciate the cultures and practices of our different communities, including people from other countries who now call Singapore home.

The activities that most Singapore schools organise – like wearing our ethnic attire and playing traditional games – aim to provide opportunities for everyone to learn more about their friends. The activities also encourage us to think about how we could respond to and counter racial stereotypes and racism.

Over the last few years, you might have read about incidents involving verbal and/or physical attacks on minority groups. These incidents tell us that many people encounter casual racism regularly and there is a need for Singaporeans to work together to strengthen harmony among us.

We can and should do our part to strengthen harmony by understanding and respecting our differences. We can be more sensitive and mindful of our words and actions when we interact with our friends and neighbours. Let's live out racial harmony every day.

This article has been adapted from the online publication, "The Pride", and edited for length. Visit <https://pride.kindness.sg> for more stories.

"What does Racial Harmony mean to you?"

Share your kindness stories with Singa on Racial Harmony Day!

Write, draw or send us photographs of what racial harmony means to you and what you would like to do to strengthen racial harmony in Singapore. You may write your message on the next page.

SINGA SAYS

I will not exclude anyone from playing with my friends and me just because they're different.



My family and I will wish our neighbours during festivals.



I will ask my friends if I may share my food with them.



I will learn more about the various ethnic groups in Singapore.

I will help everyone, regardless of who they are.



What does
Racial Harmony
mean to you?

DEAR SINGA  ,

FROM: _____

Name: _____

School: _____

Class: _____

Parent's / Guardian's Email Address: _____

Parent's / Guardian's Contact Number: _____

Home Address: _____

I agree to the collection and usage of my personal data provided in this contest form by the Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM). The personal data will only be used to administer this contest, in accordance with SKM's Data Protection Policy available at <https://www.kindness.sg/privacy-policy/>

Send us your entry via mail to the following address by **4 August 2023**.

A-OK! Contest
Singapore Kindness Movement
61 Stamford Road
#02-01/02 Stamford Court
Singapore 178892

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- ★ Relevance to the theme
- ★ Creativity

Winning entries will be featured in the next issue of A-OK!

PRIZES:

★ 1st

A limited edition NDP Singa box set, a key chain name kit and other SKM merchandise.

★ 2nd, 3rd

A key chain name kit, a "Be Greater" paper clip set and other SKM merchandise.

★ 3 consolation prizes

A key chain name kit, a "Be Greater" paper clip set and other SKM merchandise.

PRIZES FROM THE SINGAPORE KINDNESS MOVEMENT



Limited edition NDP Singa Box Set (For 1st prize)

Key Chain Name Kit



"Be Greater" paper clip set

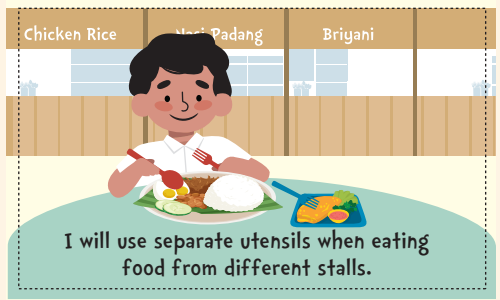


Prizes are subject to availability and the Singapore Kindness Movement has the right to substitute any prize.

A-OK!

Stickers

Use these stickers to complete the "A-OK Challenge" on page 7.



You can do your part to strengthen racial harmony in Singapore. Use these stickers to help you remember what you have learnt.

