

Peace is the goal. **Tolerance is the method.**

Tolerance is being open and receptive to the beauty of differences.

Tolerance is mutual respect through mutual understanding.

The seeds of intolerance are fear and ignorance.

The seed of tolerance, love, is watered by compassion and care.

Those who know how to appreciate the good in people and situations have tolerance.

Tolerance recognizes individuality and diversity while removing divisive masks and defusing tension created by ignorance.

Tolerance is the ability to face difficult situations. To tolerate life's inconveniences is to let go, be light, make others light and move on.

St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

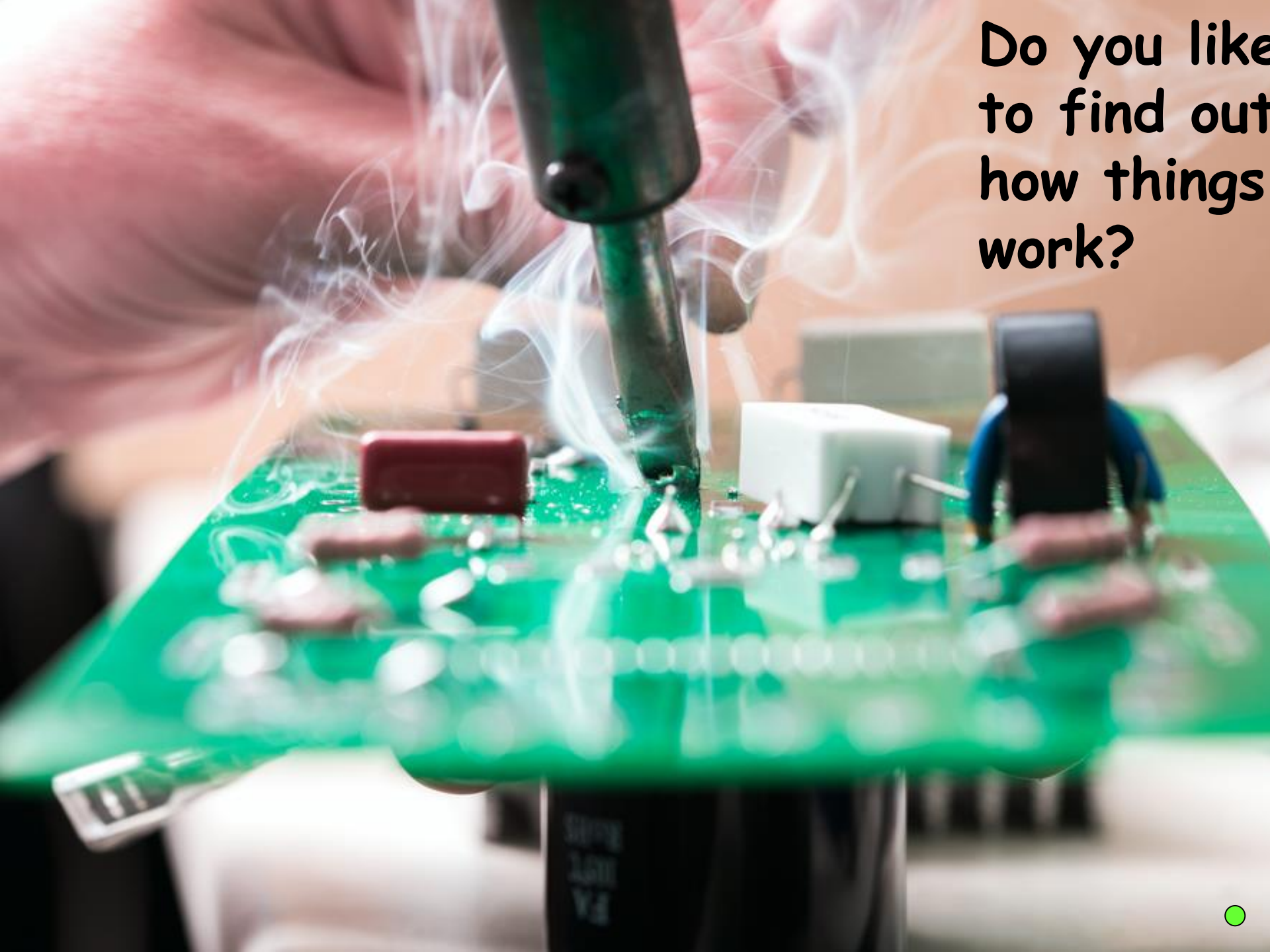
Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Are you a
curious
person?



**Do you like
to find out
how things
work?**





**Do you look at
things from all angles?**





Are you interested in finding out about people from different backgrounds?





**Do you delight
in new
experiences?**





Do you use your imagination to 'stand in other people's shoes'?



Do you
sometimes
choose things
that are a bit
different?





UNCOVER THE FACTS

**If someone offers an
opinion do you like to
check it out?**



HURRAH!

If you answered 'Yes' to most of those questions you already have what we call an 'open mind'. Having an open mind can make us more understanding and tolerant of difference.



Sometimes it can be hard to keep an open mind as trying new things and meeting new people can feel scary!!



People and things that are different can seem threatening as we often feel more comfortable with what is familiar.



LEAVING
NO COMFORT
ZONE



It can be easier to get to know someone who is similar to us as we can quickly spot the things we have in common.

But if we close our minds and reject people and things that are new or different, we can miss out.



Because human beings feel more comfortable with similarities, we often imagine that all the people in a group are the same.



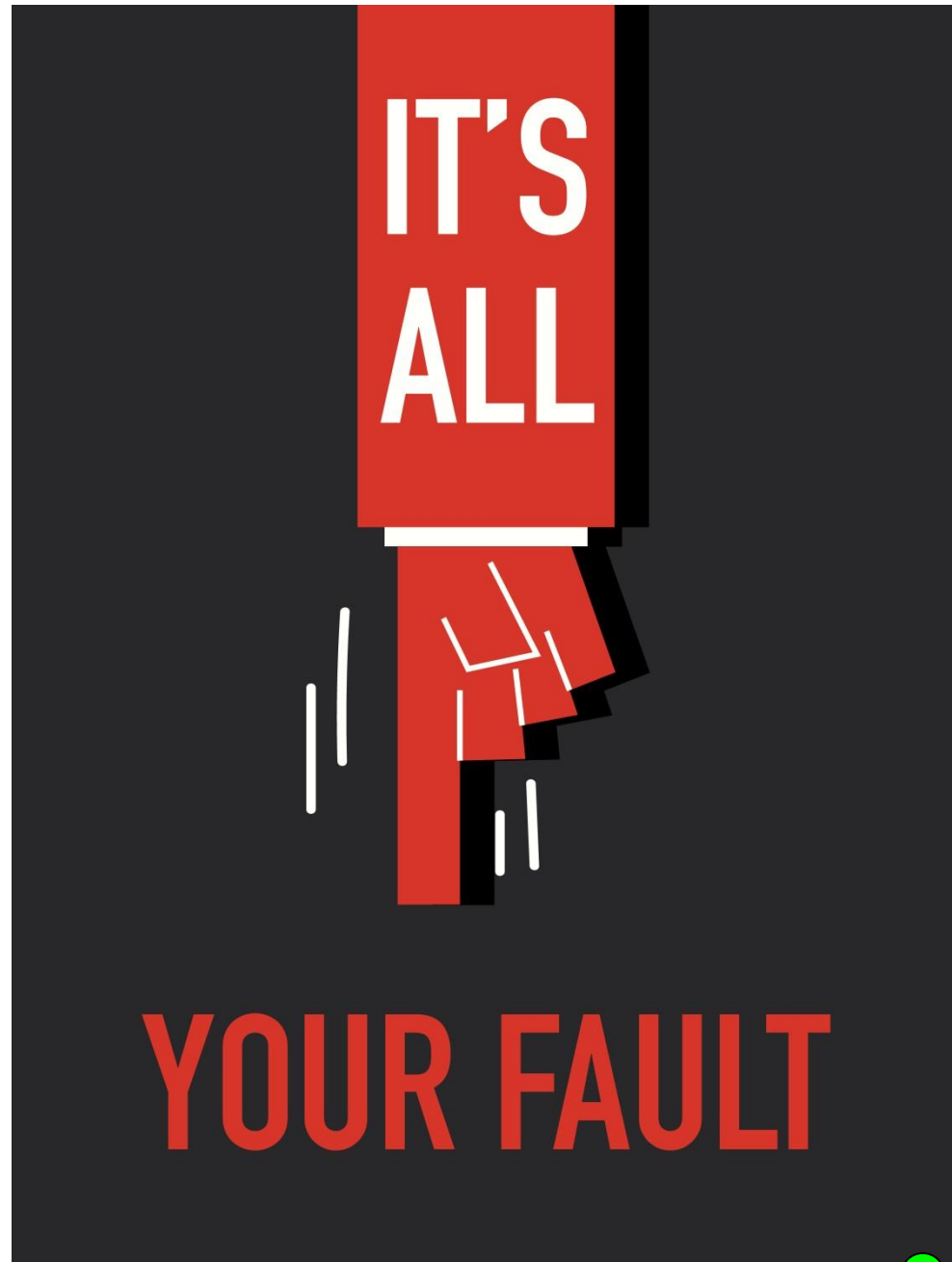


Stereotyping can lead to fear and intolerance.



Groups of people
get blamed for
problems they
are not
responsible for.

Can you think of a
group of people who
have been blamed
for things?



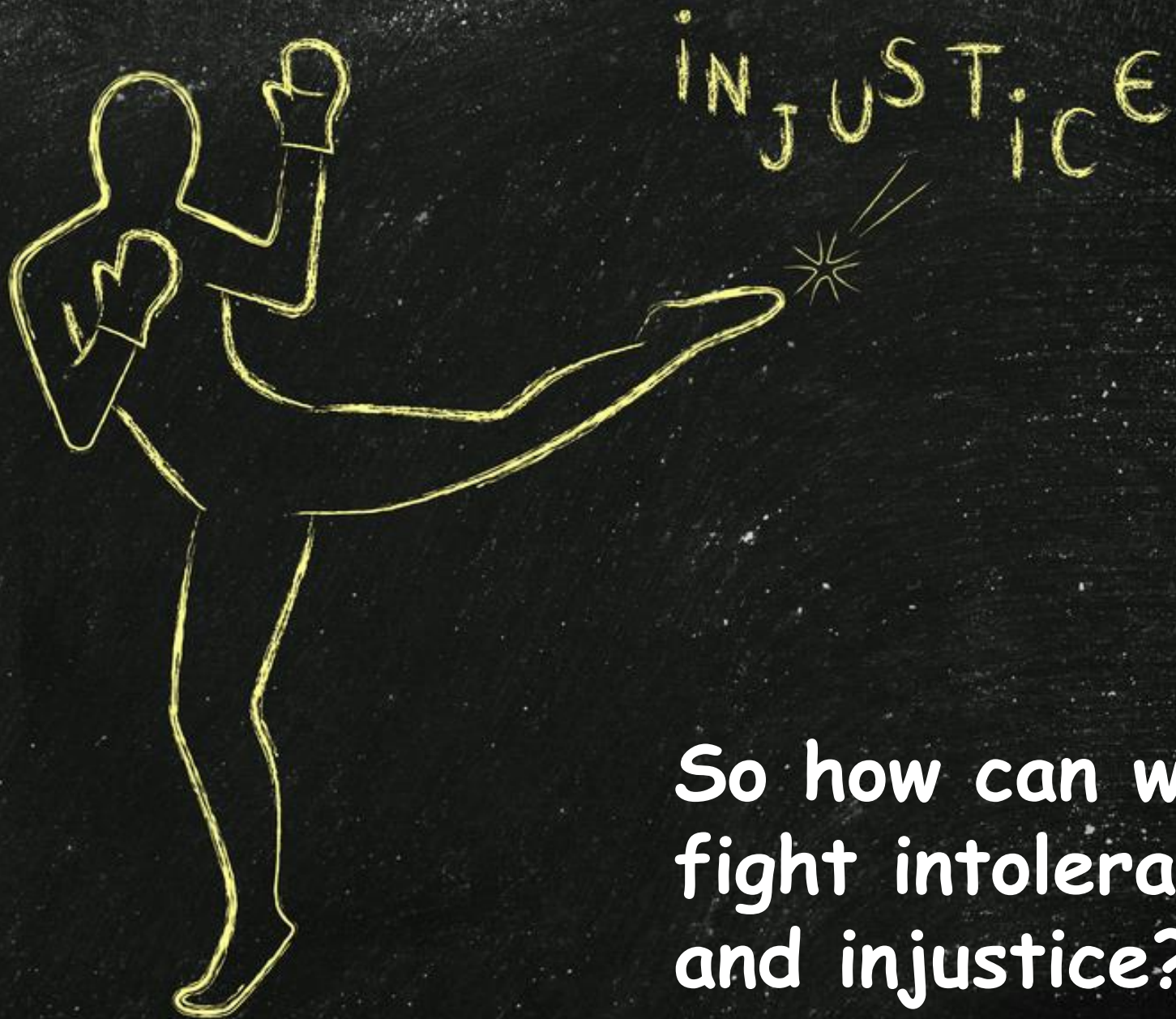
**Sometimes
all the people
in a group
become
tainted by
the behaviour
of a few.**

We're not
responsible for what
they did!



.... and that's just not fair!





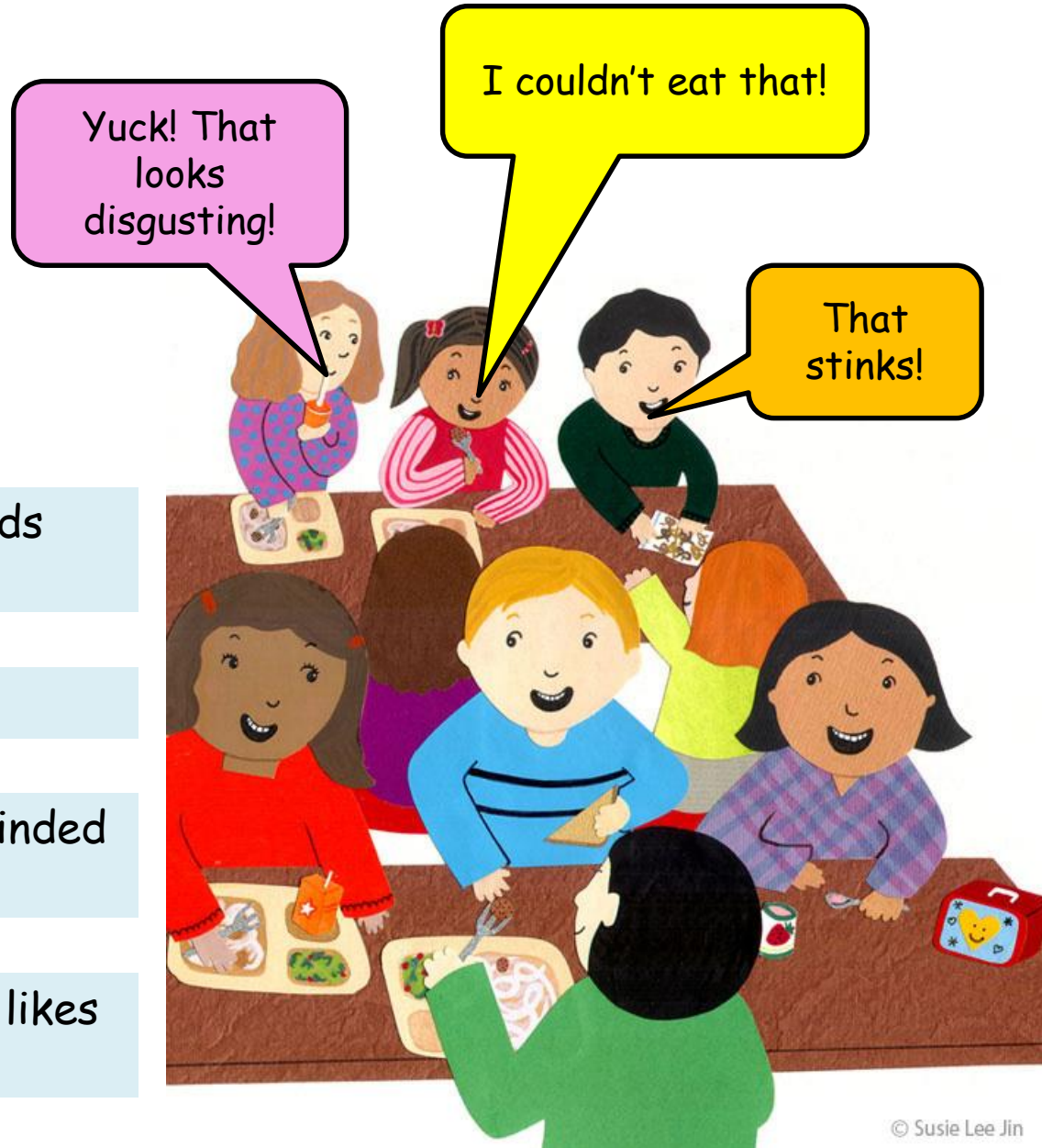
So how can we
fight intolerance
and injustice?



Consider this scenario...

A new girl, who has just arrived from another country, brings lunch from home that is different from everyone else's. The other kids look at her and say:

- Why do you think the other kids said these things?
- Were they being tolerant?
- What would be a more open-minded reaction?
- Do we have to share the same likes and dislikes?





Open-mindedness is all about:

- Keeping curious
- Being anxious to learn
- Looking at things from all angles
- Learning about different cultures
- Finding out about people from different backgrounds
- Seeking new experiences
- Trying things that are a bit different
- Checking facts and asking questions.

By keeping an open mind of course!





Ask questions such as:

- How do you know? What evidence do you have?
- Could you give me an example?
- Is it like this in every case?
- Was it always like that? Why are things different now?
- Have you thought about it from their point of view?
- Why do you think this is happening?
- What is the solution to the problem?

and encouraging others to do the same.



Here in our school
Let us live responsibly at all times.
Let our rooms be full of happiness
and respect for each other.
Let love be in our hearts
With kindness and compassion for all.
Let us remember
In learning together,
We grow together
And succeed together.

Glossary

- **Open-minded** - unprejudiced, tolerant
- **Curious** - questioning, inquisitive
- **Opinion** - a view or judgement
- **Reject** - snub, deny
- **Stereotype** - pigeonhole, typecast
- **Intolerance** - narrow-mindedness, prejudice
- **Injustice** - unfairness, inequality



Activities to complete this lesson include:

- Identifying examples of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination
- Writing letters to political representatives
- Designing community questionnaires
- Exploring whether there are limits to tolerance.

