



Hidden Hurts

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Each of these sentences carries a racist message in addition to its more obvious meaning. For each, brainstorm what the racist message is, how it is conveyed. Consider the assumptions, the language, the context, and the implications of each sentence.

Don't spend too much time on any one.

1. The railway in Canada was largely constructed by coolie labour.
2. Let's buy some Jap oranges.
3. Women got the vote in Canada in 1917.
4. Plato is the greatest philosopher the world has ever known.
5. Let's have a student Christmas concert.
6. The ESL students hold everyone back.
7. Our educational system should make room for the customs of other cultures.
8. Those dirty lo fun think they are always right. [spoken by a Chinese Canadian about a white Canadian]

9."O Canada, our home and native land..."

10. Women and visible minorities often suffer discrimination.

11. Everyone is equal here. We treat everyone the same.

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