Topic: A Gracious Act that I witnessed

Pictures given: Reserved Seating sign, blind man with a walking stick, crowded scene in a train cabin.

By Michela, Primary 4, 2016

“Oh… I am going to be late for school,” I lamented grumpily as I got myself ready to board an approaching train. Cold air greeted me as I entered one of the train cabins. The train was bursting at its seams as many people were in it.

I jostled through the crowd and stood at a corner of the train cabin. Leaning against the wall, I peered around. Some passengers were taking their power naps while some were listening to music on their smartphones. Clustering around the poles, some students were engaged in conversations.

“Hougang Station,” an announcement hovered in the air. The train gradually came to a halt. An elderly lady hobbled unsteadily into the train cabin. She was carrying loads of bags. The elderly lady’s silvery hair was pinned neatly into a bun at the back of her head. Wrinkles were etched on her face. Her back was bent and crooked. She looked as frail as a twig. The old lady staggered towards the reserved seat that was occupied by a man.

Upon seeing the old lady approaching, the man squeezed his eyes shut and looked as though he had dozed off. “That man must be pretending to be sleeping,” I thought as I glowered at him with disapproval. The passengers started to look uneasy. I was not the only one who felt perturbed and slightly disgusted by that man’s selfish
actions. Some signalled to her, “Auntie! Come, you can have my seat!” Some students took her bags from her hands and chirped exuberantly, “Auntie! Let us help you!” After the elderly lady sat down on her seat, the students put the bags in front of her.

The elderly lady smiled and thanked the passengers profusely. I felt very somewhat relieved for the elderly lady. She would get to arrive at her destination in comfort and not hobble around helplessly on the train. I was also very proud of the passengers who gave up their seats and the students who helped her carry her bags. It was wonderful to see Singaporeans showing care and concern for one another.

Looking back, I could still vividly recall that simple yet touching act on that train. I felt that the passengers on that train had done a gracious act. If everyone were to be as gracious as those passengers, the reserved seats would not be necessary. The world would also be a better place to live in.