



PLAY!

25—28 MAY 2023

Programme Booklet





SBC Academy is the training arm that conducts professional development programmes for the literary arts community.



Talk - How to Get and Stay Published with Lauren Ho and Kirsten Chen

Upcoming Planned Programmes for 2023!

Talks:

- Publishing poetry internationally



Internationalising Publishing: Rights, Digital Innovation and Global Sales

29 May 2023, Monday, 10 am - 4 pm
\$250*, \$350 | SBC Training Room

**AFCC Festival Pass Holders*



Workshop - How to be a Picture Book Author-Illustrator with J.H. Low

Writing Workshops:

- Reviews
- Climate Fiction
- Speculative
- Science Fiction
- Poetry
- Satire



After the Draft: From Manuscript to Marketing

10 June 2023, Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm
\$100* | SBC Training Room

**Concession rates and buddy tax available*



Course - Poetry Intensive: Stages of Poetic Creation with Boey Kim Cheng

Courses (4-6 weeks):

- Crafting Your Novel
- Editing
 - Fiction
 - Poetry



Literary Translation Hybrid Course

Learning portal: Open for access now
Workshop: 4 July 2023, Tuesday, 7 pm - 10 pm
\$450* | SBC Training Room

**Includes access to learning materials and resources*

AFCC Festival Pass holders get 10% off SBC Academy programmes, email programmes@bookcouncil.sg to request.

Join the community!



Join our mailing list to get updated on our programmes



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AFCC 2023 Programme Booklet: Five Different Covers

This year, AFCC features five different programme booklet covers created by five Vietnamese illustrators. These works were chosen to show the dynamism of Vietnamese children's book illustrations and the talents within the field.



Finding Mother and Other Folk Tales

Written by Nguyen Huy Tuong
Illustrated by Rong Pham

Finding Mother and Other Folk Tales reflects the interest in classic Vietnamese children's stories by contemporary Vietnamese illustrators. Finding Mother is regarded as one of the best children's stories by Nguyen Huy Tuong, founder of Kim Dong Publishing House.



Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear

Written by Trang Nguyen
Illustrated by Jeet Zdung

Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear is part of a Vietnamese graphic novel series that has resonated well with audiences and made its mark in the global children's book market. The book has been published in more than 10 countries and received awards in the UK and US.



The Diary of a Cricket

Written by To Hoai
Illustrated by Ta Huy Long

The Diary of a Cricket is a well-loved classic children's story from Vietnam. Its charming countryside world with swamps, grass, trees and insects has touched readers, young and old, across generations.



The Best Summer Party Ever!

Written by Le Thi Nhu Thuy and Crabit
Kidbooks team
Illustrated by Linh Luong

The Best Summer Party Ever! is part of the series *Generation Equality – Fairy Tales on Gender Equality*, the first modern fairy tale on book series for children published in Vietnam on gender equality.



The Flute Player

A painting by Nguyen Quang Thieu

Nguyen Quang Thieu's inspiration for *The Flute Player* came from a chance encounter with a blind musician at Ha Dong town on an autumn morning. Thieu writes: "He took a step back toward the red-leaf Indian-almond tree. Underneath the shade of the tree's red leaves, and in the autumn wind blowing through town, he picked up his flute, and music came to me as if it was the first time I had ever heard music."

Message from the Chairperson

Welcome to the 14th edition of the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC)!

It is with the utmost pleasure that we welcome the return of AFCC as a fully in-person event after three years. As we adapt to these unpredictable and challenging times, it is imperative that we remember the lessons we learned over the past few years. We should continually strive to improve ourselves to become better – in mind, body and spirit. That is why for this year's AFCC, we have chosen the theme "Play!" to celebrate the childlike sense of delight and curiosity that resides within each of us.

This year's programmes are centred on the festival's concept of learning through play by engaging the five senses. Our programmes will explore the multiple ways one can engage in creative expression through fun and play: From exploring the use of games in teaching and learning of languages to delving into word and genre play.

In addition, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Singapore in 2023, we are delighted to welcome Vietnam as this year's Country of Focus (COF). Through our partnership with the Vietnam Publishers Association (VPA), the COF programmes will highlight the rich history of children's literature in the country and bring to the forefront some of its notable works and talents.

To further boost intercultural understanding between the two countries as well as our translation efforts, we have also embarked on a co-translation book project together. Five



children's book titles from Singapore and Vietnam have been selected to be translated into Vietnamese and English respectively. These books will be distributed for free to children in local communities through their reading initiatives.

Finally, on behalf of SBC, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the National Library Board for providing the home for AFCC all these years. I would also like to thank all our Programme Committee members, partners, donors, supporters and volunteers for their unwavering support. Their generous contributions have played a vital role in the development and growth of AFCC over the years, enabling it to thrive and reach new heights.

I wish all of you a most enjoyable and playful experience at AFCC 2023!

Claire Chiang
Chairperson
Singapore Book Council

Message from the Chief Executive Officer, National Library Board

My heartiest congratulations to the Singapore Book Council (SBC) on the launch of the 14th Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC).

As the home of the festival since 2014, the National Library Board (NLB) is happy to host the festival again. We are excited to welcome everyone back, in person, to enjoy the programmes, and meet like-minded new friends who would love discovering Asian Children's Literature.

This year's AFCC, themed "Play!", explores a fundamental aspect of childhood where opportunities for learning and self-discovery often emerge through play. Over the next few days and through 70 programmes, we will get to meet with more than 100 writers and speakers from Singapore and around the world to explore the different dimensions of "Play".

As part of NLB's Libraries and Archives Blueprint (LAB25), we aim to create a vibrant Learning Marketplace for all ages to learn and discover. Through our partnership with SBC in AFCC, we are glad to further the goal of continual learning through the promotion and development of books and stories for our children.

We wish SBC every success in their efforts, and that everyone has an enriching festival through Play!

Ng Cher Pong
Chief Executive Officer
National Library Board



Message from the Executive Director

A very warm and excited welcome to the 2023 Asian Festival of Children's Content – our first fully in-person festival after three years!

It is an understatement to say that we are thrilled to be finally hosting an in-person festival after three years of virtual and hybrid editions. We hope that this event will be a source of inspiration and joy for all of us.

The theme of this year's festival is "Play!" We believe that play is the spark for creativity and imagination – for children as well as adults. Play allows us to explore, experiment, and learn in a fun and engaging way. As we gather writers, illustrators, translators, educators, publishers and all participants together again, we hope this sense of play will enable us to share our creative practice, generate more ideas, and explore collaborations that will expand and enrich our own work.

We have lined up more than 100 programmes over four days, including both conference and public programmes, that will look at various facets of play. From crafting picture books using different materials to unleashing the power of poetry; from tinkling with A.I. tools to strengthening bonds through intergenerational storytelling – the festival aims to engage your senses to stimulate and inspire you.

Furthermore, we will be delving into hot-button topics such as the impact of ChatGPT on publishing and translation; and how to make the arts and books more accessible. We hope that all these discussions will shed light on the latest developments and challenges in the industry.

We are excited to showcase Vietnam as the Country of Focus (COF) this year. In addition to featuring the country's best writers as well as illustrators in a special Book Illus-



trators Gallery (BIG) exhibition, we will also be promoting a deeper cross-cultural understanding through the translation of selected children's books from both countries. We hope that the COF Vietnam programmes will give you a glimpse into the creativity and diversity of the country.

Last but not least, the popular AFCC Book Fair and BIG exhibition will be back. The public can discover new and exciting books from Asia and beyond, while families and children can take part in many free events, including storytelling sessions, performances and book launches.

All these programmes and more await you at AFCC 2023. We invite you to take the time to explore and have fun, make new friends and reconnect with old ones. It's time to Play!

Have a wonderful festival!

William Phuan
Executive Director
Singapore Book Council

About Singapore Book Council

The Singapore Book Council (SBC) is an independent charity established in 1968 to support Singapore authors and literature. We aim to Build Our Imagine-nation by developing creativity, imagination, original thought and empathy. Our programmes focus on writing, reading, illustration, translation and storytelling.

VISION: International recognition for quality, diverse Singapore literature.

MISSION: To develop, support and advocate a multicultural literary arts sector.

The Book Council grows and advocates Singapore's books and literary arts scene through organising a variety of festivals including the annual Asian Festival of Children's Content; grants prestigious awards such as the biennial Singapore Literature prize; supports community outreach through the Sing Lit: Read Our World movement; and builds professional capability through our Academy programmes.

Because it all starts with a story.

The Book Council is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Company Grant from 2022 to 2024. For more information, please visit www.bookcouncil.sg



Group photo of the winners of SLP 2022.



Abhi Krish of Nool Monsters teaches children interactive storytelling in விளையாடலாம், கட்டிபூஸ்! (Let's Play, Kattiboos!) part of Sing Lit: Read Our World



"How to Get and Stay Published" talk by Kirstin Chen and Lauren Ho.

Support the Singapore Book Council

Singapore Book Council turns 55 this year and we need your help more than ever! We need your support to bring Singapore literature (Sing Lit) to even more communities to connect people and enrich our cultural ties.

Sing Lit gives us the opportunity to read diverse stories about home, and meet different characters whom we can relate to. Sing Lit offers us a window to glimpse into the lives of many communities, including the minority and often silent ones. Their stories and perspectives – from both young and old – encourage us to learn about one another, fostering greater empathy and understanding in our multicultural, multilingual society.

As we open a new chapter in our journey, we rely on your generous support to help us continue advocating for Sing Lit, nurturing writers and cultivating a love for books and reading. Find out more about our programmes on our website bookcouncil.sg.

All qualifying donations will enjoy a 250% tax deduction. Cash donations will also be eligible for dollar-for-dollar matching from the Cultural Matching Fund (CMF), which means your donation doubles in value.

You may contribute on our Giving.SG donation page:
www.giving.sg/singapore-book-council-limited

Thank you for your generous contribution!

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Acknowledgements

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SPECIAL THANKS

Celine Goh
Maureen Goh
Pham Tran Long



About AFCC 2023

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) returns as a fully in-person festival from 25 to 28 May 2023.

The 14th edition will explore the theme "Play!", as it invites all participants to celebrate the buoyancy and playfulness of children's stories and books through their five senses and as we showcase Vietnam as this year's Country of Focus.

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) is the leading festival in Asia focusing on children's books and stories and young adult (YA) fiction. Targeted at writers, illustrators, translators, publishers, parents, educators and media producers, AFCC offers a series of exciting panel discussions, workshops, lectures, masterclasses, pitching sessions, networking events and public activities promoting the creation and appreciation of quality children's literature and YA with a focus on Asian themes.

PLAY!

欢阅

MAiN

கொண்டாட்டம்

AFCC 2023 Programmes

Country of Focus: Việt Nam

As we mark 50 years of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Singapore in 2023, AFCC has invited Vietnam to be the Country of Focus this year.

Co-organised with the Vietnam Publishers Association (VPA), the COF Vietnam programmes at AFCC will be an occasion to celebrate this milestone and highlight the history of children's literature in Vietnam, publishing opportunities, as well as a special showcase of the best picture book illustrations.

Get the chance to meet the best of Vietnam's children's book writers and illustrators at the Country of Focus showcase.



25 MAY (THURSDAY)

11:00am—12:30pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Children's Book Market in Vietnam**

Speakers: Tran Le Thuy Linh, Vu Xuan Hoan // Moderator: Nguyen Thanh Nam

In this opening session of the COF Vietnam programme, participants will get an in-depth look into the current market of children's books in Vietnam. They will learn about the current publishing developments and trends, as well as the challenges and opportunities.

26 MAY (FRIDAY)

3:45pm—4:45pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **Sci-tales: A Look at Vietnamese Children's Nonfiction**

Speaker: Ly Nguyen

Sci-tales is a STEM children's book series that aims to bring the element of fun into the learning process. In this presentation, the publisher, Vietnam Women's Publishing House, will share how they have developed the series in collaboration with a team of creators from Vietnam to create STEM/STEAM books that both educate and entertain.

27 MAY (SATURDAY)

1:30pm—3:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **Finding Mommy Elephant: A Pop-Up Book Workshop**

Speakers: Huong Anh Trinh, Linh Nguyen

Discover the first 360-degree pop-up book released in Vietnam, and learn from its creators how it has successfully fostered children's literacy and instilled a passion for reading by incorporating playful elements into the book. The speakers will also provide practical advice on the diverse range of interactive activities that parents and children can engage in with the book.

2:45pm—3:45pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **The Call of the Wild**

Speakers: Jeet Zdung, Trang Nguyen

Hear from the creators of the series *Return to the Wild*, as they share on the process of creating two picture books based the topic of wildlife conservation. Find out more on the research that went into the works and how they have combined scientific knowledge with storytelling to create engaging stories that have appealed to readers from all ages.

4:00pm—5:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **My Daddy is a Runner**

Speakers: Jeet Zdung, Tam Bui

Hear from the creators of *My Daddy is a Runner* in this presentation to understand more on the inspiration for the book, and the life lessons that the writer has sought to depict in the work about the struggles faced by modern families in Vietnam.

6:45pm—8:30pm
L1, Plaza

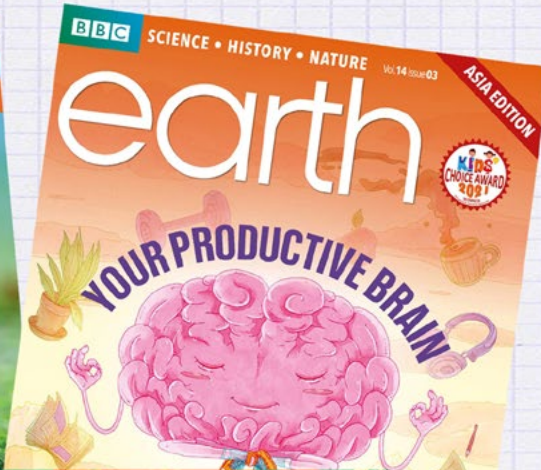
SPECIAL EVENT **COF Việt Nam Night**

The COF Việt Nam programmes mark 50 years of diplomatic ties between Vietnam and Singapore. Join our Guest-of-Honour, Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for MCCY and MTI, as we celebrate this partnership with a special evening of performances and the launch of translated children's books.

A FEAST OF INFORMATION FOR THE CURIOUS MIND



Scan to find out more!



Country of Focus Co-translation Project

As part of the festival's aim to bridge borders and build stronger cultural connections, AFCC is delighted to embark on the second edition of the AFCC Co-Translation Book Project.

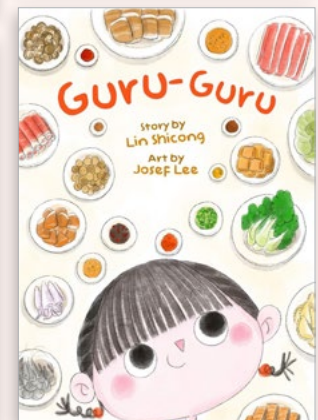
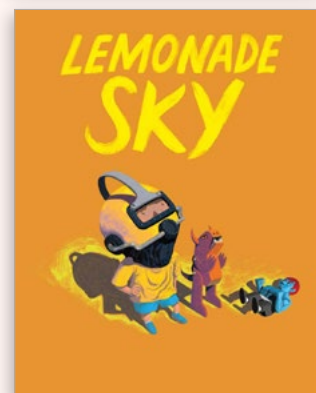
The second edition will see the translation and publication of five (5) selected children's books from both Vietnam and Singapore. This Co-Translation Book project is carried out in partnership with the Vietnam Publishers Association.

Five children's book titles from each country will be selected and translated from Vietnamese into English, and vice versa. The selected books will be announced at AFCC, and the books will be published later in the year.

The translated books will be made available to children in both countries through their respective local reading initiatives. Through this Co-Translation Project, children and parents from both countries will be able to discover and appreciate stories and characters from a different part of the world, and gain a deeper understanding of our respective cultures.

This project is made possible with support from Fujifilm Singapore.

(Clockwise, from top left) A few of the selected titles for the co-translation project include *Bubu va Titi*, *Ba To La Runner*, *Coc Kien Troi*, *Guru-Guru*, *Lemonade Sky* and *Ai Ui Day Qua!*.

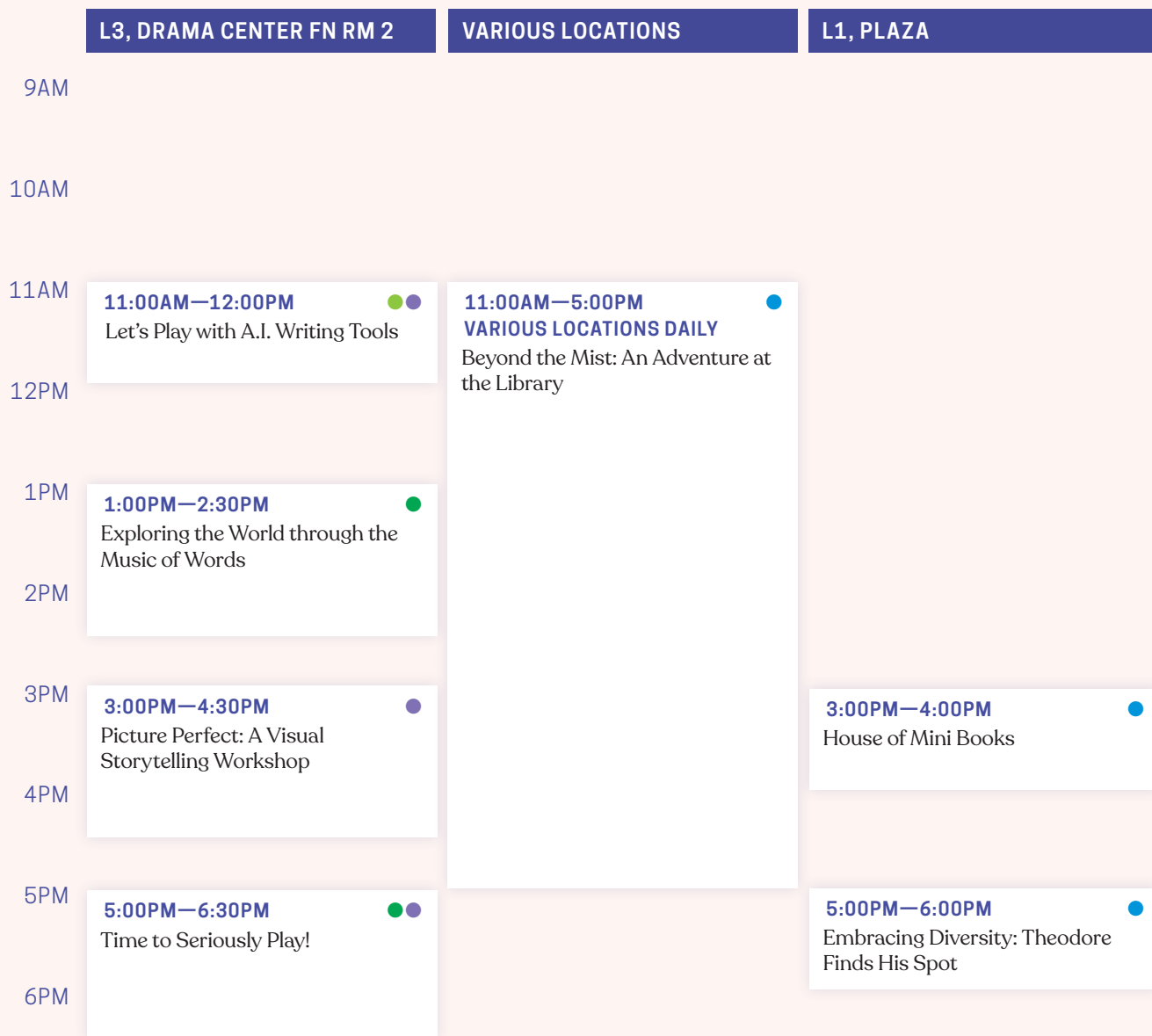


Calendar: 25 May (Thu)

● Translation Forum ● Publishing Forum

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION ROOM	L5, POSSIBILITY ROOM
9AM	9:00AM—10:30AM ●●● AFCC Keynote: Play!		
10AM			
11AM	11:00AM—12:30PM ● Children's Book Market in Vietnam	11:00AM—12:00PM ● Discovering Singapore through Young People's Eyes	11:00AM—12:00PM ● Working towards the UN SDGs in Norwegian Libraries
12PM			
1PM	1:00PM—2:30PM ● Art of Adaptation: From Mr Midnight, MISI, Knietzsche to Sherlock Sam	1:00PM—2:15PM ● 如何为家里的小小读者选合适的书 Selecting Suitable Books for Your Young Reader	1:00PM—2:00PM ● Let's Go M.A.D. (Make A Difference) with Picture Books!
2PM			
3PM	3:00PM—4:30PM Play for All: Making the Arts Accessible	2:45PM—3:45PM ● Smurfs: The Challenge of Translating Image and Text into Chinese	2:30PM—3:30PM ● Author Visits IOI: Using Humour to Engage and Inspire
4PM		4:00PM—5:00PM ● Talking Images: The Universal Language of Wordless Picture Books	4:15PM—5:30PM ● சிறார் தமிழ் இலக்கியம் ஓர் ஆய்வு An Exploration of Children's Tamil Literature
5PM	5:00PM—6:00PM ● Keeping Traditions and Memories Alive: A Conversation with Lee Uk-bae		
6PM			
	7:15PM—8:30PM ● Opening Night & SABA Awards Ceremony		

● Country of Focus ● Writers & Illustrators ● Teachers & Parents ● Cross-Platform ● Mother Tongue ● Public



Calendar: 26 May (Fri)

● Translation Forum ● Publishing Forum

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION ROOM	L5, POSSIBILITY ROOM
9AM	9:00AM—10:15AM ● Writing with Purpose: Our Stories to Tell	9:00AM—10:00AM ● “Bebas bersuara”: Addressing Gender-based Violence through Malaysian Youth Literature & Film	9:00AM—10:00AM GOAL#14: Reflections on Imaginative Storytelling to Promote Ocean Conservation
10AM			
11AM	10:45AM—11:45AM ● The Secret Lives of Book Reviewers	10:30AM—11:30AM ● Promoting Reading and Expression Through Comics	10:30AM—11:45AM ●● Helping Kids Deal with Anxiety After the Pandemic
12PM		12:00PM—1:00PM ● Documenting Picture Books: From Tokenism to Inclusivity	
1PM	12:45PM—2:00PM ● Don't Be Afraid of the Funny		12:45PM—1:45PM ● Reading Children's Books through the Lens of Gender Equality
2PM		2:00PM—3:15PM ●● Nomik: Apabila Dunia Perkataan dan Visual Bertembung! Nomik: When the World of Words and Visual Collide!	2:15PM—3:15PM ● Bringing the Gothic into Southeast Asian Stories
3PM	2:30PM—3:45PM ● What Should Children be Reading?		
4PM	4:15PM—5:30PM ● In Search of Metaphor: Finding Words That Sing	3:45PM—4:45PM ● Sci-tales: A Look at Vietnamese Children's Nonfiction	3:45PM—5:00PM ● The Language of Images: Deciphering Meaning and Intent
5PM			
6PM	6:00PM—7:30PM ● Marie-Aude Murail: Lessons in Rewriting	5:30PM—7:00PM ● Translating Middle Grade	

● Country of Focus ● Writers & Illustrators ● Teachers & Parents ● Cross-Platform ● Mother Tongue ● Public

	L3, DRAMA CENTER FN RM 2	L3, DRAMA CENTER FN RM 3	L1, PLAZA
9AM	9:00AM—10:30AM ● Stories with a Twist: A Deep-dive into Improvisational Storytelling		
10AM			
11AM	11:00AM—12:30PM ● Word Play and The Power of Poetry		11:15AM—12:15PM ● Ingatan Masa Kecil (Memory of Childhood)
12PM			
1PM			
2PM	1:30PM—3:00PM ●● Having Fun with Languages: Learning Mother Tongue in Innovative Ways		1:45PM—2:45PM ● Gerak ABC!
3PM		2:30PM—4:00PM ● The Toad Who Brought the Rain - an intergenerational storytelling theatre workshop	3:00PM—4:00PM ● Grandma's Tiger
4PM	3:30PM—5:00PM ●● 工作坊: 用插画赋予意义 Creating Meaning With Illustration		
5PM			4:15PM—5:15PM ● The Missing Pages
6PM	5:30PM—7:00PM ● Mari Kita Bermain! Ally di Taman Permainan Let's Play! Ally at the Playground		

Calendar: 27 May (Sat)

● Translation Forum ● Publishing Forum

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION ROOM	L5, POSSIBILITY ROOM
9AM	9:00AM—10:30AM ● Keynote: Our Many Identities— Translator as Advocate and Bridge	9:00AM—10:00AM ● Different and Dichotomous: Gender Stereotypes in Selected Children’s Books	9:00AM—10:00AM ● Blending the Real and the Imagined: A Conversation with Xiran Jay Zhao
10AM			
11AM	11:00AM—12:15PM ● Publishing Translated Kidlit: Challenges and Opportunities	10:30AM—12:00PM ● Discovering Visual Edutainment Tools: Effective Storytelling Through Info-comics	10:45AM—12:15PM ●● 排版、写作与插画风格新尝试 Experimenting with Form and Style
12PM			
1PM	1:15PM—2:45PM ● Ordinary Hazards: My Journey With Words	1:00PM—2:15PM ●● பயன்மிக்க வாசிப்புத் திட்டங்கள் : தமிழ்நாடு எப்படிச் செய்கிறது Effective Reading Initiative: How Tamil Nadu Does It	1:00PM—2:15PM ● Across SEAs: Working With Collaborators in The Region
2PM			
3PM	3:15PM—4:30PM ● Writing with Fire	2:45PM—3:45PM ● The Call of the Wild	2:45PM—4:00PM ● What’s New in Middle Grade?
4PM		4:00PM—5:00PM ● My Daddy is a Runner	
5PM	5:00PM—6:15PM ● Shedding the Light on Dark Topics		4:30PM—5:30PM ● Scholastic Asia Picture Book Launch Party
6PM			

● Country of Focus ● Writers & Illustrators ● Teachers & Parents ● Cross-Platform ● Mother Tongue ● Public

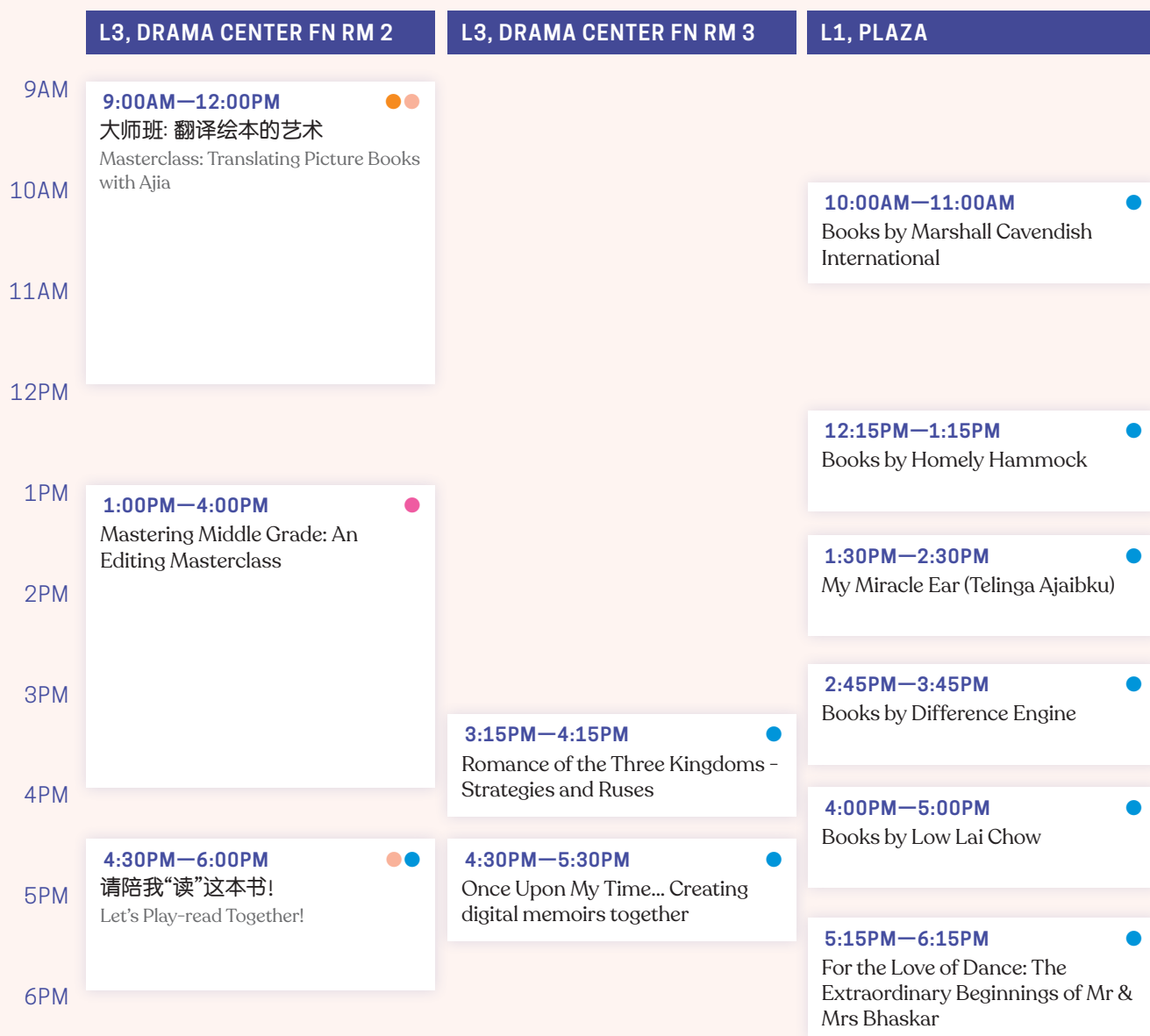
	L3, DRAMA CENTER FN RM 2	L3, DRAMA CENTER FN RM 3	L1, PLAZA
9AM	9:00AM—10:30AM ● Cipta Nomik Anda Sendiri: Menulis & Menggambarkan Create Your Own Nomik: Writing & Illustrating		
10AM			9:30AM—10:30AM CLASS Competition Prize Presentation
11AM	11:00AM—12:30PM ● Level Up: Making Learning Fun for Children with Dyslexia	11:00AM—12:00PM ● Books by Chew Lee Ching	11:15AM—11:45AM ● Travelling with Brocolily
12PM			12:00PM—1:00PM ● Draw and Tell Me a Story!
1PM			1:15PM—1:45PM ● Travelling with Brocolily
2PM	1:30PM—3:00PM ● Finding Mommy Elephant: A Pop-Up Book Workshop		
3PM			
4PM	3:30PM—5:00PM ● Illustration Styles: A DRAW OFF!!		
5PM			
6PM			6:45PM—8:30PM COF Việt Nam Night

Calendar: 28 May (Sun)

● Translation Forum ● Publishing Forum

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION ROOM	L5, POSSIBILITY ROOM
9AM	9:00AM—10:15AM ● The Role of the Translator in the Age of A.I.	9:00AM—10:30AM ●● 我们一起动手制作图书 Paper Play: Picture Book Crafting with Wang Shu Fen	9:00AM—10:15AM ●● The Art of Licensing: How to Unlock Your IP
10AM			
11AM	10:45AM—12:15PM ● A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions	11:00AM—12:30PM ● 穿越中国朝代之旅: 桌游工作坊 Play and Learn in a "Journey Through China's Magnificent Dynasties"	10:45AM—12:00PM ● The Chatbot Made Me Do It
12PM			
1PM	1:00PM—2:30PM ● Telling Local Stories for a Global Audience: The Highs, Lows and Alamak Nos	1:30PM—2:30PM ● Writer's Pitch	1:00PM—2:15PM ● Why Children Should Read World Literature
2PM			
3PM	3:00PM—4:15PM ● Bringing Translation to the Classroom	3:00PM—4:00PM ● Illustrators Portfolio Review	2:45PM—4:00PM ● Publishing Opportunities in Asia
4PM			
5PM	4:45PM—6:00PM ● 10 Years of Sherlock Sam: Journeying Through Singapore and Around the World	4:30PM—5:30PM ● Media Pitch	4:30PM—5:45PM ● What You Eat is What You Write
6PM			

● Country of Focus ● Writers & Illustrators ● Teachers & Parents ● Cross-Platform ● Mother Tongue ● Public



Lectures



Marie-Aude Murail: Lessons in Rewriting

26 May 2023 (Fri), 6:00pm—7:30pm | L16, The Pod

Speaker: Marie-Aude Murail // Moderator: Evelyn Wong

Being an author for children means that you'll be read and re-read by different generations of readers – it also means that you are able to reassess and edit some of your own work to make it more relevant to current issues and moral values. In this lecture, Marie-Aude will reflect on four decades of rewriting oneself and others. She will present rewriting as a way of adapting classics to contemporary audiences, examining one's conscience, bearing witness to societal shifts as well as passing on knowledge and experiences to the writers of tomorrow.

This session will be conducted in French and English.



Ordinary Hazards: My Journey With Words

27 May 2023 (Sat), 1:15pm—2:45pm | L16, The Pod

Speaker: Nikki Grimes // Moderator: Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips

“My life with notebooks/began with this/a poem here/an observation there/a rage of red ink-/each sheet of white/a paper haven...” In this session, Grimes shares excerpts of *Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir*, as she weaves the story of a writing life that began with a simple love of language and the accidental discovery that writing poetry could—and still does—help her make sense of the world.



Telling Local Stories for a Global Audience: The Highs, Lows and Alamak Nos

28 May 2023 (Sun), 1:00pm—2:30pm | L16, The Pod

Speaker: Hanna Alkaf // Moderator: Donna Lim

Join Hanna Alkaf in this lecture as she shares her experience of writing local stories that have resonated with readers globally, even amidst cultural differences. Hanna will provide insights on the significance of telling stories in your unique voice and the importance of staying true to your own words.

Masterclasses



大师班: 翻译绘本的艺术

Masterclass: Translating Picture Books with Aja

28 May 2023 (Sun), 9:00am—12:00pm | L3, Drama Centre Function Room 2

Speaker: 阿甲 (Aja)

向获奖翻译家阿甲学习如何有效地翻译绘本! 他将在大师班分享翻译绘本的基础知识, 以及如何进一步提高翻译技能的提示和技巧。

Award-winning translator 阿甲 (Aja) will show you how to produce effective translations of picture books in this masterclass. He will share the fundamentals of translating picture books from English to Chinese, as well as tips on how you can further improve their skills.

This session will be conducted in Mandarin.



Mastering Middle Grade: An Editing Masterclass

28 May 2023 (Sun), 1:00pm—4:00pm | L3, Drama Centre Function Room 2

Speaker: Erika Turner

Join Executive Editor Erika Turner from Little, Brown Books for Young Readers in this masterclass on taking your middle grade writing to the next level. With a focus on editing techniques specific to the genre, Erika shares her tips and tricks for crafting compelling characters, creating engaging plots, and polishing your manuscript for submission.

Translation Forum



The second edition of the AFCC Translation Forum shines a spotlight on the many roles that translators undertake in promoting diverse stories and cultures, and discuss how they promote literary translation, both in education and for the general public. Additionally, the challenges and opportunities of translating children's literature are discussed, along with the evolving role of human translators in the age of A.I.

The AFCC Translation Forum is supported by the National Translation Committee.

26 MAY (FRIDAY)

5:30pm—7:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

WORKSHOP **Translating Middle Grade**

Speaker: Hendaro Setiadi

Find out in this workshop how to approach translating the middle-grade genre! The facilitator will share techniques on how to effectively translate the text into your preferred target language, as well as tips for approaching the source text.

27 MAY (SATURDAY)

9:00am—10:30am
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Keynote: Our Many Identities—Translator as Advocate and Bridge**

Speakers: 阿甲 (Ajia), Hendaro Setiadi, Jiwone Lee // Moderator: Amanda Ruiqing Flynn

In this year's keynote, we highlight the multiple roles taken on by the translator beyond the translation of works. Our speakers share the thrills and challenges being involved in the publication process, and also about the advocacy they participate in.

11:00am—12:15pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Publishing Translated Kidlit: Challenges and Opportunities**

Speakers: Hendaro Setiadi, Le My Ai, 童若轩 (Tung Roh Suan) // Moderator: Chong Lingying

Our speakers examine the opportunities amidst the challenges of buying and selling translation rights with the recent increase in the publishing of translated children's literature. They also address their solutions to the challenges they have faced.

28 MAY (SUNDAY)

9:00am—10:15am
L16, The Pod

PANEL The Role of the Translator in the Age of A.I.

Speakers: Helen Wang, Nguyen Thanh Nam, Susan Xu Yun // Moderator: Tay Meng How

As A.I. continues to gain prominence, what ethical considerations arise at the intersection of literary translation and the use of A.I.? Our panelists discuss some of the issues surrounding transparency and bias, attribution, and the evolving role of the human translator in this rapidly changing landscape.

9:00am—12:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

MASTERCLASS 大师班: 翻译绘本的艺术 Translating Picture Books with Ajia

See session on page 25.

10:45am—12:15pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions

Speakers: Amanda Ruiqing Flynn, Helen Wang Hongyu Jasmine Zhu, Joy Huang, 童若轩 (Tung Roh Suan) // Moderator: Wong Kwang Han

This panel brings together a judge, publisher, winners, and mentor of the Bai Meigui Translation Competition, co-organised with the Leeds Centre for New Chinese Writing, to discuss the ability of translation competitions in raising awareness and promoting literary translation among young people and the wider public. As part of the session, the winning entry, published by Balestier Press, will also be unveiled.

1:00pm—2:15pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL Why Children Should Read World Literature

Speakers: Jiwone Lee, Lucia Obi, Pham Thi Hoai Anh // Moderator: Fa'izah Ahmad

In this panel discussion, our speakers tell you why children should be encouraged to read world literature. They share how translation introduces and enables our children to read diverse stories from around the world, exposing them to various story worlds and different cultures. They also discuss how we can all encourage greater consumption of world literature.

3:00pm—4:15pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL Bringing Translation to the Classroom

Speakers: 梁郡夏 (Cassia Leong), Mohini Gupta, Pham Thi Hoai Anh // Moderator: Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar

Are you curious about how translation can be integrated into the classroom? Our speakers share the different ways translation can serve as a tool to nurture a passion for languages and foster cultural understanding among young learners. They will also explore how integrating translation in the classroom can also enhance our overall awareness of the role it plays in our daily lives.

Publishing Forum

The AFCC Publishing Forum brings together writers, publishers, editors and industry experts from different facets of the book industry to discuss and address current issues in the publishing world.

Topics at this year's forum will range from publishing opportunities in Asia to the use of A.I. in publishing. Join in to hear our speakers discuss these and more, and check out the latest developments in the field of children's publishing.

25 MAY (THURSDAY)

11:00am—12:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP Let's Play with A.I. Writing Tools

Speaker: Christine Chong

Join Tusitala in exploring the future of writing where art meets tech! In this one-hour workshop, learn the basics of A.I. technologies like NLP, language generation, and sentiment analysis and discover how A.I. has been used in innovative literary projects. Bring your laptops and try popular A.I. writing tools that make creative writing easier. This workshop is for writers, publishers, and anyone interested in A.I.'s potential and pitfalls.





28 MAY (SUNDAY)

9:00am—10:15am
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL The Art of Licensing: How to Unlock Your IP

Speakers: Colin Goh, Jo Lusby // Moderator: Carlene Tan

Learn how to make the most of your intellectual property via licensing. Experts will share tips and strategies for maximizing the value of your IP through licensing agreements, providing insights and examples to help attendees leverage their assets and increase their revenue streams.

10:45am—12:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL The Chatbot Made Me Do It

Speakers: Erika Turner, Peter Schoppert, Simon Chesterman // Moderator: Lee Siew Weng

The rapid transformation brought by A.I. has changed the way we create and generate content, including in the publishing industry. With its growing impact on publishing, A.I. is altering the landscape of this field. As A.I. intersects with publishing, the impact on creativity, quality, and accessibility becomes a crucial question to consider.

2:45pm—4:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL Publishing Opportunities in Asia

Speakers: Felicia Low-Jimenez, Jo Lusby // Moderator: Chong Lingying

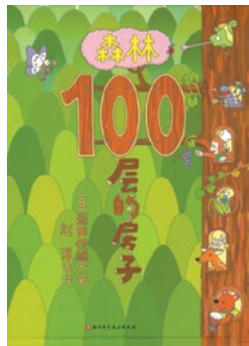
Discover the diverse and burgeoning publishing industry in Asia. Join this session to hear from industry experts about the latest trends, opportunities, and challenges in the Asian market. Whether you're a writer or a publisher, you'll gain valuable insights into the diverse and dynamic landscape of Asian publishing.



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25 May (Thu) Sessions

9:00am—10:30am
L16, The Pod

PANEL AFCC 2023 Keynote: Play!

Speakers: Daniel Miyares, Fei Victor Lim, Marie-Aude Murail // Moderator: Sadie-Jane Nunis

Our opening keynote this year reflects on the festival theme. The speakers will talk about the value and meaning of “Play” in creative writing and storytelling, and its role in the age of digital learning. The presentations include:

The Little Girl that Played in Her Head
By Marie-Aude Murail

Playing to Learn
By Fei Victor Lim

A Case for Play
By Daniel Miyares

11:00am—12:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION Discovering Singapore through Young People’s Eyes

Speakers: David Liew, Melanie Lee, Pippa Chorley, William Sim

Children are the best travellers, and this is why it’s important to create kid-centric illustrated books for them to explore the world with. Authors Pippa Chorley and Melanie Lee, along with illustrators David Liew and William Sim, invite you into their creative processes of crafting well-loved travel kidlit books on Singapore.

11:00am—12:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PRESENTATION Working towards the UN SDGs in Norwegian Libraries

Speakers: Linn T. Sunne, Tone Larssen Rogne // Moderator: Katie Day

How do Norwegian libraries work to fulfill the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals? The session shows how Norwegian libraries inspire and engage children and young adults in their efforts for sustainability by bringing them into libraries.

11:00am—12:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP Let’s Play with A.I. Writing Tools

See session on page 28.

11:00am—12:30pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL Children's Book Market in Vietnam

See session on page 12.

1:00pm—2:30pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP Exploring the World through the Music of Words

Speaker: Sara Patricia Kelly

Poetry encourages kids to play with language and words. In this interactive workshop intended for children 2 to 8 years old, we will “play” with English and bilingual poems through music and construct a poem about Singapore together. “Big kids” including “grown-ups” are welcome to join in the fun!

1:00pm—2:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PRESENTATION Let's Go M.A.D. (Make A Difference) with Picture Books!

Speakers: Amelia Jaishree, Elaine Lee // Moderator: Evelyn Wong

Picturebooks can be used as a vehicle to create a sense of awareness of global issues and challenges in young children by empowering them to imagine, explore and address sustainability in their own ways. Join this session which zeroes in on children's literature that's relevant to three United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs): good health and well-being; reduced inequalities; and life on land and life below ocean.

1:00pm—2:15pm
L5, Imagination Room

PANEL 如何为家里的小小读者选合适的书

Selecting Suitable Books for Your Young Reader

Speakers: 阿甲 (Ajia), 黄美萍 (Jane Wee), 王淑芬 (Wang Shu Fen) // Moderator: 林美莲博士 (Lum May Lin)

图书被公认为引导小小读者走入阅读世界的最佳工具, 但除此之外, 在家里和课室内还有其他可以用来培养小朋友阅读兴趣的工具。通过本活动, 您将认识到什么样的书籍适合家里的小孩。

Picture books are generally acknowledged as the best tools to encourage reluctant readers, but they are not the only resources that can be utilised at home and in the classroom to help nurture the love of reading in children. Find out in this session what are the other types of books out there that will be great additions to your child's bookshelf.

This session will be conducted in Mandarin.

1:00pm—2:30pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL Art of Adaptation: From Mr Midnight, MISI, Knietzsche to Sherlock Sam

Speakers: Afiq Salam, Anja von Kampen, Nazry Salam, Ray Tan, Teh Su Ching // Moderator: Galen Yeo

In this session, join our panelists as they take you on a journey through the world of adaptations in children's literature. From the iconic *Mr Midnight* to the *MISI* series to the popular German children's character *Knietzsche* and to Singapore's well-loved boy detective *Sherlock Sam*, our panelists will delve into the art of adapting stories for different formats and audiences.

2:30pm—3:30pm
L5, Possibility Room

PRESENTATION **Author Visits 101: Using Humour to Engage and Inspire**

Speaker: Oliver Phommavanh // Moderator: Denise Tan

With a decade of experience visiting over 1,000 schools, author and stand-up comedian Oliver Phommavanh brings authors, both seasoned and new, to a journey of rediscovering ways to engage and inspire children during author visits through humour.

2:45pm—3:45pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **Smurfs: The Challenge of Translating Image and Text into Chinese**

Speaker: Emilie Bettega // Moderator: Karine A Lespinasse

Using a fictional colony of small, blue, humanoid creatures who live in mushroom-shaped houses in the forest, deep-dive into the challenges, quirks and irks of cross-cultural image and text translation.

3:00pm—4:30pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Play for All: Making the Arts Accessible**

Speakers: Claire Teo, Hidayah Amin, Jaspreet Kaur Sekhon, Quek Hong Shin // Moderator: Luanne Poh

Join our panel of creators as they share insights and strategies on how to make creative works more inclusive for diverse audiences. Discover new ways to create art that connects with a wider audience and promotes inclusivity.

3:00pm—4:30pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **Picture Perfect: A Visual Storytelling Workshop**

Speaker: Cindy Poh

Picture Perfect is a fun & interactive visual storytelling workshop designed for anyone who wants to engage young minds with short attention spans. Participants will learn how to use different visual storytelling techniques to communicate their ideas effectively that will capture the attention of young audiences. Through a series of hands-on activities, participants will explore the elements of visual storytelling, such as idea and concept generation, storyboarding, communication design, photography, and copywriting. By the end of the workshop, participants will be equipped with practical skills to tell stories using visuals that they can apply in their daily lives.

4:00pm—5:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **Talking Images: The Universal Language of Wordless Picture Books**

Speakers: Canato Jimo, Smit Zaveri // Moderator: Ben Lai

How can wordless books be leveraged to improve visual literacy and language learning in readers who might otherwise be intimidated by the written word? An editor and art director from Pratham Books (India) delve into the universal appeal of the simple form that is a wordless picture book.

4:15pm—5:30pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL சிறார் தமிழ் இலக்கியம் ஓர் ஆய்வு
An Exploration of Children's Tamil Literature

Speakers: Rama Vairavan, Suriya Rethnna, Vizhiyan // Moderator: திருமதி இரத்தினமாலா பரிமளம் (Rathinamala Parimalam)

இந்த அங்கம், நாட்டுப்புறக் கதைகள் முதல் சமகாலப் படைப்புகள் வரை உள்ளடங்கிய சிறார் தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தின் பரந்த வழமைகளை ஆராயும். அதோடு, இன்றைய சந்தையில் இளம் தமிழ் வாசகர்களுக்காக உருவாக்கப்படும் உள்ளடக்கத்தின் தரத்தையும் பொருத்தத்தையும் பற்றி கலந்து பேசப்படும். தற்போதைய வெளியீடுகள், எழுத்துநடை போக்குகள் பற்றியும், பகிரப்படும் வளங்களை எவ்வாறு பயன்படுத்துவது என்பது பற்றியும் பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் மேலும் தெரிந்து கொள்வார்கள்.

This session will explore the vast tradition of Tamil literature for children, from folktales to contemporary works, and discuss the quality and relevance of content that is created for young Tamil readers in the market today. Participants will learn more about the current publications, writing trends and also how they may utilise the resources shared.

This session will be conducted in Tamil.

5:00pm—6:00pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL Keeping Traditions and Memories Alive: A Conversation with Lee Uk-bae

Speaker: Lee Uk-bae // Moderator: Darel Seow

One of South Korea's most influential writers, author-illustrator Lee Uk-bae will share in this session his belief and work in the preservation of traditional art forms and cultural heritage for future generations. Learn about the challenges and opportunities in keeping these traditions alive and how they have served as inspiration for a new generation of creators.

This session will be conducted in Korean and English.

5:00pm—6:30pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP Time to Seriously Play!

Speaker: Paul Adams

SRT's Learning & Engagement workshop, "Time to Seriously Play!" is the perfect opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn how to have fun and meaningful playtime with their kids. Using drama strategies, we'll show you how to incorporate the arts into playtime, making it both entertaining and educational for your little ones.

26 May (Fri) Sessions

9:00am—10:00am
L5, Possibility Room

PRESENTATION **GOAL#14: Reflections on Imaginative Storytelling to Promote Ocean Conservation**

Speaker: Claire Stuckey // Moderator: Kate Brundage

Using selected Australian picture books that employ very different visual and textual narratives, join Claire Stuckey as she shares the SDG 14 message through imaginative storytelling. The session shares engaging techniques that provoke thoughtful discussion and understanding of the effects of pollution to our oceans.

9:00am—10:00am
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **“Bebas bersuara”: Addressing Gender-based Violence through Malaysian Youth Literature and Film**

Speaker: Sharifah Aishah Osman // Moderator: Okky Madasari

The session focuses on literary analysis techniques that highlight how different kinds of Malaysian youth literature can be used by parents and educators to engage young audiences in acquiring basic sexuality education, and to address and prevent gender-based violence as a result of gender inequality. In line with the goals of UN SDG5 (gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls), this talk highlights how Malaysian youth literature and films focused on ideas of child agency and female empowerment can play a significant role in reformist aims to end gender-based violence.

9:00am—10:15am
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Writing with Purpose: Our Stories to Tell**

Speakers: Hanna Alkaf, Lee Uk-bae, Xiran Jay Zhao // Moderator: Melanie Lee

Join our panel of experienced writers as they share how their personal experiences have influenced their writing and driven them to create works that inspire readers and fellow creators. Discover how their unique perspectives and journeys can inspire and inform your own writing with purpose.

9:00am—10:30am
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **Stories with a Twist: A Deep-dive into Improvisational Storytelling**

Speakers: Elizabeth Chua, Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte

Join this workshop to gain insights into correlations between play, storytelling and improvisation. Participants will have an opportunity to learn and apply improvisational storytelling strategies that promote imagination and encourage language development and expression. Come fuel your imagination and make stories come alive!

10:30am—11:30am
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION Promoting Reading and Expression Through Comics

Speakers: Razina Akhter, Sarah A. Evans // Moderator: Zed Yeo (Benedict Yeo)

Today, children need to be literate in multiple forms of text. Comics, in particular, use unconventional vocabulary and grammar conditional upon images. In this presentation, attendees learn how libraries, which are full of resources for children to develop literacy skills in multiple forms of text, use comics to promote reading and writing habits.

10:30am—11:45am
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL Helping Kids Deal with Anxiety After the Pandemic

Speakers: Ashley Chew, Jane De Suza, Oliver Phommavanh // Moderator: Jenny Faith Koh

What is the impact of the COVID pandemic on children's literature? How did children's authors and their young audiences cope with it and continue to do so? This panel explores the importance of reading about the pandemic to children and how it can encourage young readers to deal with issues surrounding difficult and challenging times.

10:45am—11:45am
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION The Secret Lives of Book Reviewers

Speakers: Hwee Goh, Low Ying Ping // Moderator: Kim Beeman

With a focus on local and Asian books, two authors who regularly write book reviews share why they do it, how they select the books, and how they make their reviews diverse and relevant for their local readership.

11:00am—12:30pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP Word Play and The Power of Poetry

Speaker: Nikki Grimes

In this workshop, award-winning poet Nikki Grimes shares the impact of poetry and novels in verse, explores how verse can be used to entice even reluctant readers, motivate them to write, and enhance the culture of the classroom. Attendees have a chance to write using poetry prompts created by Grimes, which they can later use with their own students.

12:00pm—1:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION Documenting Picture Books: From Tokenism to Inclusivity

Speakers: Canato Jimo, Smit Zaveri // Moderator: Jane Hayes

What does a diverse book look like and how does equal representation move beyond tokenism? *The World We Live In/The Words We Create* is a conversation starter on how to create truly diverse books by laying out a map of how to navigate character development, language and environment through a lens of inclusivity. Join us ask the hard questions that matter, using this live and open-source document that grows and changes with the times and our perceptions.

12:45pm—1:45pm
L5, Possibility Room

PRESENTATION **Reading Children's Books through the Lens of Gender Equality**

Speaker: Pham Thi Hoai Anh // Moderator: Lisa Zuliana Binte Zulkifli

The session provides teachers, parents and educators rich and effective activities to leverage when organising reading time on the topic of gender equality with children. The discussion draws from shared experiences around kidlit on gender equality and provides a guide to reading the book series *Generation Equality – Fairy Tales on Gender Equality*, as well as other children's books.

12:45pm—2:00pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Don't Be Afraid of the Funny**

Speakers: Colin Goh, Oliver Phommavanh // Moderator: Neil Humphreys

Is it fair to assume that humorous children's books lack substance? The panel explores the perception that comedic books are less valuable than their serious counterparts and showcases the benefits that come with them. Join us for a lively discussion on how humor can be a powerful tool for children's learning and development.

1:30pm—3:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **Having Fun with Languages: Learning Mother Tongue in Innovative Ways**

Speakers: 梁郡夏 (Cassia Leong), Norlin Samat, ராணி கண்ணா (Rani Kanna) // Moderator: Angela Yang

Learn more about fun and innovative ways to learn mother tongue languages in this session. Discover how to engage children in language learning to make it enjoyable and effective. Get practical tips for unlocking the power of multilingualism in young learners, whether you're a parent or educator. Refer to full programme details on the website.

2:00pm—3:15pm
L5, Imagination Room

PANEL **Nomik: Apabila Dunia Perkataan dan Visual Bertembung!**
Nomik: When the World of Words and Visual Collide!

Speakers: Afiq Salam, Nazry Salam, Nur Khairiah // Moderator: Herman Rothman

Ayuh, kenali alam semesta baharu yang tercipta apabila dunia komik dan novel bertembung! Sertai rakan-rakan pencipta nomik yang akan membincangkan potensi bentuk sastera yang inovatif ini dan kesan positifnya terhadap industri sastera dan kreatif. Dengar pandangan para ahli panel kita sambil mereka meneroka peluang dan berkongsi harapan mereka untuk masa depan nomik.

Be introduced to a new storytelling universe where the worlds of comics and novels collide! Join fellow nomik creators as they discuss the potential of this innovative form of literature and its positive impact on the literary and creative industries. Hear from our panelists as they explore the opportunities and share their hopes for the future of nomik.

This session will be conducted in Malay.

2:15pm—3:15pm
L5, Possibility Room

PRESENTATION **Bringing the Gothic into Southeast Asian Stories**

Speaker: Tutu Dutta // Moderator: Angela Erickson

Not your ordinary pedagogic dialogue, this talk draws inspiration from books and manga to help mind map Gothic literature from Western and Asian sources and the process of creating a Gothic story out of our folklore stories that are intended for Southeast Asian audiences.

2:30pm—3:45pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **What Should Children be Reading?**

Speakers: Denise Tan, Kim Beeman, Lianne Ong, Mukhlis Abu Bakar, Nur Azeezah Fakrudin // Moderator: Loh Chin Ee

The expanding global children's book market offers many options for kids, but what should they be reading? A diverse panel of a librarian, bookseller, educator, parent, and student discuss the types of books that can broaden children's perspectives and reflect the community. They will also answer FAQs from the public.

3:30pm—5:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **工作坊: 用插画赋予意义**
Creating Meaning with Illustration

Speaker: 林柏廷 (Lin Bo Ting)

通过本手作坊, 童书作家林柏廷将分享如何用插画来丰富书籍的内涵。导师会通过例子和示范同参与者们一起探讨文字和图像间的互动, 及如何使用不同的插画风格来表达情感和曲折的故事情节。

In this illustration workshop by Lin Bo Ting, learn how to create multi-layered meanings with pictures. Through examples and demonstrations, explore the interactive relationship between images and text, and how to convey emotions and complex story plots through different styles.

This session will be conducted in Mandarin.

3:45pm—4:45pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **Sci-tales: A Look at Vietnamese Children's Nonfiction**

See session on page 12.

3:45pm—5:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL **The Language of Images: Deciphering Meaning and Intent**

Speakers: Daniel Miyares, Jiwone Lee // Moderator: Darel Seow

As the adage goes, a picture paints a thousand words, but what does an illustration in a picture book tell us? We will examine the various elements of an image that contribute to its meaning, discuss techniques for interpretation and the strategies used in conveying the narrative.

4:15pm—5:30pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL In Search of Metaphor: Finding Words That Sing

Speakers: ArunDitha, Nikki Grimes, Sara Patricia Kelly // Moderator: Desmond Kon Zhicheng-Mingdé

When one crafts a story or poem, or even an article, finding just the right word can be difficult, even for seasoned professionals. However, these wordsmiths have a few tricks they're willing to share. Hear them discuss precisely how they successfully play with words, and how you can, too.

5:30pm—7:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

**WORKSHOP Mari Kita Bermain! Ally di Taman Permainan
Let's Play! Ally at the Playground**

Speaker: Norlin Samat

Ayuh, ajak anak-anak anda menyertai sesi belajar bahasa ibunda dengan bermain! Anak-anak akan bernyanyi, membaca cerita dan melibatkan diri dalam aktiviti-aktiviti secara langsung dalam persekitaran yang selamat dan interaktif. Anak-anak juga akan mempelajari nama-nama mainan tradisional dalam Bahasa Cina, Melayu, dan Tamil. Ibu bapa akan belajar bagaimana mereka dapat melibatkan diri dalam pembelajaran anak-anak dan mewujudkan persekitaran yang serupa di rumah untuk membantu membina pengalaman pembelajaran yang positif bagi pemerolehan bahasa ibunda.

Bring your kids to join Ally and learn MTL through play! Sing songs, read interactive stories, and engage in hands-on activities in a safe and interactive environment. Your kids will learn the names of traditional toys in Chinese, Malay, and Tamil. Parents, learn how to actively participate in your children's learning and create a similar environment at home to help build a positive learning experience for MTL.

This session will be conducted in Malay.

5:30pm—7:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

WORKSHOP Translating Middle Grade

See session on page 26.

6:00pm—7:30pm
L16, The Pod

LECTURE Marie-Aude Murail: Lessons in Rewriting

See session on page 24.

27 May (Sat) Sessions

9:00am—10:00am
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **Different and Dichotomous: Gender Stereotypes in Selected Children's Books**

Speaker: Lisa Zuliana Binte Zulkifli // Moderator: Charlene Shepherdson

How children's books portray gender differences and how society reinforces these differences are important issues for children too. This talk looks at how gendered perspectives may be inhibiting for others if left unchecked. The session provides close reading for selected texts as well as expound on the significance of learning about how parents, educators and librarians see, understand and often-times advocate stereotypes through the books we select for children.

9:00am—10:00am
L5, Possibility Room

PRESENTATION **Blending the Real and the Imagined: A Conversation with Xiran Jay Zhao**

Speaker: Xiran Jay Zhao // Moderator: Pippa Chorley

The history and fantasy genres can be challenging to tackle, but mixing the two genres can offer unique and interesting opportunities for writers to play with. In this conversation with Xiran Jay Zhao, they will share their experience and approach to creating works that combine elements of both, that can surprise and offer fresh perspectives to readers.

9:00am—10:30am
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **Cipta Nomik Anda Sendiri: Menulis & Menggambarkan**
Create Your Own Nomik: Writing & Illustrating

Speakers: Afiq Salam, Nazry Salam

Terokai dunia nomik! Jika anda seorang peminat komik dan novel, ayuh cuba sampaikan cerita anda melalui format yang unik dan menarik ini. Daripada papan cerita, teknik pembentukan watak, dan kaedah penceritaan secara visual, pelajari cara bagaimana nomik boleh menghidupkan cerita anda.

Pada akhir bengkel, anda akan dapat mencipta nomik mini anda, dan anda akan memperoleh kemahiran dan pengetahuan untuk terus membuat nomik anda sendiri. Sama ada anda seorang artis yang berpengalaman atau yang baru bermula, bengkel ini satu cara yang hebat untuk meneroka dunia membuat nomik dan melancarkan kreativiti anda.

Explore the world of nomik! If you're a fan of comics and novels, try your hand to create this unique and exciting format for telling your story. From storyboarding, character development techniques, and visual storytelling methods, learn the way how nomik can bring your story to life.

By the end of the workshop, you'll have created your own mini nomik, and you'll have the skills and knowledge to continue making your own nomik. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a beginner, this

workshop is a great way to explore the world of nomik making and unleash your creativity. This session will be conducted in Malay.

9:00am—10:30am
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Keynote: Our Many Identities—Translator as Advocate and Bridge**

See session on page 26.

10:30am—12:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

WORKSHOP **Discovering Visual Edutainment Tools: Effective Storytelling Through Info-comics**

Speaker: Josef Lee

As edutainment becomes increasingly used as an educational approach, children get more motivated when learning becomes fun. By combining the clarity and simplicity of infographics, along with engaging comics storytelling, the info-comic is a highly effective visual narrative tool for children across ages. Learn the basics of info-comics in this workshop and get hands-on experience in creating a 6-page mini guidebook!

10:45am—12:15pm
L5, Possibility Room

WORKSHOP **排版、写作与插画风格新尝试**
Experimenting with Form and Style

Speakers: 戴芸 (Dai Yun), Lee Uk-bae, 林柏廷 (Lin Bo Ting), 王淑芬 (Wang Shu Fen) // Moderator: 余广达 (Patrick Yee)

书本风格层面的选择如何影响其内涵和读者对于故事的理解? 本座谈会将探讨写作、插画甚至排版风格如何在阅读和欣赏方面影响读者。

How do stylistic choices in books impact meaning and readers' understanding of the story? This panel will delve into how writing, illustration and even formatting styles can impact or affect the way stories are read and appreciated.

This session will be conducted in Mandarin.

11:00am—12:15pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Publishing Translated Kidlit: Challenges and Opportunities**

See session on page 26.

11:00am—12:30pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **Level Up: Making Learning Fun for Children with Dyslexia**

Speaker: Shaun Low

Many dyslexics may have had a slower start in literacy, but that does not mean they can't do well in school. In this workshop, we'll demonstrate how we make learning fun using tabletop games, and how parents and educators can continue to support dyslexic students in school and at home.

1:00pm—2:15pm
L5, Imagination Room

WORKSHOP பயன்மிக்க வாசிப்புத் திட்டங்கள் : தமிழ்நாடு எப்படிச் செய்கிறது

Effective Reading Initiatives: How Tamil Nadu Does It

Speaker: Vizhiyan // Moderator: அழகுநிலா (Azhagunila)

இந்த அங்கம், தமிழ்நாட்டில் நடப்பிலுள்ள பல்வேறு வாசிப்புத் திட்டங்களை ஆராயும். பிள்ளைகள் வாழ்நாள் வாசகர்களாக வளர்வதற்கு இத்திட்டங்கள் ஊக்கமளிக்கின்றன. வெற்றிகரமான திட்டங்கள், எதிர்கொள்ளப்பட்ட சவால்கள் பற்றியும், இந்த உத்திகளை உங்கள் வகுப்பறையில் அல்லது வீட்டில் எவ்வாறு பயன்படுத்தலாம் என்பது பற்றியும் மேலும் தெரிந்து கொள்ளுங்கள்.

This session will explore the various reading initiatives in place in Tamil Nadu, that encourages children to grow and develop into lifelong readers. Learn more about the programmes that have been successful, the challenges encountered and how you can potentially apply the strategies shared in your classroom or at home.

This session will be conducted in Tamil.

1:00pm—2:15pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL Across SEAs: Working With Collaborators in The Region

Speakers: Gina Chew, Kifurai, Nadhir Nor // Moderator: Shreya Davies

As hybrid working becomes a norm post-pandemic, how have editorial strategies for remote collaborations in Southeast Asia changed? Join Difference Engine as they share the conversations they navigated, while working on *Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm* and *Two Tails*, to ensure remote creators were given support and guidance during the creation process.

This programme is in partnership with Difference Engine.

1:15pm—2:45pm
L16, The Pod

LECTURE Ordinary Hazards: My Journey With Words

See session on page 24.

1:30pm—3:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP Finding Mommy Elephant: A Pop-Up Book Workshop

See session on page 13.

2:45pm—3:45pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION The Call of the Wild

See session on page 13.

2:45pm—4:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL **What's New in Middle Grade?**

Speakers: Daphne Lee, Erika Turner, Mindy Pang // Moderator: Kate Brundage

Join our panelists for an exciting discussion on the latest trends, themes, and popular titles that are captivating young readers in the middle grade scene. From diverse representation to innovative storytelling, this session offers insights and perspectives on the revolution that is shaping children's literature.

3:15pm—4:30pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Writing with Fire**

Speakers: Josephine Chia, Pauline Loh, Xiran Jay Zhao // Moderator: Leslie W

Join our speakers as they share their insights and techniques on how to craft writing that evokes strong emotions and keeps readers coming back for more. In this session, you'll learn how to utilize language to breathe life into your writing and spark the imagination of your readers. Whether you're an aspiring writer or a seasoned pro, this session will help you master the art of expressive writing.

4:00pm—5:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

PRESENTATION **My Daddy is a Runner**

See session on page 13.

5:00pm—6:15pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Shedding the Light on Dark Topics**

Speakers: Anja von Kampen, Hanna Alkaf, Marie-Aude Murail // Moderator: Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte

Children's books serve as a tool for navigating an unfamiliar world. Therefore, it's essential that they provide a lens for understanding difficult and taboo topics, preparing children for reality. This panel will explain the importance of authors not shying away from challenging subjects and offer strategies for presenting them in children's literature.

6:45pm—8:30pm
L1, Plaza

SPECIAL EVENT **COF Việt Nam Night**

See session on page 13.

28 May (Sun) Sessions

9:00am—10:15am
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL **The Art of Licensing: How to Unlock Your IP**

See session on page 29.

9:00am—10:15am
L16, The Pod

PANEL **The Role of the Translator in the Age of A.I.**

See session on page 27.

9:00am—10:30am
L5, Imagination Room

WORKSHOP **我们一起动手制作图书**

Paper Play: Picture Book Crafting with Wang Shu Fen

Speaker: 王淑芬 (Wang Shu Fen)

童书作家王淑芬将和参与者们分享怎么使用不同的材料创造出属于自己的图书。通过亲手制书过程, 孩子们可以对故事有更深入的认识也能借此激发他们阅读的兴趣。

Take the chance to play with different materials to create your own work of art in this interactive workshop with Wang Shu Fen, as she leads you through the process of crafting book-based art projects, as a medium to help children engage deeper with stories and to stimulate their interest in reading.

This session will be conducted in Mandarin.

9:00am—12:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

MASTERCLASS **大师班: 翻译绘本的艺术**

Masterclass: Translating Picture Books with Ajia

See session on page 25.

10:45am—12:15pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions**

See session on page 27.

10:45am—12:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL **The Chatbot Made Me Do It**

See session on page 29.

11:00am—12:30pm
L5, Imagination Room

WORKSHOP **穿越中国朝代之旅: 桌游工作坊**

Play and Learn in a “Journey Through China’s Magnificent Dynasties”

Speaker: 张明祥 (Tew Beng Siong)

我们诚挚邀请您参与“穿越中国朝代之旅”桌游工作坊, 和我们一起穿越古代中国各个朝代, 了解中国历史, 感受每个朝代的磅礴气势。通过桌游工作坊, 参与者可以了解如何将桌游变成有效又有趣的学习工具, 从而引导新加坡学童学习华文和博大精深的中华文化, 同时促进儿童各项软技能的提升和全面发展。

温馨提示: 本次工作坊以华语进行。适合教育工作者和家长。

Explore more about game-based learning in this workshop as you time-travel through ancient China, and try to make it out alive amidst the various political and court intrigues thrown your way in the board game, “Journey Through China’s Magnificent Dynasties”. In this session, you will learn more about the use of board games as teaching tools, and experience how they can promote and contribute to the holistic development of children.

This session is conducted in Mandarin. Suitable for educators and parents.

1:00pm—2:30pm
L16, The Pod

LECTURE **Telling Local Stories for a Global Audience: The Highs, Lows and Alamak Nos**

See session on page 24.

1:00pm—2:15pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL **Why Children Should Read World Literature**

See session on page 27.

1:00pm—4:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

MASTERCLASS **Mastering Middle Grade: An Editing Masterclass**

See session on page 25.

1:30pm—2:30pm
L5, Imagination Room

PITCH **Writer’s Pitch**

See information on page 47.

2:45pm—4:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL **Publishing Opportunities in Asia**

See session on page 29.

3:00pm—4:15pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Bringing Translation to the Classroom**

See session on page 27.

3:00pm—4:00pm
L5, Imagination Room

PITCH **Illustrators Portfolio Review**

See information on page 49.

4:30pm—5:45pm
L5, Possibility Room

PANEL **What You Eat is What You Write**

Speakers: Emily Lim-Leh, Joyce Chng, Namita Moolani Mehra // Moderator: Sim Ee Waun

Eating is considered a national pastime in Singapore. In this panel session, we explore the cultural significance of food in our local literature. Joyce, Emily and Namita will offer insights into how they have incorporated this cherished hobby into their writing, sharing their creative processes and inspirations. Discover the unique ways in which our interests and literature intersect in this panel session.

4:30pm—5:30pm
L5, Imagination Room

PITCH **Media Pitch**

See information on page 48.

4:45pm—6:00pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **10 Years of Sherlock Sam: Journeying Through Singapore and Around the World**

Speakers: A.J. Low, 阿甲 (Ajia), Chen Min, Drewscape, Maya Gavankar // Moderator: Meihan Boey

Join AJ Low and special guests for a retrospective on a decade of *Sherlock Sam*! They will share about their writing journey, behind-the-scenes information, and how they keep all their stories straight after 10 years (spoiler alert: they don't always!). Special guests include artist extraordinaire Andrew 'drewscape' Tan, illustrator on the *Sherlock Sam* series, award-winning translators 阿甲 (Ajia) and Chen Min, translators for the Simplified Chinese editions of *Sherlock Sam*, and Maya, a long-time fan of the series.

AFCC Digital Sessions

These sessions will be available via VOD after the festival. Please refer to the AFCC website for details.

PRESENTATION **Geek is Chic: Geeky Protagonists and the Importance of Relatability in YA**

Speaker: Catherine Dellosa // Moderator: Cheeno Sayuno

The session explores the importance of infusing geekiness into fiction and highlights how fandoms have evolved from very niche markets to mainstream media today. By using superheroes and gaming as pop culture elements, the talk delves into how these elements help YA become more relatable and compelling for all ages and audiences.

PRESENTATION **Technology-Assisted Reading: Boon or Bane?**

Speaker: Cindy Ong // Moderator: GERAL CAI

The presence of technology in our lives have radically impacted how we have engaged with it in our day-to-day activities, including the act of reading. This session will discuss the opportunities and threats of technology-assisted reading, explore how evolving consumer demands have impacted creators, and analyse if we should rethink the notion of what it means to read.

Writer's Pitch

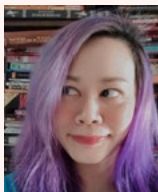
Book a date with our panel of publishers and publishing representatives at AFCC. Pitch your unpublished manuscript or book idea to get feedback on your work and maybe even have it picked up by one of the representatives that you'll meet!

28 May 2023 (Sun)
1:30pm—2:30pm
L5, Imagination Room



Ariel Lee (Singapore)

Ariel Lee is an assistant editor at Epigram Books. She specialises in middle grade fiction. She has previously worked with translated works of contemporary world literature, with a specific focus on Asia.



Felicia Low-Jimenez (Singapore)

Felicia Low-Jimenez has worked in bookselling and publishing for over a decade. She is the Publisher at Difference Engine, an independent comics publisher in Singapore. She is also one half of the writing team behind the best-selling *Sherlock Sam* series of children's books. She has her first published adult fantasy short story in *Fish Eats Lion Redux*.



Jo Lusby (UK)

Jo Lusby is co-founder of Pixie B, a content management and strategy agency specialising in China and Asia, and represents corporate clients, including Harry Potter digital publisher Pottermore Publishing and US children's franchise *Rebel Girls*, as well as individual authors. Jo was formerly the CEO of Penguin Random House North Asia.



Mindy Pang (Singapore)

Mindy has more than a decade of experience as editor and marketing manager at Marshall Cavendish International. She is the driving force behind key publications as a senior editor and develops marketing strategies to help the publishing house remain a leading publisher in Asia and beyond.

Media Pitch

If you have an idea for your book project to be adapted for the screen or other media platforms, join us for this Media Pitch, where you will have the opportunity to get feedback from experts and practitioners in the industry.

28 May 2023 (Sun)
4:30PM—5:30PM
L5, Imagination Room



Anja von Kampen (Germany)

Anja von Kampen is a Berlin-based film producer, director, world traveler, inventor and author. In 2012, she created the award-winning animated character *Knietzsche* for German children's television. As of now the *Knietzsche* universe consists of eleven books, an app and almost 80 short-films, available in different languages.



Esan Sivalingam (Singapore)

Co-founder of Hoods Inc. Productions, Esan is best known as the writer and director of Singapore and Malaysia's highest rated English comedies, *Under One Roof* and *Phua Chu Kang*. Approaching his 30th year in the media industry, he has created over 500 hours of content for multiple genres and formats.



Carlene Tan (Singapore)

Carlene Tan is the Director of Original Production and Development (Kids - Asia Pacific) at Warner Bros. Discovery where she leads a team in identifying new IP and producing original content. She currently oversees and steers production of APAC originals, including the International Emmy-nominated series, *Lamput*. Her portfolio includes projects such as *Oddbods* and *Insectibles* at One Animation and original animation at Disney SEA.



MODERATOR Jyotirmoy Saha (Singapore)

Jyotirmoy Saha is a media entrepreneur and the Founder of August Media Holdings, a top content creator for kids and youth that has titles on air in 120 countries. His company has won multiple international awards and he is personally credited on over 60 TV and film titles.



Illustrators Portfolio Review

The Illustrators Portfolio Review provides an opportunity for illustrators (emerging or practising) with an available body of work to book an exclusive, one-on-one consultation session with renowned illustrators and artists for feedback on their portfolio and receive tips on improving their techniques.

28 May 2023 (Sun)
3:00PM—4:00PM
L5, Imagination Room



Daniel Miyares (USA)

Daniel Miyares is a critically acclaimed picture book author and illustrator. Some of his books include: *Float*, *Hope At Sea*, *Night Out*, and *Bring Me A Rock!*. Daniel has been called “...a master of visual storytelling.”- Jody Hewston, *Kinderlit*, and “...enchanting, versatile” - *The New York Times*. He believes that our stories have the power to connect us all. Daniel’s story currently takes place in Lenexa, KS with his wife, their two wonderful children, and a dog named Violet that gives them all a run for their money.



David Liew (Singapore)

When he’s not illustrating books like Eliza Teoh’s *Ellie Belly* and Hwee Goh’s *Change Makers*, David can be found building miniature worlds in unattended drawers. In-between this artistic mayhem, he teaches at local art colleges and polytechnics. If adequately incentivised he’ll admit to illustrating Pippa Chorley’s *Eye Spy* series and Melanie Lee’s *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien* as well.



林柏廷 (Lin Bo Ting) (Taiwan)

小时候志向是当兽医，现在创作绘本过生活，年过四十才开始读美术硕士，很怕吵却又喜欢和小孩互动，擅长以粉蜡笔、压克力颜料、复合媒材、电脑绘图等为创作媒材。奖励包括《阿祖再見》2023台北国际书展书展大奖、2021金鼎奖优良出版品推荐、《一个像海的地方》OPENBOOK 好书奖 年度童书、《一起去动物园》第六届 香港丰子恺儿童图画书奖 佳作、《一个像海的地方》第七届丰子恺儿童图画书奖推荐。

As a child, Lin Bo Ting’s dream was to become a vet, now he creates picture books for a living. He decided to pursue a Master’s Degree in Art in his 40s. Despite his aversion to noise, he enjoys interacting with children. He is adept at using oil pastels, acrylic paint, mixed media, and the computer to create his artwork. His accolades include the 2023 Taipei International Book Exhibition Award, 2021 Golden Tripod Awards (Outstanding Publication) and the 7th Feng Zikai Chinese Children’s Picture Book Award (Recommended Book).



**Little Sing Lit World: Stories for Young Readers
(AEP0420528)**

Age group: 4 - 6 Years Old

Programme fee: \$350*

**Selected centres from the
five Anchor Operators (AOP) may utilise
the funding from NAC Preschool AEP to
cover the programme fee.*

SBC Campus

**Cultivate a love of reading and build
empathy through books and interactive
storytelling with Sing Lit authors!**

Email us at programmes@bookcouncil.sg for school bookings
or customised workshops for teachers.

**Scan For
More Details**



AFCC 2023
Public Programmes

Scholastic Asian Book Award 2023

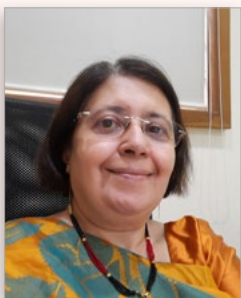
The Scholastic Asian Book Award (SABA) is the joint initiative of Scholastic Asia and Singapore Book Council (SBC).

SABA recognises children’s writers of Asian origin who are taking the experiences of life, spirit, and thinking in different parts of Asia to the world at large. The award also aims to promote the understanding of the Asian experience and its expression in innovative and creative forms.

Prize Presentation:
25 May 2023 (Thu)
7:15pm—8:30pm
L16, The Pod
By Invitation



THE SHORTLIST



Zarin Virji

Title: Living With Adi

Zarin Virji, from Mumbai, is a graduate of the creative writing programme from the University of Sheffield, UK. For over three decades she has been a teacher, teacher trainer and head of

school. Her writing is as much about expressing spontaneous feeling as it is about grappling with socio-economic realities of our times. Her writing has been featured in *The Research Scholar*, *Route 57* and *The Best Asian Short Stories 2018*. Her book, *Gopal’s Gully* was published by Duckbill Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House India.



Ino Habana

Title: Amos & the Snow Tree

Ino Habana is a graduate Creative Writing student at the University of the Philippines Diliman. His short stories have appeared in publications such as the *Philippines Free Press* and *Likhaan: The Journal of Contemporary Philippine Literature*. He has recently discovered the joy of writing for children. Ino grew up in Manila, but now divides his time between the big city and the beaches of Palawan, where he has found an island home.



Vidya Nesarikar

Title: Lalli & Champa

Vidya Nesarikar is a children's writer and storyteller based in Pune, India. She writes short stories and articles for newspapers and magazines such as the *The Hindu* and *Champak Magazine* for the last 10 years. Recently, she has been published in an anthology by Ponytale Books, *When Mommy was a Little Girl*. When not spinning tales, she works with the iTeach program to make hobby club activities such as public speaking accessible to children of low-income families.



Varsha Varghese

Title: The Summer Avisha Turned Detective

Varsha has an undergraduate degree in Economics and a master's degree in Development Studies. She has published two picture books and an emerging reader book as part of independent feminist projects. She has previously run a volunteer-led reading project working with children from under-resourced communities in Delhi. Her belief that all children deserve to see themselves in books they read informs her writing.

THE JUDGES



Don Bosco (Singapore)

Don Bosco started Super Cool Books with his sons in 2011, at first to publish their original stories, and later to produce thrilling fiction with publishing partners. Recently he has been developing gamebooks, where readers get to make decisions along the way in order to explore the storyworld and complete a mission. His popular gamebooks include the *Last Kid Running* middle grade series published by Penguin Random House, and *The Secret of the Chatter Blocks*, a chapterbook published by Super Cool Books.



Hanna Alkaf (Malaysia)

Hanna Alkaf is the critically acclaimed author of the Freeman Award winner *The Weight of Our Sky*, the Kirkus Prize finalist *The Girl and the Ghost*, and *Queen of the Tiles*. She graduated with a degree in journalism from Northwestern University and spent over ten years in journalism

and communications before trading in nonfiction for fiction. Her next books are the MG fantasy adventure *Hamra & the Jungle of Memories* (HarperCollins, March 28th 2023) and the YA magic school murder mystery anthology *The Grimoire of Grave Fates* (Delacorte Press, June 6th 2023). Hanna lives in Kuala Lumpur with her family.



Varsha Seshan (India)

Varsha Seshan is a children's book writer based in Pune, India. Her published work includes four picture books, two chapter books, three middle-grade books and two collections of short stories. Her books have been shortlisted for the Neev Book Award 2021, the Singapore Book Award 2019, and the Scholastic Asian Book Award 2018 and 2016. Most recently, her picture book *How I Feel* made it to the Parag Honour List 2022.



FINAL CALL FOR SPBA 2024 ENTRIES

CALLING ALL ASIAN ILLUSTRATORS WITH
ASIAN-INSPIRED STORIES FOR CHILDREN!

SUBMIT BY
31 OCT 2023
5PM SINGAPORE
STANDARD TIME

Submit your unpublished work
and stand to win SGD10,000 and
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Learn more at:
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SHARE YOUR ASIAN-INSPIRED STORIES!

Entries for SABA 2025 is now open! Submit your unpublished work and stand to win SGD10,000 and a publishing deal with Scholastic

Submit by

31 OCT 2024

at 5PM Singapore
Standard Time

Learn more at

[scholastic.asia/
scholastic-book-award/SPBA](https://scholastic.asia/scholastic-book-award/SPBA)

Jointly organized by



Singapore Book Council
Building Our Imagine-nation

Public Programmes



Don't miss out on this year's public programmes from workshops to performances at the National Library Building!

25–28 MAY

11:00am—5:00pm
Various Locations

SPECIAL EVENT **Beyond the Mist: An Adventure at the Library**

After helping your friends return to Viridis by finding the catalyst for their ship, you receive yet another message from them with a cryptic manual. “We found a safe on the ship! Please help us open it. The manual for the safe was hard to understand, but here it is. Maybe you can make sense of them?” Explore the library, solve the puzzles in the manual and open the safe!

25 MAY (THURSDAY)

4:15pm—5:15pm
L1, Plaza

PRESENTATION **House of Mini Books**

Speaker: Josef Lee

Launched in Dec 2020, the ‘House of Mini Books’ is a free online resource of 20 picture stories, created by local authors/artists, to be downloaded, printed and DIY-ed into mini picture books. After two years, the project is relaunching with a new Cultural Edition with 10 new picture stories promoting racial and religious harmony.

26 MAY (FRIDAY)

1:45pm—2:45pm
L1, Plaza

PERFORMANCE **Gerak ABC!**

By The RolyPoly Family

Gerak ABC is a bilingual English–Malay dance theatre performance, animating the letters of the alphabet through the body. The dancers help make the letters come alive through embodying the letters and pairing them with simple movement words; like “gerak,” which means “move”. Daily interactions like “M for Makan” and “S for Salam” are also featured and become inspiration for dance movement and engagement between audience and performers.

This is a relaxed performance and suitable for a neurodiverse audience.

2:30pm—4:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 3

WORKSHOP **The Toad Who Brought the Rain**
An intergenerational storytelling theatre workshop

Speaker: Jeffrey Tan

In this interactive storytelling theatre workshop, participants will be guided to discover the various locations and characters of the Vietnamese Folk tale. Other than learning to express oneself, participants will also be learning to interact with participants of different generations. Come discover how the Toad brought the rain!

Admission to this session is free with registration.

4:15pm—5:15pm
L1, Plaza

PERFORMANCE **The Missing Pages**

By The Chewy Collective

In this presentation of *The Missing Pages*, The Chewy Collective is excited to welcome you on the adventures of Alfie and Betty, the storybook sleuths! When some pages go missing from their favourite stories, they embark on a wild chase through magical portals and fairytale lands to reclaim their precious pages. However, they discover a bigger mystery to be uncovered... Maybe we shouldn't judge a book by its cover! Will you help Alfie and Betty build things to overcome obstacles, rewrite some stories, and solve the mystery of the missing pages?

27 MAY (SATURDAY)

11:15am—11:45am,
1:15pm—1:45pm
L1, Plaza

PERFORMANCE **Travelling with Brocolily**

By Brocolily

Bring your passport, pack your bags and we're taking off to 3 countries with Brocolily! Dip your toes into each country's nursery rhymes and meet some animals along the way. Get ready to sing, move and have a whale of a time with us!

This is a music and movement programme. Suitable for a neurodiverse audience, and for children ages 4 to 7.

12:00pm—1:00pm
L1, Plaza

PERFORMANCE **Draw and Tell Me a Story!**

Speakers: Colin Goh, Oliver Phommavanh

Work to tell and draw a story with our presenters as they seek your help to fill in the blanks and missing pictures (through your cues) in this fun and interactive storytelling session. No one knows what will happen next in this tale, except for you!

3:30pm—5:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **Illustration Styles: A DRAW OFF!!**

Speakers: Kifurai, Nadhir Nor

What makes an illustrator recognisable by their style? Join comic illustrators Kifurai and Nadhir Nor as they demonstrate how the same prompts can be interpreted in different ways. Through this workshop, participants will participate in a drawing challenge and learn to make illustration choices that make the subjects truly their own.

This programme is in partnership with Difference Engine.

28 MAY (SUNDAY)

4:30pm—5:30pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 3

WORKSHOP **Once Upon My Time... Creating digital memoirs together**

Speaker: Amit Virmani

Calling all grandparents and your grandkids! Come create your digital memoir together and preserve your life stories. Learn how to save your cherished memories in your own voice. Pick up valuable storytelling tips to stay authentic and engaging in this intergenerational workshop.

Admission to this session is free with registration.

4:30pm—6:00pm
L3, Drama Centre
Function Room 2

WORKSHOP **请陪我“读”这本书!**

Let's Play-read Together!

Speaker: 王淑芬 (Wang Shu Fen)

这工作坊将引导孩子们观察一本绘书的构成和细节, 通过手工模仿和创作激发孩子们的想象力和创造力, 让他们享受手工制作的乐趣和成就感。

This session will be conducted in Mandarin.



There will be two days of free, storytelling sessions for children from 27 to 28 May 2023.

Scan the QR code for more information.



GIF / Comic Cover Challenge

GIF / COMIC COVER CHALLENGE

Create an animated GIF / Comic Cover based on short texts by authors featured at the Asian Festival of Children's Content 2023 to participate and win prizes!

GIF workshop by Jamin Wu
18 Feb, 10am - 4pm
LASALLE College of the Arts

Illustration workshop by Uma
15 Feb, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Zoom

The GIF / Comic Cover Challenge is an annual collaboration between Puttnam School of Film & Animation (LASALLE College of the Arts) and Singapore Book Council.

Participants may choose to create either a GIF or comic cover illustration for the challenge, inspired by book extracts taken from the works of featured speakers at AFCC 2023. The prizes for the winners will be given out on AFCC Opening Night on 25 May 2023.

Prize Presentation:
25 May 2023 (Thu)
7:15pm—8:30pm
L16, The Pod
By Invitation

Picture Book Hackathon

The Picture Book hackathon returns for a second edition this year!

13—14 May 2023
Online, via Zoom

Jointly organised by Pratham Books and the Singapore Book Council, running up to the 2023 Asian Festival of Children's Content, the hackathon led to the creation of 9 original books last year. And we are hoping to create more with you again.

Participants will create and translate picture books in two days, mentored by the Pratham Books team. Each picture book will only be 6 frames or pages long, with a simple story at its heart that's no longer than 30 to 40 words in length.

Look out for the new works that will be created from the hackathon at afcc.com.sg



Participants of the 2023 Picture Book Hackathon

CLASS Copyright School Challenge – Creative Writing Competition

The Creative Writing Competition is aimed at inspiring primary school students to write as well as empower them to express their creative thoughts and opinions through poetry or as an essay. The competition is organised in collaboration with the Copyright Licensing and Administration Society of Singapore (CLASS) and ilovereadingsg

Prize Presentation:
27 May 2023
9:30am—10:30am
L1, Plaza
Free Admission

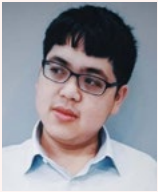
The competition has two separate categories: Essay Writing and Poetry Writing. The theme for this year's competition is: **PLAY!**

Judges for Poetry Writing:



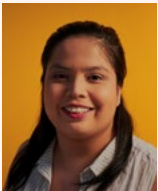
Marc Nair

Marc Nair, PhD is an educator, poet and multidisciplinary artist. He has published and edited 12 collections of poetry.



Crispin Rodrigues

Crispin Rodrigues is the author of 3 collections of poetry and is the co-editor of an anthology of Singapore young poets. He works as an educator in a junior college.



Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips

Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips is a writer and performer, educator from Singapore. She is an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre and a Young ASEAN Storyteller (2022). She has written poetry, spoken word, plays, podcasts and short stories.



Book Illustrators Gallery

Since 2010, the Book Illustrators Gallery (BIG) has showcased diverse artwork from picture books, comics, and graphic novels – and now, webtoons, creative nonfiction books and young adult fiction – by illustrators and artists from Southeast Asia, Asia, and the Asian diaspora.

A key feature of the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC), it offers a unique platform for illustrators, authors, publishers and the public to take notice of illustrations from across Asia and beyond.

This year, the gallery is divided into two main sections: one, the Open Submissions gallery that features more than 270 illustrations by 62 illustrators from 16 countries; and two, a specially curated gallery that features close to 100 illustrations from AFCC Country of Focus Vietnam.

The BIG exhibition will be available online, as well as a physical exhibition at the National Library Building.



Visit the 2023 Book Illustrators Gallery

25–28 May 2023
10:00am–6:00pm
L1, Plaza
Free Admission



The Girl on the Roof and the Boy on the Beach by Vu Thuy Ngoc Ha (Vietnam), Scholastic Asia, 2020. It won the Scholastic Picture Book Award 2019.



The Octopus and the Silent Whale by Ugur Altun (Turkey), Redhouse Kidz, 2022.

BIG COF Việt Nam Curator's Note

In this essay, *Pham Thai Hoai Anh* discusses the selected works for the BIG COF Vietnam exhibition.

The works selected as key visuals for AFCC 2023 are all works with their own impressions showing the dynamism of Vietnamese illustrators and the promising development of the Vietnamese children's book illustration industry.

Into garden, to pick up sunbeams written by Nguyen The Hoang Linh, illustrated by Nguyen Thanh Vu, is a self-published poetry book by crowd funding but has achieved a large number of copies. Impressed with the love of a large number of readers. The innocent, emotional and fancy illustrations of Nguyen Thanh Vu have brought a whole new look to the poetry book of poet Nguyen The Hoang Linh, contributing significantly to the success of this book.

The Best Summer Party Ever!, written by Le Thi Nhu Thuy and Crabit Kidbooks team, illustrated by Linh Luong, is a story in the series *Generation Equality — Fairy Tales on Gender Equality*. This is the first modern fairy tale on gender equality book series for children published in Vietnam. The illustrators of the book series, such as Linh Luong and Nhu Quynh, have contributed to creating a valuable literary work that is really relevant and attractive to the young readers. Linh Luong is also an illustrator who is especially interested in disadvantaged children groups and sustainable development topics with many projects like Super Bookcase and Sun Box Drawing Class.

Finding Mother and Other Folk Tales, written by Nguyen Huy Tuong, illustrated by Rong Pham, shows the interest of contemporary Vietnamese illustrators with literary works of Vietnamese children's classics. *Finding Mother* is one of the best children's stories by writer Nguyen Huy Tuong (1912 – 1960) written around 1954. Impressive illustrations by young



illustrator Pham Rong have really brought this work back to today's children's readers.

Illustrator Ta Huy Long made his mark in the field of children's book illustration with *The Diary of a Cricket* by author To Hoai, however, the generation of illustrators was at the same time as him not many people clearly define their creative role in the field of children's book illustration, they mainly illustrate book covers, storybook illustrations, newspaper illustrations, children's magazines... at the request of publishers.

Over the past 10 years, Vietnam has begun to form a new generation of active, dynamic and professional children's book illustrators. They self-compose, self-publish, go global, cooperate with foreign publishers, create in many diverse and rich genres such as picture books, manga, comics, graphic novels, etc. distinct personal impressions that have a place in the hearts of contemporary readers.

That's why the selected works are all quite recent.

Pham Thai Hoai Anh

BIG 2023 CURATORS

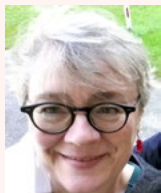
Germany – Internationale Jugendbibliothek / International Youth Library

The Internationale Jugendbibliothek (International Youth Library), based in Munich, is the world's largest library for international children's books. Its unique collection consists of more than 660,000 books in 250 languages spanning six centuries. The book holdings and historical collections are available to researchers from around the world for scholarly use. The library's central task is to promote global children's and youth literature of high aesthetic and literary quality and of significance for cultural literacy.



Reina Nakano

An anglicist and translator, Reina works at the International Library of Children's Literature, Tokyo, and as the International Youth Library's Japanese language specialist.



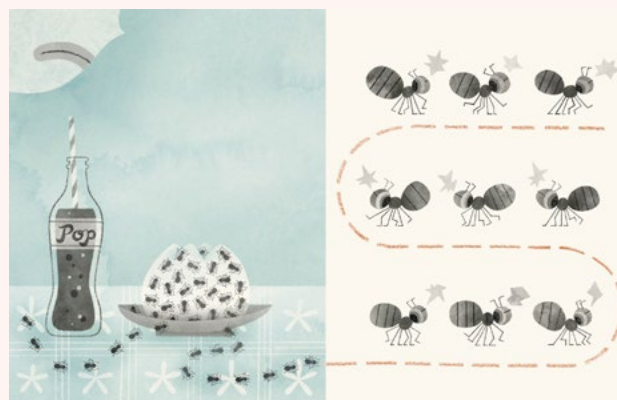
Lucia Obi

Lucia has been working in academic libraries, and also as a freelance illustrator and editor in the children's publishing industry. Trained in Cultural Anthropology, Chinese Literature, Art and the Library and Information Sciences, she is now the language specialist for Chinese and Korean children's literature at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany.



Young-Eun Chang

Young-Eun holds a PhD in German Literature from the Otto-Friedrich-Bamberg University in Germany and is a Professor in the Department of German Language & Culture at Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul. She is an Advisory Board Member for Korean Research Center for International Children's & Adolescent' Literature in Seoul. She is specialized in comparative study about German and Korean children's Books.



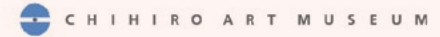
Ang Mga Gumagapang-Gapang (House Bugs and Creepy Crawlies) by Harry Monzon (Philippines), Tahanan Books, 2022.



Grandma's Tiger by Quek Hong Shin (Singapore), Straits Times Press, 2022.

Japan - Chihiro Art Museum

The Chihiro Art Museum is considered the world's first art museum devoted to picture books. Established in 1977 to commemorate Chihiro Iwasaki (1918-1974), a Japanese picture book artist renowned for her works of children and flowers, it now has a collection of over 27,200 pieces created by 207 artists from 34 countries worldwide. There are two museums; one in Tokyo and one in Nagano (Azumino) which are run by the Chihiro Iwasaki Memorial Foundation.



Eriko Tanabe

Since 2012, Eriko has worked at the Chihiro Art Museum looking after public relations, the museum website, and editing the museum newsletter. She is in charge of workshops and events and has instructed local students to conduct watercolour workshops and museum tours. Eriko has also managed Piezograph exhibitions in hospitals and in institutions abroad in India, Korea, and Indonesia.



Michiko Matsukata

Since 2003, Michiko has worked at the Chihiro Art Museum as a curator and is also currently responsible for the library, PR, and international section. She has curated exhibitions such as the *Polish Picture Book Artists*, *Eun Young Cho, Run, Toto!: The Making of a Picture Book*, and *Kota Taniuchi Exhibition: Follow the Wind*. Besides reading, Michiko enjoys walking about.



Si Cemong Coak by Ikku Nala (Indonesia), Ministry of Education, Culture and Technology, 2022.

Sunlight and moonlight, how bright! by Salimeh Babakhan (Iran), IRHCL Publishing House (TAK Books), 2022.



BIG 2023 CURATORS

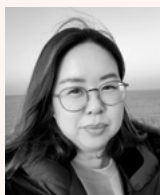
South Korea - Korea national section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY KOREA)

To fulfil IBBY's mission, KBBY works as a network of professionals from both home and abroad, collecting and sharing information on children's and juvenile literature. KBBY also works in close partnership with the other national sections of IBBY to contribute to promoting cross-cultural exchange in children's literature. KBBY organizes international book exhibitions in collaboration with library networks, in efforts to share with the Korean audience the information on global books generated through the awards and activities of IBBY. Moreover, KBBY is committed to providing information on outstanding Korean children's and juvenile literature with readers across the world.



Choi Hyun-kyoung

Choi Hyun-kyoung has been working as a picture book editor in Noran Sangsang Books. She also give lectures at a picture book workshop.



Lee Hyang

Lee Hyang is the children's book editor of Kinderland Publishing. She writes children's nonfiction or lectures at a picture book workshop.



Noe Jeungmin

Noe Jeungmin is the director of the Hyundai Museum of Kids' Books & Art-MOKA. She received a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, focusing on art education.



Park Chanseok

Park Chanseok works as a chief editor in Springsunshine Publishers and has been in charge of the planning, drafting and editing of children's books for years. She has also translated several children's books.



There was no one at the park by Ghazal Fatollahi (Iran), Nesin Yayinevi, 2022.



Can I Run? by Oh Hanai (South Korea), Noran Sangsang Books, 2022.

India - Priya Kuriyan



Priya Kuriyan is a children's book writer-illustrator, comics maker and chronic doodler. She has directed educational films for the Sesame street show (India) and the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI) and has illustrated numerous children's books for publishers like Tulika Books, Penguin, Scholastic and Hachett. She has contributed to Indian comics anthologies like *Pao*, *This Side That Side*, *Eat the Sky Drink the Ocean* and *First Hand 2* (an anthology of non-fiction comics). In 2019, she won the 'Big Little Book Award' instituted by the Parag initiative of Tata Trusts to recognize her contribution to children's literature in India. Her most recent children's picture book *Beauty in Missing* was published by Pratham Books, India.

Malaysia - Linda Lingard



Linda Tan Lingard is the founder and publisher of Integra Creative Media Sdn Bhd (ICM), a children's book publisher based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The company's 10-year-old imprint, Oyez!Books, is one of the country's leading picture book publishers. Linda's publishing and communications career spans 30 years, with roles in editorial, marketing, and production. It was her interest in education, art and licensing that drove her to found the YGL Management licensing agency in 2009 and the Museum of Picture Book Art, Malaysia, in 2021.

Singapore - David Liew



When he's not illustrating books like Eliza Teoh's *Ellie Belly* and Hwee Goh's *Change Makers*, David can be found building miniature worlds in unattended drawers. In-between this artistic mayhem, he teaches at local art colleges and polytechnics. If adequately incentivised he'll admit to illustrating Pippa Chorley's *Eye Spy* series and Melanie Lee's *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien* as well.

Vietnam - Turine Tran



Turine Tran, a Vietnamese born multi-award-winning artist, takes inspiration from children, companionship, and nature. Since 2001, she has been pursuing art in Singapore, U.S, France, and U.K. In 2015, she came back to Singapore to research in visual storytelling and earned a PhD in the field.



Check out the festival bookstore, Closetful of Books! Get books by AFCC featured speakers here.

Closetful of Books is a specialist children's bookseller started by Denise Tan and Kelvin Ng. They grew up accompanied by magical stories, and continue to believe in the power of reading for pleasure. Closetful of Books also visits schools with a vast and specially-curated selection of picture books, novels, non-fiction titles and graphic novels, and extends library consultancy services to schools.

Closetful of Books
where stories live

<https://closetfulofbooks.com>



AFCC Book Fair

Discover and purchase the latest in children's literature at the AFCC Book Fair!

This year, there will be 10 exhibitors showcasing a wide selection of multilingual children's and young adult titles from local and international publishers. There will also be book launches, author signings, and other public activities at the book fair.

25—28 May 2023
10:00am—6:00pm
L1, The Plaza
Free Admission



Festival Bookstore: Closestful of Books

Closestful of Books is a specialist children's bookseller started by Denise Tan and Kelvin Ng. They grew up accompanied by magical stories, and continue to believe in the power of reading for pleasure. Closestful of Books also visits schools with a vast and specially-curated selection of picture books, novels, non-fiction titles and graphic novels, and extends library consultancy services to schools.



Bayard Presse Asia Singapore

Bayard Presse is an international publisher of educational children's magazines with over 150 years of history. We aim to help fulfil parents' desires to share human values with their children. Our publications offer opportunities to nurture creativity and independent thinking, all the while weaving parents and caregivers into the lifelong journey of learning.



Children's Book Design and Illustration Course (KIBA)

Children's Book Design and Illustration Course (KIBA) is a programme under the Bandung Institute of Technology Visual and Communication Design's programme. The course helps students to create children's picture books from scratch. We have collaborated with international organizations such as The Asia Foundation and Room to Read as well as local publishers. Through this collaboration, we are aiming to produce high quality children books both locally and globally.



Epigram Books

Epigram's publishing arm Epigram Books was started in 2011 to champion Singaporean literature. Currently, it has over 300 titles, with several of them winning awards. They include *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye* (winner of 3 Eisner Awards); *State of Emergency* and *Ministry of Moral Panic* (Singapore Literature Prize); *The Gatekeeper* (Singapore Book Awards); and *The Rock and the Bird* and *Where's Grandma?* (Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Awards). Epigram also runs the annual Epigram Books Fiction Prize, which offers \$25,000 and a publishing contract to the winner.



Jsim Education

Jsim Education Pte Ltd is a publisher of BBC EARTH MAGAZINE ASIA EDITION as well as a leading books and magazines distributor that strives to help readers cultivate a lifetime reading habits through organising, reading, and writing programmes for schools and education centres.



Maha Yu Yi

Maha Yu Yi Pte Ltd is a family-run business established in 1969. It has a lovely Chinese children's bookstore for 0-12 years old, and a traditional Chinese bookstore for teenagers & adults. It also sources books for the National Library, tertiary institutions, international schools, local schools, and preschools.



Marshall Cavendish International (Asia)

We are a leading general interest trade publisher in Asia, with a history spanning more than five decades. As a trusted brand, known for a diverse and wide variety of subject areas, and bestselling titles in every genre, we pride ourselves on integrity and are committed to the spread of knowledge. To ensure high-quality books, our team of in-house editors and designers work with our pool of dynamic authors, to publish books written by, or about, renowned political and business figures, thought leaders and leading literary writers. We boast a range of literary agents and distributors worldwide so that every title will be given the opportunity to debut on the international platform in both print and electronic formats.



Singapore Repertory Theatre

Founded in 1993, Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) is one of the leading English language theatre producers and presenters in Asia. In addition to its repertoire of original musicals like *Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress*, the company has produced a number of critically acclaimed plays that include *ART*, *The Pillowman*, and *God of Carnage*. SRT was the first Singaporean theatre company on Broadway in 1998 as Associate Producer of *Golden Child*, which went from Singapore to New York and earned three Tony Award nominations.



Vibal Group

A household name in the publication business, Vibal Group has been the Philippines' leading provider of educational tools and resources for basic education, transforming the way teachers teach and the way students learn for seven decades. Vibal also has been an established name in children's books since 2002. Our authors and illustrators made this possible with our first imprint, the *Golden Salakot Stories*, a collection of storybooks in English and Filipino. Chikiting Books enhance creativity and literacy while promoting values and life lessons. With more imprints developed through the years, our innovative storybooks remain contemporary and relevant while still espousing the traditional Filipino values to our young readers.



World Scientific Education

World Scientific Education (WSE) is an imprint of World Scientific Publishing Co., a global publishing house founded in 1981. WSE is an award-winning children's publisher that connects young minds to the wonders of STEM, education, and knowledge through engaging content of the highest quality that sparks understanding and enjoyment.

AFCC Book Launches

Join us for the launch of over 15 books at AFCC 2023! Our book launches support and grow the public's awareness of quality Asian publications for children.

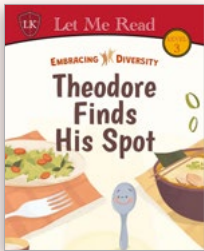
25—28 May 2023

Various Timings

Various Locations

Free Admission

25 MAY (THURSDAY)



5:00PM—6:00PM / L1, PLAZA

Embracing Diversity: Theodore Finds His Spot

Written by Mabelle Yeo Hui Leng

Illustrated by See Hui Qin

Published by Armour Publishing

Theodore is the only teaspoon in a young human family's kitchen. Small and made of simple stainless steel, Theodore is often picked on by his bigger, fancier silver friends frequently found at the dining table. "Stay in your spot!" he's often told by his haughty friends. When Grandmother comes to stay with the family, Theodore finds himself moving from his spot in the kitchen condiment pot to the dining table. Can Theodore discover his true potential and navigate his relations with the other cutlery on the table?

26 MAY (FRIDAY)



11:15AM—12:15PM / L1, PLAZA

Ingatan Masa Kecil (Memory of Childhood)

Written by Yona Primadesi

Illustrated by Nai Rinaket

Published by Sahabat Gorga

Ingatan Masa Kecil is a poetry book for young readers. It tells a story of the bleak period when the children of East Timor were forcibly transferred to Indonesia during the Indonesian invasion of the 1970s. The children must suffer the dark life in the jungle when Indonesian soldiers bomb their homeland. Then they had to live on the land they never wanted to be at. This book features illustrations from Nai Rinaket which in 2022 will become part of the AFCC Book Illustrations Gallery.



3:00PM—4:00PM / L1, PLAZA

Grandma's Tiger

Written by Alan John

Illustrated by Quek Hong Shin

Published by Straits Times Press

"Help! TIGER!!"

Was it really a tiger that Grandma saw on Pulau Ubin while gathering clams one warm, sunny morning? And what will animal expert Dr. Sunny Banuna and his team find when they embark on their big tiger hunt across the island?

27 MAY (SATURDAY)



11:00AM—12:00PM / L3, DRAMA CENTRE FN RM 3

Books by Chew Lee Ching

Supported by the Lee Kuan Yew Fund For Bilingualism

你见到乌龟了吗? (Have You Seen The Turtle?)

Two boys rescue a turtle after hearing mysterious scratching sounds coming from the drain. While waiting for its owner to claim it, the turtle goes missing for the next few days, giving the boys a puzzle to solve each day. You will never guess some of the places it went hiding.

晶晶怎么了? (What Happened to Goldie?)

Grandpa bought a pretty, gold-coloured baby koi fish for the boys. The boys loved it and named it Goldie. But one day, Goldie goes missing. What happens to it? The boys think about the possible culprits and eliminate the possibilities one by one before they find their answer. But not before upsetting the “suspects.”



4:30PM—5:30PM / L5, POSSIBILITY ROOM

Scholastic Asia Picture Book Launch Party

Scholastic Asia cordially invites you to the official book launch of *My Grandfather's Rojak* and *Pahiyas, Planting Rainbow Seeds* – the finalists of the 2019 Scholastic Picture Book Award. Join the conversation with authors Emily Lim-Leh, and Eugene Evasco alongside the books' illustrators Alycia Teo and Pepot Atienza, and moderated by Daphne Lee, Consulting Editor of Scholastic Asia. The Scholastic Picture Book Award encourages the creation of Asian-inspired picture books and recognizes Asian content authored and illustrated by talented and creative Asian writers and illustrators.

28 MAY (SUNDAY)



10:00AM—11:00AM / L1, PLAZA

Books by Marshall Cavendish International

Grace and Mr Milligan

Written by Caz Goodwin, Illustrated by Pip Kruger

Grace lives next door to old Mr Milligan and his goat Charlie. They are the best of friends. But when Mr Milligan's beloved goat dies, everything changes. Will Grace be able to help her friend overcome his sadness? Grace and Mr Milligan is a heart-warming story of grief, love, and the healing power of friendship.

Figuring Life Out series

Written by Alex Loh and Lyn Kang, illustrated by Low Jun Jek

Figuring Life Out is a book series that offers stories that help children to better understand and appreciate themselves while developing positive relationships with others. These engaging tales introduce readers to valuable social-emotional skills such as: self-awareness, stress management, conflict resolution, responding to bullying, and responsible decision-making.



12:15PM—1:15PM / L1, PLAZA

Books by Homely Hammock

Written by Sharifah Huseinah Madihid

Illustrated by Lakhaula S. Aulia

What happens when a child tries to emulate his parents and put into practice what he has been taught? Well, sometimes, the best of intentions come with surprises, especially when it comes from toddlers! Follow Iman in his adventures with his mum and dad as

he tries to put into practice the values that his parents have taught him only for hilarity to ensue. Not only kids, but mums and dads will enjoy reading about these daily interactions between child and parent while building character and love for each other.

Mama Once Told Me

Iman is bored. Everyone is busy. Guests are coming. Iman wants to help and he remembers what to do. Follow the Prophet's way, of course, just like what his Mama always tells him! Will his well-intentioned gesture make mama proud or will it end up in disaster? Follow Iman in this hilarious, yet heart-warming adventure as he tries to recreate the Prophet's Sunnah of honouring guests.

Abah Once Told Me

It's Friday! Iman's favourite day. It is time to go to the masjid. Iman is determined to follow the Prophet's way, just like what his Abah always tells him! He is all ready to go for Jumu'ah prayers. Will Iman be able to remember and follow the Prophet in the way he was told? Join Iman in this amusing, yet endearing adventure as he tries to follow the Prophet's Sunnah of Jumu'ah.



1:30PM—2:30PM / L1, PLAZA

My Miracle Ear (Telinga Ajaibku)

Written by Allysha Asmadi

Note: This book is written by a child author aged 12

Crystal is an excellent violinist who has been playing since she was 3 years old. She creates her music as melodiously as the singing of birds and buzzing bees. Her fingers dance along the strings of her violin like a ballerina with such poise that no one knew she wears a hearing aid.

Kristal pandai bermain violin. Jari-jarinya menari di atas tali seperti penari balet. Mainan violin Kristal menyentuh hati pendengar. Namun, ada satu perkara yang Kristal berasa malu orang lain ketahui. Dia sebenarnya kanak-kanak kurang daya pendengaran pada sebelah telinga dan harus memakai alat bantu pendengaran.



2:45PM—3:45PM / L1, PLAZA

Books by Difference Engine

Two Tails

Written by Kiana Fedly

University student Rara detests animals, especially cats. Until a fatal bike accident changes everything... Now armed with two tails and with a long-lost friend by her side, Rara ventures on a journey to show us the nature of animals, and the space that we carry in our hearts for reconciliation.

Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm

Written by Gina Chew, Illustrated by Nadhir Nor

Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm follows Kyra, who meets spirit keeper Eric, after a family tragedy. What happens when they feel an inexplicable connection that challenges the notion of what it means to let go.



3:15PM—4:15PM / L3, DRAMA CENTRE FN RM 3

Romance of the Three Kingdoms - Strategies and Ruses

Written by Pauline Loh, illustrated by Patrick Yee

Published by World Scientific Education

This is the third book in the series "*Romance of the Three Kingdoms*" – an age-appropriate retelling of the original Chinese classic for kids with vibrant illustrations. It is about the three warriors Liu Bei Guan Yu and Zhang Fei.

28 MAY (SUNDAY)



4:00PM—5:00PM / L1, PLAZA

Books by Low Lai Chow

Published by Droll Books

《最佳猜档》系列 (The Game of Guessing book series)

Book 1: 小笼包, 小熊猫 (*Xiao Long Bao, Little Panda*)

Book 2: 汉堡包, 好宝宝 (*Hamburger, Good Baby*)

Book 3: 快熟面, 快速面 (*Instant Noodles, High-Speed Noodles*)

TIME TO... GUESS! An endearing bilingual Chinese-English wordplay series that celebrates parent-child togetherness and the whimsical joy of everyday moments.

My Mum and Dad are Separated

Harmonious co-parenting comes alive in this feel-good tale of everlasting parental love, as perceived by a child. Depicting the ebb and flow of everyday life with separated parents, this quietly affirmative narrative is a must-have for positive parenting advocates and co-parenting practitioners with shared parenting arrangements elevating the young ones in their lives.



5:15PM—6:15PM / L1, PLAZA

For the Love of Dance: The Extraordinary Beginnings of Mr & Mrs Bhaskar

Written by Abhi Krish, illustrated by Sayan Mukherjee

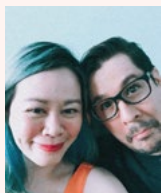
Published by World Scientific Education

Mr K P Bhaskar and Mrs Santha Bhaskar were cultural leaders who devoted their lives to elevating Indian dance in Singapore. Over the last several decades, they have stood strong in the spotlight for their artistic efforts and immeasurable service to the nation. But as celebrated their achievements may be, what has remained in humble silence is the history of their youth.

Born fifteen years apart as Bhaskar Krishna Pillai and Pankyamma Santhamma, it was dance that compelled fate to bring this unlikely couple together. The vivid illustrations in this comic book will take readers back to 1937, to witness their extraordinary journeys unfold through the eyes of a young, impassioned K P Bhaskar.

AFCC 2023 Information

Speakers



A.J. Low (Singapore)

A.J. Low is the husband-and-wife writing team of Adan Jimenez and Felicia Low-Jimenez. They write the best-selling *Sherlock Sam* series. Their books have been published in North America, Indonesia, Turkey, South Korea, Myanmar, China, the Middle East, and Taiwan. The series has been adapted into a musical and rights have been optioned for an animated series. Felicia is a comics publisher and Adan edits video games.

- » 10 Years of *Sherlock Sam: Journeying Through Singapore and Around the World* (pg 46)



Afiq Salam (Malaysia)

Afiq Salam ialah seorang seniman komik berpengalaman yang telah menerbitkan komik-komik terlaris untuk pelajar dan remaja selama lebih dari 10 tahun.

Afiq Salam is an experienced comic artist who has been publishing best-selling comics for students and teenagers for over 10 years.

- » *Art of Adaptation: From Mr Midnight, MISI, Knietzsche to Sherlock Sam* (pg 32)
- » *Cipta Nomik Anda Sendiri: Menulis & Menggambar* (Create Your Own Nomik: Writing & Illustrating) (pg 40)
- » *Nomik: Apabila Dunia Perkataan dan Visual Bertembung! (Nomik: When the World of Words and Visual Collide!)* (pg 37)



阿甲 (Ajia) (China)

阿甲, 中国的童书作家、翻译家、阅读推广人, 也是一位颇受欢迎的说故事人。作为独立研究者, 他曾著有《图画书小史》、《帮助孩子爱上阅读: 儿童阅读推广手册》等。他还译有多本童书参考书, 如《亲爱的天才》(伦纳德·马库斯 编著)、《写给未来的艺术家》(艾瑞·卡尔 编著) 等。

Ajia (阿甲) is a Chinese author and translator of children's books, a promoter of reading, an enthusiastic storyteller and a 2022 Carle Honors Bridge

Honoree. As an independent researcher, he has written several books including *A Little History of Picture Books* and *Passion for Reading – A Handbook on Reading Promotion*. Picture books authored by Ajia include *Li Na: Be an Even Better You* illustrated by Yu Rong and *Drawing a horse* illustrated by Dai Dunbang. He has also translated several reference books like *Dear Genius* by Leonard S. Marcus and more than 200 picture books from English to Chinese, such as the *Peter Rabbit* series, *Goodnight Moon*, and *Where the Wild Things Are*.

- » 10 Years of *Sherlock Sam: Journeying Through Singapore and Around the World* (pg 46)
- » *Keynote: Our Many Identities—Translator as Advocate and Bridge* (pg 26)
- » 大师班: 翻译绘本的艺术
Masterclass: Translating Picture Books with Ajia (pg 25)
- » 如何为家里的小小读者选合适的书
Selecting Suitable Books for Your Young Reader (pg 40)



Amanda Ruiqing Flynn (Singapore)

Amanda Ruiqing Flynn is an artist, writer, Chinese-English translator and creative writing teacher who has lived and worked in the UK, Taiwan and Singapore. She holds a BA in Chinese and Development Studies from SOAS and an MFA in Art and Design. Amanda has won several competitions for her writing and artwork. She is the author-illustrator of *The Woof that Went Weng*, her first children's picture book, which will be published by Balestier Press in 2024. On most days, she is chief storyteller to her son.

- » *A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions* (pg 27)
- » *Keynote: Our Many Identities—Translator as Advocate and Bridge* (pg 26)



Amelia Jaishree (Singapore)

Amelia has been mentoring education professionals in the area of language and literacy for the last 16 years. She is a lecturer at the National Institute of Early Childhood Development, advocating children’s literature, language and literacy, teaching literacy to diverse learners, and teaching techniques for preschool education. Amelia also trains in-service educators in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes and Continuing Education & Training (CET) courses, and conducts workshops for parents.

- » [Let’s Go M.A.D. \(Make A Difference\) with Picture Books!](#) (pg 32)



Anja von Kampen (Germany)

Anja von Kampen is a Berlin-based film producer, director, world traveler, inventor and author. In 2012, she created the award-winning animated character *Knietzsche* for German children’s television. As of now the *Knietzsche* universe consists of eleven books, an app and almost 80 short-films, available in different languages.

Photo by www.visionx.de

- » [Art of Adaptation: From Mr Midnight, MISI, Knietzsche to Sherlock Sam](#) (pg 32)
- » [Media Pitch](#) (pg 48)
- » [Shedding the Light on Dark Topics](#) (pg 43)



Ariel Lee (Singapore)

Ariel Lee is an assistant editor at Epigram Books. She specialises in middle grade fiction. She has previously worked with translated works of contemporary world literature, with a specific focus on Asia.

- » [Writer’s Pitch](#) (pg 47)



ArunDitha (Singapore)

ArunDitha is a Singaporean poet, singer, speaker and coach. Her work has been invited to different writers festivals and events internationally. She has written books, one-woman-shows and enjoys drinking rose tea when she needs a relaxing

beverage. She loves watching the sun as it rises on a new day.

- » [In Search of Metaphor: Finding Words That Sing](#) (pg 39)



Ashley Chew (Singapore)

Ashley is an Associate Librarian from the Arts & General Reference team at the National Library Board (NLB), Singapore. She is in charge of content creation, the curation, development and management of collections and exhibitions, as well as the provision of reference and research services to the public. Previously, she was an Early Literacy librarian for children aged 0-6 years old, promoting a robust reading culture from young.

- » [Helping Kids Deal with Anxiety After the Pandemic](#) (pg 36)



Canato Jimo (India)

Canato Jimo is a picture book maker who currently works with Pratham Books, India, as an art director. He is author-illustrator of award-winning books, *Snip* and *Asamo, Is that you?*. He moonlights as a musician and is a recovering stationery addict.

- » [Documenting Picture Books: From Tokenism to Inclusivity](#) (pg 36)
- » [Talking Images: The Universal Language of Wordless Picture Books](#) (pg 33)



Carlene Tan (Singapore)

Carlene Tan is the Director of Original Production and Development (Kids - Asia Pacific) at Warner Bros. Discovery where she leads a team in identifying new IP and producing original content. She currently oversees and steers production of APAC originals, including the International Emmy-nominated series, *Lamput*. Her portfolio includes projects such as *Oddbods* and *Insectibles* at One Animation and original animation at Disney SEA.

- » [Media Pitch](#) (pg 48)



梁郡夏 (Cassia Leong) (Singapore)

梁郡夏 AcesCube 教育服务公司董事，毕业于南洋理工大学工程系。之后又在国立教育学院 (NIE) 考取了教育专业课程文凭。作为一位终身学习理念的忠实践行者，梁郡夏目前正在新跃社科大学 (SUSS) 攻读翻译及传译学士学位，以提升相关专业知识。

Cassia Leong is the Director of AcesCube Education Services. After graduating with a Bachelor in Civil Engineering, she went on and obtained a PGDE (Post-graduate Diploma in Education) from the National Institute of Education. A strong advocate for life-long learning, Cassia is currently pursuing her second degree in Translation and Interpretation at the Singapore University of Social Sciences.

» [Bringing Translation to the Classroom](#) (pg 27)

» [Having Fun with Languages: Learning Mother Tongue in Innovative Ways](#) (pg 37)



Catherine Dellosa (Philippines)

Catherine Dellosa plays games for a living, reads comics for inspiration, and writes fiction because she's in love with words. She works as a games journalist for one of the UK's biggest mobile gaming media outlets. Her Young Adult fantasy novel, *Of Myths And Men*, was published by Penguin Random House SEA. She is already working on the sequel for the trilogy, along with a few more projects up her sleeve. Her other titles include *The Bookshop Back Home*, *Raya and Grayson's Guide to Saving the World*, and *The Choices We Made (And Those We Didn't)*.

» [Geek is Chic: Geeky Protagonists and the Importance of Relatability in YA](#) (pg 46)



Christine Chong (Singapore)

Christine is the head of Tusitala, a Singapore-based digital storytelling studio that creates novel literary experiences. She has an MA in English Literature from the National University of Singapore, and a background in editorial and arts management. She currently serves on the executive committee of the Singapore Book Publishers Association.

» [Let's Play with A.I. Writing Tools](#) (pg 28)



Cindy Ong (Singapore)

Cindy works at the intersection of learning, design, and technology, with a keen interest in the orchestration of future-ready tech-enabled learning. Specifically, her research is concerned with the implications that the use of adaptive technologies has on teacher-student interactions, as teachers grapple with balancing personalised learning and learning in community.

» [Technology-Assisted Reading: Boon or Bane?](#) (pg 46)



Cindy Poh (Malaysia)

Cindy is a seasoned expert in Media, Communications, Education, and Publishing. With extensive experience as a journalist, writer, editor, and PR specialist, she now teaches as a lecturer and programme leader for Strategic Communication at a Malaysian university. Cindy's creativity extends beyond academia as she is currently working on her first children's picture book and is the mastermind behind kokoku.news, an innovative visual news platform.

» [Picture Perfect: A Visual Storytelling Workshop](#) (pg 33)



Claire Stuckey (Australia)

Claire is a long-term member of the Children's Book Council of Australia and president of the subbranch. In 2008, she initiated the Jeans Genies project which was adopted by many international libraries. As a member of the IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults committee she is a coordinator of the World Through Picture Books Programme. Claire is a member of IBBY Australia's national executive, and chairs its Ena Noël Award, and the IBBY Outstanding Books on Disability List. Claire has presented papers at IBBY, IRSCL and IFLA conferences.

» [GOAL#14: Reflections on Imaginative Storytelling to Promote Ocean Conservation](#) (pg 35)



Claire Teo (Singapore)

An actor, singer, director, scriptwriter, community arts worker and educator, Claire Teo has spearheaded 2 inclusive, multidisciplinary arts projects, and is currently teaching at SPED schools and mainstream arts colleges. She is also the programmes' executive at Methodist Welfare Services, working with youths at risk and broken families.

Photo by Crispian Chan

» [Play for All: Making the Arts Accessible](#) (pg 33)



Colin Goh (Singapore)

Colin Goh created *DIM SUM WARRIORS* which has spawned a Scholastic graphic novel series, a bilingual children's book series, a giant musical in China, and now an education technology startup. He also wrote and directed the award-winning movie *Singapore Dreaming* and drew cartoons for 2 New York Times bestsellers.

» [Don't Be Afraid of the Funny](#) (pg 37)

» [Draw and Tell Me a Story!](#) (pg 57)

» [The Art of Licensing: How to Unlock Your IP](#) (pg 29)



戴芸 (Dai Yun) (China/Singapore)

儿童绘本作者，代表作品包括《你看见喜鹊了吗？》、《苏丹的犀角》、《北极熊搬家》、《溜达鸡》、《梧桐》、《臭袜子不见了》、《一到冬天就下雪》等。作品曾获“信谊图画书奖”文字组佳作奖，2018国家图书馆“小金狮杯”原创图画书年度排行榜Top 5，2019和2022年《父母必读》原创绘本推荐，2019年深圳读书月“年度十大童书”，2019年大鹏自然童书奖，第七届“中国童书榜”最佳童书，第十五届国家文津图书奖推荐图书，2022新京报年度阅读推荐以及第七届“丰子恺儿童图画书奖”首奖等重要奖项。

Dai Yun is the renowned author of *The Wandering Chicken*, *The Plane Tree* and *Sudan's Horn*. Her books have won several awards, including the Hsin-Yi Picture Book Award and Wenjin Book Award of Top 5 Original Picture Books by the National Library of China in 2018. Created in 2020, her story *Do not Scroll Around during Chinese New Year* received more than one million views

to bring comfort and strength to a large number of little readers and their families during these unusual times.

» [排版、写作与插画风格新尝试](#)

[Experimenting with Form and Style](#) (pg 41)



Daniel Miyares (USA)

Daniel Miyares is a critically acclaimed picture book author and illustrator. Some of his books include: *Float*, *Hope At Sea*, *Night Out*, and *Bring Me A Rock!*. Daniel has been called “...a master of visual storytelling.” – Jody Hewston, Kinderlit, and “...enchanted, versatile” – *The New York Times*. He believes that our stories have the power to connect us all. Daniel's story currently takes place in Lenexa, KS with his wife, their two wonderful children, and a dog named Violet that gives them all a run for their money

» [AFCC 2023 Keynote: Play!](#) (pg 31)

» [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#) (pg 49)

» [The Language of Images: Deciphering Meaning and Intent](#) (pg 38)



Daphne Lee (Malaysia)

Daphne Lee is the consulting editor at Scholastic Asia. She is the author of *Bright Landscapes: A Short Story Collection*; and the curator-editor of *Malaysian Tales: Retold & Remixed and Remang: An Anthology of Ghostly Tales*. Her second anthology of short stories is due out later this year.

» [What's New in Middle Grade?](#) (pg 43)



David Liew (Singapore)

When he's not illustrating books like Eliza Teoh's *Ellie Belly* and Hwee Goh's *Change Makers*, David can be found building miniature worlds in unattended drawers. In-between this artistic mayhem, he teaches at local art colleges and polytechnics. If adequately incentivised he'll admit to illustrating Pippa Chorley's *Eye Spy* series and Melanie Lee's *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien* as well.

» [Discovering Singapore through Young People's Eyes](#) (pg 31)

» [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#) (pg 49)



Denise Tan (Singapore)

Denise is a bookseller who has worked with children's literature for over a decade. In 2013, she very delightfully co-founded Closetful of Books. With Closetful of Books, she shares her love for stories by bringing bookfairs, talks and workshops with authors and illustrators to local and international schools.

- » [Author Visits 101: Using Humour to Engage and Inspire](#) (pg 33)
- » [What Should Children be Reading?](#) (pg 38)



Elizabeth Chua (Singapore)

Elizabeth Chua is currently pursuing her Masters in Early Childhood Education. She has journeyed professionally from a classroom teacher, a mentor-teacher to centre leadership in the first child study centre in Singapore. As a leader, she continues to develop potential and grow learning and thinking communities that are grounded on sound and innovative practices. She believes that instilling a passion for literature in young children is a pathway into education and an opportunity to be exposed to other worlds of meaning-making.

- » [Stories with a Twist: A Deep-dive into Improvisational Storytelling](#) (pg 35)



Drewscape (Singapore)

Drewscape (aka Andrew Tan) is a freelance illustrator and Eisner-nominated comic artist from Singapore. He's authored two graphic novels—*Monsters, Miracles and Mayonnaise* and *The Ollie Comics: Diary of a first-time dad*. He illustrates picture books such as *Panjang: The Tall Boy Who Became Prime Minister* and big books for Singapore's Ministry of Education. Over the years, he's teamed up with husband-and-wife writing team, A.J. Low, to illustrate the children's detective series, *Sherlock Sam*.

Website: drewscape.net

- » [10 Years of Sherlock Sam: Journeying Through Singapore and Around the World](#) (pg 46)



Emilie Bettega (France)

After a Master in Philosophy and a Master in Art Management, and professional experience as a civil servant for cultural activities in the city, Emilie Bettega became a librarian in 2008. She developed her professional experience overseas as Chief Librarian for Lisbon and Pekin French Institute before teaching French in Brazil. She now works at the French National Library (BnF) and she is a member of the Children and Young Adult Section at IFLA.

- » [Smurfs: The Challenge of Translating Image and Text into Chinese](#) (pg 33)



Elaine Lee (Singapore)

As an educator, Elaine believes in harnessing the power of imagination, the pleasure of play and the wonder of stories. She has over a decade of experience teaching and mentoring children, teenagers and young adults, while working on various early literacy projects. As a lecturer at the National Institute of Early Childhood Development, she champions children's literature, social emotional learning, and language and literacy. She currently serves as an advisor to the Ministry of Social and Family Development for Family Values Education projects targeted at preschools.

- » [Let's Go M.A.D. \(Make A Difference\) with Picture Books!](#) (pg 32)



Emily Lim-Leh (Singapore)

Emily Lim-Leh is a multi-award-winning author of over 40 children's picture books. She was named Mediacorp's Singapore Woman Award Honoree for inspiring readers through her books and finding her voice in writing following a rare voice affliction. She is also recipient of the Covid-19 Public Service Medal for her book collaborations with the health-care sector.

- » [What You Eat is What You Write](#) (pg 46)



Erika Turner (USA)

Erika Turner is an editor of award-winning and critically acclaimed books for young readers. As an executive editor at Little Brown Books for Young Readers, she focuses on books in all formats, with a particular specialty in stories that uplift marginalized voices. She's also a dog lover, a yoga enthusiast, and an aspiring language nerd, with intermediate fluency in Spanish and Japanese.

- » [Mastering Middle Grade: An Editing Masterclass](#) (pg 25)
- » [The Chatbot Made Me Do It](#) (pg 29)
- » [What's New in Middle Grade?](#) (pg 43)



Esan Sivalingam (Singapore)

Co-founder of Hoods Inc. Productions, Esan is best known as the writer and director of Singapore and Malaysia's highest rated English comedies, *Under One Roof* and *Phua Chu Kang*. Approaching his 30th year in the media industry, he has created over 500 hours of content for multiple genres and formats.

- » [Media Pitch](#) (pg 48)



Fei Victor Lim (Singapore)

Fei Victor Lim is Associate Professor at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He is interested in how and what we should teach learners in today's digital age. He researches and teaches on multi-literacies, multimodal discourse analyses, and digital learning.

Photo by Alden Lim

- » [AFCC 2023 Keynote: Play!](#) (pg 31)



Felicia Low-Jimenez (Singapore)

Felicia Low-Jimenez has worked in bookselling and publishing for over a decade. She is the Publisher at Difference Engine, an independent comics publisher in Singapore. She is also one half of the writing team behind the best-selling *Sherlock Sam* series of children's books. She has her first published adult fantasy short story in *Fish Eats Lion Redux*.

- » [Writer's Pitch](#) (pg 47)
- » [Publishing Opportunities in Asia](#) (pg 29)



Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte (Singapore)

Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte holds a PhD in Early Childhood Education and is passionate about the development of children, especially those in their early years. A seasoned speaker with 30 years of experience, she has presented papers in conferences and workshops both locally and internationally. With her deep theoretical and practical knowledge on ECCE, Geraldine has inspired and nurtured many to become current leaders in the ECCE sector.

- » [Shedding the Light on Dark Topics](#) (pg 43)
- » [Stories with a Twist: A Deep-dive into Improvisational Storytelling](#) (pg 35)



Gina Chew (Singapore)

Gina Chew is a storyteller based in Singapore. Her day job involves writing for the screen, and *Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm* marks her first foray into the world of graphic novels. Her interests include exploring the ways we are tied to memory and tradition, needlessly complicated board games, and sleeping in.

- » [Across SEAs: Working With Collaborators in The Region](#) (pg 42)

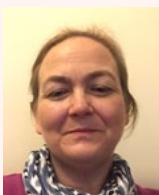


Hanna Alkaf (Malaysia)

Hanna Alkaf is the critically acclaimed author of the Freeman Award winner *The Weight of Our Sky*, the Kirkus Prize finalist *The Girl and the Ghost*, and *Queen of the Tiles*. She graduated with a degree in journalism from Northwestern University and spent over ten years in journalism and communications before trading in nonfiction for fiction. Her next books are the MG fantasy adventure *Hamra & the Jungle of Memories* (HarperCollins, March 28th 2023) and the YA magic school murder mystery anthology *The Grimoire of Grave Fates* (Delacorte Press, June 6th 2023). Hanna lives in Kuala Lumpur with her family.

- » [Shedding the Light on Dark Topics](#) (pg 43)

- » [Telling Local Stories for a Global Audience: The Highs, Lows and Alamak Nos](#) (pg 45)
- » [Writing with Purpose: Our Stories to Tell](#) (pg 35)



Helen Wang (UK)

Helen Wang translates Chinese children's books into English. In 2017, she won the Marsh Christian Award for Children's Literature in Translation for her translation of 《青铜葵花》 (*Bronze and Sunflower*) by Cao Wenxuan, as well as the Chen Bochui Special Contribution Award for translation and increasing visibility of Chinese children's literature.

- » [The Role of the Translator in the Age of A.I.](#) (pg 27)
- » [A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions](#) (pg 27)



Hendarto Setiadi (Indonesia)

Hendarto is a freelance translator who works from German and English into his native Bahasa Indonesia. He launched his career in the mid-1980s and to date has translated more than 100 titles, most of them books for children and young readers. He joined Himpunan Penerjemah Indonesia (the Association of Indonesian Translators) in 2004 and currently serves on the advisory board of the organisation. He lives with his family in Bogor near Jakarta and enjoys working from home in the tranquility of his semi-rural surroundings.

- » [Keynote: Our Many Identities—Translator as Advocate and Bridge](#) (pg 26)
- » [Publishing Translated Kidlit: Challenges and Opportunities](#) (pg 26)
- » [Translating Middle Grade](#)



Hidayah Amin (Singapore)

Hidayah Amin is a Singapore-born, award-winning author. Her first short story, *The Funny Accident*, was published when she was 11 years old. To date, she has written eight non-fiction books and 10 children's books—*The Mango Tree* book won the 2015 Hedwig Anuar Book Award for Best Children's Book while *Leluhur: Singapore's Kampong Gelam* is the winner of the 2021 NUS Singapore

History Prize. Like Hemingway, Hidayah writes to express; not to impress.

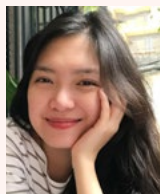
- » [Play for All: Making the Arts Accessible](#) (pg 33)



Hongyu Jasmine Zhu (China/US)

Hongyu Jasmine Zhu 朱弘昱, from Chengdu, China, found joy while translating English lyrics for her choir. She performed her English dramatization of Sanmao's short story *Chui Bing* at her school's Declamation, was a 2022 ALTA Travel Fellow, and has translated for *The Book of Beijing* (Comma Press). She'll attend Brown University '23-27.

- » [A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions](#) (pg 27)



Huong Anh Trinh (Vietnam)

Huong Anh Trinh graduated with a Master's degree in Children's literature and illustration in London, UK. A lot of her work is driven by her love for trees and animals and where possible, she loves to infuse her illustrations with a sense of fun and warmth. Her ultimate goal is to create artworks that brim with positive energy and hopefully bring human beings closer to nature. She is now working for Nha Nam JSC as an Art coordinator, playing a part in creating books that stand out in the market, spark wonder in readers and be treasured for a lifetime.

- » [Finding Mommy Elephant: A Pop-up Book Workshp](#) (pg 13)



Hwee Goh (Singapore)

Hwee Goh was classically trained at the Medill School of Journalism and spent 16 years at CNA before writing 11 fiction and non-fiction books for children. She is also a strategic communications and editorial specialist. Hwee is most appreciated for her experience as a journalist and her insights on reading and writing. Since 2014, she has been known for her bookish content, reviews and author interviews @hweezbooks.

- » [The Secret Lives of Book Reviewers](#) (pg 36)



Jane De Suza (India/Singapore)

Jane De Suza is an award-winning author, columnist and creative consultant. Her books combine humour with thought-provoking insights and are published worldwide. She is a management grad, has been Creative Director, film writer and columnist for leading publications in India. Currently, she lives in Singapore.

Photo by Sudhakara Jain

» [Helping Kids Deal with Anxiety After the Pandemic](#) (pg 36)



黄美萍 (Jane Wee) (Singapore)

Jane Wee has been a librarian with NLB since 1993. She started her career as a Librarian with the Public Libraries, joined the National Reference Library in 1998, and between 2012 to 2015, was the Region Head of Eastern Libraries comprising six branches in the Eastern part of Singapore. Currently the Head of Chinese Language, she is responsible for the overall strategic directions and implementation of nationwide reading programmes for the Chinese Language. Her team works on the development of the Chinese physical and digital collections in the entire public library network

» [如何为家里的小小读者选合适的书](#)
[Selecting Suitable Books for Your Young Reader](#) (pg 40)



Jaspreet Kaur Sekhon (Singapore)

Jaspreet Kaur Sekhon, a founding member of Diverse Abilities Dance Collective (DADC), has performed with the group representing PWDs. In 2022, she received the Promising Award from the President for being a role model and disability advocate. Recently, DADC collaborated with Candoco (UK) for *Dan:s Focus: EveryBody can dance* by The Esplanade. Jaspreet is part of a 2-year Industry Mentorship Programme by Art:Dis and believes in contributing to society through her art.

» [Play for All: Making the Arts Accessible](#) (pg 33)



Jeet Zdung (Vietnam)

Jeet Zdung fuses traditional Vietnamese art with manga, using pencils, watercolours, ink and other digital means to create works of beauty and innovation. He has won several awards, including a silent manga audition excellence award for his manga stand up and fly. He lives in Hanoi, Vietnam.

» [My Daddy is a Runner](#) (pg 13)
» [The Call of the Wild](#) (pg 13)



Jeffrey Tan (Singapore)

Jeffrey is an experienced Theatre Director and Drama Educator. He has taught 'Creativity in Collaborative Learning' and 'Lesson Planning' for the National Institute of Education, 'Educational Drama' for Nanyang Technological University, 'Children's Theatre' for the University of Warwick and 'Educational Theatre' for New York University's Study Abroad Programme in London.

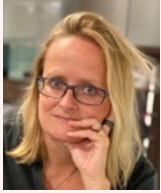
» [The Toad Who Brought the Rain - an intergenerational storytelling theatre workshop](#) (pg 57)



Jiwone Lee (South Korea)

Jiwone Lee is an art historian, translator of children's literature, and curator of children's book exhibitions. With an MA and PhD in art history from Poland, she specializes in the history of children's book illustrations. She is a lecturer at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and the University of Seoul and has translated 69 books into Korean. She has curated numerous events and exhibitions related to children's picture books, including at the Bologna Book Fair and the Albus Gallery in Seoul.

» [Keynote: Our Many Identities—Translator as Advocate and Bridge](#) (pg 26)
» [The Language of Images: Deciphering Meaning and Intent](#) (pg 38)
» [Why Children Should Read World Literature](#) (pg 27)



Jo Lusby (UK)

Jo Lusby is co-founder of Pixie B, a content management and strategy agency specialising in China and Asia, and represents corporate clients, including Harry Potter digital publisher Pottermore Publishing and US children's franchise Rebel Girls, as well as individual authors. Jo was formerly the CEO of Penguin Random House North Asia.

- » [Publishing Opportunities in Asia](#) (pg 29)
- » [The Art of Licensing: How to Unlock Your IP](#) (pg 29)
- » [Writer's Pitch](#) (pg 47)



Josef Lee (Singapore)

Josef Lee is visual storyteller based in Singapore. With his background in branding and advertising, Josef expanded his skills into the field of animation and founded motion design and creative studio MOJO in 2008. He writes and draws picture stories and published his first picture-book via crowdfunding in 2017. Since then, his works have attracted the attention of publishers from Taiwan and China and has published over 10 picture-books to date. Josef is pursuing a part time MA in Design and is researching combining infographics and comics to create a more effective visual narrative medium.

- » [Discovering Visual Edutainment Tools: Effective Storytelling Through Info-comics](#) (pg 41)
- » [House of Mini Books](#) (pg 56)



Josephine Chia (Singapore)

Josephine Chia likes to capture vignettes of Singaporean history and stories in her books. She enjoys including her rich Peranakan culture and heritage and writes both fiction and non-fiction. Altogether, she has published thirteen books. Her children's novel, *Queen of the Sky*, was shortlisted for the Scholastic Asian Book Award 2018. In 2019, she won the Singapore Publishers Book Award for her first YA Novel, *Big Tree in a Small Pot*.

- » [Writing with Fire](#) (pg 43)



Joy Huang (Singapore)

Joy has recently graduated from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) and is awaiting matriculation into the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore. A jack of all trades, she enjoys dabbling in a bit of everything but loves creative writing above all else, often gathering inspiration for new works at absurd hours in the night. She has always had a deep love for Chinese, with a particular interest in Chinese crosstalk.

- » [A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions](#) (pg 27)



Joyce Chng (Singapore)

Joyce Chng lives in Singapore. They write science fiction and fantasy as well as YA and MG. Their short stories have appeared in *The Apex Book of World SF II*, *The Future Fire* and *Multispecies Cities*. *Dragon Dancer* (Lantana Publishing) is Joyce's first picture book, celebrating dragon dancing and Lunar New Year, followed by *Oyster Girl* (Pepper Dog Press), a tribute to their grandmother and the hawker heritage in Singapore. For YA readers, *Fire Heart* (Scholastic Asia) is a fantasy book about swords and coming-of-age. You can find Joyce at awolfstale.wordpress.com or @jolantru at Twitter.

- » [What You Eat is What You Write](#) (pg 46)



Kifurai (Indonesia)

Kiana Fedly aka Kifurai is the creator behind Two Tails. She is an illustrator and full-time animal lover. She comes from a family in the creative field and went on to study at the Jakarta Institute of Arts (IKJ). Her interest lies in creating cute-looking characters to accompany her narrative art. She has worked with independent artists, companies, and brands for projects such as music video storyboarding, merchandise illustration, company mascots, and digital content.

- » [Across SEAs: Working With Collaborators in The Region](#) (pg 42)
- » [Illustration Styles: A DRAW OFF!!](#) (pg 58)



Kim Beeman (USA/Singapore)

Kim Beeman has worked as a teacher-librarian in international schools in Thailand and Singapore for the last ten years. She now works as the Head of Library in the Senior School at Tanglin Trust in Singapore. She holds a degree in English from Harvard College, as well as a Master's degree in Library Science and a PGCEI. Kim is also a member of the executive committee of the International Schools Library Network and sits on the Authors and Illustrators Committee for AFCC. Kim is passionate about reading, writing, and research.

- » [The Secret Lives of Book Reviewers](#) (pg 36)
- » [What Should Children be Reading?](#) (pg 38)



Le My Ai (Vietnam)

Le My Ai has more than 15 years of experience as an editor. She is currently the editor of nonfiction books at Kim Dong Publishing House, and has worked on many bestselling titles by domestic and foreign authors.

- » [Publishing Translated Kidlit: Challenges and Opportunities](#) (pg 26)



Lee Uk-bae (South Korea)

Lee Uk-bae is a picture book artist. His picture books, depicting villages with old trees and laughing children, reflect on the importance of a simple life, the value of family, and the sorrow of a divided nation. Sori's *Harvest Moon Day*, published in 1995, was translated and published in six countries. Lee also participated in the Book Project for Peace, a project involving picture book artists from Korea, China, and Japan. In 2020, *When Spring Comes to the DMZ* was awarded the Batchelder Award Honor by the American Library Association. His latest works include *A Page-by-page Picture Book*.

- » [排版、写作与插画风格新尝试](#)
[Experimenting with Form and Style](#) (pg 41)
- » [Keeping Traditions and Memories Alive: A Conversation with Lee Uk-bae](#) (pg 34)
- » [Writing with Purpose: Our Stories to Tell](#) (pg 35)



Lianne Ong (Singapore)

Lianne Ong works as an editor and is an award-winning children's author. To date, she has published 16 children's picture books. She is best known as the author of the series, *Stacey & the Museums* – about local museums – and *A Place for Us*, about special needs. Her latest title is *Sing A Song of Hawker Food: Humpty Dumpty & Friends Have A Singapore Hawker Feast* which won second prize in the POPULAR Reader's Choice Awards (Children's Category). She stays in Singapore with her family.

- » [What Should Children be Reading?](#) (pg 38)



林柏廷 (Lin Bo Ting) (Taiwan)

小时候志向是当兽医，现在创作绘本过生活，年过四十才开始读美术硕士，很怕吵却又喜欢和小孩互动，擅长以粉蜡笔、压克力颜料、复合媒材、电脑绘图等为创作媒材。奖励包括《阿祖再见》2023 台北国际书展书展大奖、2021金鼎奖优良出版品推荐、《一个像海的地方》OPENBOOK 好书奖 年度童书、《一起去动物园》第六届 香港丰子恺儿童图画书奖 佳作、《一个像海的地方》第七届丰子恺儿童图画书奖推荐。

As a child, Lin Bo Ting's dream was to become a vet, now he creates picture books for a living. He decided to pursue a Master's Degree in Art in his 40s. Despite his aversion to noise, he enjoys interacting with children. He is adept at using oil pastels, acrylic paint, mixed media, and the computer to create his artwork. His accolades include the 2023 Taipei International Book Exhibition Award, 2021 Golden Tripod Awards (Outstanding Publication) and the 7th Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award (Recommended Book).

- » [工作坊: 用插画赋予意义](#)
[Creating Meaning with Illustration](#) (pg 38)
- » [排版、写作与插画风格新尝试](#)
[Experimenting with Form and Style](#) (pg 41)
- » [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#) (pg 49)



Linh Nguyen (Vietnam)

Linh Nguyen has been working as a children's book translator and editor at Nha Nam Publishing since 2017. She has experience in book promotion activities and helps run Nha Nam's Facebook fanpage which has more than 990,000 fans, and a page for children's books. She has a strong desire to create picture books that make both children and adults smile.

» [Finding Mommy Elephant: A Pop-Up Book Workshop](#) (pg 13)



Linn T. Sunne (Norway)

Linn T Sunne has worked as a senior advisor at Innlandet County Library for the past 16 years, working on literature dissemination for children and adults. She is also a teacher and has published a number of books for children and young adults.

» [Working towards the UN SDGs in Norwegian Libraries](#) (pg 31)



Lisa Zuliana Binte Zulkifli (Singapore)

Lisa Zuliana Binte Zulkifli is an Associate Librarian with the National Library Board, where she works to ensure young children between 0-6 years old enjoy valuable curated programmes that boost their literacy and love for reading. Lisa is also an avid feminist since young and believes that children are never too young to learn about gender equality and how perceptions of gender change with time.

» [Different and Dichotomous: Gender Stereotypes in Selected Children's Books](#) (pg 40)



Low Ying Ping (Singapore)

Low Ying Ping is the bestselling author of the middle grade/young adult fantasy series *Mount Emily*, as well as the quirky and full-filled fantasy adventure story *Prophecy of the Underworld*. She has written a three-volume English adaptation of the Chinese classic, *Journey to the West*, for younger children. Her novels have won the Singapore Book Awards and were shortlisted for

the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award and the Popular Readers' Choice Award. She reviews books on Instagram @lowyingping.

» [The Secret Lives of Book Reviewers](#) (pg 36)



Ly Nguyen (Vietnam)

Ly Nguyen has 10 years of experience working in the publishing sector, as a translator, editor, and is currently part of the copyright team at the Vietnam Women's Publishing House. One of her goals is to promote the love of books, fiction and nonfiction, in children.

» [Sci-tales: A Look at Vietnamese Children's Nonfiction](#) (pg 12)



Marie-Aude Murail (France)

For many years now, Marie-Aude Murail has explored different veins of children's literature. Whether it be political, realist, or fantasy, her motto is to never repeat herself and to never be where you expect her. After her PhD in literature at the Sorbonne, she devoted herself to writing. She received the Legion of Honor, the highest French distinction, for her contribution to children's literature and the common good and the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2022.

Photo Credit: Olivier Coulange

» [AFCC 2023 Keynote: Play!](#) (pg 31)

» [Marie-Aude Murail: Lessons in Rewriting](#)

» [Shedding the Light on Dark Topics](#) (pg 43)



Maya Gavankar (Singapore)

Maya is a 13 year old student from Singapore. and lists reading, basketball and soccer as her hobbies, in addition to playing the violin. Her favourite genres are Mystery and Sci-Fi.

» [10 Years of Sherlock Sam: Journeying Through Singapore and Around the World](#) (pg 46)



Melanie Lee (Singapore)

Melanie is the author of the graphic novel series *Amazing Ash & Superhero Ah Ma*, the picture book series, *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien*, and the travel guide series *Out & About in Singapore*. She is also a part-time communications lecturer.

- » [Discovering Singapore through Young People's Eyes](#) (pg 31)
- » [Writing with Purpose: Our Stories to Tell](#) (pg 35)



Mindy Pang (Singapore)

Mindy has more than a decade of experience as editor and marketing manager at Marshall Cavendish International. She is the driving force behind key publications as a senior editor and develops marketing strategies to help the publishing house remain a leading publisher in Asia and beyond.

- » [What's New in Middle Grade?](#) (pg 43)
- » [Writer's Pitch](#) (pg 47)



Mohini Gupta (India)

Mohini Gupta is a DPhil Candidate at the University of Oxford. She is the founder of the digital collective *Mother Tongue Twisters*. She has co-edited *The Hindu Bard: The Poetry of Dorothy Bonarjee* (Honno Press, 2023) and *Rethinking Education in the Context of Post-Pandemic South Asia: Challenges and Possibilities* (Routledge, 2023).

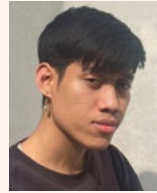
- » [Bringing Translation to the Classroom](#) (pg 27)



Mukhlis Abu Bakar (Singapore)

Mukhlis Abu Bakar is Head of Asian Languages & Cultures Academic Group and Associate Professor at the National Institute of Education, NTU. He obtained his MA and PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Wales, Bangor, UK. His research interests lie in the fields of bilingualism, biliteracy, literacy learning, and socio-phonetics. He is Co-Editor of the 2021 volume *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Cultural Identity from Early Childhood to Early Adulthood*.

- » [What Should Children be Reading?](#) (pg 38)



Nadhir Nor (Malaysia)

Nadhir Nor is an illustrator from Selangor, Malaysia who's into all things otherworldly. Mythology, lost traditions and their relationship with modern society are some of the subjects he holds dear too. He is the illustrator of *Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm*.

- » [Across SEAs: Working With Collaborators in The Region](#) (pg 42)
- » [Illustration Styles: A DRAW OFF!!](#) (pg 58)



Namita Moolani Mehra (Singapore)

Namita Moolani Mehra is a children's book author and food writer. She is the author of *The Magic Spicebox*, *Superfoods for Superheroes*, and *Anni Dreams of Biryani*. Namita was born in Nigeria, spent her childhood in England and India, and then moved to the United States. She spent over a decade in New York working in advertising and as a creative strategist at Facebook. Namita currently lives in Singapore with her husband and two children. www.namitamehra.com

- » [What You Eat is What You Write](#) (pg 46)



Nazry Salam (Malaysia)

Nazry Salam ialah seorang penulis, seniman, dan animator yang terlibat dalam penghasilan 40 judul buku komik, 12 novel, 2 majalah, dan 3 siri animasi. Beliau telah dianugerahkan Anugerah Sastera Johor dalam kategori novel kanak-kanak, dan Anugerah Buku Negara untuk buku komik terbaik. Karya paling popular beliau adalah siri buku komik *MISI*, yang merupakan siri komik pendidikan yang diasaskan bersama adiknya, Afiq Salam.

Nazry Salam is a writer, artist, and animator who has been involved in the creation of 40 comic book titles, 12 novels, 2 magazines, and 3 animated series. He has been awarded the Johor Literature Award in the kids' novel category, as well as the National Book Award for best comic book. His most popular work is the *MISI* comic book series, an educational comic series that he co-founded with his brother, Afiq Salam.

- » *Art of Adaptation: From Mr Midnight, MISI, Knietzsche to Sherlock Sam* (pg 32)
- » *Cipta Nomik Anda Sendiri: Menulis & Menggambar* (Create Your Own Nomik: Writing & Illustrating) (pg 40)
- » *Nomik: Apabila Dunia Perkataan dan Visual Bertembung!* (Nomik: When the World of Words and Visual Collide!) (pg 37)



Nguyen Thanh Nam (Vietnam)

With more than 20 years of working in the publishing industry, Nguyen Thanh Nam has developed book projects in different genres for Tre Publishing House, working with authors and translators across many projects. He has also represented Tre in multiple international book fairs, including the Frankfurt Book Fair and Bologna Children's Book Fair.

- » *The Role of the Translator in the Age of A.I.* (pg 27)
- » *Children's Book Market in Vietnam* (pg 12)



Nikki Grimes (USA)

Bestselling author Nikki Grimes received the Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award, ALAN Award for teen literature, Children's Literature Legacy Medal, NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry, and the Coretta Scott King Award. Recent titles include *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance*, *Playtime for Restless Rascals*, and *Garvey in the Dark*.

- » *In Search of Metaphor: Finding Words That Sing* (pg 39)
- » *Ordinary Hazards: My Journey With Words* (pg 42)
- » *Word Play and The Power of Poetry* (pg 36)



Norlin Samat (Singapore)

Norlin merupakan seorang bekas guru sekolah rendah yang mempunyai Diploma Pasca Siswazah dalam Pendidikan dan MA dalam Kajian Bahasa. Sebagai seorang pendidik yang bersemangat, Norlin menyediakan pelbagai program pendidikan yang ditujukan kepada kanak-kanak, ibu bapa, dan pendidik bagi pelbagai institusi di Singapura.

Selain itu, beliau juga menulis dan membantu penulis lain dalam mengkonseptualisasikan serta menerbitkan buku kanak-kanak.

Norlin is an ex-primary school teacher with a Post-graduate Diploma in Education and an MA in Language Studies. A passionate educator, Norlin provides various institutions in Singapore with educational programmes targeted at young children, parents and educators. She also writes and helps other writers conceptualise and publish their children's books.

- » *Having Fun with Languages: Learning Mother Tongue in Innovative Ways* (pg 37)
- » *Mari Kita Bermain! Ally di Taman Permainan* (Let's Play! Ally at the Playground) (pg 39)



Nur Azeezah Fakrudin (Singapore)

Nur Azeezah Fakrudin is a Secondary 4 student from Queensway Secondary School. Her CCA is the Library club and her hobbies are reading and playing online games, such as *Call Of Duty*. She enjoys reading series books such as *Harry Potter* and *Percy Jackson* as well as fanfiction online.

- » *What Should Children be Reading?* (pg 38)



Nur Khairiah (Singapore)

Nur Khairiah ialah seorang penulis, seniman pelbagai disiplin dan pendidik yang berpengalaman lebih 15 tahun dalam pendidikan bahasa Melayu. Karya-karya yang diterbitkan termasuk buku bergambar kanak-kanak, novel remaja, komik pendidikan dan antologi fiksi pendek dalam bahasa Inggeris dan Melayu. Beliau pernah memenangi anugerah penulisan dalam pertandingan blog, sastera kanak-kanak dan puisi di Singapura.

Nur Khairiah is an author, multidisciplinary artist and educator with more than 15 years of experience in Malay Language education. Her published works include children's picture books, young adult novels, educational comic and short fiction anthologies in English and Malay languages. She has won writing awards for blogging, children's literature and poetry competitions in Singapore.

- » [Nomik: Apabila Dunia Perkataan dan Visual Bertembung! \(Nomik: When the World of Words and Visual Collide!\)](#) (pg 37)



Oliver Phommavanh (Australia)

Oliver Phommavanh loves to make people laugh, whether it's on the page writing humour for kids or on stage as a stand-up comedian. He also shares his passion for writing with kids, using his experience as a primary school teacher. Oliver has performed at various comedy and writers festivals around Australia and Asia. Oliver's recent books include *Brain Freeze*, *Don't Follow Vee* and *Natural Born Loser*, and he is best known for *Thai-riffic!*, *Con-nerd* and *The Other Christy*.

- » [Author Visits 10! Using Humour to Engage and Inspire](#) (pg 33)
- » [Don't Be Afraid of the Funny](#) (pg 37)
- » [Draw and Tell Me a Story!](#) (pg 57)
- » [Helping Kids Deal with Anxiety After the Pandemic](#) (pg 36)



Paul Adams (Singapore)

Paul holds a Musical Theatre Diploma & a BA in Performance from the University of Huddersfield. He's worked with UK theatre companies, managing Arts Education programs for participants in formal education, community outreach & venue-based programs. With an MA in Leadership, Strategy & Innovation, he aims to transform arts leadership. Paul uses theatre as a tool in non-traditional settings, working with diverse groups to boost self-esteem, lead inclusive arts programs & enhance leadership skills.

- » [Time to Seriously Play!](#) (pg 34)



Pauline Loh (Singapore)

Writing teacher Pauline Loh has published 13 adult non-fiction books, six Young Adult books, nine children's storybooks and three junior chapter books. She has been previously shortlisted for the Hedwig Anuar Book Award and Samsung Kids-Time Author's Award in 2015.

- » [Writing with Fire](#) (pg 43)



Peter Schoppert (Singapore)

Peter Schoppert is a publisher and reformed tech-nopreneur who has made his career in Singapore. He is currently the Director of the NUS Press, the scholarly publishing arm of the National University of Singapore, and serves on number of creative industry groups in Singapore and internationally. He writes on generative A.I. at [aicopyright.substack.com](#).

Photo created by Stability Diffusion

- » [The Chatbot Made Me Do It](#) (pg 29)



Pham Thi Hoai Anh (Vietnam)

Pham Thi Hoai Anh is an independent children's picture book author and the founder of Vietnam's ICBC (Initiative of Children's Book Creative content). Through ICBC, Hoai Anh spearheads diverse educational programs and art activities, including visual art exhibitions, reading concerts, and drama performances. Passionate about reading with children, she strives to enrich their artistic experiences and spread the joy of reading, considering it a vital responsibility as a children's book author.

- » [Bringing Translation to the Classroom](#) (pg 27)
- » [Reading Children's Books through the Lens of Gender Equality](#) (pg 37)
- » [Why Children Should Read World Literature](#) (pg 27)



Pippa Chorley (Singapore)

Award-winning British children's author Pippa Chorley lives in Singapore. Trained as a primary school teacher, Pippa loves to write stories that take children on adventures into magical worlds. A passionate advocate for Singapore's cultural diversity, rich history and beautiful nature, Pippa created *Eye Spy Singapore*, to celebrate everything that makes Singapore special.

- » [Blending the Real and the Imagined: A Conversation with Xiran Jay Zhao](#) (pg 40)
- » [Discovering Singapore through Young People's Eyes](#) (pg 31)



Quek Hong Shin (Singapore)

Hong Shin is a Singaporean picture book author and illustrator. He has illustrated several picture books and his work has been shortlisted twice for the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award. His book *The Incredible Basket*, published by Epigram Books, was the winner of Best Children's Book at the 2019 Singapore Book Awards.

» [Play for All: Making the Arts Accessible](#) (pg 33)



Rama Vairavan (Singapore)

Mr Vairavan is passionate about Tamil literature and has been writing since 1998. He has released 8 books in Tamil. His book *Kavithai Kuzhandaikal* clinched the 2012 Singapore Literature Prize in the Tamil category. From 2013 to 2017, he organized ASTW's monthly "Kathaikkalam" event and nurtured many new budding writers.

» [சிறார் தமிழ் இலக்கியம் ஓர் ஆய்வு](#)
An Exploration of Children's Tamil Literature (pg 34)



ராணி கண்ணா (Rani Kanna) (Singapore)

ராணி கண்ணா முழு நேரமாக கலைக் கல்வித்துறையில் ஈடுபட்டு வருகிறார். ஆசிரியர், பயிற்றுவிப்பாளர், AKT யின் நிறுவனர். தமிழில் இளங்கலை, Applied Linguistics முதுகலை படித்தவர். ஆங்கிலம் தமிழ் இரு மொழிப் புலமை உள்ளவர் இரு மொழிகளிலும் முழு நேர கதை சொல்லியாக இருக்கிறார். நூற்றுக்கும் மேற்பட்ட பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கும் பெற்றோர்களும் ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் கதை சொல்லுதல் நாடகப்பட்டறை ஆகிவற்றை முழுநேரமாக பயிற்றுவிக்கிறார். சிங்கையில் Storython எனும் பன்னாட்டு கதை சொல்லும் விழாவை பல ஆண்டுகளாக வெற்றிகரமாக நடத்தி வருகிறார். மேலும் மரபுக்கலைகளைப்பயின்று அதன் வழி எவ்வாறு தமிழைக் கற்ற ஊக்குவிக்கலாம் என்ற ஆய்வை மேற்கொண்டு வருகிறார். சிங்கையில் மாணவர்களுக்கு மரபுக்கலையையும் தமிழையும் கலந்து கற்பித்து வருகிறார். ஆசிரியப் பயிற்சிப் பட்டறைகளையும் நடத்தி வருகிறார். அவரது நிறுவனம் மேடையேற்றும் நாடகங்களிலும்

தமிழோடு மரபுக்கலைகளையும் இணைத்து அரங்கேற்றி வருகிறார். மாணவர்கள் இன்பமாக தமிழ் மொழியையும் மரபுக்கலைகளையும் கற்க வேண்டும் என்பதே ராணியின் இலக்கு.

» [Having Fun with Languages: Learning Mother Tongue in Innovative Ways](#) (pg 37)



Ray Tan (Singapore)

Ray is a Singaporean with extensive experience in children's edutainment, having managed one of Thailand's largest family entertainment centers. As a marketer for Dream Academy®, the local theatre production company behind shows like the *Dim Sum Dollies*®, *KUMAR, Meenah and Cheena*, and *Broadway Beng*®. He is passionate about promoting local arts and looks forward to sharing insights on the adaptation process of local book series, *Sherlock Sam* (by A.J. Low) into a musical.

Photo by Beyondtheisland

» [Art of Adaptation: From Mr Midnight, MISI, Knietzsche to Sherlock Sam](#) (pg 32)



Razina Akhter (Bangladesh)

Razina Akhter is Head of the Library at Bangladesh Shishu (Children) Academy with degrees in Information Science & Library Management. She currently serves as Senior Vice President of the Bangladesh Associations of Librarians, Information Scientist and Documentalist (BALID), and is a standing committee member of IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults and an IRRT member of the American Library Association (ALA).

» [Promoting Reading and Expression Through Comics](#) (pg 36)



Sara Patricia Kelly (Singapore)

Sara Patricia Kelly is a creative storyteller and children's poet. Based in Singapore, she authors [flossiebossy.com](#) - a 'sticky poppy poetry' blog for kids, and performs spoken word poetry at local events. She completed an MA in Creative Writing at LASALLE College of the Arts.

» [In Search of Metaphor: Finding Words That Sing](#) (pg 39)

» Exploring the World through the Music of Words (pg 32)



Sarah A. Evans (USA)

Sarah A. Evans is the Presidential Early Career Professor at the University of North Texas, Director for the Children's and Young Adult Librarianship program and Co-Director of the Multiple Literacies Lab. Her research examines the literacies and identities taken up in voluntary learning experiences. Sarah has extensive experience in working for and with libraries, and holds a PhD in Learning Sciences from the University of Washington.

» Promoting Reading and Expression Through Comics (pg 36)



Sharifah Aishah Osman (Malaysia)

Sharifah Aishah Osman is Senior Lecturer at the Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. Her research focuses mainly on the intersection between feminism and literature for children and young adults. She has published articles and book chapters and presented conference papers on various aspects of Malaysian youth literature. She is co-editor of *The Principal Girl: Feminist Tales from Asia* (2019), and is currently working on a monograph on feminist folktales and folktale adaptations in Malaysian youth literature.

» "Bebas bersuara": Addressing Gender-based Violence through Malaysian Youth Literature and Film (pg 35)



Shaun Low (Singapore)

Shaun Low is the Principal Educational Therapist of Swords & Stationery, the first game-based educational therapy in Singapore for dyslexic students. He strongly believes that learning can be made more effective when students have fun.

» Level Up: Making Learning Fun for Children with Dyslexia (pg 41)



Simon Chesterman (Singapore)

Simon Chesterman is David Marshall Professor and Vice Provost at the National University of Singapore, where he is also Dean of NUS College. Serious works include *We, the Robots? Regulating Artificial Intelligence and the Limits of the Law*. His novels include the *Raising Arcadia* trilogy, *I, Huckleberry*, and *Artifice*.

» The Chatbot Made Me Do It (pg 29)



Smit Zaveri (India)

Smit Zaveri is an editor by day and baker by night. She has worked across departments in publishing before joining Penguin Random House India as an editor. Smit currently works at Pratham Books, where she edits the most delicious picture books. She lives in Bangalore in her yellow house that always smells of cake.

» Documenting Picture Books: From Tokenism to Inclusivity (pg 36)

» Talking Images: The Universal Language of Wordless Picture Books (pg 33)



Suriya Rethna (Singapore)

தூர்யரத்னா, முன்னாள் ஆசிரியர், பதிப்பாசிரியர், பயிற்றுவிப்பாளர், பின்னணி குரல் நடிகர் மற்றும் சிங்கப்பூரின் முன்னோடி பெண் தமிழ் நாவலாசிரியர் ஆவார். நாவல்கள், ஊக்கமளிக்கும் கதைகள், சமகால பெண்கள் இலக்கியம், திகில், அமர்நாஷ்யம், நகைச்சுவை, வசனம் எழுதுதல் மற்றும் சிங்கப்பூர் பாடத்திட்டத்துடன் இணைந்த பாடத்திட்ட உள்ளடக்கம் ஆகியவற்றில் நிபுணத்துவம் பெற்றவர். கல்வி அமைச்சின் சிறுவர் துணைப்பாட நூல்கள் உள்பட, தூர்யரத்னா 60 க்கும் மேற்பட்ட குழந்தைகள் புனைகதைகளை எழுதியுள்ளார். 1998 இல் Mont Blanc இளம் எழுத்தாளர்களின் பெல்லோஷிப் விருது, 2013 இல் கரிகாலன் இலக்கியவிருது மற்றும் 2023 இல் மதிப்பிற்குரிய 'சாதனை பெண் சிங்கப்பூர் (தமிழ்ப்பெண்கள்)' விருது ஆகியவை குறிப்பிடத்தக்க பாராட்டுகளில் அடங்கும்.

Suriya is a former teacher, editor, freelance instructor, interactive voice actor, and Singapore's pioneering female Tamil novelist. Alongside her work in novels, she specializes in inspiring stories, contemporary women's literature, horror, comedy, scriptwriting for Mediacorp, and curriculum content aligned with the Singapore Syllabus. She has authored over 60 children's fiction stories, including works commissioned by the Ministry of Education. Noteworthy accolades include the Mont Blanc Young Writers' Fellowship Award in 1998, the Karikalan Literary Award in 2013, and the esteemed 'Achievement Woman Singapore (Tamil)' award in 2023.

» சிறார் தமிழ் இலக்கியம் ஓர் ஆய்வு
An Exploration of Children's Tamil Literature (pg 34)



Susan Xu Yun (Singapore)

Susan Xu Yun is the Head of Translation and Interpretation programmes and Associate Professor at the School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences, Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). Her publications include a monograph, Translation of Autobiography: Narrating Self, Translating the Other, Vol. 136, Benjamins Translation Library. Susan is involved in developing the Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpretation and Graduate Diploma in Translation and Technology, the first and only programme of its type in Singapore. She also set up the Certification Examination for Professional Interpreters and Translators (CEPI/CEPT). She is a member of the Chinese Resource Panel for National Translation Committee, Singapore.

» The Role of the Translator in the Age of A.I. (pg 27)



Tam Bui (Vietnam)

Born in Hanoi, Tam is a graduate from the National University of Singapore and is currently living in Ho Chi Minh City. Tam first began writing for her children, by translating her favorite picture books to read to her daughter. This experience led her to write her own stories that celebrate Vietnamese culture and family values. Her first picture

book, *This is Tết!* has been translated into many languages and has become a favorite book for Vietnamese children in many countries.

» My Daddy is a Runner (pg 13)



Teh Su Ching (Singapore)

Su Ching writes and produces content for film, stage and audio. She has written for shows on HBO Asia, Netflix and Audible. Before adapting *Mr Midnight* with Beach House Kids, Su Ching and local filmmaker Wee Li Lin worked with Verite Productions to adapt Haresh Sharma's play *October* into a telemovie. A mother of two, Su Ching is also a published poet and essayist. She is a certified vinyasa yoga teacher and training to become an end-of-life coach.

Photo by Jacqueline Chang

» Art of Adaptation: From Mr Midnight, MISI, Knietsche to Sherlock Sam (pg 32)



张明祥 (Tew Beng Siong) (Singapore)

张明祥，一位卓有成就的教育家和企业家、AcesCube教育服务公司联合创始人，拥有教育硕士学位 (Learning Sciences and Technologies)。曾在小学任教长达十余年，目前专注于为教育部学校提供优质的定制化课程。他认为玩桌游可以培养个人的批判性思维以及促进家庭成员之间的亲密感情。

Tew Beng Siong is an accomplished educator and entrepreneur with a Master of Education in Learning Sciences and Technologies. He is the co-founder of AcesCube Education Services, a company that specialises in providing quality customised programs for MOE schools. Beng Siong is passionate about board games and believes that playing board games help develop critical thinking skills as well as strengthens familial bonds.

» 穿越中国朝代之旅: 桌游工作坊
Play and Learn in a "Journey Through China's Magnificent Dynasties" (pg 45)



Tone Larssen Rogne (Norway)

Tone Larssen Rogne has worked at the Sølverget Public Library in Stavanger for 8 years coordinating class visits, reading campaigns for primary, secondary levels and high schools and events for children and young adults.

» [Working towards the UN SDGs in Norwegian Libraries](#) (pg 31)



Tran Le Thuy Linh (Vietnam)

Tran Le Thuy Linh has been an editor of Nha Nam Publishing since 2008. Apart from being a translator, she is the editor of many important Vietnamese editions such as *Catch 22*, *The Remains of the Day*, *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*, *Midnight's Children* and many children's books. She is now in charge of the copyright department of Nha Nam.

» [Children's Book Market in Vietnam](#) (pg 12)



Trang Nguyen (Vietnam)

Trang Nguyen is a Vietnamese wildlife conservationist, environmental activist and writer, known for her conservation work in tackling the illegal wildlife trade in Africa and Asia. In 2018, she was featured in the documentary film *Stroop: Journey Into The Rhino Horn War*, alongside Jane Goodall and named on the BBC'S 100 Women of 2019 List. Trang is the founder and executive director of Wildact, an NGO that monitors the illegal wildlife trade markets and provides conservation education programmes for Vietnamese youth.

» [The Call of the Wild](#) (pg 13)



童若轩 (Tung Roh Suan) (Singapore)

Tung Roh Suan is the founding director and editor-in-chief of Balestier Press, an independent publisher with a focus on world literature and literary translation from Asia.

» [A Focus on the Bai Meigui: Promoting Translation through Competitions](#) (pg 27)

» [Publishing Translated Kidlit: Challenges and Opportunities](#) (pg 26)



Tutu Dutta (Malaysia)

Tutu Dutta is the author of nine books, including *Timeless Tales of Malaysia* (Marshall Cavendish, 2009), *Phoenix Song* (Lantana Publishing (UK) 2016) and *The Jugra Chronicles* (MPH Publishing in 2010 and 2011.) Her latest book, *The Blood Prince of Langkasuka*, was published in 2021 (Penguin Random House SEA). Tutu has spoken about her stories that are rooted in Asian culture, at past AFCCs (2015 & 2017) and at folklore and book related conferences across Malaysia.

» [Bringing the Gothic into Southeast Asian Stories](#) (pg 38)



Vizhiyan (India)

விழியன் சமகால தமிழ் சிறார் எழுத்தாளர். 35 புத்தங்களையும் 230க்கு அதிகமான சிறார் கதைகளையும் எழுதியுள்ளார். சிறார்களுக்கு இலக்கியம் படைப்பதோடு நிற்காமல் அவர்களுக்கான கல்வி மற்றும் பெற்றோர் வளர்ப்பு சார்ந்து இயங்கி வருகின்றார். 'வாசிப்பு முகாம்' மூலம் கிராமப்புற மற்றும் நகர்புற குழந்தைகளுக்கு வாசிக்கும் பழக்கத்தை ஊக்கப்படுத்த முனைகின்றார். தமிழ்நாடு சிறார் எழுத்தாளர்கள் மற்றும் கலைஞர்கள் சங்கத்தின் முதல் பொதுச் செயலாளராக உள்ளார். கிராமங்களில் இருக்கும் ஆர்வலர்களுக்கு நூல்களை அனுப்பி முறைசாரா நூலகங்களையும் நிறுவ முயல்கின்றார். தன் படைப்புகளுக்காக பல்வேறு விருதுகளையும் பெற்றிருக்கின்றார்.

Vizhiyan is a contemporary Tamil children's writer. He has published 35 books and has written more than 230 stories for children. Apart from working in children literature, he has been constantly contributing in the educational field and parenting kids. He devised an innovative programme 'Vasippu Mugaam'- Reading Workshop, which propagates reading habits among rural and urban children. He is currently the General Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Children Writers and Artists Association.

» [சிறார் தமிழ் இலக்கியம் ஓர் ஆய்வு](#)
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- » பயன்மிக்க வாசிப்புத் திட்டங்கள் : தமிழ்நாடு எப்படிச் செய்கிறது
Effective Reading Initiatives: How Tamil Nadu Does It (pg 42)



Vu Xuan Hoan (Vietnam)

Vu Xuan Hoan is the illustrator and author of many picture books published in Vietnam. He has more than 17 years of experience as an art editor for children's books at Kim Dong Publishing House.

- » Children's Book Market in Vietnam (pg 12)



王淑芬 (Wang Shu Fen) (Taiwan)

王淑芬, 台湾知名童书作家、童书评论者、手工书达人、阅读推广人。曾任台湾小学教师, 于台湾电视台担任节目顾问与主持。著有校园故事《君伟上小学》系列, 少儿小说《我是白痴》, 被改编为韩国电影《Fly Heo Dong-gu》(飞吧, 水班长), 儿童哲学童话《猫巧可》系列, 《一张纸做一本书》《绘本动起来》等童书与教学用书六十余册。

Wang Shu Fen is a renowned Taiwanese children's books author and reviewer. She is also an expert in handcrafting books and avid proponent of reading. She was a primary school teacher in Taiwan and TV programme host and consultant with Taiwan Television. She has written more than 60 children's books and teaching handbooks, including the *Junwei Goes to School* series; the young adult novel, *I am an Idiot*, which was adapted into the South Korean movie, *Fly Heo Dong-gu*; the children's fables series, *Qiaoke the Cat*; and handbooks, *How to Make a Book from a Piece of Paper* and *How to Bring Picture Books to Life*.

- » 排版、写作与插画风格新尝试
Experimenting with Form and Style (pg 41)
- » 请陪我“读”这本书! Let's Play-read Together!
(pg 58)
- » 我们一起动手制作图书
Paper Play: Picture Book Crafting (pg 44)
- » 如何为家里的小小读者选合适的书
Selecting Suitable Books for Your Young Reader
(pg 40)



William Sim (Singapore)

William Sim is a full-time art practitioner and a partner at a visual arts studio based in Singapore since 1997. He has showcased his paintings in various group and solo exhibitions, in Singapore, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. William is the author of several books including the best-selling colouring book, *Colouring the Lion City*. William also co-authored *Of Happiness and Biophilia*, an art book that showcases a comprehensive collection of artwork created in a span of ten years.

- » Discovering Singapore through Young People's Eyes (pg 31)



Xiran Jay Zhao (Canada)

Xiran Jay Zhao is the #1 New York Times best-selling author of the *Iron Widow* series and *Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor*. A first-gen Hui Chinese immigrant from small-town China to Vancouver, Canada, they were raised by the Internet and made the inexplicable decision to leave their biochem degree in the dust to write books and make educational content instead. You can find them on Twitter for memes, Instagram for cosplays and fancy outfits, TikTok for fun short videos, and YouTube for long videos about Chinese history and culture.

- » Blending the Real and the Imagined: A Conversation with Xiran Jay Zhao (pg 40)
- » Writing with Fire (pg 43)
- » Writing with Purpose: Our Stories to Tell (pg 35)



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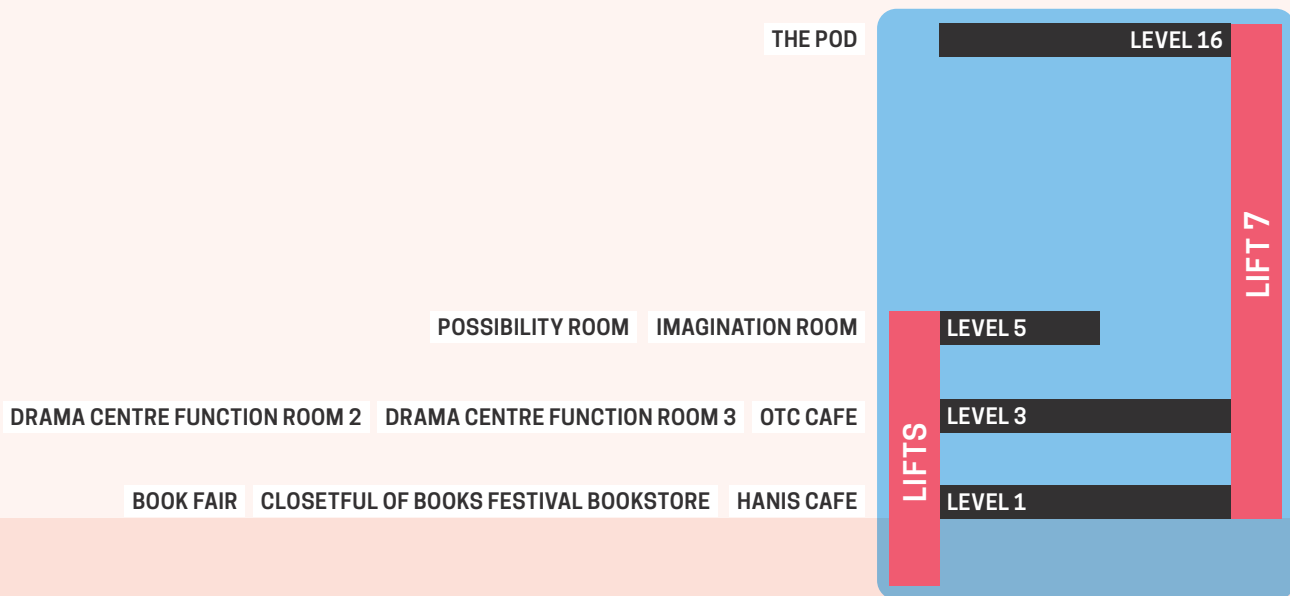
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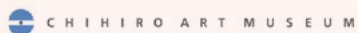
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