



CURIOSITY

好奇之心

INGIN TAHU

அறிவார்வம்



23–26 May 2024

National Library Building

Programme Booklet

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Front cover illustration by Beth Parrocha, a founding member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang INK).

Information correct at time of creation. The festival organisers reserve the right to change speakers, events, session times, dates, and/or other details when necessary.

Message from the Chairperson

A warm welcome to the 15th edition of the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC)!

This year, as we embrace the theme of "Curiosity", we celebrate the innate sense of wonder that defines childhood through three strands: exploration, innovation and imagination. From tapping on the rich ambiguity of wordless picture books in classrooms and channelling the art of children's song writing to encountering the burgeoning world of webcomics, our programmes encourage adults and children alike to venture beyond their comfort zone to learn and grow.

In celebration of the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Singapore, we are delighted to welcome Philippines as this year's Country of Focus (COF). Through our valued partnership with the National Book Development Board (NBDB) Philippines, we will focus on the rich history and tradition of Filipino children's literature, showcase its achievements, developments, and highlight its exceptional diversity through the COF programmes at AFCC.

Furthermore, our commitment to fostering intercultural understanding and collaboration between the two countries is exemplified through our Co-Translation Book project. Five children's book titles from Singapore and Philippines have been selected to be translated into Filipino and English respectively. The books will be distributed to children in Singapore and the Philippines through local literary organisations and reading initiatives. By bridging linguistic barriers, we aim to enrich the lives of children in both Singapore and the Philippines through the cross-cultural exchange of stories and experiences.

On behalf of the Singapore Book Council, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the National Library Board for their unwavering support throughout the years. I also express sincere appreciation to our esteemed Programme Committee members, partners, donors,



supporters, and volunteers, whose dedication and generosity have been instrumental in the success and growth of AFCC.

As we embark on this exciting journey of discovery, I wish all participants a truly enriching and memorable experience at AFCC 2024.

Claire Chiang
Chairperson
Singapore Book Council

Message from Chief Executive Officer, National Library Board

The National Library Board (NLB) is delighted to partner the Singapore Book Council again to bring to you the 15th Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC).

AFCC 2024 explores the theme of "Curiosity" which lies at the heart of every child's experience as they learn and discover the world around them. It is the catalyst for creativity, driving exploration, innovation and imagination.

During this year's festival, audiences will have the chance to explore this theme through more than 100 programmes where 80 Singapore-based and overseas writers and speakers will share their interpretations or take on Curiosity in children's content. This includes presentations from my colleagues, who will be presenting at some sessions to share more about the theme through our collections and services in our network of libraries and archives. The festival has also designated the Philippines as the Country of Focus for this year, for us to explore in greater detail the country's creative landscape, along with its heritage and culture.

The festival complements NLB's commitment to fostering lifelong learning and discovery. Our partnership with the Singapore Book Council is a testament to our shared vision of cultivating a vibrant ecosystem for literary exploration and intellectual growth for everyone.

I would also like to thank the Singapore Book Council for providing opportunities for NLB's Teen Reading Ambassadors, who will take on the role of emcees at the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award 2024 and other events throughout the festival.

Congratulations to the Singapore Book Council on organising the 15th Asian Festival of Children's



Content. May everyone be inspired and delighted by the boundless wonders of Curiosity.

Warm regards,

Ng Cher Pong
Chief Executive Officer
National Library Board

Message from the Executive Director

A very warm welcome to the 15th edition of AFCC!

We are excited to present another year of a bumper festival, with over 100 events across four days that feature more than 80 writers, illustrators, translators, publishers and speakers. We are also thrilled to showcase the Philippines as our Country of Focus (COF).

This year, we delve into the theme of “Curiosity”. As Albert Einstein once famously said: “I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.” Curiosity indeed drives exploration, innovation and learning. It is the building block for creativity, knowledge and imagination. Gain insights from our speakers as they share about how to nurture and inculcate curiosity in children and teens through books and stories.

We are very happy to welcome many writers and illustrators to the festival for the first time, both local and international, as well as returning speakers. In particular, for the AFCC Translation Forum, it is propitious that we could finally have the award-winning translator and author Lawrence Schimel join us in person. He had participated previously in virtual sessions at AFCC during Covid. Now festival participants can meet him and benefit greatly from his industry experience and craft, not only as an advocate of translated children’s books, but also as a prolific author.

Over the years, AFCC has had a special relationship with the Philippines. The Philippines was the very first Country of Focus back in 2012, and we organised our first physical AFCC Circle Philippines satellite event in Manila last November. This year, as we mark the 55th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Singapore, we are glad to welcome back the country as 2024 COF in a full-circle moment. Much has changed since 2012, and the Filipino children’s books sector has grown by leaps and bounds. The delegation is presenting about 20 programmes at both the conference and COF booth, showcasing the diversity and richness of their children’s books. Get ready to be entranced by the wonderful line-up of writers, illustrators, publishers and speakers.



This year, we are giving out the biennial Hedwig Anuar Children’s Book Award and Scholastic Asia Picture Book Award. A big congratulations to all the short-listed writers and illustrators. Be sure to find out who the winners are during our opening night on 23 May!

Join us for all these programmes and more at AFCC! We invite you to take the time to explore and get curious at the festival.

A big thank you to all our donors and sponsors; programme partners; programme committees; National Library Board; the Philippines’ National Book Development Board; supporters; speakers, moderators and volunteers for making AFCC possible!

Have a great festival!

William Phuan
Executive Director
Singapore Book Council

About Singapore Book Council

The Singapore Book Council (SBC) is an independent charity with IPC status. Established in 1968, as the former National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS), SBC aims to **Power Our Imagination** by developing creativity, imagination, original thought, and empathy.

VISION: The power of words, connecting peoples and cultures.

MISSION: To champion Singapore's role in enhancing multicultural literary arts.

Our programmes focus on creative writing, reading, illustration, translation and storytelling. They include the annual **Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC)**, a premier festival for children's books; the prestigious biennial **Singapore Literature Prize**, the top literary prize in the country; the **Singapore Translation Symposium**, which promotes literary translation; SBC Campus and Little Campus, our school outreach programmes; as well as our training and mentorship programmes that support and nurture new talents.

The Book Council is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Company Grant from 2022 to 2024.



For more information,
please visit 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 56 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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SBC Board and Advisory Network

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Zhe Min Ong

AFCC 2024 **Programmes**

About AFCC 2024

The 15th Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) will take place from 23–26 May 2024, at the National Library Building, Singapore, celebrating the theme of “Curiosity” and with Philippines as the Country of Focus.

Theme – Curiosity

The Asian Festival of Children's Content takes on the theme of “Curiosity” in its 15th edition.

Curiosity drives exploration, innovation and the imagination. It can open up possibilities, expand one's worldview and spur children to embark on a path of discovery.

How can we nurture a child's curiosity through books and encourage them to explore the world around them? How can modern technologies be harnessed to cultivate children's curiosity and engagement in reading? In what ways can cultural diversity be shown in stories and works from Southeast Asia and Asia, that can shape children's curiosity and develop a sense of the self?

With over 100 programmes, featuring more than 80 writers and speakers from Singapore and around the world, AFCC 2024 will explore the different dimensions of “Curiosity” through children's books, stories and performances.

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AFCC

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) is the leading festival in Asia for children's stories and young adult (YA) fiction. Targeted at writers, illustrators, translators, publishers, educators and media professionals, AFCC offers a series of exciting programmes, including panel discussions, presentations, workshops, lectures, masterclasses, networking sessions and public programmes that promote the creation and appreciation of quality children's literature and YA with a focus on Asian themes.



afcc.com.sg



[afccsg](https://www.instagram.com/afccsg)



[AFCCSingapore](https://www.facebook.com/AFCCSingapore)

Key Visual

“These three—the child, the monkey, and the turtle—are on a journey, looking at the Philippines with curious eyes. Yet, as they travel along, what they thought was theirs as Filipinos are also apparent among their Asian neighbours.”

Beth Parrocha



Created by award-winning Filipino artist, Beth Parrocha, this year's key visual takes inspiration from the rich marine ecosystem of the Philippines and its ethnic traditions and culture. Hear from Beth as she shares about the inspiration, and concept behind the creation of this year's key visual in the video below.





Country of Focus: The Philippines

As we mark 55 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Singapore in 2024, AFCC has invited Philippines to be the Country of Focus this year.

Co-organised with the National Book Development Board (NBDB) and Books Philippines, join us in celebrating the rich and diverse Filipino literary culture in a series of talks, panel discussions and workshops.

At the COF booth in the AFCC Book Fair, attendees will be introduced to outstanding Filipino children's books, public performances and reading initiatives across Philippine regions, languages and international translations.

23 May (Thursday)

11:00am—12:30pm
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION **Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures**

Speakers: Andrea Pasion-Flores, Dominador Buhain, Dante Francis M. Ang II, Kristine Mandigma | Moderator: Charisse Aquino-Tugade

From etching history on cave walls, writing poetry on bamboo, to chanting epics of heroism and love, Southeast Asian stories have always been rich and diverse. Faced with the socio-economic challenges of the now, National Book Development Board (NBDB) Chair Dante “Klink” Ang II weighs in on the crucial role of books and storytelling in diplomacy.

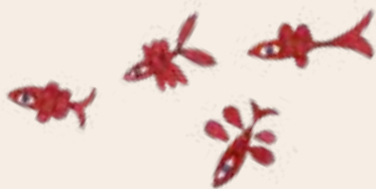
Celebrating 55 years of bilateral ties between the Philippines and Singapore, this keynote underscores the inevitability of this collaboration and the role of the Philippines as Country of Focus, given the shared Southeast Asian histories of tribulations and triumphs.

1:00pm—2:00pm
Country Booth

PRESENTATION **Saktong Pamilya? A Whimsical Look at the Filipino Child's Family Dynamics**

Speakers: Dominic Agsaway, Joshene Bersales

Get to know the viewpoints and research that go into creating books that feature common values and practices among Filipino families. This session highlights cultural habits that families pass down to their kids, featuring books like *Sakto Lang* (OMF Literature-Hiyas), and *Boy Kendeng* and *Bianca's Big Secret* (Adarna House).



2:30pm—4:00pm
Country Booth

WORKSHOP **Let's Paint a World Together!**

Speakers: Bea Mandapat, Danielle Florendo

Dive into a world of colour and creativity with our vibrant basic watercolour workshop for budding Picassos ages 6-12!

In this collaborative activity, kids will learn the secrets of blending, shading, and colour mixing in painting the natural world. They will learn how to paint elements from the storybook *MORE*, by award-winning book creators Danielle Florendo and Bea Mandapat.

Kids will work together to make a team painting. Roll up your sleeves, grab a paint brush, and join in the fun!

4:30pm—5:45pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL **More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time**

Speakers: Aklat Alamid, Carlo Ebeo, KB Meniado, Xi Zuq | Moderator: Daniel Lorenzo Mariano

It takes more than a village to raise a child so it will take much more to create stories and make it accessible for them. What kind of work does it actually take to craft children's books that reflect the socio-historical experience of kids from the margins?

Not only that, how do a national agency create more than a hundred reading and storytelling spaces in indigenous and remote areas of the Philippines?

24 May (Friday)

9:00am—10:00am
L5, Possibility Rm

PRESENTATION **The Illustrator's Playground: Drawing Place and Space in Picture Books**

Speaker: Rommel Joson | Moderator: Daniel Lorenzo Mariano

The illustrator is a co-storyteller in a picture book. Pictures convey and amplify the themes and emotions of the story while being bound by the physical limitations of the printed book.

How exactly does the illustrator allow the reader to inhabit the storyworld? This session explores the different techniques an illustrator uses to depict places and spaces in a picture book. Dive into how an illustrator's stylistic choices inform the story in three notable and award-winning Philippine children's books.

10:30am—11:30am
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PRESENTATION **Reclaiming our Narrative: Decolonising Content and Community**

Speakers: Charisse Aquino-Tugade, Luis P. Gatmaitan | Moderator: Carlo Ebeo

Our stories deserve the world, just as the world deserves our stories: this is the motto by which Executive Director Charisse Aquino-Tugade led the National Book Development Board (NBDB) to champion the growth of the Philippine book publishing industry.

In this session, Aquino-Tugade tells the tale of her work to reclaim and decolonise narratives, community and processes. Her campaign re-centred the nation's perspective to prioritise mother tongue languages and to use books as tools for deep engagement—from creating reading centres in indigenous areas to mobilising policy makers, to prioritising Filipino stories.

Country of Focus: The Philippines

12:00pm—1:00pm
Country Booth

STORYTELLING The Legend of Uta Cave: A Storytelling with Aklat Alamid

Speakers: Aklat Alamid, Danielle Florendo

The Legend of Uta Cave is a folk tale from an indigenous community in northern Philippines. Hear this bone-chilling legend through this storytelling session by Aklat Alamid.

4:00pm—5:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PRESENTATION Textiles, Cultures, Narratives: Representing the Philippine Culture through Storybooks

Speakers: Cheeno Marlo Sayuno, Danielle Florendo, Liwliwa Malabed |

Moderator: Joel Donato Ching Jacob

Every story is woven with universal truths and child-like wonder. In the Philippines, there are endeavours to rejuvenate an interest in traditional weaving.

In this session, Dr Cheeno Marlo Sayuno discusses the issues of representation, authenticity, and voice in crafting indigenous narratives for children, while Liwliwa Malabed talks about the Corditex Project and the Agabel Tayo! (Let's Weave!), a collection of five children's storybooks that aim to spark curiosity about the craft of weaving among young people.

Meanwhile, illustrator Danielle Florendo shares experiences in representing the colourful textiles and traditions of indigenous communities through illustrations.

5:30pm—6:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children's Books

Speakers: Danielle Florendo, Fran Alvarez, Jaime Bauza, Liza Flores |

Moderator: Daniel Lorenzo Mariano

Illustrations set the tone, the atmosphere, and the mood of a children's book. As the primal instrument of a children's book creator, how does an artist convey emotion through movement, space and colour?

Three Filipino illustrators discuss their processes—the good, the bad, and everything in between—in creating empathetic stories for kids.

25 May (Saturday)

10:00am—11:00am
Country Booth

TOUR Walk the Philippines! An Interactive Storytelling Tour for Families

Speakers: Charisse Aquino-Tugade, Noesis Marquez, Virgie Nicodemus

Step into the vibrant streets of the Philippines with our interactive storytelling tour right smack in the middle of the National Library. This unforgettable journey through the heart and soul of our enchanting archipelago will be told one book and one icon at a time.

Open for families and young children.

12:00pm—1:00pm
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION Feel the Kilig: What Makes a Filipino Love Story Unique?

Speakers: KB Meniado, Mae Coyiuto | Moderator: Evangeline Encabo

That heart flutter, that tingling excitement, those butterflies in the stomach you feel when you see someone you like? That's what Filipinos call *kilig*, which is also the most crucial element of any romance novel. This panel talks about how to create and feel the *kilig*, all while discussing the nuances of Filipino YA romance.

1:30pm—3:00pm
Country Booth

WORKSHOP Mom's Best Playdough Activities: Wild Animals

Speaker: Mary Ann Ordinario

Discover the magic of clay with our playful activity book, suited for both kids and the young at heart. Join Mary Ann Ordinario as she unveils a barnyard full of fun that showcases a variety of farm animals through exciting playdough adventures!

3:30pm—4:30pm
Country Booth

CONVERSATION Chloe and the Kaishao Boys

Speaker: Mae Coyiuto

It's *Dimple Met Rishi* meets *Loveboat, Taipei* in this hilarious YA rom-com about a Chinese-Filipina girl in Manila whose father sets her up on a marathon of arranged dates, in the hopes of convincing her to stay close to home for college.

Meet the author of this bright, colourful, and fun read for young adults!

4:30pm—6:00pm
Country Booth

WORKSHOP Draw with Beth

Speaker: Beth Parrocha

Embark on a journey through the world of illustration with award-winning Filipino illustrator Beth Parrocha! In her workshop, explore various mediums to create captivating artwork and immerse yourself in a hands-on session to bring your illustrations to life in unique and imaginative ways.

6:00pm—8:00pm
L1, Plaza

SPECIAL EVENT COF Philippines Night

More than just a party, the COF Philippines Night commemorates 55 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Singapore. It showcases the diverse literary and cultural landscape of the Philippines, as told through its narratives woven into Filipino folklore, dance, music and the people.

Co-organised with the National Book Development Board (NBDB), the COF Philippines Night will also feature highlights of NBDB's many programmes and initiatives including BookNook, the Philippine Book Festival and its upcoming participation as Country Guest of Honour in the Frankfurt Buchmesse in 2025.

Join us as we celebrate this partnership with a special evening of performances and the launch of translated children's books.

26 May (Sunday)

9:00am—10:00am
Country Booth

PANEL Outside the Box: Navigating Textbook Creation in K-12 Philippines

Speakers: Evangeline Encabo, The Inteligente Publishing, Inc.

Basic education, lifelong learning, transformative knowledge products—how do we tie them all together? This presentation features a panel of educators, youth development advocates and textbook publishers where they continue the discourse on how to make the best learning materials that can adapt to students of an evolving world.

10:30am—11:30am
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL Pamana: The Storytelling Tradition in the Lives of Filipino Children in the Diaspora

Speakers: Camille Faylona, Claire Betita De Guzman, Migs Bravo Dutt |

Moderator: Charisse Aquino-Tugade

A fifth of the Filipino population live and work overseas. How does one share the Filipino experience in a country that isn't their own? In *Pamana* (heritage), the panel discusses what stories remain relevant to today's Filipino diaspora and how storytelling may be the greatest *pamana* of all.

Country of Focus: The Philippines

12:30pm—1:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL Bringing Books and Children Together: The International Board of Books on Young People in the Asia-Pacific: An IBBY Panel

Books are never complete without its chapters. In this panel, representatives from various IBBY national sections in Southeast Asia share insights on promoting children's literacy and access to quality books, discussing unique challenges, collaborative projects, and innovative strategies to inspire young readers across diverse cultural landscapes.

2:00pm—3:00pm
Country Booth

STORYTELLING The Pencil Who Could Not Write

Speakers: Evangeline Encabo, Mary Ann Ordinario

Hear the fascinating tale of *The Pencil Who Could Not Write!* Experience the world of Ms. Yellow Pencil who does not want to write as she wants to stay sharp and tall, and keep her beautiful yellow skin forever. What terrible thing happened to her that she pleaded to be able to write again!?

3:30pm—4:45pm
Country Booth

WORKSHOP Locust Wings Take Flight: A Session on Character Creation

Speaker: Joel Donato Ching Jacob

Join author Joel Donato Ching Jacob, winner of the Scholastic Asian Book Award (2018) as he reads a scene from his book, *Wing of Locust*, and reverse engineer it by using character creation and skill challenge rules using a tabletop role-playing game! Then you get to write your own scene through game.

5:00pm—6:00pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL Fish Out of Water: Dealing with Difficult Topics in Filipino Children's Literature

Speakers: Aldy Aguirre, Beth Parrocha, Glenda C. Oris, Mary Ann Ordinario |
Moderator: Charisse Aquino-Tugade

Children's books can be a gentle introduction to the toughest conversations. War, famine, abuse, discrimination, and other proscribed topics—the reality of which is that these events are happening in our midst.

This session explores writing techniques and storytelling methods that can be used to address difficult topics in the creation of books for the youngest of readers.



AFCC Stories

Hear from contributors from AFCC Country of Focus the Philippines in this series of essays as they share about topics close to their hearts.



Not Merely Happily Ever After

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

There are many promising prospects for the children's literature sector from the Philippines.



Reading Spaces: How Illustrators depict space in three Philippine children's books

Rommel E. Joson

Practicing the craft of children's books can be even more deliberate in decisions that can touch both the mind and the heart.



A Survey of Children's Books Featuring Muslim Filipinos

M. J. Cagumbay Tumamac (Xi Zuq)

Many are the stories to tell about and for the Muslim Filipino child.



Kids of the Future: Representing Dystopian Narratives in Philippine Children's Literature

Cheeno Marlo M. Sayuno, PhD

Literary productions develop in response to changing contemporary social, cultural, and political landscapes.



Writing for Children Amid AI

Rebecca T. Añonuevo

What do human writers want to leave to children as their legacy?



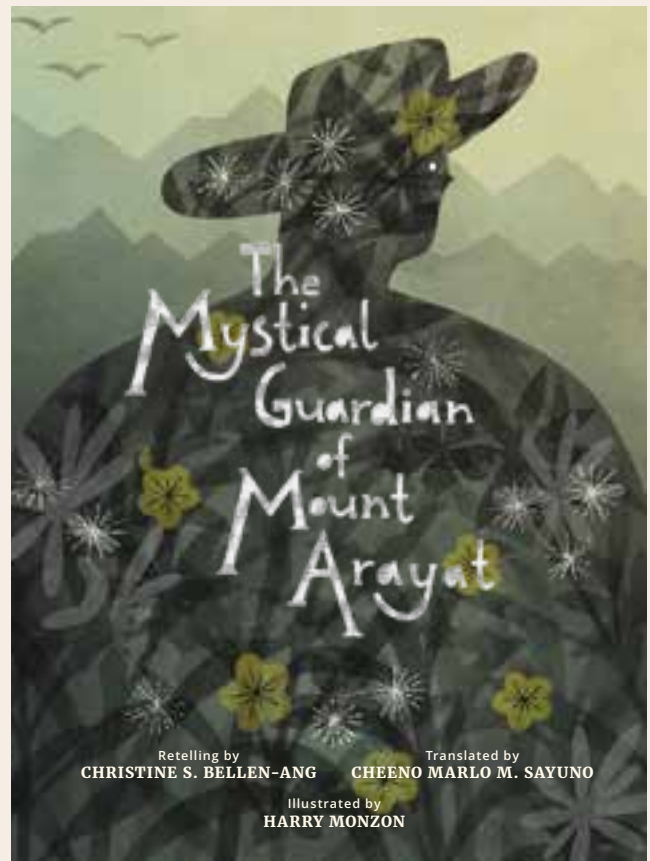
Country of Focus: Co-Translation Project

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

The third edition will see the translation and publication of five (5) selected children's books from both the Philippines and Singapore. This Co-Translation Book project is carried out in partnership with the National Book Development Board (NBDB).

Five children's book titles from each country will be selected and translated from Filipino 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.



Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award 2024

The Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award (HABA) is presented biennially to an outstanding Singapore children's picture book and middle grade book.

Eight books have been shortlisted for HABA 2024.

The objectives of the award are:

- » To recognise outstanding published works by Singapore writers and illustrators
- » To encourage the publication of quality children's books in Singapore



Awards Ceremony

23 May 2024 (Thursday), 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
National Library Building, L16, The Pod

About Mrs Hedwig Anuar

Mrs Hedwig Anuar was the first Singaporean Director of the National Library of Singapore, a position she held from 1960 until her retirement in 1988. She put in place the foundations of the modern library system in Singapore and made contributions to all aspects of library work. This award recognises her outstanding contribution to children's librarianship and the promotion of books and reading for children.



[Watch videos of the shortlisted authors and illustrators](#)

Picture Book Category Shortlist



Becoming Margaret Leng Tan: **The Toy Piano Virtuoso Who Couldn't Stop Counting**

It is not easy being Margaret Leng Tan. Her obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is her constant companion and counting controls her life. Imagine her joy and relief when she began her first piano lessons and discovered where counting truly belonged... in music!

This is the story of how Margaret made friends with her OCD. It is also about how she became the world's first toy piano virtuoso. This book is the first title in the *Becoming Extraordinary* series featuring people who overcame challenges to excel in their fields. This inspiring true story based on the life of Margaret Leng Tan, who has triumphed against her lifelong struggles with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). She is a living role model for children dealing with challenges of their own. The books in this series provide a fitting platform to engage children to discuss hard topics such as mental disorders, about having different abilities and accepting differences.



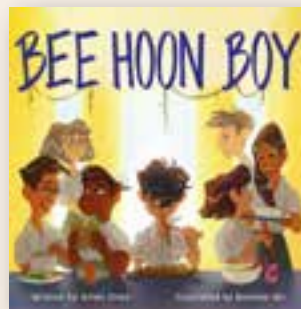
Low Lai Chow (Author)

A journalist by profession, Low Lai Chow entered the world of children's literature in 2020 as the creator of National Gallery Singapore's Art for Tinies board book series with *Eat With Your Eyes* (2020) and *I Want to Play House* (2022). Subsequently authoring *Catch Mee If You Can: Find the Noodles, Eat the Noodles!* (2022), Lai Chow made her illustrating debut with *Penguins Eat Pancakes* (2022), followed by *My Mum and Dad are Separated* (2023) and three Chinese-English titles in *The Game of Guessing* series 《最佳猜档》系列 (2023). *Margaret Leng Tan: The Toy Piano Virtuoso Who Couldn't Stop Counting* (2023) is her ninth book – and her most representative work to date.



Dan Kuah (Illustrator)

Dan Kuah is a comic artist based in Singapore. He began pursuing his dream of becoming a comic book artist when he was just 12 years old, selling copies of his first works to his classmates in school. By 21, he had published his first Chinese comic book. Today, Dan is a published author of seven books covering varying topics.



Bee Hoon Boy

What would you do if your classmate slept all the time and had noodles in his hair? Welcome to Bee Hoon Boy's world! Everyone keeps their distance from Bee Hoon Boy, but is there more to him than meets the eye?



Ames Chen (Author)

Ames began her career as a humanities teacher, before moving on to volunteer as an English teacher in parts of Southeast Asia. Ever passionate about education, she now trains students in leadership and communication skills as a freelancer. Motherhood ignited her joy of storytelling, and she is now learning to share the stories of others. She chose to pen books for children as she firmly believes in the potential of the next generation to effect change.



Dominic On (Illustrator)

Dominic Shi Jie On was born in Singapore, raised in Malaysia and now resides in Australia. He works in architecture by day, illustrates by night and is a full-time follower of Jesus Christ. He specialises in conjuring moods and atmospheres through digital painting, though he can sometimes be found painting outdoors whilst fending off birds.

Picture Book Category Shortlist



Grandma's 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?

From the award-winning duo of Alan John and Quek Hong Shin comes another charming and lively children's story, *Grandma's Tiger*. The tale was inspired by a slice of Singapore history – a few frenzied days in 1997 when a tiger was “spotted” on Ubin. Children will turn the pages eagerly as they, too, go on a tiger search and try to spot the tiger along the way. The book is also filled with many beautifully-rendered illustrations of other creatures found in the region, such as the tiger beetle, the giant Asian mantis and the knobbly sea star. *Grandma's Tiger* won the Best Picture Book award in the 2023 Singapore Book Awards, organised by the Singapore Book Publishers Association. It was also included in the White Ravens 2023 recommendation list by the International Youth Library.



Alan John (Author)

Alan John is a journalist, writer and editorial trainer. He is the director of the Asia Journalism Fellowship and a consulting editor of the *South China Morning Post*. In 2023, Alan joined the SPH Media Academy as a trainer for its journalism programmes.



Quek Hong Shin (Illustrator)

Quek Hong Shin is a children's book author and illustrator. His picture books were twice nominated for the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award and two have won Best Picture Book at the Singapore Book Awards – *The Incredible Basket*, which he wrote and illustrated, in 2019, and *Grandma's Tiger*.



Ning and the Night Spirits

Ning has always heard tales of the night spirits that used to terrorise the little village where he lives. So, each night, he helps his parents light bright orange lanterns to frighten them away. Secretly, he wonders if they're really as bad as everyone says – but is much too shy to ask anyone. But when Ning finds himself in the forest by night, he meets a creature who introduces him to the spirits' secret world and he discovers that all is not as it seems...

A beautiful and magical story about confronting fears, confidence and a little boy who finds his voice.



Adriena Fong (Author & Illustrator)

Adriena is an illustrator born and raised in Singapore. In 2020, she graduated with a BA in Illustration at Falmouth University, UK. She loves working with gouache and colour pencils as well as textured brushes on Photoshop. With a keen interest in narratives of all sorts, her work hopes to instil a sense of warmth and wonder. She is currently based back in sunny Singapore.

Middle Grade Category Shortlist



Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm

Kyra's younger brother is stricken with an ailment that has no cure. The last thing she needs is to find a mysterious boy lurking in the hospital. But where did he go, and why does she feel this inexplicable connection to him? Spirit Keeper Eric isn't prepared for this. He was just there to do his job and bring a soul into the Afterlife. Little did he expect to run into a too-familiar face from his past in the land of the living... In this great expanse where what's lost is found, fate, memories, and love intertwine as Kyra and Eric embark on a daring rescue mission to save a little boy from Death's clutches.

Afterlife: The Boy Next Realm is an epic Southeast Asian-inspired young adult fantasy graphic novel about one girl's sacrifice as she fights to save what she loves.



Gina Chew (Author)

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.



Nadhir Nor (Illustrator)

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.



Amazing Ash and Superhero Ah Ma 2: Coming of Age

The adventures of Amazing Ash & Superhero Ah Ma continue!

As Team ASH grows in number, Ash juggles being a responsible superhero, a supportive grandchild, and a kind friend. Meanwhile, is Ah Ma's dementia getting worse? How will the team cope with a new nemesis and the strange developments happening in town? Join Ash, Ah Ma, and the rest of Team ASH as they try to save the neighbourhood and, at the same time, face the changes that come with growing up and growing old.



Melanie Lee (Author)

Melanie Lee is the author of the picture book series *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien* and the illustrated travel guide series *Out & About in Singapore*. She has also published *Imaginary Friends: 26 Whimsical Fables for Getting on in a Crazy World*, a collection of illustrated short stories, together with Arif Rafhan. Besides writing books, Melanie is Associate Faculty at the Singapore University of Social Sciences, where she develops and teaches media writing courses.



Arif Rafhan (Illustrator)

Arif Rafhan is a Malaysian illustrator, comic artist and runs his neighbourhood doodle class at home. He also provides doodle therapy service for corporates and government bodies. His online comics, *#seketulsina* is about his children being themselves.

Middle Grade Category Shortlist



Escape from Bussorah Street

Life is bustling on Bussorah Street, and yet, Zak is feeling restless. All he wants is to be a sepak raga trainer, but his father insists that he learn the family trade of tailoring. And he's not looking forward to the upcoming circumcision ritual, a rite of passage that all Muslim boys must go through to become a man... and Zak's definitely not ready to be a grownup. But when the war arrives on the street, it shakes up Zak's world at the core. It is through immense love and loss that Zak comes into his own.



A.K. Zai (Author)

A.K. Zai's love for literature began in the 1970s at Crescent Girls' Secondary School, where she was taught by an amazingly eloquent teacher, Mrs Wong, to think critically when reading and writing. In the 1980s, Zai took up a creative writing course through correspondence with The Writing School in Australia, following up with attending classes in critical thinking and creative writing at the City College of Alameda in SF Bay Area. In 1992, Zai submitted her 10,000 word realistic fiction to the Singapore Literature Prize's first ever writing competition. Since then, Zai has been writing poetry, drama scripts and short stories for competitions and for pleasure.



Secrets of Singapore: Fabulous Food

Did you know that over 90 per cent of Singapore's food is imported? You butter believe it! In *Secrets of Singapore: Fabulous Food*, Spy Guy and the extraterrestrial Quiiqueg uncover this and lots more about Singapore's makan paradise! Discover the classic dishes that are uniquely Singaporean (there are laksa them)—and those that aren't (Singapore fried rice?).

Explore the newest food fads (unicorn poop, anyone?) and revisit the oldies but goodies (ice kacang is the OG!). Hungry for more? Peek behind the scenes and discover where all our food comes from, and how they're stored so they stay fresh, clean and yummy for longer (ever heard of a food safe?). Then find out how we deal with any leftover food (there's too much) to minimise waste! Tag along with Spy Guy and Quiiqueg on a souped-up tour of fabulous food. You'll be one smart cookie by the end!



Angèle Lee (Author)

After having a tonne of fun as an industrial engineer, Angèle Lee has returned to her first love, writing. She adores telling stories—almost as much as she adores her husband and two boys, potato crisps, corgis and dodgy puns. Angèle earns her keep writing for businesses, but has also written a short story for the Istana's Open House Adventures series of children's books.



Elvin Ching (Illustrator)

Elvin Ching works as an illustrator and storyboard artist in Singapore. He is the illustrator of several *Danger Dan* books and all of the *Secrets of Singapore* series; his cover for *Secrets of Singapore: National Museum* won best children's book cover at the Popular Reader's Choice Awards 2017. In his free time, he likes to create his own little comics. His short stories have been published in the Eisner-nominated comics anthology *Liquid City*. He has illustrated trading cards for Marvel, comics for the *Pangu* series of books by Martha Keswick and a comic book series written by Kelly Bender.

The Judges

Judges' Comments:

It was a joy reading the books submitted for the Hedwig Anuar Book Award. The overall quality of the submissions reflect how much Singaporean children's literature has evolved in quality and sophistication over the years. There is a wide range of themes explored in the submitted stories: from clever informational texts to historical events to delightful flights of imagination. The judges deliberated on not just literary and visual merit, but also readership appeal and originality – evoking an unmistakable sense of place and community, that is not only distinctly Singaporean in nature, but also reflective of the global world that readers (young and old alike) are a part of.



Dr Myra Garces Bacsal (United Arab Emirates)

Dr Myra Garces-Bacsal is a Teacher Educator and a registered clinical psychologist based in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. Prior to moving to the Middle East, she lived for eleven years in Singapore serving as a teacher educator. She has edited five books on rediscovering children's literature in Asia (with a focus on the Philippines, Malaysia, India, China, Japan) as part of the proceedings for the Asian Festival of Children's Content where she served as the Chair of the Programme Committee for the Asian Children's Writers and Illustrators Conference from 2011 until 2019. While she is an academic by day, she is a closet poet and a book hunter at heart.



Dr Eugene Evasco (Philippines)

Eugene Y. Evasco is a writer, editor, translator, and collector of children's books. He is currently a Full Professor at the UP College of Arts and Letters. Some of his new books at Lampara are *Ang Nag-iisa at Natatanging si Onyok*, *Ang Singing-Pari sa Pisara*, *Ang Beybi naming Mamaw*, and the Filipino translation of *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. In 2014, he won the UP Gawad sa Natatanging Publikasyon sa Filipino (Malikhaing Pagsulat category). He became a part of the Hall of Fame of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature in 2009 and is currently a Fellow of the UP Institute of Creative Writing. He was accepted as a Research Fellow to the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany.



Priscilla Tey (Singapore)

Priscilla Tey is an illustrator and picture book maker. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), she loves woolgathering, writing stories and maintains her sheep obsession at healthy levels. Her first picture book *In-Between Things* was published by Candlewick Press in 2018 and her second book, *Twitchy Witchy Itch* was published in July 2021. Her third book *Counting in Dog Years*, written by Betsy Franco (Candlewick Press) was published in October, 2022. Priscilla currently resides in her native country of Singapore, and teaches Art to students of various ages when she is not illustrating.

Scholastic Picture Book Award 2024

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

The objectives of the award are:

- » To foster the creation of picture books with Asian content, by Asian writers and illustrators
- » To promote public awareness of and interest in picture books with Asian content
- » To recognise and award a prize to an excellent picture book with Asian content



The Shortlist

Daddy, Daddy Where are We? - Going to School

Author: Guo Shaoqing

Illustrator: Yue Yuan

On a rainy Monday, Dottie and Dad are preparing to go to school, but how are they getting there? Inspired by the author's childhood memories, this story tells of the imaginative journey taken by a father and daughter as they travel together to school on a rainy morning.



Guo Shaoqing (China/Singapore)

Guo Shaoqing is a mom of three kids and currently works as an associate professor for Shenzhen University.



Yue Yuan (China)

Yue Yuan is currently studying for a Master's degree in illustration and publishing at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, Italy.

Dinnertime in the Small Alley

Author & Illustrator: Le Phuong Thao

Dinnertime in the Small Alley is a heartwarming story celebrating the joy of family dinners and neighbour relationships. Bom has always longed for a "normal" family dinner, but dinnertime at his mom's restaurant has always been with their chatty neighbours in the small alley. One night, with his mom away and a surprise feast, Bom came to appreciate the daily moments at his family's bustling restaurant and the bonds formed around the dinner table with his neighbours. He discovered that family isn't defined by who you're born with, but by the love and care you share with one another.



Le Phuong Thao (Vietnam)

Born and raised in the heart of Hanoi, Le Phuong Thao has spent her career working with young children, and brings her passion for education and art to the world of children's literature. Her love for art, particularly her unique use of traditional paper and materials in illustrations, infuses her work with a touch of cultural richness. With a firm belief that each children's book is more than a story, but a wholesome work of art that nourishes a child's soul through both words and images, she creates delightful hand-crafted tales with the same care of a home-cooked meal.

The Shortlist

Hello, Bad Mood!

Author & Illustrator: Lin Cheng

A child's encounter with 'Bad Mood' leads them on a path of mutual discovery, friendship and healing.



Lin Cheng (China)

Lin Cheng, born in China in 1993, received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in animation from Shandong University of Arts, China. She also received a postgraduate degree in illustration from the University of the Arts London in 2022. She is currently studying for a PhD in comics at the University of Glasgow.

Step by Little Step

Author & Illustrator: Nguyen Thuy Tien

Nam attempts to walk home from school by himself for the first time. Together with his best friend, Nam overcomes his anxiety and fear, going on a magical and memorable journey. Crossing the fields, past the houses, Nam takes in the peaceful beauty of the village through every little step and completes his walk with a happy heart.



Nguyen Thuy Tien (Vietnam)

Nguyen Thuy Tien (pen-name Imillus) is a freelance illustrator in Vietnam. She graduated from Hanoi University of Industrial Fine Arts, majoring in fashion design, but decided to become a children's book illustrator instead. She loves to create her magical world through detailed drawings, mainly about nature, kids, and animals.

When Dad Became an Elephant

Author & Illustrator: Somaye Mohamadi

On a day at home, Nick and Dad embark on different adventures – from being caught in a spider's web, to travelling to outer space, and escaping a rampaging dinosaur – all until Mom comes home.



Somaye Mohamadi (Iran)

Somaye studied at the University of Kashan, and is a member of the Illustrators cultural and Artistic Association. With 12 years of experience in illustrating for children's book and magazine illustration, she has illustrated over 50 children books. Her works have been short-listed for illustration festivals in Seoul and have received awards.

Only a Hand's Length!

Author: Uyen Dao

Illustrator: Hoai Phong

"How far is it from our house to the golden-scented rice terrace where Mommy harvests the ripe rice?" asks the little girl. "From up here, it's only a hand's length!" said her brother. With this conviction in their hearts, Núi, a minority child whose name means "the mountain" in Vietnamese, and his younger sister, Hoa, whose name means "the flower" in Vietnamese, set off to visit Mommy and surprise her. Nothing can stop them. What can make a long and difficult journey shorter and happier if not love? A sweet story that celebrates love and family.



Uyen Dao (Vietnam)

Uyen Dao lives in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She works as a freelance writer. Through her works, she wants to celebrate the miracle of childhood.



Hoai Phong (Vietnam)

Hoai Phong is a young illustrator living in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He works for the studio Funti Kidbooks. His desire is to convey good messages of stories to readers through pictures. He hopes to create a colourful and new world with his illustrations.

Tien and the New Neighbour

Author & Illustrator: Tan Siang Yu

Tien was excited to see his new neighbours moving into the flat next door. Should he say hello? As his parents were busy, he decided to make his famous tang yuan for them. However, he chickened out when he stood outside their flat as he imagined all sorts of negative reactions from the neighbour's boy. When the friendly neighbourhood ice cream seller came along, Tien had another idea and quickly bought ice cream, but he tripped and fell. This mishap, however, revealed to Tien that the neighbour's boy was not what he imagined him to be.



Tan Siang Yu (Singapore)


Writer and illustrator Tan Siang Yu is a Singaporean who loves all things creative. After graduating with a BA Honours in Fine Art from the University of Leeds, he taught art to high school students for more than 25 years. At the same time, he has also been telling stories through films, often about children and their little adventures. *Tien and The New Neighbour* is his first children's work.



WORLD AND US

The World and Us Zone in Punggol Regional Library is a special collection that features stories from around the world and reading materials.

Children can learn more about world cultures and contemporary concepts relevant to an increasingly digital world in the 21st century

 Available as an e-book on the NLB catalogue at www.nlb.gov.sg

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The Ocean Calls

Author:
Tina Cho
Call Number:
JP CHO
Publisher:
Kodila, 2020



Alitaprap: A Philippines Myth Of The Firefly

Author:
Mylene Leumin
Call Number:
JP 398.2 LEU - [FOL]
Publisher:
Independently published, 2019



The Most Beautiful Thing

Author:
Kao Kalia Yang
Call Number:
JP 305.895 YAN
Publisher:
Carolrhoda Books, 2020



Little Dumplings

Author:
Susan Rich Brooke
Call Number:
JP BRO
Publisher:
Sunbird Books, 2022



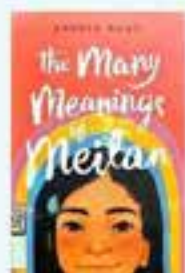
The World's Loneliest Elephant

Author:
Ralph Fletcher
Call Number:
JP 599.67 FLE
Publisher:
Little, Brown and Company, 2022



Thirst

Author:
Varsha Bajaj
Call Number:
J BAJ
Publisher:
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2022



The Many Meanings of Meilan

Author:
Andrea Wang
Call Number:
J WAN
Publisher:
Kodila, 2021



The Great Wall Through Time

Author:
Du Fei
Call Number:
J 951 DU
Publisher:
DK Publishing, 2022



Epic Adventures

Author:
Sam Sedgman
Call Number:
J 910.4 SED
Publisher:
Macmillan Children's Books, 2022

Calendar: 23 May (Thu)

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION RM	L5, POSSIBILITY RM	L1, COUNTRY BOOTH
9AM	9:00AM—10:30AM ●●● AFCC Opening Keynote: The Many Forms of Curiosity			
10AM				
11AM	11:00AM—12:30PM ● Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures	11:00AM—12:30PM ● Collage: the extraordinary power of an artform in encouraging speech and sparking curiosity		
12PM				
1PM			1:00PM—2:30PM ● Staying Curious! Harnessing the Power of Books in the Outdoors	1:00PM—2:00PM ●● Saktong Pamilya? A Whimsical Look at the Filipino Child's Family Dynamics
2PM		1:30PM—3:00PM ● The Poet's Toolkit		
3PM			3:00PM—4:00PM ● Surrealism in Children's Illustration	2:30PM—4:00PM ●● Let's Paint a World Together!
4PM		4:00PM—5:00PM ● Curiosity in City Narrative – Hong Kong Children's Picture Books		
5PM			4:30PM—5:30PM ● Creating children's curiosity: A Peek into the Lives of Inspiring People	
6PM				
7PM	6:30PM—8:00PM Opening Night and Awards Ceremony for Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award (HABA) & Scholastic Picture Book Award (SPBA)			

- Country of Focus
- Translation Forum
- Publishing Forum
- Writers & Illustrators
- Teachers & Parents
- Cross-Platform
- Mother Tongue
- Public

Calendar: 23 May (Thu)

	L1, PLAZA	B1, CTPL PROG RM 1	B1, CTPL PROG RM 2	B1, CTPL SUBMARINE RM
9AM				
10AM				
11AM	11:00AM—12:00PM ● How to be Human Series			
12PM				
1PM	12:30PM—1:30PM ● Letters to My Grandfather			
2PM		1:30PM—2:30PM ● Mastering Mindfulness Through Narratives with Dimity Powell	1:30PM—2:30PM ● The Curious Case of Singing a Story	
3PM		3:00PM—4:00PM ● Inspire and Ignite: A Cross-Cultural Storytelling Adventure	3:00PM—4:00PM ● From Parenting to Publishing: Seeing a Need and Stepping Up	
4PM	3:30PM—4:30PM ● MADE IN/VISIBLE			4:00PM—5:00PM ● Let's Discover Our Farms, Singapore!
5PM	5:00PM—6:00PM ● Daddy's Hand	4:30PM—6:00PM ● We need a hero! A Green Superhero!	4:30PM—5:45PM ● More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time	
6PM				
7PM				

Calendar: 24 May (Fri)

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION RM	L5, POSSIBILITY RM	L1, COUNTRY BOOTH
9AM			9:00AM—10:00AM ● The Illustrator's Playground: Drawing Place and Space in Picture Books	
10AM	10:00AM—11:30AM ● Translation Forum Keynote: Our World of Stories— Championing Translated Children's Books	9:30AM—10:30AM ● Practicing Peace with Children through Community Peace Libraries	10:30AM—11:30AM ● Rooted in Affirmation: Talking About Physical Appearances in Picture Books	
11AM				
12PM		11:30AM—1:00PM ● Green Pea Monster Poetry Workshop	12:00PM—1:00PM ● Smoke and Flowers: Using Artworks to Retell Martial Law in the Philippines	12:00PM—1:00PM ●● The Legend of Uta Cave: A Storytelling with Aklat Alamid
1PM				
2PM	1:30PM—2:30PM ● Curious Girls, Personal Agency and the Search for Truth in Philippine Historical Fiction	2:00PM—3:30PM ● Mindfulness for Asian Youths Workshop - Discovering the Secrets of Polderstein 13	1:30PM—2:30PM ● Developing Curious Young Writers through Invented Spelling	
3PM	3:00PM—4:00PM ● Picture books: Unlocking Wonder and Invention		3:00PM—4:30PM ● Intricacies of Illustrations: Storytelling meets Artistry	
4PM		4:00PM—6:00PM ● NEW LIFE - an intergenerational theatre workshop		
5PM	4:30PM—5:30PM ● The Varieties of Literary Expression in Children's Literature in Nusantara		5:00PM—6:30PM ● "Play hide and seek with stories" – Dive deep into the world of wordless picture books	
6PM				
7PM				

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

Calendar: 24 May (Fri)

	L1, PLAZA	B1, CTPL PROG RM 1	B1, CTPL PROG RM 2	B1, CTPL SUBMARINE RM
9AM				
10AM				
11AM	<p>11:00AM—12:00PM ●</p> <p>Boys Don't Fry</p>	<p>10:30AM—11:30AM ●</p> <p>Reclaiming our Narrative: Decolonising Content and Community</p>	<p>10:30AM—12:00PM ●</p> <p>Igniting the Spark: STEM through the Magic of Stories</p>	
12PM	<p>11:25AM—11:35AM ●</p> <p>The Whole World on One Page Guided Tour By registration</p>	<p>12:00PM—1:00PM ●</p> <p>Creating Curiosity in Picture Books</p>		
1PM				
2PM		<p>1:30PM—2:30PM ●</p> <p>Bridging real and imagined worlds: museum artefacts in children's books foster curiosity</p>	<p>2:00PM—3:00PM ●</p> <p>Across Worlds: Translating Our Myths and Folktales</p>	
3PM	<p>2:30PM—3:30PM ●</p> <p>The Amazing Beasts of Philippine Mythology</p>	<p>3:00PM—4:00PM ●</p> <p>Inclusive Co-creation: Picture Books with Southeast Asian Art & Music</p>		
4PM	<p>4:00PM—5:00PM ●</p> <p>The Sun is Missing</p>		<p>4:00PM—5:00PM ●</p> <p>Textiles, Cultures, Narratives: Representing the Philippine Culture through Storybooks</p>	
5PM		<p>4:30PM—6:00PM ●</p> <p>Picture Perfect Prose: Understanding Writing and Illustration</p>		
6PM	<p>5:30PM—6:30PM ●</p> <p>New Titles from Epigram Books</p>		<p>5:30PM—6:30PM ●</p> <p>Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children's Books</p>	<p>5:30PM—6:30PM ●</p> <p>New Titles from Armour Publishing</p>
7PM		<p>7:00PM—8:00PM ●</p> <p>The Whale Who Wants to Win</p>		

Calendar: 25 May (Sat)

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION RM	L5, POSSIBILITY RM	L1, COUNTRY BOOTH
9AM		9:00AM—10:30AM ● The Visual Decoder for Stories	9:00AM—10:15AM ● Once Upon a Green World —Saving the Environment Through a Child's Eyes	
10AM	10:00AM—11:30AM ● Writing Watercress			10:00AM—11:00AM ●● Walk the Philippines! An Interactive Storytelling Tour for Families
11AM		11:00AM—12:00PM ● Playing With Food: Creating Worlds of Flavour in KidLit	11:30AM—12:30PM ● How The Publishing Industry is Grappling with A.I. Now	
12PM	12:00PM—1:00PM ● Feel the Kilig: What Makes a Filipino Love Story Unique?			
1PM		1:00PM—2:30PM ● Note by Note: A Curious Exploration into Children's Songwriting		1:30PM—3:00PM ●● Mom's Best Playdough Activities: Wild Animals
2PM			2:00PM—3:00PM ●● ஸ்டாப் மோஷன் அனிமேஷன் மூலம் கதை சொல்லுதல் Storytelling with Stop- motion Animation	
3PM		3:00PM—4:00PM ● Illustrators Portfolio Review		3:30PM—4:30PM ●● Chloe and the Kaishao Boys
4PM	4:00PM—5:30PM ● 來自清水的孩子: 通过漫画 揭示战后台湾 The Boy from Clearwater: Uncovering Post-war Taiwan Through Comics	4:30PM—6:30PM ● From Manuscript to Print: A Guide in Picture Book Editing	4:00PM—5:00PM ● Indonesian Folktales Through the Eyes of Local and International Publishers	4:30PM—6:00PM ●● Draw with Beth
5PM			5:30PM—6:30PM ● Bookwatch: PG13- Romances	
6PM				
7PM				

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

Calendar: 25 May (Sat)

	L1, PLAZA	B1, CTPL PROG RM 1	B1, CTPL PROG RM 2	B1, CTPL SUBMARINE RM
9AM				
10AM	9:30AM—11:00AM ● Copyright School Challenge: Creative Writing & Video Competition Award Presentation			
11AM				10:30AM—11:30AM ● Storytime with Satomi Ichikawa
12PM	11:30AM—12:30PM ● Little Hero			11:30AM—12:30PM ● The Emperor's Gazillion New Toys
1PM	1:00PM—2:00PM ● Open Mic for Young Content Creators		1:00PM—2:00PM ●● 生态故事: 探索自然与人类的共生之道 Stories of Nature: Exploring how Humans can Co-exist with Nature	1:30PM—2:30PM ● The Little Mermaid Saves Our Seas
2PM				
3PM			2:30PM—3:30PM ● Vibrant Afterlives: Reshaping Ancient Chinese Mythologies for Young Readers through Webcomics	
4PM	4:00PM—5:30PM ● Bras Basah Complex Literary Trail		4:00PM—5:00PM ● English is Not the Only Fruit: Embracing Linguistic Diversity in Children's Literature	3:30PM—4:30PM ● தலைப்பு: உமா ராமகிருஷ்ணனுடன் கதை நேரம் : சிந்தனையிலிருந்து கதைகளாக Storytime with Uma Ramakrishnan: From Ideas into Stories
5PM				5:00PM—6:00PM ● New Titles from Poppet's World Pte. Ltd.
6PM	6:00PM—8:00PM ● COF Philippines Night		5:30PM—6:45PM ● Trending Pages: How TikTok Transforms Book Recommendations and Sales	
7PM				

Calendar: 26 May (Sun)

	L16, THE POD	L5, IMAGINATION RM	L5, POSSIBILITY RM	L1, COUNTRY BOOTH
9AM	9:00AM—11:15AM ● Book to Screen: The Business of Adaptation			9:00AM—10:00AM ●● Outside the Box: Navigating Textbook Creation in K-12 Philippines
10AM		10:00AM—1:00PM ● Beyond the Text: A Picture Book Translation Masterclass	10:30AM—11:30AM ● Pamana: The Storytelling Tradition in the Lives of Filipino Children in the Diaspora	
11AM				
12PM			12:00PM—1:00PM ● Writer's Pitch	
1PM				
2PM	1:30PM—2:30PM ●● 出版跨文化童书绘本： 挑战与愿景 Publishing Cross-Cultural Picture Books: Challenges and Perspectives	1:30PM—3:00PM ● CURIUSER & CURIUSER: A Workshop in Visual Storytelling	1:30PM—2:30PM ● 从烟囱说起——新加坡 绘本创作中的文本在地化 历程 Let's Start with the Chimney: The Journey of Creating Singapore's Localised Picture Books	2:00PM—3:00PM ●● The Pencil Who Could Not Write
3PM	3:00PM—4:00PM ● Beyond Exams: Raising a curious, thinking child through books		3:00PM—4:30PM ● On The World Stage: Promoting Southeast Asian and Asian Stories	
4PM		3:30PM—5:00PM ●● 通过绘本探索大自然 Exploring Nature through Picture Books		
5PM				
6PM				
7PM				

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

Calendar: 26 May (Sun)

	L1, PLAZA	B1, CTPL PROG RM 1	B1, CTPL PROG RM 2	B1, CTPL SUBMARINE RM
9AM				
10AM				
11AM	<p>10:30AM—11:30AM ●</p> <p>4 a.m. Raspberry Party with Teddy</p> <p>11:25AM—11:35AM ●</p> <p>The Whole World on One Page Guided Tour By registration</p>		<p>11:00AM—12:00PM ●●</p> <p>Acah-acah, dah lancar!</p>	
12PM	<p>12:00PM—1:00PM ●</p> <p>Dari Mana Datangya Buku? Persemabahan Live oleh Kak Fifi dan Mimi!</p>		<p>12:30PM—1:30PM ●</p> <p>Bringing Books and Children Together: The International Board of Books on Young People in the Asia-Pacific: An IBBY Panel</p>	
1PM	<p>1:30PM—2:30PM ●</p> <p>One of Us: Short of Nothing</p>	<p>1:00PM—2:00PM ●</p> <p>To Agent or not to Agent?</p>		<p>1:00PM—2:00PM ●</p> <p>Birth Story Workshop</p>
2PM			<p>2:00PM—3:30PM ●</p> <p>Menyemarakkan cinta untuk membaca melalui bercerita! Stories come Alive! Instilling the love for reading in your child through story telling and reading techniques</p>	
3PM	<p>3:00PM—4:00PM ●</p> <p>New Title from Dim Sum Warriors</p>	<p>2:30PM—4:30PM ●</p> <p>Going with the flow: A Hands-on Look at the Picture Book Making Process</p>		
4PM				
5PM		<p>5:00PM—6:30PM ●</p> <p>通过漫画小说叙述历史故事 Using Graphic Novels to Tell Historical Stories</p>		
6PM				
7PM				

Lectures



Intricacies of Illustrations: Storytelling meets Artistry

24 May 2024 (Fri) | 3:00pm—4:30pm | L5, Possibility Rm

Speaker: Emila Yusof | Moderator: Aida Abdul Rahim

Join acclaimed illustrator Emila Yusof on a lecture presentation on the intricacies of illustrations, where storytelling meets artistry to create an enchanting and engaging world for young readers. In this interactive lecture presentation, Emila will share her expertise and insights on illustrative techniques and her creative journey beyond traditional illustrations.



Writing Watercress

25 May 2024 (Sat) | 10:00am—11:30am | L16, The Pod

Speaker: Andrea Wang | Moderator: Melanie Lee

Hailed by the School Library Journal as “a powerful story sure to awaken empathy and curiosity”, Andrea Wang’s *Watercress* tells a semi-autobiographical story exploring the importance and role of memory, traditions and family history. In this lecture, Andrea will share about how her life experiences have inspired her multi-award winning book and how “writing what you feel” instead of “writing what you know” has served as the heartbeat behind her work as an acclaimed children’s author.



來自清水的孩子: 通过漫画揭示战后台湾

The Boy from Clearwater: Uncovering Post-war Taiwan Through Comics

25 May 2024 (Sat) | 4:00pm—5:30pm | L16, The Pod

Speaker: 周见信 (Zhou Jian Xin) | Moderator: 林增如 (Lim Cheng Tju)

本讲座探讨了蔡焜霖的故事和漫画小说形式的改编, 以及周见信在描绘 1949 年后台湾的政治和白色恐怖所采用的艺术选择。献给生活故事和被遗忘和忽视的历史的粉丝。

This lecture explores the adaptation of Tsai Kun-lin’s life story to the graphic novel format and the artistic choices utilised by the artist in portraying the politics and trauma of post-1949 Taiwan. For fans of life stories and forgotten and neglected histories of our past.

Translation Forum

The 2024 AFCC Translation Forum continues to spotlight the diversity of our stories and the role of translation in promoting the diverse stories and cultures. Try your hand at translating picture books with Lawrence Schimel at his masterclass too!

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

24 May (Friday)

10:00am—11:30am
L16, The Pod

PANEL Translation Forum Keynote: Our World of Stories— Championing Translated Children’s Books

Speakers: 叶俊良 (Chun-Liang Yeh), Lawrence Schimel | Moderator: Adan Jimenez

In this year’s keynote, we examine the current position of translated works in the landscape of children’s books publishing. Our speakers discuss how we can continue to push for more translation of children’s literature, as well as increase the accessibility of diverse literatures.

2:00pm—3:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL Across Worlds: Translating Our Myths and Folktales

Speakers: Chong Lingying, Hafiz Rashid | Moderator: Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar

Myths and folktales are often challenging to translate due to their cultural richness and complexity. These narratives are deeply rooted in the cultural and historical context of their origin, and the symbolism and references may not easily transfer to another language. Find out from our panellists what goes into translating our Asian folktales and myths, as they discuss the challenges that they face, and the choices that they make during the translation.

26 May (Sunday)

10:00am—1:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

MASTERCLASS Beyond the Text: A Picture Book Translation Masterclass

Speaker: Lawrence Schimel

Understand the key principles of effective translation, from capturing the rhythm and cadence of the original text to conveying cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions with finesse. Gain insight into strategies for maintaining the integrity of the narrative while accommodating linguistic differences. Through case studies and interactive exercises, Lawrence Schimel will guide you in navigating the translation of the picture book, considering how the text interacts with images. Join us for an insightful session on how to effectively translate your picture book of choice.

4:00pm—6:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

WORKSHOP AFCC Translation Hackathon

Speakers: Amanda Ruiqing Flynn, Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar, Radhika Shenoy, Vetri

Put your language skills to the test at the Translation Hackathon jointly organised by Pratham Books and the Singapore Book Council. In the hackathon, we challenge you to translate a picture book into your mother tongue!

About the Hackathon: Participants will translate a picture book into your language of choice (Chinese, Malay, Tamil). There will be an introductory segment before going into the translation segment. Completed translations will be uploaded onto Pratham Book’s StoryWeaver, a platform offering open access books committed to providing children with the very first step to literacy acquisition—books. Participants are required to bring a digital device for the activity.

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 look at how the publishing industry is coping with the rapid advancement of A.I.; the promotion of Southeast Asian and Asian stories; and tackling the issue of agent representation.

25 May (Saturday)

11:30am—12:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL How The Publishing Industry is Grappling with A.I. Now

Speakers: Joel Donato Ching Jacob, Mindy Pang | Moderator: Christine Chong

In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, the publishing industry finds itself at a critical juncture, grappling with the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into its workflows and creative processes. How are publishers leveraging AI technologies to streamline content creation processes? What are the implications for editorial workflows, authorship, and creative autonomy? How does the integration of AI impact copyright and intellectual property protection within the industry?

This session delves into the multifaceted relationship between AI and publishing, exploring the challenges, opportunities, and ethical considerations that arise as technology reshapes the way stories are created, curated, and marketed.

5:30pm—6:45pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL Trending Pages: How TikTok Transforms Book Recommendations and Sales

Speakers: Jennith Chen, Mae Coyiuto | Moderator: Vivian Teo

Explore the convergence of TikTok and publishing in this panel session. Find out more about how the platform helps authors, publishers, booksellers engage audiences, promote literature, and build up their reader base. Delve into viral book recommendations, innovative storytelling techniques, effective digital navigation and explore the implications and dynamics of TikTok's influence in the publishing industry.

26 May (Sunday)

1:00pm—2:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PANEL To Agent or not to Agent?

Speakers: Emily Lim-Leh, Lauren Ho, Namita Moolani Mehra | Moderator: Priti Sharma

Is it necessary to have an agent? In this panel session, we will delve into the complexities of publishing and the decision of whether to pursue representation by an agent. Our panellists will provide insights, advice, and practical tips to help you navigate this critical question in your writing journey. From demystifying the agent-author relationship to discussing the benefits and drawbacks of securing representation, this session will help provide some guidance on the next steps to take for your creative career.

3:00pm—4:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL On The World Stage: Promoting Southeast Asian and Asian Stories

Speakers: Jessica Leman, Johanes Park, June CL Tan, Xi Zuq

In this session, our speakers will come together to discuss how they have sought to push and promote content from Southeast Asia and Asia to the international scene. From looking at the creative processes of content production, to implementation of targeted marketing strategies, this panel will explore the rich tapestry of SEA and Asian stories and the efforts in bringing them to wider shores and audiences beyond the borders of the continent.

23 May (Thursday) Sessions

9:00am—10:30am
L16, The Pod

PANEL AFCC Opening Keynote: The Many Forms of Curiosity

Speakers: Andrea Wang, Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte, Myra Loke | Moderator: Jeffrey Tan

Curiosity is a strong driving force in encouraging learning, exploration and innovation. In this opening keynote of AFCC 2024, our speakers will share about their encounters with this quality and how they have also leveraged it in their work and or practice.

Building Curiosity with Books by Andrea Wang

For award-winning author Andrea Wang, books have played a crucial role in allowing her to forge connections and find joy. For the opening keynote session, Andrea will share how books and stories have helped her in learning important life lessons, explore and understand the world and influenced her work as an author of children's books.

Sparking Wonder Through Theatre by Myra Loke

For puppetry artist and educator Myra Loke, puppetry has always been an effective and transformative medium to engage and captivate young minds. Drawing from her works for different age groups, Myra shares her approach to harness the tangible and intangible theatrical space to spark a sense of wonderment, and ignite curiosity about the world around us.

Curiosity as an Antidote to Navigating a Challenging World

In a rapidly changing world marked by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA), nurturing curiosity from a young age is crucial. With neuroscience studies showing that babies are naturally curious, facilitating this curiosity is then essential in equipping children with the skills to navigate and thrive, ensuring they grow into innovative thinkers and resilient individuals capable of embracing and driving change in an ever-evolving landscape.

11:00am—12:30pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP Collage: the extraordinary power of an artform in encouraging speech and sparking curiosity

Speaker: Joanna Maneckji

Examine the impact of collage art in children's books, revealing its unique effectiveness in sparking curiosity and imagination. Uncover how this art form encourages the acquisition of language skills in young readers.

11:00am—12:30pm
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures

See *Country of Focus* on page 12.

1:00pm—2:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

WORKSHOP Staying Curious! Harnessing the Power of Books in the Outdoors

Speaker: Muhammad bin Kamit

Bring books outdoors! Chief Sidekick Mudd shares how using books & stories as tools can transform outdoor learning experiences into exciting imaginary adventures!

1:30pm—2:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PRESENTATION The Curious Case of Singing a Story

Speaker: Serene Choo | Moderator: Adia Tay

Curiosity sparks off a series of sensory delights. From dramatic storytelling and life-size animation of characters, as seen in the Stories Come Alive rooms at selected libraries, to songs that capture the mood and feelings of the stories. Today's digital storytelling is evolving in writing, illustration and animation styles to create funny, entertaining and enriching experiences. Join the speaker's journey in creating immersive, sensory-rich experiences for young audiences.

23 May (Thursday) Sessions

1:30pm—2:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PRESENTATION Mastering Mindfulness Through Narratives with Dimity Powell

Speaker: Dimity Powell | Moderator: Priyanka Shahra

The terms 'mindfulness and resilience' have acquired an almost hackneyed significance when referring to the mental and emotional wellbeing of young people yet are vital to the healthful growth of our societies. Discover how to instil care and compassion in children through the use of creative narrative fiction and non-fiction.

1:30pm—3:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP The Poet's Toolkit

Speaker: Sally Murphy

Sally Murphy, poet and author, guides writers of all levels in integrating poetic tools into stand-alone poems and narratives. This playful workshop explores how poets use tools to add depth and poignancy. Sally unpacks poetic tools and leads participants through practical exercises to enhance their writing with curiosity, history, and empathy.

3:00pm—4:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PRESENTATION Inspire and Ignite: A Cross-Cultural Storytelling Adventure

Speaker: Ping-Shi Kao | Moderator: Amanda Ruiqing Flynn

Explore the innovative curriculum at Tatung University, Taipei, where college students and Irish pupils have virtually teamed up since 2020, crafting numerous incredible tales. Join us in celebrating the magic of their storytelling creations and achievements. Get ready to experience live story collaboration!

3:00pm—4:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PRESENTATION From Parenting to Publishing: Seeing a Need and Stepping Up

Speakers: Kimberly Lee, Liyana Taff | Moderator: Myra Loke

Discussing body boundaries with young children, particularly in Asian cultures, can be challenging. However, it's crucial for their education and empowerment to start at home. We delve into the significance of picture books as catalysts for social progress and how makchic, a parenting platform, aids parents, guardians, and children in navigating this journey.

3:00pm—4:00pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL Surrealism in Children's Illustration

Speakers: Adriena Fong, J.H. Low, Zeno Sworder | Moderator: Dimity Powell

Surrealism, unlike realism, embraces the absurd and provokes the imagination. In children's picture books, they play an empowering role in encouraging young readers to question, dream and explore possibilities. In this session, our speakers will share on how they have incorporated surrealistic qualities in their works, and why they choose to do so.

4:00pm—5:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

PRESENTATION Curiosity in City Narrative – Hong Kong Children's Picture Books

Speaker: Michelle Chan | Moderator: Hu Wei

In this presentation, the speaker introduces the textual-visual narratives in selected Hong Kong picture books and focuses the discussion on imagination and curiosity. The analysis includes the depiction of an international Asian city, the interplay between textual and visual storytelling, and the details that captivate reader's interest.

4:30pm—5:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL **Creating children’s curiosity:
A Peek into the Lives of Inspiring People**

Speakers: Imelda Naomi, Low Lai Chow, Priscilla Hoon-Tan, Shawn Tan |
Moderator: Melanie Lee

Join us for a dynamic panel discussion on the rising trend of biography picture books in children’s literature. Delve into the impact on children’s curiosity, dissect the nuances between traditional and narrative non-fiction biographies, and unravel the creative process harmonizing facts and creativity.

4:30pm—5:45pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL **More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time**

See Country of Focus on page 13.

4:30pm—6:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

WORKSHOP **We need a hero! A Green Superhero!**

Speaker: Louisa Joanne Lee

Green Superheroes for a Better World: A brief survey of the Green Superheroes & how to create a Superhero of the Environment and the creatures living in our world. This interactive workshop empowers participants to create, activate, and present their own Green Superheroes.

6:30pm—8:00pm
L16, The Pod

Opening Night and Awards Ceremony for Hedwig Anuar Book Award (HABA) & Scholastic Picture Book Award (SPBA)

See page 19.



24 May (Friday) Sessions

9:00am—10:00am
L5, Possibility Rm

PRESENTATION **The Illustrator’s Playground: Drawing Place and Space in Picture Books**

See Country of Focus on page 13.

9:30am—10:30am
L5, Imagination Rm

PRESENTATION **Practicing Peace with Children through Community Peace Libraries**

Speaker: Raissa Avery Marfa | Moderator: Katie Day

Explore how children in the community embrace peace through our peace library, where young minds read, listen, and interact with curated stories that exemplify behaviours that foster cultures of peace and justice. Discover the gentle influence of our peace library, which encourages children to embody peace within their community.

10:00am—11:30am
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Translation Forum Keynote: Our World of Stories—Championing Translated Children’s Books**

See Translation Forum on page 37.

10:30am—12:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

WORKSHOP **Igniting the Spark: STEM through the Magic of Stories**

Speakers: Diana Elizabeth, Grace Victoria

Explore the synergy between literature and STEM education, uncovering how stories spark curiosity and a passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in young readers. Join discussions, receive book recommendations, and discover practical ways to incorporate STEM themes into your children’s reading experiences.

10:30am—11:30am
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PRESENTATION **Reclaiming our Narrative: Decolonising Content and Community**

See Country of Focus on page 13.

10:30am—11:30am
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL **Rooted in Affirmation: Talking About Physical Appearances in Picture Books**

Speakers: Ames Chen, Joseph Namara Hollis, Rachelyn Gordon | Moderator: Andeasand (Nurulhuda Izyan)

Building a child’s self-esteem doesn’t have to be a hair-raising experience! In this session, learn how infusing humour and warmth into narratives empowers children to embrace their uniqueness. Joseph Namara Hollis, Rachelyn Gordon and Ames Chen will share their insights about using picture books as catalysts for vital classroom discussions about self-affirmation, kindness and acceptance.

11:30am—1:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP **Green Pea Monster Poetry Workshop**

Speaker: Sara Patricia Kelly

Make friends with a talking strawberry, hug a sad robot, and eat ice cream with the moon.

Look forward to writing and performing a wacky narrative poem inspired by the poem ‘Green Pea Monster’ by Sara Patricia Kelly. This engaging two-part poetry workshop offers participants the chance to craft vibrant characters with creative prompts, pen a narrative poem and appreciate poetry as a performance.

12:00pm—1:00pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PRESENTATION **Smoke and Flowers: Using Artworks to Retell Martial Law in the Philippines**

Speaker: Aldy Aguirre | Moderator: Angela Erickson

This presentation delves into the artistry and meanings of works in a book on *Martial Law in the Philippines*. Discover the creative journey, inspirations, and events tied to the exhibit. This unique project blends art and facts, commemorating a crucial historical period and inspiring curiosity. Explore the book's layout tailored for a younger audience, shedding light on a dark chapter in Philippine history. Gain insights into historical storytelling through art and the importance of curiosity, fact-seeking, and questioning in learning.

12:00pm—1:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PANEL **Creating Curiosity in Picture Books**

Speakers: Evelyn Sue Wong, Katherine Wallace, Namita Moolani Mehra | Moderator: Pippa Chorley

Discover the secrets of crafting captivating picture books for children with four seasoned authors. Uncover the factors that keep kids returning to a story, turning pages with delight, and igniting curiosity about culture and community. Gain insights into character creation, engaging story arcs, and tapping into children's imaginations. Join this session for valuable tips and behind-the-scenes triumphs to enhance your craft and inspire curiosity in your writing.

1:30pm—2:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PRESENTATION **Bridging real and imagined worlds: Museum artefacts in children's books foster curiosity**

Speaker: Soumya Ayer | Moderator: Pippa Chorley

Explore how books featuring museum artefacts ignite children's curiosity. Learn how educators and parents can assist children in bridging the real and imagined worlds. Discover resources that, when used with a variety of books, enhance children's understanding of the world.

1:30pm—2:30pm
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION **Curious Girls, Personal Agency and the Search for Truth in Philippine Historical Fiction**

Speaker: Glenda C. Oris | Moderator: Charlene Shepherdson

In this presentation, the speaker explores female protagonists in historical fiction for young adults amid the Japanese occupation and the post-1986 People Power Revolution in the Philippines. Emphasising curiosity as a catalyst for personal agency reveals how curiosity propels the quest for truths, fostering gender and child empowerment and social engagement.

1:30pm—2:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PRESENTATION **Developing Curious Young Writers through Invented Spelling**

Speaker: Hannah Sim | Moderator: Low Ying Ping

Explore the concept of invented spelling, delve into research on early-year writing, and discover tips and tricks for you and your child to find the fun and joy in writing. Tailored for parents of children aged 4–7 years old.

24 May (Friday) Sessions

2:00pm—3:30pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP Mindfulness for Asian Youths Workshop – Discovering the Secrets of Polderstein 13

Speakers: Germaine Tan, Liew Shiang Hui

Delve into mindfulness principles in this workshop inspired by *Polderstein 13: the School of the Amazing Brain*. Unearth the transformative power of attention, mindful behaviours, gratitude, and breath counting. The workshop blends narrative storytelling with interactive practices, inviting participants to immerse in mindfulness exercises inspired by the comic's protagonists, Sha and Niel. Explore the profound insights within the pages, equipping yourself with tools for introspection and transformation.

2:00pm—3:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL Across Worlds: Translating Our Myths and Folktales

See Translation Forum on page 37.

3:00pm—4:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

WORKSHOP Inclusive Co-creation: Picture Books with Southeast Asian Art & Music

Speaker: Wenny Yosselina

Discover co-creation in children's book design, emphasizing inclusivity and Southeast Asian Art & Music infusion. Engage in hands-on storyboard creation, emphasising artists' previous work. Explore transforming printed concepts into interactive digital books, processes, challenges, and results in a collaborative session with artists with diverse abilities.

Participants are required to bring materials for sketching a storyboard.

3:00pm—4:00pm
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION Picture books: Unlocking Wonder and Invention

Speakers: Amelia Jaishree, Elaine Lee | Moderator: Kate Brundage

Picture books are tools to nurture curiosity and ignite young children's imagination. This session emphasises Southeast Asian and Asian children's literature, showcasing curated wordless and nonfiction picture books. Attendees can gain insights into how educators and parents, in classrooms and homes, can effectively use these books to engage young children.

3:00pm—4:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

LECTURE Intricacies of Illustrations: Storytelling meets Artistry

See Lectures on page 36.

4:00pm—5:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PRESENTATION Textiles, Cultures, Narratives: Representing the Philippine Culture through Storybooks

See Country of Focus on page 14.

4:30pm—5:30pm
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION The Varieties of Literary Expression in Children's Literature in Nusantara

Speaker: Muhammed Shahril Shaik Abdullah | Moderator: Adib Kosnan

Delve into the various forms of literary expression present in picture books from the Malay world and gain insights into how these expressions contribute to either the disenfranchisement of the child or the development of the child's agency.

4:30pm—6:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

WORKSHOP **Picture Perfect Prose: Understanding Writing and Illustration**

Speaker: Zeno Sworder

Picture books blend words and visuals to create meaning, where both mediums work harmoniously together to tell the story. In this workshop, participants will be guided on the process of understanding the art of writing for illustration. Led by award-winning writer and children's picture book maker Zeno Sworder, attendees will explore the intricate relationship between text and imagery, learning how to craft stories that inspire vivid, captivating illustrations.

5:00pm—6:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

WORKSHOP **“Play hide and seek with stories” – Dive deep into the world of wordless picture books**

Speaker: Pham Thi Hoai Anh

Discover the allure of wordless picture books and their impact on children's curiosity during reading. Explore picture books by renowned authors and participate in guided reading of a wordless picture book. Gain insights on creatively and respectfully reading wordless picture books with children, fostering curiosity, expressive language, and unique viewpoints in shared experiences.

5:30pm—6:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL **Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children's Books**

Speakers: Danielle Florendo, Fran Alvarez, Jaime Bauza, Liza Flores | Moderator: Daniel Lorenzo Mariano

See Country of Focus on page 14.



25 May (Saturday) Sessions

9:00am—10:15am
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL Once Upon a Green World – Saving the Environment Through a Child’s Eyes

Speakers: Janice Khoo, Lianne Ong, Pauline Loh, Sarah Ang

The world may seem like a massive place to a child, and topics like saving the environment may seem even bigger. What might saving the earth mean to a child? And what do fairy tales have to do with it? Join authors of the WS Education series, *Once Upon a Green World: Fairy Tales with an Environmental Twist*, in a panel discussion about how they used fractured fairy tales to save the environment.

9:00am—10:30am
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP The Visual Decoder for Stories

Speakers: Goh Ai Yat, Joyce Chua

The Visual Decoder for Stories programme enhances children’s story engagement through visual representation. Utilising the latest cognitive research and simple shapes, this method encourages children to draw pictures—charts, graphs, and icons—deepening comprehension and fostering creativity. The session shows parents and educators how to use this structured drawing approach to deepen children’s engagement with stories.

10:00am—11:30am
L16, The Pod

LECTURE Writing Watercress

See Lectures on page 36.

11:00am—12:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

PANEL Playing With Food: Creating Worlds of Flavour in KidLit

Speakers: Atiqah Halim, Jessica Leman, Johanes Park, Low Lai Chow |

Moderator: Alan John

Southeast Asian dishes are known for their incredible smells and spectacular flavours. But how can we create an even bigger feast for the senses through words and pictures? These writers discuss worldbuilding around food and how a little pinch of memory and a dash of nostalgia can take young readers on a tasty cultural adventure.

This programme is in partnership with Difference Engine.

11:30am—12:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL How The Publishing Industry is Grappling with A.I. Now

See Publishing Forum on page 38.

12:00pm—1:00pm
L16, The Pod

PRESENTATION Feel the Kilig: What Makes a Filipino Love Story Unique?

See Country of Focus on page 14.

1:00pm—2:30pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP Note by Note: A Curious Exploration into Children’s Songwriting

Speaker: Katherine Wallace

Curious about songwriting? Want to put your words to music or add a song to your school author visit? Join children’s author and musician Katherine Wallace in this interactive session and satiate your curiosity about the world of children’s songwriting. Participants will have a chance to workshop songs of their own and get feedback from the presenter.

1:00pm—2:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL 生态故事: 探索自然与人类的共生之道

Stories of Nature: Exploring how Humans can Co-exist with Nature

Speakers: 陈帅 (Chen Shuai), 朱婉歆 (Chu Wan Xin), 许增巧 (Hsu Tseng Chiao) |
Moderator: 徐海娜 (Xu Haina)

在这个充满挑战和机遇的时代,生态系统的保护和可持续发展已成为全球关注的焦点。我们身处的地球是一个复杂而又精妙的生态系统,人类与自然息息相关,相互依存。座谈会专题讨论将聚焦于“生态故事”,通过分享和探索各种生态系统中的故事,以期唤起人们对自然的关注,启发人们追求可持续的生活方式,并探讨人类与自然之间更加和谐共处的可能性。

In this era of challenges and opportunities, the protection and sustainable development of ecosystems are at the centre of the world's attention. We inhabit a complex and amazing ecosystem; humans and nature are closely related and interdependent. This talk is on stories of nature. Through sharing and exploring the stories in various ecosystems, we hope to draw attention to nature, inspire people to pursue sustainable lifestyles, and explore the possibility of a more harmonious co-existence between humans and nature.

2:30pm—3:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PRESENTATION Vibrant Afterlives: Reshaping Ancient Chinese Mythologies for Young Readers through Webcomics

Speaker: Yan Du | Moderator: 林增如 (Lim Cheng Tju)

This session highlights the significance of myths as source material for contemporary transmedia renditions of Chinese fantasy narratives, using webcomics as an example. By investigating new “afterlives” of old stories, attendees are invited to reflect on the role of webcomics in encouraging youths’ curiosity towards—and understanding of—the stories that shaped their past and present.

3:00pm—4:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

PITCHES Illustrators Portfolio Review

See page 54.

4:00pm—5:00pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PRESENTATION Indonesian Folktales Through the Eyes of Local and International Publishers

Speaker: Murti Bunanta | Moderator: Ho Lee-Ling (Stephanie)

Discover the fascinating world of Indonesian Folktales through a presentation that covers story shaping, research, and unique concepts. Gain insights into illustrators' works that align with publication designs, enhancing your understanding of artistic styles. Learn about the collaborative dynamics among writers, illustrators, and editors, emphasising the importance of effective teamwork.

4:00pm—5:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL English is Not the Only Fruit: Embracing Linguistic Diversity in Children's Literature

Speakers: Andrea Wang, Joel Donato Ching Jacob, Josephine Chia | Moderator: Hwee Goh

This panel session explores how languages and dialects other than English can enrich storytelling, provide authenticity and cultural depth. The conversation also includes the challenges and responsibilities authors and publishers face in accurately portraying local languages and dialects, and the editorial choices necessary for effective representation.

4:00pm—5:30pm
L16, The Pod

LECTURE 来自清水的孩子: 通过漫画揭示战后台湾

The Boy from Clearwater: Uncovering Post-war Taiwan Through Comics

See Lectures on page 36.

25 May (Saturday) Sessions

4:30pm—6:30pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP From Manuscript to Print: A Guide in Picture Book Editing

Speaker: Lawrence Schimel

Led by Lawrence Schimel, Senior Editor of NorthSouth Books, this workshop will provide editors and publishers with the opportunity to hone their editing skills, and gain tips on how to refine their picture book manuscripts to make them publication ready. From addressing plot holes and tightening prose to strengthening pacing and dialogue, attendees will gain hands-on experience in revising and polishing manuscripts to achieve clarity, coherence, and emotional impact.

5:30pm—6:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL Bookwatch: PGI3-Romances

Speakers: Anittha Thanabalan, Joyce Chua, Lauren Ho | Moderator: Lee Wen-yi

Stories of first crushes, and dare we say, heady romance have always been in demand with readers. So let's open our hearts and find out how romance stories can entertain while giving adolescent readers a powerful toolkit for navigating life. This session will delve into the burgeoning genre, offering an insightful exploration and introduction for educators, parents, and writers.

5:30pm—6:45pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL Trending Pages: How TikTok Transforms Book Recommendations and Sales

See *Publishing Forum* on page 38.

6:00pm—8:00pm
L1, Plaza

COF Philippines Night

See *Country of Focus* on page 15.



26 May (Sunday) Sessions

10:00am—1:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

MASTERCLASS **Beyond the Text: A Picture Book Translation Masterclass**

See Translation Forum on page 37.

10:30am—11:30am
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL **Pamana: The Storytelling Tradition in the Lives of Filipino Children in the Diaspora**

See Country of Focus on page 15.

11:00am—12:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PRESENTATION **Acah-acah, dah lancar!**

Speaker: Amanah Mustafi | Moderator: Mohd Fuad Bin Salim

Kata-kata Berima memiliki kuasa untuk menjadikan pengalaman membaca memancing dan menyeronokkan. Bagi anak-anak kecil yang belum pandai membaca, mendengar Kata Berima diucapkan, seolah-olah mereka mendengar alunan muzik yang mengasyikkan. Pada dasarnya, kemampuan Kata Berima boleh menjangkau lebih dari itu. Yang amat menakjubkan, Kata Berima dapat memberi kesan yang besar pada kecergasan minda, daya tumpuan, kemahiran bahasa dan memori si anak.

Sertai Amanah Mustafi dalam pembentangan yang akan meneroka sinergi antara kata-kata berima dengan rasa ingin tahu kanak-kanak.

Rhymes possess the remarkable ability to infuse reading with a sense of whimsy and delight. For young children still honing their reading skills, engaging with rhymes is akin to listening to captivating music. Yet, the influence of rhyme extends far beyond mere enjoyment. Remarkably, rhymes can profoundly impact a child's cognitive development, enhancing mental fitness, concentration, language proficiency, and memory retention.

Join Amanah Mustafi as she explores the synergy between rhymes and the inherent curiosity of young minds, providing valuable insights for educators, parents, and storytellers alike.

12:00pm—1:00pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PITCHES **Writer's Pitch**

See page 53.

12:30pm—1:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

PANEL **Bringing Books and Children Together: The International Board of Books on Young People in the Asia-Pacific: An IBBY Panel**

See Country of Focus on page 16.

1:00pm—2:00pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

PANEL **To Agent or not to Agent?**

See Publishing Forum on page 38.



26 May (Sunday) Sessions

1:30pm—2:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

WORKSHOP 从烟囱说起——新加坡绘本创作中的文本在地化历程 **Let's Start with the Chimney: The Journey of Creating Singapore's Localised Picture Books**

Speaker: 郑婉妮 (Cheng Wan-Ni)

本演讲将从圣诞老人到新加坡送礼物找不到烟囱说起，到人字拖与美露的关联，红头巾与圣诞帽的交换，以至呈现帕输文化，野餐文化种种刻画新加坡经验的创作绘本，分享作家如何透过城市文化的田野观察，提取在地元素，同时用新奇的书本装帧，及儿童发展概念的文本，创造出属于新加坡人文温度的绘本过程。

Dive into a delightful workshop exploring Santa's gift-delivery challenges in chimney-less Singapore. Uncover connections like flip-flops and "Milo," the switch from a red headscarf to a Santa hat, and the portrayal of Singapore's kiasu culture in picture books. Gain insights into how the author captures Singaporean culture for enriching classroom experiences. Participants can look forward to an insightful journey into storytelling and cultural connections.

1:30pm—2:30pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL 出版跨文化童书绘本：挑战与愿景 **Publishing Cross-Cultural Picture Books: Challenges and Perspectives**

Speakers: 叶俊良 (Chun-Liang Yeh), 林得楠 (Denon Lim Denan) | Moderator: 戴芸 (Dai Yun)

近二十年来世界有了不同的面貌：全球化的洗礼、新一代年轻父母价值观的演变与对未来世界的想像，让童书绘本的文化层面得到更多的关注。为迎合部分读者的猎奇心态而泛滥地置入文化符号、或者为了国际化而刻意剔除在地特色，这两种做法过犹不及。这座谈会将讨论儿童出版社，作者们在创造的过程，能致力让好故事与读者的经验和好奇心产生连结，为他们打开一扇面向世界的窗。

Global changes in the last two decades mean that the effects of globalisation, and changes in the values and envisioning of the world by a new-generation of parents have drawn more attention to the cultural aspects of children picture books. The two approaches of injecting cultural symbols superficially to cater to the hunger for novelty of some readers, and deliberately eliminating local characteristics for internationalisation are both overkills. This talk will discuss children's publishing, and the creative process by which authors strive to connect good stories with readers' experience and curiosity to open a window to the world for them.

1:30pm—3:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP CURIUSER & CURIUSER: **A Workshop in Visual Storytelling**

Speakers: Colin Goh, David Liew

Go down the rabbit hole with Colin Goh and David Liew on a visual storytelling journey in the world of *Alice in Wonderland*. Explore how artists tell stories by building on seemingly random prompts while trying to cobble together a coherent narrative. Adding to the madness, all this has to be told in just 4 panels. Part learning experience, part game show – all wacky fun.

2:00pm—3:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 2

WORKSHOP Menyemarakkan cinta untuk membaca melalui bercerita!

Stories come Alive! Instilling the love for reading in your child through story telling and reading techniques

Speakers: Noretta Jacob, Nori Ismail Bocquillion

Bengkel yang bertajuk "Menyemarakkan cinta untuk membaca melalui bercerita!" khas untuk ibu bapa dan guru yang ingin memupuk minat membaca dikalangan kanak-kanak melalui seni bercerita dan strategi membaca yang berkesan.

Dedicated to parents and teachers, this dynamic workshop fosters a love for reading in children. Learn the art of storytelling and effective reading strategies to engage young minds, cultivating a lifelong passion for books.

2:30pm—4:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

WORKSHOP **Going with the flow:
A Hands-on Look at the Picture Book Making Process**

Speaker: Joseph Namara Hollis

Be curious, wrestle with the unknown and embark on an interactive exploration of the story-making process. Led by 2022 Klaus Flugge Prize winner Joseph Namara Hollis, get an insider's look into the creative process, combining practical exercises, character development, and visual storytelling techniques to inspire you in creating your next work.

3:00pm—4:00pm
L16, The Pod

PANEL **Beyond Exams:
Raising a curious, thinking child through books**

Speakers: Emily Lim-Leh, Sim Ee Waun, Srividhya Mohan | Moderator: Joyceline See Tully

Many parents foster a love of reading in their kids with school in mind. This discussion, featuring authors and teachers, explores how books and stories can turn kids into curious learners who enjoy discovery for their own sake. Learn creative ways for parents to move beyond exam-centric views, using books, reading aloud, and imaginative conversations to nurture curiosity and instil the joy of learning in their children.

3:00pm—4:30pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL **On The World Stage: Promoting Southeast Asian and Asian Stories**

See *Publishing Forum* on page 38.

3:30pm—5:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP **通过绘本探索大自然
Exploring Nature through Picture Books**

Speaker: 许增巧 (Hsu Tseng Chiao)

这工作坊将引领参与者通过绘本，深入探索自然与环境。参与者将会了解如何利用为环境主题的图画书培养儿童们对阅读的喜悦，以及激发他们对自然界的探索兴趣以及增加环保意识。

In this workshop, participants will be guided on an in-depth exploration of nature and the environment through picture books. They will learn how to use picture books with environmental themes to cultivate children's love for reading, stimulate their interest in exploring the natural world, and increase their awareness of environmental conservation.

5:00pm—6:30pm
L16, The Pod

CONVERSATION **Creating Stories from the Heart:
A Conversation with Satomi Ichikawa**

Speaker: Satomi Ichikawa | Moderator: Zed Yeo

Spanning a career of over 50 years, celebrated Japanese-French writer and illustrator Satomi Ichikawa has enthralled readers across generations and cultures with her stories that contain profound emotional depth. In this session, hear from the renowned author as she shares concepts of her work, and the development of her own storytelling style in the process.

This session will be in French and English.

5:00pm—6:00pm
L5, Possibility Rm

PANEL **Fish Out of Water: Dealing with Difficult Topics in
Filipino Children's Literature**

See *Country of Focus* on page 16.

26 May (Sunday) Sessions

5:00pm—6:30pm
CTPL Prog Rm 1

WORKSHOP 通过漫画小说叙述历史故事

Using Graphic Novels to Tell Historical Stories

Speaker: 周见信 (Zhou Jian Xin)

本工作坊将示范历史故事转化为漫画形式的历程, 引导参与者以历史故事为文本, 进行短篇文本的大纲建构, 再进行角色设计。

(参与者请自备一则历史故事、纸与笔。)

In this workshop, participants will be guided through the process of depicting historical stories in comic form. Participants will use historical stories as the basis to come up with outlines of short-form texts before moving on to character design.

(Please prepare your own historical story, paper, and drawing materials)



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!

26 May 2024 (Sunday)
12:00pm—1:00pm
L5 Possibility Room



Mindy Pang (Marshall Cavendish)

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.

Looking for: All children's book genres.



Priti Sharma (Epigram Books)

Priti Sharma Devata is the Managing Editor at Epigram Books. She also edits fiction and non-fiction picture books, early readers and middle-grade novels. She has more than 21 years of experience teaching and developing language and literary courses at the tertiary level. Her areas of focus have been children's literature and postcolonial literature.

Looking for: Picture books, early reader and middle grade graphic novels (preferably with author-illustrators), and middle grade novels with stories and topics that reflect and explore the Southeast Asian and/or Singaporean experience.



Ruth Wan (World Scientific)

Having worked in public communications and publishing, as a writer and editor, for 25 years, Ruth is currently the Publisher at World Scientific Education, where she acquires children's books on Asian and STEM themes and manages a team of editors, designers and illustrators.

Ruth is also the author of the bestselling *Timmy and Tammy* preschool series, which has sold over 300,000 copies worldwide. The series has had the honour of being given to all Singaporean babies born in 2015, the year Singapore celebrated 50 years of independence. Ruth's *Timmy and Tammy* books were also presented to Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana by the President of Singapore to commemorate the royal birth.

Ruth is passionate about encouraging children to love reading and to love Singapore.

Looking for: Books on the environment, Science, STEM, social-emotional and mental wellness, and books on Asian themes.



Shreya Davies (Difference Engine)

Shreya is the Editor at Difference Engine and has edited comics, literary fiction, and non-fiction publications. Her short stories have appeared in *The Epigram Books Collection of Best New Singaporean Short Stories (Vol 4)* and *Mahogany Journal*. She never leaves home without a book

in tow.

Looking for: Middle Grade and Young Adult content, fiction and non-fiction, and stories from and about Southeast Asia.



Sim Ee Waun (Pepper Dog Press)

Sim Ee Waun, renowned author of "*The Little Singapore Book*" and "*We Shall Remember: The Story of Singapore at War*," is dedicated to bringing Singapore's history alive for children. With nearly 30 years as a food writer and editor, she now focuses on historical creative non-fiction, co-founding Pepper Dog Press. Ee Waun also teaches part-time at the National University of Singapore and is a Former Ford Factory Museum docent, fervently sharing her passion for Singapore's past.

Looking for: Open to all good pitches!



Joyceline See Tully (Pepper Dog Press)

Joyceline See Tully is a Singaporean children's book author with a penchant for local wildlife. Singapore lore and glorious food. She has written several children's books including *Tiger Tales*, *Road Safety with Kay and Bear Bear*, *Attack at the Mall* and *The Runaway Car*, and co-authored *The Little Singapore Book*. After working in publishing for more than 25 years as a journalist and magazine editor, she now teaches part-time at a local university and is working on her next children's book.

Looking for: Open to all good pitches!

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.

25 May 2024 (Saturday)
3:00pm—4:00pm
L5 Imagination Room



Beth Parrocha (Philippines)

Beth Parrocha-Doctolero is an award-winning children's book illustrator and a founding member of Ang INK (Ilustrador ng Kabataan), the Philippines' first and only organisation of illustrators dedicated to children's illustration. Among her accolades include winning the International Indie

Children's Book Cover Award (US), the Asian Children's Book Award (Singapore), the Samsung Kid's Time Awards (Singapore) and the National Children's Book Award (Philippines).



Chen Ziyue (Singapore)

Ziyue, also known as Angeline Chen, is a Singapore based Illustrator and graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design in the U.S. She has illustrated several picture books for US publishers and her latest book is *Butterfly on the Wind* by Adam Pottle, published by Roaring Brook Press,

NYC. Dabbling in art was her form of escape from the struggles and confusion of growing up deaf. This led her to discover the beauty of how the art communicates with the viewer. Her life goal has been to have an emotional connection with those who view her work. www.ziyuechen.com



Claire Low (Singapore)

Claire is the Design Lead at local comics publisher Difference Engine SG and a freelance illustrator. Known for her fantasy-inspired works under the Instagram handle @comatomato, Claire Low is a creative with an interest in telling stories. Her works range from illustrations and comics to

graphic design and scriptwriting.



J.H. Low (Singapore)

J.H. Low has a degree in fine art, a MA in Children's Illustration, and a PhD (in The Expressive Potential of the Picturebook Form). J.H. is the winner of the 2022 Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award and his picturebook *Lemonade Sky* is featured in the White Ravens catalogue 2021.

His latest published books include *The Visitor*, a graphic novel that explores existential issues about human relationships, and a children's picturebook *Orang & Hutan* which brings to light the importance of nature conservation through the eyes of an orangutan.



Joseph Namara Hollis (UK)

Joseph Namara Hollis is a multi-award winning author-illustrator from the United Kingdom. Named "most exciting newcomer to children's picture book illustration" in 2022, with his debut title *Pierre's New Hair* winning the Klaus Flugge Prize. In 2018, on graduation from the interna-

tionally renowned MA at Cambridge School of Art, Joseph won the V&A Student Illustrator of the Year Award. The judges praised him for "bringing charm and sophistication in equal measure". Since then he has worked with Tate Publishing, Laurence King, and Andersen Press. He also lectures at Nottingham Trent University, where he shares his passion for illustration and picture books.

Joyceline See Tully (Singapore)

See previous page.



Kim Minhae (Korea/Singapore)

Min is a Manager at Yeon Agency. She earned her BFA in Graphic Design from Parsons and worked as a UX designer at Samsung HQ in Seoul, Korea for 10 years. After relocating to Singapore four years ago, she became an artist agent. Her experience gives her a unique understanding of both

corporate and freelance environments. Min has been surrounded by art and design for over half of her life. She loves exploring the beauty of being in the creative world.

Sim Ee Waun (Singapore)

See previous page.

AFCC 2024
Public Programmes

Public Programmes

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

23 May (Thursday)

1:00pm—2:00pm
Country Booth

PRESENTATION **Saktong Pamilya? A Whimsical Look at the Filipino Child's Family Dynamics**

See *Country of Focus* on page 12.

2:30pm—4:00pm
Country Booth

WORKSHOP **Let's Paint a World Together!**

See *Country of Focus* on page 13.

3:30pm—4:30pm
L1, Plaza

STORYTELLING **MADE IN/VISIBLE**

Speakers: Grace Ng, Jill Lim, Shalom Lim, Sherry Toh, Tan Beng Tian

In a world prioritizing diversity and inclusion, children's literature serves as a mirror reflecting the rich tapestry of human experiences. Presented by ART:DIS (Arts & Disability) Singapore, a NPO that advocates disability inclusion, MADE IN/VISIBLE is dedicated to celebrating curiosity and promoting inclusivity, particularly empowering persons with muscular dystrophy to tell their own stories through the presentation and sharing of their inclusive collaborative works, *Loud Little Mermaids* and *Callum's Courage*.

Presented through a creative performative storytelling by d/Deaf artist, Grace Ng and narrator, Tan Beng Tian, the programme aims to provide representation and visibility for children with disabilities. Through engaging conversations centered around the written books, *Loud Little Mermaids* and *Callum's Courage*, we delve into the challenges faced by individuals with muscular dystrophy, from physical limitations to feelings of isolation and discrimination – fostering greater understanding and empathy.

Join us for an enlightening exploration and conversation with the authors behind *Loud Little Mermaids* and *Callum's Courage* as we uncover the rich narratives and powerful messages embedded within them, celebrating the diversity of human experiences and the strength of inclusive storytelling.

24 May (Friday)

12:00pm—1:00pm
Country Booth

STORYTELLING **The Legend of Uta Cave: A Storytelling with Aklat Alamid**

See *Country of Focus* on page 14.

4:00pm—6:00pm
L5, Imagination Rm

WORKSHOP **NEW LIFE - an intergenerational theatre workshop**

Speaker: Jeffrey Tan

Inspired by *Mr. Roll Finds A New Life*, a picture book by Sophia Huang and illustrated by Evelyn Ghozalli, this Intergenerational theatre brings people of different generations together. Bonding through theatre, the youth and senior participants will explore the themes of redefining life purpose and utilizing creativity to create interactive games with found materials!

Access to this programme is by-invitation only.

25 May (Saturday)

9:30am—11:00am
L1, Plaza

Copyright School Challenge: Creative Writing & Video Competition Award Presentation

Join us at AFCC 2024 for the award ceremony of the 2023/2024 Copyright School Challenge! We will be celebrating the creativity and innovation of our shortlists, and recognise their talents and achievements as we award the prizes for the Creative Writing Competition and Video Competition.

The Copyright School Challenge is presented by CLASS and co-organised with Singapore Book Council and ilovereading.sg

10:00am—11:00am
Country Booth

Walk the Philippines! An Interactive Storytelling Tour for Families

See *Country of Focus* on page 14.

10:30am—11:30am
CTPL Submarine Room

STORYTELLING Storytime with Satomi Ichikawa

Speaker: Satomi Ichikawa

Hear from Satomi Ichikawa in this fun, interactive session as she reads from her forthcoming book, *Touche pas me Kakis (Do Not Touch My Kaki!)*. Participants will also have a chance to draw together with Satomi!

This session will be in Japanese, with English interpretation.

11:30am—12:30pm
CTPL Submarine Room

STORYTELLING The Emperor's Gazillion New Toys

Speakers: Janice Khoo, Lianne Ong

Get yourself a new toy and reduce waste at the same time! Join authors Lianne Ong and Janice Khoo for a storytelling session where they will read their latest book *The Emperor's Gazillion New Toys*. Then get busy and make your very own toy using recycled material and lots of imagination!

Stay till the end of the session to receive a surprise gift.

This a parent-child activity. Each child needs to be accompanied by an adult.

This programme is supported by the SG Eco Fund.

1:00pm—2:00pm
L1, Plaza

STORYTELLING Open Mic for Young Content Creators

Let curiosity spark your creativity at our Open Mic for kids aged 6-12! Dive into a world of wonder as you share your original poetry, stories, and more. Dress up as your favourite book character and unleash your inner creative self on stage as you captivate the audience with your tales of curiosity and discovery.

Join us for a literary exploration and let your curiosity lead the way!

1:30pm—2:30pm
CTPL Submarine Room

STORYTELLING The Little Mermaid Saves Our Seas

Speaker: Pauline Loh

Join in for this storytelling of a brand-new book called *Once Upon a Green World- The Little Mermaid Saves Our Seas*. After the story, help the storyteller to save our seas by identifying evil invaders and put them back where they belong!

Stay till the end of the session to receive a surprise gift.

This programme is supported by the SG Eco Fund.

Public Programmes

1:30pm—3:00pm
Country Booth

WORKSHOP Mom's Best Playdough Activities: Wild Animals

See *Country of Focus* on page 15.

2:00pm—3:00pm
L5, Possibility Room

WORKSHOP ஸ்டாப் மோஷன் அனிமேஷன் மூலம் கதை சொல்லுதல்

Storytelling with Stop-motion Animation

Speaker: Jegannath Ramanujam

கதை சொல்லுதலை ஸ்டாப் மோஷன் அனிமேஷன்வாயிலாக மேம்படுத்த இந்த சுவாரஸ்யமான பட்டறைக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கும்.

அதற்கேற்ற முப்பரிமாண கருவிகள், உயிரோவிய தொழில்நுட்பம் ஆகியவற்றைக் கொண்டு படைப்புகளை உருவாக்க பார்வையாளர்கள் நேரடியாக கற்றுக்கொள்வர்.

அதோடு அவர்களும் கருவிகளையும் தொழில்நுட்பத்தையும் பயன்படுத்தலாம்.

காலத்துக்கேற்ற இந்த பட்டறை பிள்ளைகள் தங்கள் ஆர்வதை அதிகரிக்கவும் கற்பனை ஆற்றல், திட்டமிடல் ஆகியவற்றை மேம்படுத்தவும் உதவும்.

Join in for this interactive demonstration on how storytelling can be enhanced through stop-motion animation. Experience a live set-up with cameras, rigs, and motion-capture technology. Participants can try their hand at clicking pictures using stop-motion techniques and learn more about the digital process of creating animation videos. This session will get children to exercise their creative thinking, problem-solving, planning and organisational skills.

3:30pm—4:30pm
Country Booth

CONVERSATION Chloe and the Kaishao Boys

See *Country of Focus* on page 15.

3:30pm—4:30pm
CTPL Submarine Room

STORYTELLING தலைப்பு: உமா ராமகிருஷ்ணனுடன் கதை நேரம் : சிந்தனையிலிருந்து கதைகளாக

Storytime with Uma Ramakrishnan: From Ideas into Stories

Speaker: உமையாளம்பிகை இராமகிருஷ்ணன் (Umayalambigai d/o Ramakrishnan)

இந்த அமர்வில், எழுத்தாளர் உமா ராமகிருஷ்ணன் தனது அண்மைய வெளியீட்டான "காணாமல் போன கிழங்குப் பாட்டி" என்னும் நூலிலிருந்து கதையைப் படித்து, காய்கறிகள் பற்றிய இந்த வேடிக்கையான கதையை உருவாக்கத் தூண்டிய அனுபவத்தைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வார்! பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் தங்கள் கதைகளை உருவாக்கி அதை ஒருவருக்கொருவர் பகிர்ந்துகொள்ளும் வாய்ப்பைப் பெறுவார்கள்.

In this session, author Uma Ramakrishnan will read from her new book, *Grandma Potato is Missing*, and share what inspired her to create this fun-filled story of vegetables on the hunt! Participants will also get a chance to try their hand at creating their own stories and share it with each other.

4:30pm—6:00pm
Country Booth

WORKSHOP Draw with Beth

See *Country of Focus* on page 15.

26 May (Sunday)

9:00am—10:00am
Country Booth

PANEL Outside the Box: Navigating Textbook Creation in K-12 Philippines

See *Country of Focus* on page 15.

10:30am—11:30am
L1, Plaza

STORYTELLING 4 a.m. Raspberry Party with Teddy

Speaker: Sara Patricia Kelly

Bring your favourite teddy bear and join us for a fun-tastic 4 a.m. Raspberry Party!

Sara Patricia Kelly will read selected poems from her book, *4 a.m. Raspberry Party: Childhood Poems*. Together, we will sing, dance, and experience the magic of poetry. The event will include a teddy bear parade, raspberry treats, and a discussion about poetry for curious young minds.

This event is for children 2 to 6 years old and their caregivers. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the book at the end.

12:00pm—1:00pm
L1, Plaza

STORYTELLING Dari Mana Datangya Buku? Persembahan Live oleh Kak Fifi dan Mimi!

Where Do Books Come From? A Kak Fifi and Mimi Live Show!

Speaker: Rafidah Jalil

Ikuti Kak Fifi dan Mimi dalam pengembaraan STEM yang menakjubkan tentang buku!

Rentas masa bersama Kak Fifi dan Mimi untuk merungkai sejarah pembuatan buku, bermula dari palet tanah liat purba dan skrol papyrus hingga keajaiban teknologi percetakan moden. Terokai aktiviti yang dapat dilakukan dengan buku serta cuba untuk mencipta peluncur kertas dan mengujinya!

Menampilkan gabungan lagu, tarian, dan kandungan pendidikan yang menarik, persembahan dwibahasa ini pasti dapat menawan hati kanak-kanak berumur 4 hingga 8 tahun.

Sertai Kak Fifi dan Mimi untuk pengembaraan STEM yang tiadaandingannya!

Kak Fifi and Mimi come to live in a spectacular STEM adventure about books!

Travel through time as Kak Fifi and Mimi unravel the history of bookmaking, from ancient clay palettes and papyrus scrolls to the marvels of modern printing technology. Explore the activities we can do with books, and try some hands-on experiments in creating your very own paper gliders and putting them to the test!

Featuring a delightful blend of songs, dances and educational content, this bilingual show in English and Malay promises to captivate 4 to 8 year olds.

Join Kak Fifi and Mimi for a STEM adventure like no other!

Public Programmes

1:00pm—2:00pm

CTPL Submarine Room

WORKSHOP Birth Story Workshop

Speakers: Josef Lee, Woo Yen Yen

Join us for an extraordinary workshop where parents craft an short comic book (children can join in too), capturing the enchanting journey of your child's birth story. "Birth Story" is a hands-on event designed to ignite creativity and cultivate a deeper connection between parents and their children.

The idea for the workshop emerged out of Dr Woo Yen Yen's experience drawing and telling the story of her daughter's birth when her daughter was a young child. Dr. Woo's daughter would eagerly flip through the pages, requesting to hear the story over and over again, creating a very special time between parent and child.

Dr Woo Yen Yen, along with the expertise of beloved children's storybook creator Josef Lee, will guide you through this creative process. In just one hour, you'll craft a personalized storybook that will be a cherished keepsake for a lifetime, creating lasting memories for you and your children. Don't miss this opportunity to embark on a creative journey that celebrates the unique magic of your children's birth story.

Very limited slots available, please pre-register for the session to confirm your seats!

2:00pm—3:00pm

Country Booth

STORYTELLING The Pencil Who Could Not Write

See *Country of Focus* on page 16.

3:30pm—4:45pm

Country Booth

WORKSHOP Locust Wings Take Flight: A Session on Character Creation

See *Country of Focus* on page 13.

4:00pm—6:30pm

CTPL Prog Rm 2

WORKSHOP AFCC Translation Hackathon

See *Translation Forum* on page 37.



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 2024 to participate and win prizes!

26TH FEB - 31ST MAR 2024

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

Illustration workshop by Uma
7 Mar, 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 2024. The prizes for the winners will be given out on AFCC Opening Night on 23 May 2024.

Prize Presentation

23 May 2024 (Thursday)
6:30pm—8:00pm
L16, The Pod
By invitation only

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

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

Judges for Poetry Writing:



Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips

Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips is a writer, performer and 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. She can be found at linktr.ee/thepoeticscientist

*Photo by Joel Lim @ Calibre Pictures.
Courtesy of Checkpoint Theatre*



Crispin Rodrigues

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



Jennifer Anne Champion

Jennifer Anne Champion is best known as a poet, educator and archivist. She has published two collections of poetry and has been featured in numerous anthologies in Singapore and abroad. She is co-founder of poetry.sg and served as its multimedia editor. She was a digital writer-in-residence with the National Centre for Writing (UK) for her work in poetry and textiles. Her poetry and textile works have also been on display with Art Outreach Singapore and NUS EMCC.

Photo by Boban James

Prize Presentation

25 May 2024 (Saturday)
9:30am—11:00am
L1, The Plaza
Free Admission



Wimmelbooks Exhibitions



Alle sammen teller, Magikon 2018
© Kristin Roskifte / Magikon



© Judith Drews 2013

The Whole World on One Page: International Wimmelbooks

There's a lot going on in wimmelbooks: Children are romping around, sledding and skiing; people are having fun in marketplaces or on the beach; cars and trains are rushing over bridges and through tunnels. Without (many) words, wimmelbooks show the fullness of life, some celebrate abundance and chaos with relish, others try to impart a structure to the "more is more" lifestyle.

This exhibition shows a selection of wimmelbooks and pictures from countries such as Japan, Poland, Belgium or Norway from the last 20 years. The picture panels are arranged in four sections: The section **City and Beyond** invites readers to explore urban spaces. The section **Fish and Ship** focuses on bustling scenes that take place in and around water. The section **Pleasure** is about fickle occasions such as festivals, sociable meals and amusement park visits, while in the section **World Views**, one can find images with references to real places around the world.

In addition, the illustration exhibition is also accompanied by a selection of wimmelbooks for visitors to pick up and read.

An exhibition curated by the Internationale Jugendbibliothek (International Youth Library, Munich).

Exhibitions

23–26 May 2024
10:00am–6:30pm
L1, The Plaza
Free Admission

Guided Tours

24 & 26 May 2024
11:25–11:45am
L1, The Plaza
Registration required





© David Liew: Eye Spy Singapore, published by Marshall Cavendish

The Whole World on One Page: Asian Wimmelbooks

This section is a special exhibition co-curated by the Singapore Book Council, Josef Lee, Lin Shicong, and the International Youth Library, Munich, that accompanies the original collection of *The Whole World on One Page: International Wimmelbooks*. We aim to introduce more wimmelbooks created by Asian artists, reflecting life in Asia, to readers.

Seventeen books from Singapore, Malaysia, India, China, Korea and Japan were carefully selected, each offering a unique glimpse into Asian perspectives and cultures. Four books in this section are in accordion format: **A Village is A Busy Place**, **동물원 (Zoo)**, **菜市场 (Wet Market)**, and **夜市 (Night Market)**. Unfurling into elongated sheets, these books unfold a panorama of lively scenes – intricate details emerge, providing a captivating gateway to the vibrant tapestry of Asian life and customs.

Curators:



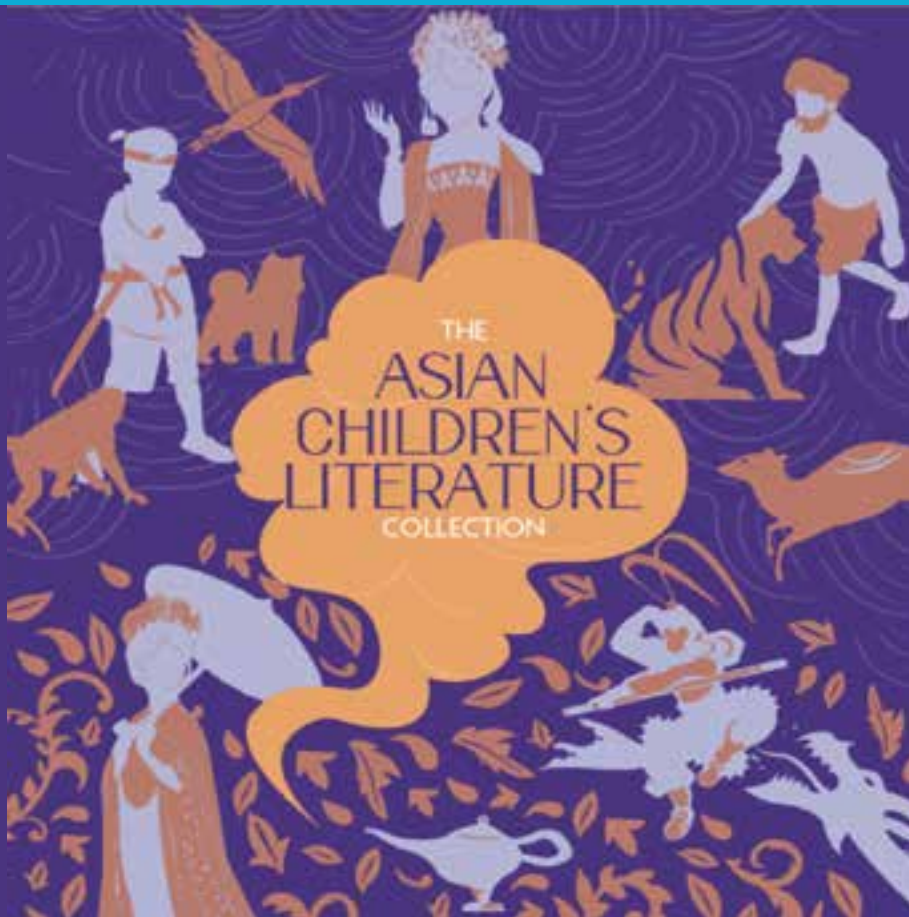
Josef Lee

Josef Lee tells stories through pictures. As a picture-book author & artist, his illustrated short stories have been shared online since 2008. In 2017, Josef successfully published his first picture-book via crowdfunding. Since then, he has published over ten picture-books and one novel adaptation in Singapore, China, Taiwan, Korea and Thailand. Josef also launched the 'House of Mini Picture Books' (www.mini-picbooks.com) in 2021 - an online FREE resource of original picture stories by local authors, to be downloaded / printed / DIY-ed into mini picture books. Follow him on IG @joseflee.stories



Lin Shicong

Lin Shicong is a researcher, curator, and promoter of children's picturebooks. She is interested in book design and narrative art in interactive picturebooks. Her mini story *Guru-Guru* is available on the website of House of Mini Picture Books. Shicong is a member of the International Research Society of Children's Literature and has been granted a research fellowship in the International Youth Library, Munich, for 2022–2023. Currently, she is a PhD candidate in the School of Humanities at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



Asian Children's Literature Collection: Timeless Tales

Explore captivating details seen through the panoramic lens of Asian-based wimmelbooks and enjoy close-up views of wondrous stories in Asian folktales at this curated book display.

This exhibition was curated as a companion exhibition to *The Whole World on One Page: International and Asian Wimmelbooks*.

Opens

23 May 2024
10:00am—9:00pm
L9, Lee Kong Chian
Reference Library
Free Admission

Interactive Drawing Station

L1, The Plaza

Join in to create our very own AFCC wimmelbook at our collaborative drawing station, leaving your mark alongside fellow visitors with unique AFCC tales!

My Day at AFCC

L1, The Plaza

Don't miss the opportunity to discover the works of international and local illustrators on this live artist signing board!



Learn more about
the exhibitions at
bit.ly/wimmelbooks

Story Worlds

Welcome to the amazing world of dimensional storytelling, where words and illustrated stories emerge into the 3rd dimension to create exciting Story Worlds!

Students from the Putnam School of Film & Animation at LASALLE College of the Arts were challenged to create miniature dioramas inspired by prompts and synopses of children's books. These tiny worlds were created based on short extracts from the 2024 Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award shortlist or extracts from the AFCC GIF-Book Cover Competition. The students were encouraged to choose books they weren't familiar with to avoid being influenced by their respective illustrators' work. Their brief? Create a vignette into the world of these stories, a frozen frame in time where the characters had just stepped out for a brief moment. Some models are "crossovers", blending elements from two different stories.

The Build Team

These Story Worlds were crafted to capture a visual narrative by the talented students from LASALLE's Diploma and Degree Animation programmes. The project was mentored by children's book illustrator David Liew, who encouraged the students to explore into their creativity and imagination.

Ngooi Jia Jing
Tia Pekerti
Jill Tjandra
"Ren" Duangkamol Kwek
Ruth Tang
Austin Nah
Gabriella Ang
Wong Shi Ru
Raeka Villaruel
Kimberly Chia

Exhibition

23—26 May 2024
10:00am—6:30pm
L1, The Plaza
Free Admission



Story Crafters: A Quest of Our Own

Immerse in storytelling magic in our interactive pods! Create a unique tale with your child through the characters and plotlines from favourites like *Cakap Mila! Cakap!*, *Saving Mani Island* and *Akiva*. Learn story writing basics, craft a personalised soundtrack and bring home a copy of your unique tale in Story Crafters.

Story Crafters: A Quest of Our Own is a self-guided build-your-own-story experience, facilitated by prompts for story writing.

A project by:

Adib Kosnan (Writer/Facilitator)

Adib Kosnan is a theatre actor, director and playwright who is passionate about creating platforms for communication through theatre. He was named Best Supporting Actor at the Life Theatre Awards 2020 for his role in *Angkat*. His directing credits include *Tanah*Air* by Drama Box (co-director with Kok Heng Leun, October 2019) and *Rindu Di Bulan* (January 2022) produced by RupaCo.lab. Currently, Adib is an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre.

Pixie Tan (Spatial Designer)

Pixie Tan is an Art Director and Educator from Singapore. Currently a Designer in Residence at LASALLE College of the Arts, her practice takes a collaborative approach to questioning the conditions of labour. She is the co-founder of Stranger(s) Touch, and a founding volunteer of Don't Mind If, an award-winning ground-up initiative designed with the hopes of uplifting, celebrating and advancing the local communications design industry, community and profession.

Terence Lau (Game Designer)

Terence Lau is a technical theatre professional and educator with over two decades of active engagement in Singapore's theatre and dance scene. With a strong passion for both the arts and education, Terence has worked with several renowned arts companies, including T.H.E. Dance Company, The Necessary Stage, Wild Rice, Pandemonium, Dream Academy, TENG Ensemble, Sing'Theatre and SLO. He is currently a lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts.

Chua Chia Hui (Music Designer)

Chua Chia Hui has versatile professional experience across different roles in the educational sector, including managing school operations, providing customer service and being a music educator – teaching guitar as well as music and movement classes. An avid musician, she is passionate about music education and music-making. She is interested in exploring ways of teaching music and making music accessible.

Exhibition

23–26 May 2024

10:00am–6:30pm

L1, The Plaza

Free Admission

Book Illustrators Gallery

The Book Illustrators Gallery (BIG) is a key feature of the Asian Festival of Children's Content. It showcases the best picture book illustrations by illustrators and artists from Southeast Asia, those based in Asia and in the global Asian diaspora.

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 250 illustrations from **AFCC Country of Focus**.

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



Exhibition

23—26 May 2024, 10:00am—6:30pm
L1, The Plaza
Free Admission



View the full gallery of works
afcc.com.sg/big



Once upon the Sun and Sea: Indigenous Stories and Folk Tales from the Philippines by Christina Javiera (Philippines).



The Zulfa by Amir Alaei (Islamic Republic of Iran).



Pahiyas: Planting Rainbow Seeds by Pepot Atienza (Philippines).



Be Yourself by Tong Yan Lok Isabel (Hong Kong).



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.



Chang Young-Eun

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 specialised in comparative study about German and Korean children's Books. Her interests include reading and teaching children's literature.



Reina Nakano

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



Roya Maktabi

Leila (Roya) Maktabi Fard has been working as faculty member and researcher in Children's literature studies in Iran. She has a PH.D in Library and Information Science with a focus on Children's Libraries and still works as a freelance researcher, translator and editor of children's books. She is now a children's librarian in Munich City Library and Persian language specialist at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany.



India – Pratham Books/ Storyweaver

Pratham Books was set up as a not-for-profit children's book publisher in 2004 with the mission to see 'a book in every child's hand'. The key objective was to publish good quality, affordable storybooks in multiple Indian languages to support reading acquisition among children. Technology and open licenses allow Pratham Books to reach far more children than ever before. By adopting the Creative Commons licensing model, it enables their stories to find new life in Indian and global languages, as well as new forms like audio books, Braille books, videos, and digital applications.



Canato Jimo

Canato Jimo is a picture book maker from India. He is particularly fond of wordless picture books and also likes to explore the dark and bizarre in picture books. He did his masters in graphic design at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India. He currently works as an art director at Pratham Books. He finds it fascinating collaborating with artists and watching picture books come alive. His book *Snip* has made it to the TATA Parag Honour List 2020 and has also been shortlisted for the Publishing Next children's Book of the Year 2020 award (0-8 years).



Indonesia – Indonesian Section of International Board on Books for Young People (INABBY)

The Indonesian Section of IBBY (INABBY, 1990-) was founded by Dr Murti Bunanta; she and her colleagues have been working tirelessly to bring children and books together and to promote quality children's books. INABBY frequently conducts national and international seminars and workshops for authors, illustrators, editors, storytellers, researchers, educators, librarians and also organises many events for children to instil their love for reading. INABBY hosted the first Asia and Oceania regional IBBY Congress in Bali, on May 2013. This inaugural congress features the uniqueness of Asia and Oceania regional stories which can play in the world of children's literature market.



Murti Bunanta

Murti Bunanta is a children's literature specialist, writer, and founder of two nonprofit organisations, The Society for The Advancement of Children's Literature and the Indonesian Board on Books for Young People. She has authored 50 books, given lectures in 22 countries, and written

250 essays. Her works have been translated into several languages, earning her seven international recognitions for her books and six for promoting children's literature.



Amanda Ariawan

Amanda Ariawan is a young curator and art writer. She obtained her MA in Contemporary Art Exhibition Production from Université de Lille 3, France. In line with her research, Amanda has worked on several curatorial projects and publications. Through her exhibitions, she aims

to create inclusivity by connecting art to various publics including children. In 2023 she was selected as an international jury member for the Biennale of Illustration Bratislava (BIB).



Maria Christania

Maria Christania is an illustrator based in the UK. She received an MA in Children's Book Illustration at Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University. In her career as an illustrator, Maria has written and illustrated 30+ children's picture books. She was awarded the IBBY Honorary

Mention for Publisher in 2013, an IBBY Honour List in 2014, a nomination for the 2023 Carnegie Medals for Illustration and shortlisted for the Children's Picture Book Award at the Derby Book Festival 2023.



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

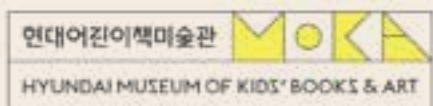
has also managed Piezograph exhibitions in hospitals and institutions abroad in India, Korea, and Indonesia.



Michiko Matsukata

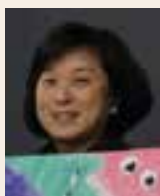
Since 2003, Michiko has worked at the Chihiro Art Museum as a curator and is also currently responsible for the library, PR, and international section. She has curated exhibitions such as the *Polish Picture Book Artists*, *Eun Young Cho, Run, Toto!: The Making of a Picture Book*, and *Kota*

Taniuchi Exhibition: Follow the Wind. Besides reading, Michiko enjoys walking about.



Korea – Hyundai Museum of Kids' Books and Art

The Hyundai Museum of Kids' Books & Art (MOKA) is a cultural education space established in 2015 by Hyundai Department Store Group to contribute to the local community and support culture and arts. As the first museum in Korea to focus on picture books for children, the museum is designed to help children better understand who they are while they experience a wide range of educational programmes and exhibitions. MOKA presents the exhibition under various fields, such as picture books and contemporary art, as well as provide meaningful education programmes, such as the UNESCO ESD-certificated global citizenship education, art appreciation and creation programmes.



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.



Singapore – Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators–Singapore Chapter

SCBWI is the preeminent membership organisation for children's book creators. It is a global community of writers, illustrators, translators, publishers, librarians, advocates and other industry professionals working to establish a more imaginative and inclusive world through the power of children's literature. Founded in 1971, SCBWI has more than 22,000 members worldwide.



David Liew

David Liew, an illustrator of children's books, also crafts miniature worlds. Formerly a junior college teacher, he transitioned to professional illustration. His works include series like *Ellie Belly*, *The Plano Adventures*, and *Change Makers*. Liew instructs Picture Book illustration at the National Institute of Early Childhood Education and teaches art at Republic Polytechnic. He serves as Regional Advisor for the Singapore Chapter of the Society of Children's Books and Illustrators.



Philippines – Ang I.N.K. (Ilustrador ng Kabataan)

Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang INK) is the Philippines' first and only organisation of illustrators committed to the creation and promotion of illustration for children. Founded in June 1991 as the offshoot of a Children's Book Illustration workshop sponsored by the PBBY (Philippine Board on Books for Young People) and the Goethe-Institut Manila, conducted by German illustrator Reinhard Michl, Ang INK's membership has grown from 21 workshop participants to more than 300 members.



Aldy Aguirre

Aldy C. Aguirre, an artist and illustrator in Quezon City, Philippines, has contributed to children's books for various publishers and independent writers. His work has been honoured by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) and the National Book Development Board, as well as internationally by ILUSTRARTE in Castelo Branco, among others. Aldy's illustrations for Papuntang Community Pantry were finalists in the 2022 Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators competition.



Thailand – Thai Section of International Board on Books for Young People (ThaiBBY)

ThaiBBY was first founded in 1979 by lecturers at Srinakharinwirot University under the name of "The Children's Reading Development Association" (CREDA). ThaiBBY's main mission is to support Thailand's presence in the international book market and sustain Thailand's participation in international organisations involved in children's book publishing. The current leadership of ThaiBBY intends to build upon its successful track record by seeking more opportunities to connect local stakeholders in the children's book industry with international exposure, resources, and assistance.



Peeriya Pongsarigun

Peeriya Pongsarigun is a translator, author, and publisher of children's books. She has co-translated more than 200 children's books, mostly from Thai to English, and co-founded InterThaiMedia LLC. Her dream is to bring Thai children's books out there for the world to see. She is currently Secretary-General of ThaiBBY.

AFCC Book Fair

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) is the leading event of children's content which highlights Asia's rich culture and tradition by showcasing some of the best Asian writers, illustrators and content providers, promoting new materials that have been produced.

It is organised by the Singapore Book Council (SBC). The Country of Focus for AFCC 2024 is Philippines and will see involvement from Filipino publishers, writers and illustrators.

23—26 May 2024
10:00am—6:30pm
L1, The Plaza
Free Admission



Festival Bookstore: Closetful of Books

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.

Website: www.closetfulofbooks.com

Email: stories@closetfulofbooks.com



360Pro Solutions

360Pro Publishing is a dynamic publisher dedicated to the production, distribution, and licensing of books and related merchandise. Their mission is to support independent authors by providing comprehensive services that help bring their stories to life and reach a wide audience across Asia. They specialise in the production of high-quality books and branded merchandise that captivate readers' imaginations.

Website: 360pro.solutions/360pro-publishing

Email: sean@360pro.solutions



Epigram Books

Epigram Books was started in July 2011 to champion Singaporean literature. With over 450 titles, including award-winning novels, children's books and cookbooks, Epigram Books has garnered local and international acclaim. Some of their notable winning titles are *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye* (winner of three Eisner Awards); *Ministry of Moral Panic* (Singapore Literature Prize for English Fiction); *The Way of Kueh* (Singapore Book Awards' Book of the Year); and *The Rock and the Bird* (Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Awards).

Website: www.epigram.sg

Email: hello@epigram.sg



IBBY

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organisation founded in Zurich, Switzerland in 1953 which represents an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together. Today, it is composed of 84 National Sections all over the world. It represents countries with well-developed book publishing and literacy programmes, and other countries with only a few dedicated professionals who are doing pioneer work in children's book publishing and promotion.

Website: www.ibby.org/ibby-worldwide/national-sections/philippines

Email: rblim@ibby-philippines.org



JSIM Education

JSIM Education Pte Ltd is the Publisher of BBC Earth Magazine (Asia edition). With 20 years of experience in the publication sector, the co-founder incorporates fun into learning, provides reading and writing programmes for schools and education centres. As a leading books and magazines distributor, they specialise in educational titles. Their aim is to help readers to cultivate lifetime reading habits, so they could enrich their life, mind and soul. Their motto: I think, I read, I write.

Website: www.jsimeducation.com.sg

Email: enquiry@jsimeducation.com.sg



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 National Library, tertiary institutions, international schools, local schools, and preschools.

Website: www.yuyi.com.sg

Email: online@yuyi.com.sg



Vibal Foundation

Fine Philippine Books showcases a diverse selection of titles encompassing arts and culture, history, architecture, trivia, gastronomy, comics, and children's literature. It celebrates and promotes the rich literary heritage of the Philippines and provides readers with a broad array of genres that highlight the country's unique stories and creative talents.

Website: www.vibalgroup.com Email: rblim@vibalgroup.com

AFCC Book Launches

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) provides a platform for authors and illustrators to be a part of AFCC's programmes to support and grow the awareness of quality Asian publications and programmes for children.

23—26 May 2024
L1, Plaza Stage
(unless otherwise stated)
Free Admission

23 May (Thursday)

11:00am—12:00pm

How to be Human Series

Written by Zed Yeo and Tan Yi Lin
Illustrated by Nicolette Lee

The six books in the *How to be Human* picture book series follows Starr and Tigo, two curious kid aliens on Earth learning what it means to be an awesome human being. Join them on their exciting adventures full of fun and heart as they learn what it means to be respectful, responsible, caring, confident, harmonious and resilient!



12:30pm—1:30pm

Letters to My Grandfather

Written by Joanna Maneckji

Letters to My Grandfather is a beautiful illustrated tale that provides a way for families to address the difficult issue of grief with young children. Joanna Maneckji's lyrical text and inventive collages offer a treasure trove of secrets that invite exploration and discussion. Your children will delight in the search for hidden images.



4:00pm—5:00pm

CTPL Submarine Rm

Let's Discover Our Farms, Singapore!

Written by Amalina Binte Ebrahim
Attia and Kenny Eng
Illustrated by Eliz Ong

Through an exciting combination of poetry, photography and illustration, scientist Dr Amalina and Singapore farmer Kenny share about the different types of farms that exist within Singapore. Readers will learn about the importance of sustainability and agriculture, and how they can support the local farms in Singapore.



5:00pm—6:00pm

Daddy's Hand

Featuring Phạm Thị Hoài Anh
Illustrated by Đậu Đũa

Daddy's Hand is a family-themed picture book for children aged 3-10 years old. The book is a story about the daily activities a father shares with his little daughter. Covering the book is a father's warm love and his steady presence in his daughter's heart. The watercolour illustrations create a unique Vietnamese cultural atmosphere for the book, but at the same time express the warmth of love that every father in the world has for his children.



24 May (Friday)

11:00am—12:00pm

Boys Don't Fry

Written by Kimberly Lee
Illustrated by Charlene Chua

Jin longs to learn the secrets of his family's Peranakan cooking during Lunar New Year. But Babas don't get asked—only Nyonyas. This story about a courageous boy who challenges expectations will warm hearts (and stomachs!). *Boys Don't Fry* is a heartfelt celebration of family, culture, and traditions—both old and new.



2:30pm—3:30pm

The Amazing Beasts of Philippine Mythology

Written by May Tobias-Papa
Illustrated by Ang INK Collective

Presenting a diverse cast of mythological creatures from north to south of the Philippines, this compendium of mythical creatures (and where to find them) takes a look at the ghoulish things that go bump in the night. And yes, they live among us—in secret burrows, hollow trees and in the spaces we call home.



4:00pm—5:00pm

The Sun is Missing

Written by Deepa Ramanathan
Illustrated by Anna Panchuk

The Sun is Missing is a picture book for children, inspired by Singapore's long and frequent wet spells, seen through the eyes of a little girl. Tara wants to go out and play, but the playground is wet, the streets are slippery and the sun is missing. So off she goes, on a quest with her friends, to bring the sun back!

With a dash of whimsy sprinkled over the reality of life in our beloved tropical island, the book invites children into a setting they can see themselves in, and nudges them to create their own fun—a precious quality in our tech-led times.



5:30pm—6:30pm

New Titles from Epigram Books:

Charlie the Sweeper

Written and illustrated by Sarah Ang

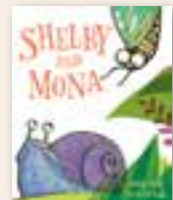
Meet Charlie, a cheerful sand crab who delights in sweeping the beach. But when he encounters extraordinary creatures like a vaulting conch snail, a travelling sea krait and a nesting hawksbill turtle, he begins to doubt his self-worth. A heart-warming tale about self-discovery and empowerment.



Shelby and Mona

Written by Janice Khoo
Illustrated by Eorg

Join Shelby the snail and Mona, an emerging butterfly, as their friendship reaches new heights. Shelby excitedly observes Mona's transformation from a chrysalis to a butterfly while fondly sharing memories of their friendship. When Mona takes flight, Shelby longs to be with her. A wonderfully illustrated book about remarkable transformations and enduring companionship.



The Travelling Library Chronicles of Maizey Lee: The Road to Bangkok

Written by Ernie Salleh

In this first foray into the world of travelling libraries, talking plants and scientific espionage, it's up to Maizey to save Imagination. As she races across Bangkok on a far-too-small scooter, Maizey is about to learn that every encounter she picks up along the way will guide her to understand the power of stories and the importance in keeping Imagination alive.



24 May (Friday)

5:30pm—6:30pm

CTPL Submarine Room

New Titles from Armour Publishing:

In the Silky Wonderland

Written by Dingli Stevens

Illustrated by Liang Kun

In school, Elena and her classmates have learnt about clothing fabrics, such as silk, cotton and linen. Elena is working on her fashion design project, together with her sister, Gabby. After she tries to put pieces of silk on herself, her pet cat, Turkey, leads her and Gabby into the silk wonderland.



Fantastic Forest Adventure

Written by Gloria Seow

Illustrated by Zinnira Bani

Twins Wil and Wyn join Cousin Eli to explore the fantastic forest. They meet many fascinating plants and animals that call the forest home. Things become exciting when they investigate a strange sound coming from deep inside the forest... and they soon become lost. How will they find their way out? It's an adventure not to be missed!



Fantastic Forest by Night

Written by Gloria Seow

Illustrated by Zinnira Bani

Armed with torches, twins Wil and Wyn accompany Cousin Eli into the forest at night. Their flashlights pick up eyeshine, revealing the presence of nocturnal creatures. From the spectacular glide of the colugo to the hungry chomping on figs by civets and bats, the forest at night is alive! But a shadow awaits them at the end of their walk. Will their adventure get better, or will things take a dark turn?



7:00pm—8:00pm

CTPL Programme Room 1

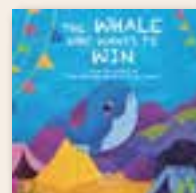
The Whale Who Wants to Win

Written by Ally Sy

Illustrated by Mutiara Arum

Wally the Whale doesn't see his cousin often, but it's time to celebrate because it's Whale Day again!

Wally sees this day as an opportunity to win. However, this is hard with Cousin Will tailing him. Whenever Wally sees Will, he's filled with fright. But what happens this year is an absolute delight.



25 May (Saturday)

11:30am—12:30pm

Little Hero

Written by Emily Lim-Leh

Little Hero is a fictional tale of separation, loss and growing up in post-war 1940s Singapore, seen through the eyes of a young boy Ying Xiong.

As Xiong makes one friend, encounters a fearsome gangster and a brave police inspector, he comes to realise the meaning of 'hero', which his name Ying Xiong means.

Little Hero is inspired by real events in the lives of the author's family.



5:00pm—6:00pm

CTPL Submarine Room

New Titles from Poppet's World Pte. Ltd

Ready for School

Written by Amira Tun Nafisah Tamrin
& Norlin Samat

Illustrated by Daria Kokh

It's a brand new day! Join the Imtinan and her brother Imtiyaz as get ready for school. For this newly independent little girl, the morning routine offers excitement, challenges and opportunities for learning (and teaching her little brother) good habits and positive values.

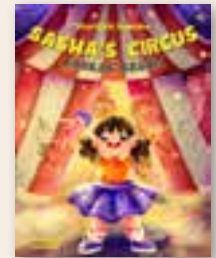


Sasha's Circus

Written by Shariffah Natasha Binte
Said Mohamed Isham

Illustrated by Lizaveta T

Sasha and her family are at the circus. She eagerly anticipates the animal performances but Daddy unveils a surprising truth about this circus. Join Sasha on a journey of wonder and amazement in this vibrant world that captivates the imagination. Sasha's circus is different from any other.



26 May (Sunday)

1:30pm—2:30pm

One of Us: Short of Nothing

Written by Ames Chen

Illustrated by Quek Hong Shin

Many things changed for Toby in the new school year: his teachers, his classmates and... himself. When he becomes the shortest student in class, Toby struggles knowing that this is the tallest he will ever be. It's a bumpy journey of growth for Toby, his teachers and his friends.



3:00pm—4:00pm

Dimsum Warriors: Sorry, Not Sorry!

这才是对不起!

Written by Woo Yen Yen & Colin Goh

illustrated by Josef Lee

Oh no, Baozi and Xiajiao are fighting, again! They have to say sorry to each other or they can never play together again! Can Shaomai get them to say sorry to each other? A delightful book to read aloud as a family blending humour and a heart-felt message about the true meaning of an apology. A yummy, funny, and bilingual book!

天啊! 包子和虾饺又在吵架了! 如果他们不道歉, 就没办法再玩下去了! 烧卖能让他们互相道歉吗? 和家人一起在幽默的内容中欢笑, 在欢笑中了解道歉真谛, 同时学会双语表达! 让我们好吃、好玩、学双语!



26 May (Sunday)

4:00pm—5:00pm
CTPL Submarine Room

New Titles from Jumaini Ariff

Written by Jumaini Ariff
illustrated by Cheng Puay Koon

Saya mahu jadi seperti kamu!

Zafir sayang kawan-kawannya dan mahu jadi seperti mereka. Adakah Zafir akan lihat dirinya juga istimewa?

Zafir loves his friends and wants to be just like them. Will Zafir ever see himself as being special too?



Saya Oni... saya berani!

Oni mahir bernyanyi, namun dia berasa takut untuk berkongsi bakatnya. Berjayakah Oni untuk memberanikan diri?

Oni is a great singer but she is too afraid to show her talent. Will Oni ever muster enough courage to share?



Hmm... di mana Kiki?

Kiki kasihan melihat kawan-kawannya yang sedang kepanasan. Dapatkah Kiki membantu mereka untuk berasa selesa semula?

Kiki is sad to see his friends sweltering under the heat. Will he be able to help his friends to feel comfortable again?



5:00pm—6:00pm

Wild Animal Sports! Track in the Outback

Written by Sean Doherty
illustrated by T.H Wanda

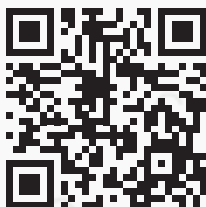
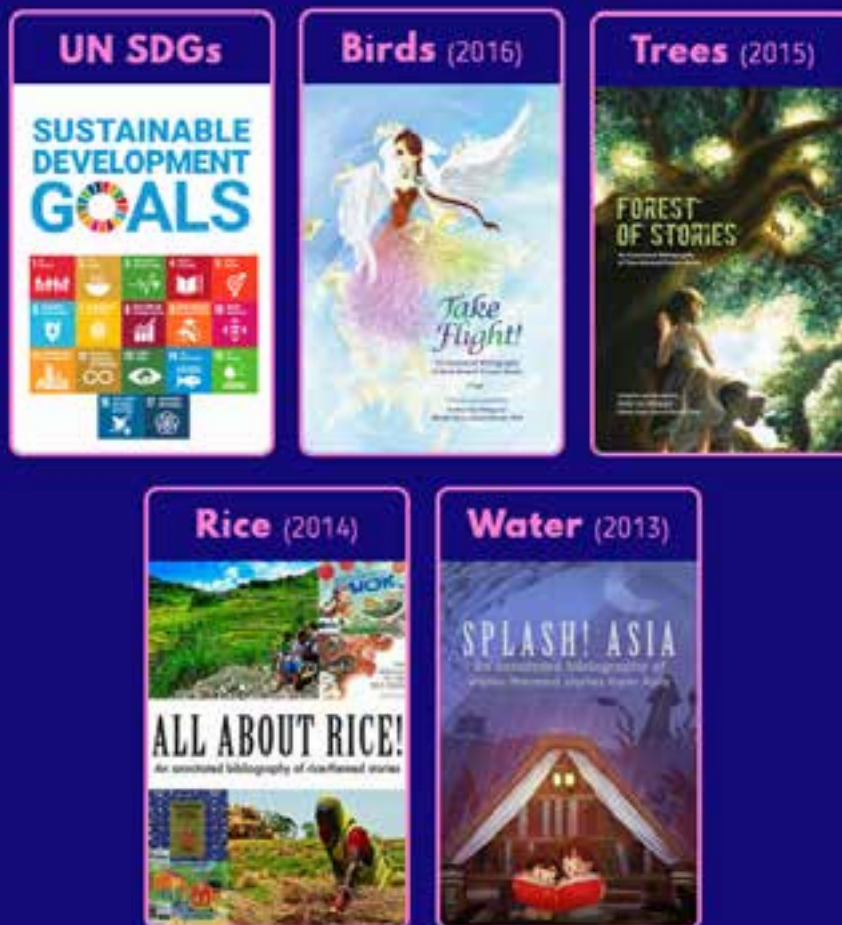
A playful series of board books that develops language awareness through animals and sports!





THEMED Children's Books

Looking for a book on a specific theme? These booklists can help you discover some brilliant children's books from and about Asia.



View the full collection at
themedchildrensbooks.afcc.com.sg

AFCC 2024 **Information**

Speakers



Adib Kosnan (Singapore)

Adib Kosnan is an actor, writer, director and educator who is passionate about creating platforms for communication and care through theatre. He was named Best Supporting Actor at the Life Theatre Awards in 2020. He co-directed *Tanah*Air* by Drama Box (2019) and wrote and directed the children's play, *The Story of Batu Bulat* (2023) for the Esplanade. In 2021, he wrote and acted in *Keluarga Besar En.Karim* which was staged digitally by Checkpoint Theatre and the Esplanade. Adib was a co-lead artist for *Both Sides Now: Mengukir Harapan* (2020 - 2022), a community engagement project focusing on end-of-life issues in the Malay Muslim community. Adib is an NAC scholar and Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre.

» [The Varieties of Literary Expression in Children's Literature in Nusantara](#)



Adriena Fong (Singapore)

Adriena is an illustrator and author born and raised in Singapore. In 2020, she graduated with a BA in Illustration at Falmouth University in the UK. She loves working with gouache and colour pencils as well as textured brushes on Photoshop and Procreate. With a keen interest in all things fantastical and folkloric, her work hopes to instil a sense of warmth and wonder. Her debut book, *Ning and the Night Spirits* was published by Flying Eye Books in 2023 and was recently longlisted for this year's Klaus Flugge Prize.

» [Surrealism in Children's Illustration](#)



Aklat Alamid (Philippines)

Aklat Alamid is an independent publishing house of children's and young adult books written in the various languages of the Philippines. It partners with individuals, government agencies, organisations, and private institutions in conducting seminars, workshops, storytelling sessions, book-giving events, contests, book fairs, and other activities that promote children's literature in the different regions of the Philippines.

Represented by *China Pearl, Patria De Vera* and *John Romeo Venturero*

» [More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time](#)
» [The Legend of Uta Cave: A Storytelling with Aklat Alamid](#)



Aldy Aguirre (Philippines)

Aldy C. Aguirre, an artist and illustrator in Quezon City, Philippines, has contributed to children's books for various publishers and independent writers. His work has been honoured by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) and the National Book Development Board, as well as internationally by ILUSTRARTE in Castelo Branco, among others. Aldy's illustrations for *Papuntang Community Pantry* were finalists in the 2022 Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators competition.

» [Fish Out of Water: Dealing with Difficult Topics in Filipino Children's Literature](#)
» [Smoke and Flowers: Using Artworks to Retell Martial Law in the Philippines](#)



Amanah Mustafi (Singapore)

Amanah Mustafi, seorang penulis skrip TV sejak 1982, telah memenangi Anugerah Persuratan untuk skrip TV, cerpen dan buku kanak-kanak. Di Pesta Perdana, beliau memenangi Anugerah Skrip Drama Terbaik dan Drama Khas Terbaik. Lirik lagu tulisannya yang berjudul "Titik Merah" memenangi pertandingan Lirik Baik anjuran BH/BM. Skrip beliau yang berjudul "Gerimis Di Hati" dan "Terbelunggu" dipilih untuk dimasukkan ke dalam antologi MOE. Beliau juga merupakan mentor untuk Program Penulisan Mastera Bogor (2010) dan mewakili Singapura untuk Program Penulisan Antarabangsa Iowa (2016). Amanah juga pernah diundang sebagai ahli panelis untuk program-program SWF pada tahun 2017, 2018, dan 2021.

Amanah, a TV scriptwriter since 1982, has won Anugerah Persuratan awards for TV scripts, a short story, and a children's book. At Pesta Perdana, she won Best Drama Script and Best Special Drama. Her song "Titik Merah" won the Lirik Baik competition. Her scripts "Gerimis Di Hati" and "Terbelunggu" were chosen for MOE anthologies. She mentored in Bogor's Mastera Writing Program and represented in Iowa's International Writing Program. She also served on SWF panels in 2017, 2018, and 2021.

» [Acah-acah, dah lancar!](#)



Amanda Ruiqing Flynn (Singapore)

Amanda Ruiqing Flynn is a visual artist, writer, literary translator and educator who has lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Taiwan and Singapore. She holds a BA in Chinese and Development Studies from SOAS, University of London and an MFA in Art and Design from National Dongghua University, Taiwan. Her art has been exhibited and collected internationally, and her writing has appeared in *Alluvium*, *PEAK*, *This Is Southeast Asia* and *Splooosh*. She was a winner of Singapore's Writing the City Competition 2022 and a judge of the 8th Bai Meigui Translation Competition. On most days, she is chief storyteller to her son.

» [AFCC Translation Hackathon](#)
» [Inspire and Ignite: A Cross-Cultural Storytelling Adventure](#)



Amelia Jaishree (Singapore)

For 16 years, Amelia has mentored education professionals specialising in language and literacy. As a lecturer at the National Institute of Early Childhood Development, she teaches children's literature, language/literacy, and techniques for preschool education. Amelia conducts Continuing Professional Development (CPD), Continuing Education & Training (CET) programs, and workshops for parents.

» [Picture books: Unlocking Wonder and Invention](#)



Ames Chen (Singapore)

Ames is a Humanities teacher by training, but has since converted to freelance training since she became a mother. This journey ignited her love for storytelling, and she is now learning to share the stories of others. She has specifically chosen

to pen books for children as she firmly believes in the potential of the next generation to affect change.

Her first children's picture book series *The Invisible People* is well-loved in many Singaporean homes. It highlights occupations we often neglect in our midst, from the cleaner of the food center to our neighbourhood bus driver. She started writing these with the intent to ignite kindness to those 'invisible' to us, starting with the smile of a grateful child.

» [Rooted in Affirmation: Talking About Physical Appearances in Picture Books](#)



Andrea Pasion-Flores (Philippines)

Andrea Pasion-Flores is the publisher at Milflores Publishing, Inc. Before that, she was the general manager of a large trade publisher. She worked as a literary agent for a Singapore-based literary agency. She's a copyright lawyer with a special interest in publishing.

» [Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures](#)

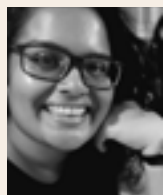


Andrea Wang (USA)

Andrea Wang is an acclaimed author of children's books. Her picture book *Watercress* was awarded the Caldecott Medal, a Newbery Honor, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor, among other accolades. Her other books, *Summer at Squee*,

The Many Meanings of Meilan, *Luli and the Language of Tea*, *Magic Ramen*, and *The Nian Monster*, have also received awards and starred reviews. Her work explores culture, creative thinking, and identity. She lives in Colorado with her family. For more information about Andrea and her books, please visit www.andreawang.com.

- » [AFCC Opening Keynote: The Many Forms of Curiosity](#)
- » [English is Not the Only Fruit: Embracing Linguistic Diversity in Children's Literature](#)
- » [Writing Watercress](#)



Anittha Thanabalan (Singapore)

Anittha's debut novel, *The Lights That Find Us*, was published in 2018. Her latest novel, *It Had to Be Her* is the first of a YA trilogy and was published in April 2024. Her short stories have appeared in *Mahogany Journal*, the fifth volume of *Best New Singaporean Short Stories*, and *How We Live Now*.

When she isn't working or writing, she can be found either walking her poodle, Dino, or attempting unnecessarily difficult jigsaw puzzles. Anittha is currently working on the sequel to *It Had to Be Her*.

» [Bookwatch: PG13-Romances](#)



Anurati Srivastva (India)

Anurati Srivastva, a playful learning and game designer, has led the design of 30+ award-winning educational products for children globally. As the founder of PEDAL Studio, she collaborates with UNICEF, WHO, and Miko.AI. Formerly leading Games for Learning at UNESCO, Anurati is recognized as an Arts for Good Fellow 2021 and a Young India Fellow 2017.

Her impactful work has earned recognition from SXSW, Games for Change, and NASSCOM.



Atiqah Halim (Singapore)

Atiqah Halim has over 14 years of experience in People, Leadership and Organisational Development. Currently working in a non-profit, she leads a team that looks at ways to inspire and future proof our Malay/Muslim youth and workforce.

As blogger and writer in her free time, she shares her and her family's love for travelling on Instagram @Familytrippers. Rubiah from Semarang is her first children's book series.

» [Playing With Food: Creating Worlds of Flavour in KidLit](#)



Bea Mandapat (Philippines)

Bea Mandapat is a writer, teacher, and literacy advocate born in Baguio City, Philippines. Her work, *Etag, and Other Preserved Things* won first in the 2020 Mama Sita's Heritage Food Story competition. Her book entitled *Goodfire* was given honourable mention by the PBBY-Salanga Prize.

She is the founder of *Liv Language*, a literature-based programme that helps kids grow in their reading, writing, listening, and speaking. She was part of the 2023 cohort of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Citi Foundation Springboard Elevate Programme for young social entrepreneurs with a focus on SDG 4: Quality Education.

» [Let's Paint a World Together!](#)



Bernice Low (Malaysia)

After watching Schindler's List at a cinema in the UK, Bernice decided that she preferred seeing her name in lights to seeing it at the bottom of law reports. After returning to Malaysia with a law degree from Nottingham University, she moonlighted writing for television whilst taking her

Malaysian Bar exams. Her career began with Malaysia's best known English language sitcom, *KOPITIAM*, in 1999. This was followed by the inevitable period of creative wildness where Bernice did everything from tech reporting to corporate ghostwriting, whilst honing her writing skills through several screenplays as well as a Professional Program in Screenwriting course with the UCLA. After a segue into the dark side as a Development Executive with Ideate Media where her claim to fame was rewriting a pitch deck for Scott Free Films and offending the executives at A+E Networks with comedy pitch about expats, Bernice returned to her screenwriting roots as Head Writer for Season 2 of the Mediacorp blockbuster series, *LION MOMS*. After *Lion Moms*, Bernice worked as head writer on the first Malaysian Korean series remake, *BLACK* for Viu TV. Her most recent projects include *THAT COVER GIRL* for Amazon Prime, *IMAM*, *PI* for Astro Shaw, and Malaysia's second highest grossing feature film, *POLIS EVO 3*.

» [Book to Screen: The Business of Adaptation](#)



Beth Parrocha (Philippines)

Beth Parrocha is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, majoring in Visual Communication. A graphic designer and children's book illustrator, her works have been awarded and recognised locally by the Manila Critic's Circle National Book Awards, Gintong Aklat Awards

and by the National Children's Book Awards (2018); internationally by the Noma Concur, Yahoo Asia, grand prize and second place for the (2016) AFCC Samsung KidsTime Awards, and the grand prize at the first AFCC Asian Children's Book Award, Singapore (2017).

She has illustrated more than 50 children's books. Beth is the featured illustrator of this year's Key Visual.

- » [Draw with Beth](#)
- » [Fish Out of Water: Dealing with Difficult Topics in Filipino Children's Literature](#)
- » [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



Camille Faylona (Philippines/Hong Kong)

Camille loves stories and she tells them for a living. A 10-year veteran of broadcast production, she has helmed over 20 hours of award-winning original factual content. Today, she uses her passion for storytelling to fuel *Campfire Crates*, a multi-cultural content company that creates quality Filipino activity books.

Her range of books include *My Big Book of Filipino Food*, *My A-Z Filipino Activity Book*, *My Filipino Story*, *My Filipino Christmas*, and *My Visit to the Philippines*. Through her work, she hopes to connect Filipino kids growing up overseas with the language, customs, and values of the Philippines. All her books are available on amazon.com.

- » [Pamana: The Storytelling Tradition in the Lives of Filipino Children in the Diaspora](#)



Carlo Ebeo (Philippines)

Carlo Ebeo is a cultural worker with a growing résumé of domestic and international engagements in research, production, education, and festival organising. An advocate in public cultural policy in local and national government, he has devoted his life to advance issues and ideologies

in the arts, culture, tourism and governance, working intensively on cultural education through peace-building initiatives, poverty reduction, social artistry and other related social infrastructures with various international organisations.

- » [More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time](#)
- » [Reclaiming our Narrative: Decolonising Content and Community](#)



Charisse Aquino-Tugade (Philippines)

Charisse Aquino-Tugade is the Executive Director of the National Book Development Board (NBDB). She is a cultural worker, primary mover for CulturAid, founder of The Manila Collectible Co., and founding Director of Museo ng Muntinlupa.

As the NBDB Executive Director, she is working on the National Book Database to standardize publishing industry metadata and bibliographic information of Filipino-authored publications. She also envisioned and spearheaded *The Book Nook*, which are storytelling and reading communities that provide Pinoy books for kids and kids-at-heart from Ifugao to Tawi-Tawi. Charisse has a B.A. in Anthropology

and Marketing from San Francisco State University and is pursuing her graduate studies in Museum Studies at Harvard.

- » [Fish Out of Water: Dealing with Difficult Topics in Filipino Children's Literature](#)
- » [Pamana: The Storytelling Tradition in the Lives of Filipino Children in the Diaspora](#)
- » [Reclaiming our Narrative: Decolonising Content and Community](#)
- » [Walk the Philippines! An Interactive Storytelling Tour for Families](#)
- » [Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures](#)



Cheeno Marlo Sayuno (Philippines)

Cheeno Marlo M. Sayuno is an Associate Professor of Communication, Research, and Children's Literature from the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños. He has received recognition from the prestigious Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, the Philippine Board on

Books for Young People's Salanga Prize, and the Normal Awards for Gender-Inclusive Literature by Philippine Normal University for his stories for children. He has published storybooks with Adarna House, Lampara Books, Anvil Publishing, Chikiting Books, and Save the Children Philippines, as well as various textbooks, research articles, and book chapters in children's literature, media, and culture.

- » [Textiles, Cultures, Narratives: Representing the Philippine Culture through Storybooks](#)



陈帅 (Chen Shuai) (Singapore)

陈帅, 一个喜欢写故事的人。之前的14年, 出版过十几本书, 得过十几个奖。现在想清空再出发, 期待再次遇见那个刚开始写故事的自己。

Chen Shuai loves writing stories. Over the past 14 years she published over a dozen books and won over a dozen awards. Now, she wants to start

afresh and is looking forward to meeting that self who just started writing stories again.

- » [生态故事: 探索自然与人类的共生之道](#)
[Stories of Nature: Exploring how Humans can Co-exist with Nature](#)



Chen Ziyue (Singapore)

Ziyue, also known as Angeline Chen, is a Singapore based Illustrator and graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design in the U.S. She has illustrated several picture books for US publishers and her latest book is *Butterfly on the Wind* by Adam Pottle, published by Roaring Brook Press, NYC.

Dabbling in art was her form of escape from the struggles and confusion of growing up deaf. This led her to discover the beauty of how the art communicates with the viewer. Her life goal has been to have an emotional connection with those who view her work.

www.ziyuechen.com

- » [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



郑婉妮 (Cheng Wan-Ni) (Singapore/Taiwan)

郑婉妮博士多年来深度参与幼儿园实践、幼儿教育政策发展与幼儿教育师资培育, 并专精于学前领域重要议题如: 幼儿园课程与教学、儿童发展理论、幼儿园经营与管理、儿童福利等, 是集理论与实务一身之专家。目前郑博士担任新加坡华文教研中心

的学前部门主任。身为曾获得文学奖项之业余作家, 郑博士近年来更将写作触角延伸至儿童文学领域, 以新加坡文化认同的深广角度及元素创作了多本绘本。

Dr Cheng Wan-Ni, a distinguished early childhood educationist and dean at the Singapore Centre for Chinese Language (SCCL), brings decades of expertise to practice, policy, and teacher training. She is an award-winning writer specialising in early childhood curriculum, child development, preschool management, and child welfare. Recently venturing into children's picture books, Dr Cheng skilfully integrates elements of Singaporean culture, enriching young minds with engaging narratives.

- » [从烟囱说起——新加坡绘本创作中的文本在地化历程](#)
[Let's Start with the Chimney: The Journey of Creating Singapore's Localised Picture Books](#)



Chong Lingying (Singapore)

Chong Lingying is a Jack of all trades with experience in writing, translating, editing, publishing, and selling content in print and digital formats. She is a co-founder of COMIX.SG, the online home for Singaporean comics.

- » [Across Worlds: Translating Our Myths and](#)

Folktales



朱婉歆 (Chu Wan Xin) (Singapore)

婉歆，国家图书馆的图书馆员，为8至12岁儿童采购华文书籍。经常与图书馆义工合作，设计有趣的儿童读书会配套，以培养孩子对华文阅读的热情。

Wan Xin, a librarian with NLB, selects Chinese books for children aged 8-12. She also works with library volunteers to curate fun reading club packages aimed at nurturing children's love for reading in Chinese.

- » [生态故事：探索自然与人类的共生之道](#)
[Stories of Nature: Exploring how Humans can Co-exist with Nature](#)

Chua Chia Hui (Singapore)

Chua Chia Hui has versatile professional experience across different roles in the educational sector, including managing school operations, providing customer service and being a music educator – teaching guitar as well as music and movement classes. An avid musician, she is passionate about music education and music-making. She is interested in exploring ways of teaching music and making music accessible.



叶俊良 (Chun-Liang Yeh) (Taiwan/France)

叶俊良来自台湾，2007年与黎雅格 Loïc Jacob 在法国创办鸿飞文化出版社。鸿飞每年出版约10种新书，大部分是以旅行、对未知的好奇和我人关系为主轴的儿童图画故事书，其中《花木兰》以其出色的插图获得2015年上海陈伯吹国际儿童文学奖。叶俊良长期与欧洲伙伴合作，善于和创作者展开对话，提供法国读者能够理解和欣赏的图画书，包括具有亚洲文化内容的作品。

Chun-Liang Yeh grew up in Taiwan and founded the publishing house HongFei Cultures with Loïc Jacob in France in 2007. HongFei publishes about 10 new titles per year, most of which are picture books for children on three major themes: travelling, curiosity and relationships. *La Ballade de Mulan* with its outstanding illustration won the Chen Bochui Award in Shanghai in 2015. Chun-Liang Yeh, having been working with European partners for many years, is at ease in guiding creators so as to deliver picture books, including those with Asian cultural contents, that can be understood and appreciated by French readers.

- » [出版跨文化童书绘本：挑战与愿景](#)
[Publishing Cross-Cultural Picture Books: Challenges and Perspectives](#)
- » [Translation Forum Keynote: Our World of Stories—Championing Translated Children's Books](#)



Claire Betita De Guzman (Philippines/Singapore)

Claire Betita de Guzman is a Filipina writer based in Singapore and is author of five novels. A former journalist, she started as a lifestyle reporter for the broadsheet *Today* before becoming an editor for international and local magazines including *Preview*, *Cosmopolitan Philippines*, and *Harper's Bazaar Singapore*. She works closely with the *Migrant Writers of Singapore* and has led talks, workshops, and panels at literary events, including the Singapore Writers Festival and Poetry Festival Singapore.

- » [Pamana: The Storytelling Tradition in the Lives of Filipino Children in the Diaspora](#)



Claire Low (Singapore)

Claire is the Design Lead at local comics publisher Difference Engine SG and a freelance illustrator. Known for her fantasy-inspired works under the Instagram handle @comatomato, Claire Low is a creative with an interest in telling stories. Her works range from illustrations and comics to graphic design and scriptwriting.

- » [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



Colin Goh (Singapore)

COLIN GOH, co-creator of *Dim Sum Warriors*, a children's comic series, saw it evolve into a musical in China, licensed by Scholastic, now integral to a patented bilingual language learning system. He began drawing comic strips at 17 and is also a lawyer in three jurisdictions, creator of Talking-Cock.com, writer/director of *Singapore Dreaming*, and cartoonist of two New York Times bestsellers.

- » [CUIROUSER & CUIROUSER: A Workshop in Visual Storytelling](#)



Daniel Lorenzo Mariano (Philippines)

Daniel works as a Project Development Officer III and OIC Division Chief at the Readership Development Division of the National Book Development Board (NBDB), spearheading flagship reading engagement projects such as the *Book Nook* Project and the *Read for Empowerment and Advancement* (READ) Campaign. He revels in writing Filipino creative nonfiction and conducting research in literary criticisms and language studies, particularly in orthography development.

- » [Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children's Books](#)
- » [More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time](#)
- » [The Illustrator's Playground: Drawing Place and Space in Picture Books](#)



Danielle Florendo (Philippines)

Danielle “Dani” Florendo is a Baguio-based exhibiting visual artist and illustrator who specialises in children’s book illustrations. Dani currently holds 12 published titles from notable authors from prominent publishers such as Ilang Tahanan Publishing, OMFLIT Hiyas, Lampara and the

University of the Philippines Baguio under Corditext Project. She has received multiple recognitions as an illustrator including the 2023 International White Ravens Catalogue and the Catholic Mass Media Awards Finalist for *The Perfect Tree* written by Glory Moralidad, Children’s Choice for Doc Luis Gatmaitan’s Palanca awardee story *Maselan Ang Tanong ng Batang si Usman* (2020) and more.

- » [Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children’s Books](#)
- » [Let’s Paint a World Together!](#)
- » [Textiles, Cultures, Narratives: Representing the Philippine Culture through Storybooks](#)
- » [The Legend of Uta Cave: A Storytelling with Aklat Alamid](#)



Dante Francis M. Ang II (Philippines)

Dante Francis M. Ang II heads *The Manila Times*, one of the most highly respected national daily newspapers in the Philippines. *The Times* is a multi-awarded newspaper and is the oldest in the country, having been founded in October 1898. Under Dante’s leadership, *The Times* has

won numerous awards and citations, including the “Newspaper of the Year” award for 2016, given by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) at a ceremony in Malacañang Palace featuring former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. Besides journalism, Dante’s interests include education and managerial economics. He has a worldly outlook, having lived in three countries and traveled to more than a dozen others in North America, Europe and Asia. Lastly, he lives a well-rounded lifestyle, balancing hard work with hard play, corporate work and civic duties.

- » [Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures](#)



David Liew (Singapore)

David Liew, an illustrator of children’s books, also crafts miniature worlds. Formerly a junior college teacher, he transitioned to professional illustration. His works include series like *Ellie Belly*, *The Plano Adventures*, and *Change Makers*. Liew instructs Picture Book illustration at the National

Institute of Early Childhood Education and teaches art at Republic Polytechnic. He serves as Regional Advisor for the Singapore Chapter of the Society of Children’s Books and Illustrators.

- » [CURIUSER & CURIUSER: A Workshop in Visual Storytelling](#)



林得楠 (Denon Lim Denan) (Singapore)

出生于新加坡，年少便与华文创作、出版和文学紧密相连。1994年离开工作了10年的《联合早报》后，他与太太携手开创出版事业。现为玲子传媒出版社社长兼总编辑。作为出版人，林得楠30年来见证了新加坡华文出版的发展与变迁，并参与了数以千

计的出版项目，近年积极推动新加坡童书的发展，协助一些本地绘本作家出版与推广作品，包括虎威、小邝、余广达、林文佩等。林得楠近年也积极将新加坡童书带入线上阅读与电子书领域，包括建设狮城阅读网。林得楠也是一名得奖诗人，已出版多部诗集。他本身也参与儿童文学创作，是多部儿童绘本的撰稿人。

Denon Lim Denan has been deeply involved with Chinese literature, publishing, and writing since his youth. In 1994, he and his wife started their own publishing business. He is currently the President and Chief Editor at Lingzi Media. Over the past 30 years, Lim has witnessed and contributed to the evolution of Chinese publishing in Singapore, involving thousands of projects with authors such as Hu Wei, Ace Khong, Patrick Yee, and Lin Wenpei. Recently, he has been active in bringing Singaporean children’s books into the digital and online reading arena, including developing the platform chinesebooks.sg. Lim is also an award-winning poet with several publications and participates in children’s literature as a writer of multiple children’s picture books.

- » [出版跨文化童书绘本: 挑战与愿景](#)
[Publishing Cross-Cultural Picture Books: Challenges and Perspectives](#)



Diana Elizabeth (Singapore)

Diana, a dedicated early childhood specialist, passionately nurtures young minds. Recognising storytelling’s pivotal role in education, she curates rich narratives to ignite imaginations and instil vital values. As a Senior Curriculum Specialist, she advocates for prioritising early childhood development in educational policies and practices.

- » [Igniting the Spark: STEM through the Magic of Stories](#)



Dimity Powell (Australia)

Dimity Powell, an award-winning children’s author, immerses every spare moment in words. As the Managing Editor for Kids’ Book Review, she exclusively writes and reviews for children. With over 30 published stories, including *Pippa and The Troublesome Twins* (2023), award-winning *At the*

End of Holyrood Lane (2018), and critically acclaimed, *The Fix-It Man* (2017), Dimity embraces the transformative power of reading and storytelling. Explore her work at www.dimitypowell.com

- » [Mastering Mindfulness Through Narratives with Dimity Powell](#)
- » [Surrealism in Children’s Illustration](#)



Dominador Buhain (Philippines)

Atty. Dominador Buhain graduated Bachelor of Laws at Far Eastern University in the late 1970s. He is the Chairman and President of Rex Bookstore, Inc. He is also part of numerous associations, such as the ASEAN Book Publishers Association (ABPA) currently as Vice President; and the Philippine

Educational Publishers Association as President Emeritus.

- » [Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures](#)



Dominic Aagsaway (Philippines)

Dominic “Domz” Aagsaway is a whimsically innovative children’s book illustrator from the Philippines who is behind the webtoon, *Nibblings*. Domz has won the PBBY-Alcala Grand Prize (2013) and is a recipient of the National Children’s Book Award-Best Reads Citation for his illustrations in the book,

Ngumiti Si Andoy. His debut picture book, *Boy Kendeng* (Dancing Boy), is his love letter to individuals who are very passionate about their interests and are trying to get to know themselves better. Find out more about Domz on IG: @domzagsaway.

- » [Saktong Pamilya? A Whimsical Look at the Filipino Child’s Family Dynamics](#)



Elaine Lee (Singapore)

As an educator, Elaine champions imagination, play, and storytelling. With over a decade of mentoring experience across age groups, she focuses on early literacy initiatives. At the National Institute of Early Childhood Development, she lectures on children's literature, social-emotional learning, and language/literacy. Elaine is currently serving as an advisor to the Ministry of Social and Family Development for Family Values Education projects targeted at preschools.

» [Picture books: Unlocking Wonder and Invention](#)



Emila Yusof (Malaysia)

Emila Yusof, born in 1969, is a visual artist, illustrator, and author. Her creative journey started as a broadcast and DTP graphic artist from 1996 to 2007. Since 2007, she has passionately embraced roles as a picture book illustrator and fine artist, showcasing creativity through traditional and digital artwork. She has crafted over 60 picture books to date, earning numerous awards locally and internationally.

» [Intricacies of Illustrations: Storytelling meets Artistry](#)



Emily Lim-Leh (Singapore)

Emily Lim-Leh is an award-winning author of over 40 children's books. She was named Mediacorp's Singapore Woman Award Honoree for inspiring readers and is a recipient of the Public Service Medal (Covid-19) for her informational e-picture books for the community. *Little Hero*, her new junior historical fiction book, came out of her curiosity and interest to learn about her grandmother's and father's stories.

» [Beyond Exams: Raising a curious, thinking child through books](#)
» [To Agent or not to Agent?](#)



Evangeline Encabo (Philippines)

Evangeline Alvarez-Encabo is a professorial lecturer at De La Salle University Manila and a textbook instructional product designer and editor. Her expertise is in formulating product concepts and strategies that will result in the development of effective instructional materials. She also has extensive experience teaching Filipino language and culture to Filipino and non-Filipino learners.

» [Feel the Kilig: What Makes a Filipino Love Story Unique?](#)
» [Outside the Box: Navigating Textbook Creation in K-12 Philippines](#)
» [The Pencil Who Could Not Write](#)



Evelyn Sue Wong (Singapore)

Evelyn Sue Wong is children's author of the multilingual *Just a Little Mynah* picture book series. She writes to spark children's imagination, with hope for real change. She has been involved in AFCC since its first festival in 2010, curating publications, programmes and partnerships. Evelyn has led research and education programmes promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Canada, Singapore and Asia-Pacific.

» [Creating Curiosity in Picture Books](#)



Fran Alvarez (Philippines)

Fran Alvarez is an award-winning illustrator from the Philippines. She draws for children's books, brand projects, and personal experiments using traditional and digital media. Her recognitions include the Ezra Jack Keats Award Illustrator Honor and the ALA Schneider Family Book Award Honour for *Dancing Hands: A Story of Friendship in Filipino Sign Language*, the Green Island Award at the Nami Concours for *Fishing with Jin*, and the Philippine National Children's Book Award-Best Reads for *Hating Kapatid*.

» [Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children's Books](#)



Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte (Singapore)

Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte is Head of School at SJI International Preschool. She 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.

» [AFCC Opening Keynote: The Many Forms of Curiosity](#)



Germaine Tan (Singapore)

Germaine Tan, a clinical psychologist at the Institute of Mental Health, is a registered psychologist (Singapore) and SRP-approved supervisor. She's a certified mindfulness teacher for both age groups with over 20 years of dedicated service to children, youths, and families. Germaine holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (NIE) and has been honoured with the Ministry of Education Teaching Award and Healthcare Manpower Development Award (Singapore).

» [Mindfulness for Asian Youths Workshop - Discovering the Secrets of Polderstein I3](#)



Glenda C. Oris (Philippines)

Glenda Oris, Assistant Professor at Ateneo de Manila University's School of Humanities, is a prolific writer of children's books. Addressing diverse themes like art appreciation, disability, and biodiversity, she advocates for creativity, preservation of local languages, and sexual abuse prevention. Her research delves into sensitive topics in children's literature, diaspora, and children's agency in society.

» [Curious Girls, Personal Agency and the Search for Truth in Philippine Historical Fiction](#)
» [Fish Out of Water: Dealing with Difficult Topics in Filipino Children's Literature](#)



Goh Ai Yat (Singapore)

Ai Yat is the principal course leader for *The Back Of The Napkin*, a bestselling business visual communication and problem-solving book by Dan Roam and a certified trainer for LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®. She runs workshops on entrepreneurship and career planning at the Civil Service College, SIM Global Education, schools and corporations. An ex-banker, Ai Yat is also a storyteller, an artist and an entrepreneur.

» [The Visual Decoder for Stories](#)



Grace Ng (Singapore)

Born deaf and reliant on hearing aids and lip-reading, Grace Ng loves to read manga, take photos and watch movies. Inspired by Deaf actress Marlee Matlin, Grace began to explore opportunities in acting through online courses and further enrolled into ART:DIS's theatre training

programme where she can use Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) for artistic expression. This opened up an opportunity for her to write and perform *Between Us* for Singapore Writers Festival 2020. She plans to pursue further studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (UK) in BA Performance in British Sign Language and English.

» [MADE IN/VISIBLE](#)



Grace Victoria (Singapore)

With 19 years of ECE experience, Grace designs enriching learning experiences. Passionate about nurturing young minds, she prioritises building strong educational foundations. Her expertise in early childhood education ensures safe, stimulating environments. Grace advocates for curiosity and compassion, staying current with research. As a Senior Curriculum Specialist at PCF, she mentors teachers, ensuring every child receives equitable opportunities.

» [Igniting the Spark: STEM through the Magic of Stories](#)



Hafiz Rashid (Singapore)

Hafiz Rashid is an experienced museum docent who has been volunteering with the National Heritage Board (NHB) since 2013. He is also a storyteller who has performed at various events and venues such as Storyfest at the Arts House and Singapore Heritagefest. In 2021, he received the Teman Warisan award in recognition of his dedication and contribution to the Malay arts and heritage sector. His research interests include learning about the history, culture, folklore and languages of the Malay Archipelago, with a special focus on textiles. Hence, he is often seen wearing these textiles in his tours and storytelling sessions, sharing the stories behind their motifs and designs - stories with deep links to the past.

» [Across Worlds: Translating Our Myths and Folktales](#)



Hannah Sim (Singapore)

Hannah, an early childhood educator with 16 years of experience in local and international kindergartens, as a teacher and curriculum coordinator. Specialising in early literacy, she is pursuing studies in applied linguistics to align with her passion for lifelong learning. She cherishes interactions with children, sharing stories, questions, or their writing. Hannah's only red flag is her penchant for hoarding children's drawings and sketches.

» [Developing Curious Young Writers through Invented Spelling](#)



许增巧 (Hsu Tseng Chiao) (Taiwan)

许增巧, 台湾台北人, 大学时参加自然保育社, 开启了对动物与生态的兴趣, 曾做过研究助理、兽医、小学老师, 全职妈妈及专栏作者, 喜欢美食、小动物与大自然。现为绘本作家及斜杠菜农, 著有《生态池的故事》、《和爸爸去爬山》、《来自森林的礼物》、《神秘甲虫》、《和我一起去野餐》、《小班做饭团》、《妈妈》、《台湾生态寻宝趣》、《野地漫游》、《小黄吊车》、

《棒球场的老鼠》等绘本。

Hsu Tseng Chiao is from Taipei, Taiwan. Her interest in animals and ecology started when she joined a nature conservation society during her university days. She has been a research assistant, veterinarian, primary school teacher, stay-at-home mother, and columnist. She loves food, small animals, and nature. Currently, she writes picture books and grows vegetables. Her picture books include 《生态池的故事》 (*The ecological pond*), 《和爸爸去爬山》 (*Hiking with papa*), 《来自森林的礼物》 (*A gift from the forest*), 《神秘甲虫》 (*The mysterious beetle*), 《和我一起去野餐》 (*A picnic with me*), 《小班做饭团》 (*Ben makes rice balls*), 《妈妈》 (*Mama*), 《台湾生态寻宝趣》 (*Ecological treasures in Taiwan*), 《野地漫游》 (*Roaming in nature*), 《小黄吊车》 (*The little yellow crane*), and 《棒球场的老鼠》 (*The mouse in the baseball field*).

» [通过绘本探索大自然](#)

[Exploring Nature through Picture Books](#)

» [生态故事: 探索自然与人类的共生之道](#)

[Stories of Nature: Exploring how Humans can Co-exist with Nature](#)



Imelda Naomi (Indonesia)

Naomi holds a Bachelor's in Food Technology and a Master's in Food Industry Management. She has published 10 picture books, including *The Dream Weaver* and *Luftan and The Monster*, which depict the inspiring stories of young teenagers. In 2022, she was chosen as one of Melbourne's

Virtual Writers in Residence.

» [Creating children's curiosity: A Peek into the Lives of Inspiring People](#)



J.H. Low (Singapore)

J.H. Low has a degree in fine art, a MA in Children's Illustration, and a PhD (in The Expressive Potential of the Picturebook Form). J.H. is the winner of the 2022 Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award and his picturebook *Lemonade Sky* is featured in the White Ravens catalogue 2021. His latest published

books include *The Visitor*, a graphic novel that explores existential issues about human relationships, and a children's picturebook *Orang & Hutan* which brings to light the importance of nature conservation through the eyes of an Orangutan.

» [Surrealism in Children's Illustration](#)

» [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



Jaime Bauza (Philippines)

Jamie is an illustrator, crafter, and picture book maker from Manila. She has worked on more than a dozen books, including *Ang Dangkal ni Matmat* (Tahanan Books, 2022) and *Magtanim ay Di Biro* (Adarna House, 2021) for which she received a National Children's Book Award.

Working with a range of materials, her work is inspired by childhood, nature, and everyday life with her two cats. For more of her work, visit www.jaimiebauza.com.

» [Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children's Books](#)



Janice Khoo (Singapore)

Janice Khoo is the co-author of *Sing a Song of Hawker Food*, a collection of fractured nursery rhymes re-written to feature Singapore hawker culture. The title received the second prize in the English (Children) category at the Popular Readers' Choice Awards 2022. At AFCC 2024, she will

introduce two new picture books – *Shelby and Mona*, and *The Emperor's Gazillion New Toys*, co-written with Lianne Ong.

- » *Once Upon a Green World – Saving the Environment Through a Child's Eyes*
- » *The Emperor's Gazillion New Toys*



Jeffrey Tan (Singapore)

Jeffrey Tan is an experienced theatre director, drama educator and creative producer. He started Theatre Today in 2016, to conceptualize and produce theatre, art workshops and productions, for children, youths, seniors and the disabled community. Jeffrey is currently Senior Lecturer at

the National University of Singapore.

- » *AFCC Opening Keynote: The Many Forms of Curiosity*
- » *NEW LIFE - an intergenerational theatre workshop*



Jegannath Ramanujam (Singapore)

ஜெகன்னாத் ராமானுஜம் ஒரு வரைகலை நிபுணர். சிறுவர் வரைகலை படைப்புகளில் அதிக ஆர்வம் கொண்டவர். அவர் உள்ளூர் நிறுவனமான கிரியேட்டிவ் ஹாண்ட் லை நிறுவியவர். ஜெகன், கதை நேரம் என்ற இணையத்தளத்தைத்

தமிழ் மாணவர்களுக்காக உருவாக்கியுள்ளார். அதில் மாணவர்களுக்காக பல உயிரோவிய காணொளிகள், ஒலிப்புத்தகங்கள் மற்றும் வரைகதைகள் உள்ளன. உயிரோவியம், தமிழ் ஆகியவையீது அத்த ஆர்வம் உள்ள ஜெகன், சிண்டா, தமிழ் முரசு, சிங்கப்பூர் எழுத்தாளர் விழா ஆகிய அமைப்புகளுடன் இணைந்து பணியாற்றியுள்ளார். தன்னுடைய படைப்புகள் நமது சமூகத்தில் உள்ள மாணவர்களுக்குத் தமிழ்மீது தனி ஆர்வத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும் என்ற நம்பிக்கையுடன் அவர் செயல்படுகிறார்.

Jegannath Ramanujam, is an animator and an illustrator who predominantly works on children's animation content. He is also the Founder and Creative Director of Creative Hands. He created Kathai Neram, a website that features originally created animation stories, audio books and comics in Tamil for students. With a keen interest in animation and Tamil language, Jegan has collaborated with SINDA, Tamil Murasu, SWF on various occasions to offer his expertise and knowledge in terms of workshops, as an animator, as a speaker. Jegan hopes to reach out to the youth and the larger community by bridging animation with Tamil.

- » *ஸ்டாப்மோஷன் அனிமேஷன் மூலம் கதை சொல்லுதல் Storytelling with Stop-motion Animation*



Jennith Chen (Singapore)

Jennith Chen, widely known as readwithjenn on TikTok, is a BookTok content creator who seamlessly blends her passion for literature with the digital realm.

From heart-warming romance to captivating Asian literature, Jennith's curated recommendations cater to a diverse audience, fostering a vibrant community of book lovers eager to discover their next literary adventure.

Jennith's influence extends beyond the platform, as she actively engages with her community through collaborations with authors and partnerships with literacy organisation such as National Library Board, National Reading Movement, and Definitely Books.

Join her on a journey through the pages of endless stories, where every like is a bookmark in the shared experience of the written word.

- » *Trending Pages: How TikTok Transforms Book Recommendations and Sales*



Jessica Leman (Indonesia)

Jessica Leman is a writer and storyboard artist based in Jakarta, Indonesia and the co-creator of Magical Sweet Gula. She is currently pursuing digital marketing in creative industries. She met Johannes Park while studying animation at Kyungsung University in South Korea. The duo

remain passionate about pop culture and comics as a medium to communicate meaningful stories with universal appeal, and participate actively in efforts to bring Indonesian creators' works to global audiences.

- » *On The World Stage: Promoting Southeast Asian and Asian Stories*
- » *Playing With Food: Creating Worlds of Flavour in KidLit*



Jill Lim (Singapore)

Jill Lim has been in the fields of writing and editing for almost 30 years. Her roles have included being a newspaper reporter, a 3 magazine editor and a newspaper subeditor. She has been a book editor with Straits Times Press since January 2017. She is married with three children, the oldest of

whom has autism. Jill is the author of four children's books, including *My Colouring Book Is Ruined!*, published in 2019, about a child with autism.

- » *MADE IN/VISIBLE*



Joanna Maneckji (Singapore)

Joanna Maneckji, a Singapore-based author, educator, and artist, crafts captivating collages that defy expectations, evoke joy, and foster empathy. Starting with a meditative outlet when her son began walking, she later used collage to navigate grief after her father's passing, resulting

in her debut storybook, *Letters to My Grandfather*. Raised in a multi-cultural environment in Mumbai, Joanna pursued anthropology at Smith College and holds a master's degree in teaching.

- » *Collage: the extraordinary power of an artform in encouraging speech and sparking curiosity*



Joel Donato Ching Jacob (Philippines)

Joel is a novelist, poet, and translator based in Bay, Laguna in the Philippines. His novel, *Wing of the Locust*, is the 2018 Scholastic Asian Book Award winner and a 2021 Singapore Book Award finalist.

His short story, *Artifacts from the Parent*, is an Editor's Choice awardee for Best Asian Short Stories in 2019. He was awarded by the Philippine National Commission on Culture and the Arts with the *Ani ng Dangal* for Literature in 2021.

- » *English is Not the Only Fruit: Embracing Linguistic Diversity in Children's Literature*
- » *How The Publishing Industry is Grappling with A.I. Now*

- » [Locust Wings Take Flight: A Session on Character Creation](#)
- » [Textiles, Cultures, Narratives: Representing the Philippine Culture through Storybooks](#)



Johanes Park (Indonesia)

Johanes Park is a comic artist and university lecturer based in Jakarta, Indonesia. He met Jessica Leman while they studied animation at Kyungsung University in South Korea. Inspired by Johanes' childhood experiences growing up with both Korean and Indonesian identities, the duo

first created *Magical Sweet Gula* together in 2015, to share a story of acceptance and friendship with young people who feel "different".

- » [On The World Stage: Promoting Southeast Asian and Asian Stories](#)
- » [Playing With Food: Creating Worlds of Flavour in KidLit](#)



Josef Lee (Singapore)

Josef Lee tells stories through pictures. As a picture-book author & artist, his illustrated short stories have been shared online since 2008. In 2017, Josef successfully published his first picture-book via crowdfunding. Since then, he has published over 10 picture-books and 1 novel adaptation, in Singapore, China, Taiwan, Korea and Thailand. Josef also launched the 'House of Mini Picture Books' (www.minipicbooks.com) in 2021 - an online FREE resource of original picture stories by local authors, to be downloaded / printed / DIY-ed into mini picture books. Follow him on IG @joseflee.stories

» [Birth Story Workshop](#)



Joseph Namara Hollis (UK)

Joseph Namara Hollis is a multi-award winning author-illustrator from the United Kingdom. Named "most exciting newcomer to children's picture book illustration" in 2022, with his debut title *Pierre's New Hair* winning the Klaus Flugge Prize. In 2018, on graduation from the international

renowned MA at Cambridge School of Art, Joseph won the V&A Student Illustrator of the Year Award. The judges praised him for "bringing charm and sophistication in equal measure". Since then he has worked with Tate Publishing, Laurence King, and Andersen Press. He also lectures at Nottingham Trent University, where he shares his passion for illustration and picture books.

- » [Going with the flow: A Hands-on Look at the Picture Book Making Process](#)
- » [Rooted in Affirmation: Talking About Physical Appearances in Picture Books](#)
- » [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



Josephine Chia (Singapore)

Josephine Chia is a local author who likes to feature Singaporean history, life and fables in her books. Proud of her Peranakan heritage, she includes facets of her rich culture and heritage. Josephine writes both fiction and non-fiction, with 14 published books here and in UK. When she

was living in UK, she was a finalist for UK's Ian St James Award and won other literary prizes. Her Masters in Creative Writing is from UK Bath Spa University. After her return home, she won the Singapore Literature Prize in 2014 for her non-fiction memoirs, *Kampong Spirit/Gotong Royong*, which is based on the attap village she grew up in the 1950s. 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*.

Josephine is a Creative Writing mentor with a passion to nurture the future writers of Singapore. Several of her students are now published writers.

- » [English is Not the Only Fruit: Embracing Linguistic Diversity in Children's Literature](#)



Joshene Bersales (Philippines)

Joshene Bersales is a writer, book editor, and translator. Her first book, *Bianca's Big Secret*, was published in 2018. Her story, *Hindi Ako Mayumi!*, won Honourable Mention at the 2023 PBBY-Salanga Grand Prize. Her stories are featured in several short story anthologies, including *Baklas:*

Antolohiya ng mga Radikal na Kuwentong Pambata. She is also a Filipino translator for the *Solid Joys Devotional* by theologian John Piper. Joshene likes traveling, theater, and tea.

Find her on IG: @joshenebersales.

- » [Saktong Pamilya? A Whimsical Look at the Filipino Child's Family Dynamics](#)



Joyce Chua (Singapore)

As Chief Education Officer at PictureThink Academy, Joyce crafts visual thinking programs to enhance children's and youth's cognitive abilities and creativity. With 15 years of teaching experience spanning toddlers to college students, she specialises in English Language, Character Education, and Project Work Skills. Drawing from her expertise in Curriculum

Planning at Singapore's Ministry of Education (MOE) headquarters and leadership roles in secondary schools, Joyce is adept at designing impactful educational programs for students and teachers alike.

- » [The Visual Decoder for Stories](#)



Joyce Chua (Singapore)

Joyce is the author of several novels, including the *Children of the Desert* trilogy (Penguin Random House SEA, 2021), *Until Morning, No Room in Neverland* (Penguin Random House SEA, 2023) and *Lambs for Dinner* (Straits Times Press, 2013). She graduated from the National University of

Singapore with a degree in English and is now a personal finance editor by day and author by night. Her articles have appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Her World*, *The Straits Times*, and more. She can be found on Instagram, TikTok and Threads at @joycechuawrites.

- » [Bookwatch: PGI3-Romances](#)



Joyceline See Tully (Singapore)

Joyceline See Tully is a Singaporean children's book author with a penchant for local wildlife. Singapore lore and glorious food. She has written several children's books including *Tiger Tales*, *Road Safety with Kay and Bear Bear*, *Attack at the Mall* and *The Runaway Car*, and co-authored *The*

Little Singapore Book. After working in publishing for more than 25 years as a journalist and magazine editor, she now teaches part-time at a local university and is working on her next children's book.

- » [Beyond Exams: Raising a curious, thinking child through books](#)
- » [Writer's Pitch](#)
- » [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



June CL Tan (Singapore/USA)

June CL Tan is the author of the internationally bestselling *Jade Fire Gold* and the *Darker By Four* duology. Her books have garnered multiple starred reviews from Kirkus and BCCB, and are Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selections. In 2021, she was also chosen as one of Publishers Weekly's Flying Starts. A Singaporean raised on a diet of teh tarik, classic books, and wuxia movies, she now resides in New York City.

» [On The World Stage: Promoting Southeast Asian and Asian Stories](#)



Justin Deimen (Singapore)

With an appetite for uncertainty and a capacity for self-direction as well as being able to uniquely grasp the entire media equation as both a hands-on builder and corporate leader – Justin Deimen is one of the few global-minded creative producers and a holistic entrepreneurs who has established

high-growth media businesses while executing major international & cross-cultural (co)productions across all genres/formats in every major territory. He's often the focal point of complex/matrix teams with an established track record of identifying & closing deals across multiple forms of capital via credit/debt financing, private equity & venture funding while also managing various projects and product life-cycles through its inception into monetisation.

Through his commercial insights and deep industry experience, and being the nexus between the corporate and indie creative worlds, he builds scalable & impactful partnerships across the entire ecosystem in Film/TV, Branded Activation, Media-Tech, Adsales & Advertising, Gaming, Events, Marketing, Licensing, Distribution, IP Development, Fundraising and M&A.

In a varied career of being a creative executive, journalist, media strategist, screenwriter, producer, and financier, he's previously held roles in 108 Media, ONE Championship, Hyde Park Intl, VHI, Fox Searchlight, The Village Voice, the Intl Film Fest Rotterdam, & structured alternative asset funds with private banks and was accredited with the Intl Federation of Film Critics.

» [Book to Screen: The Business of Adaptation](#)



Katherine Wallace (Canada)

Katherine Wallace is an author, musician, and educator whose love of words and music is united in her stories and songs. Her picture books, *Mirelle's Mirror* and *Trash-er Island*, inspire curiosity about sustainability and our world. A former university professor, Katherine has published and

performed in professional music ensembles worldwide.

» [Creating Curiosity in Picture Books](#)

» [Note by Note: A Curious Exploration into Children's Songwriting](#)



KB Meniado (Philippines)

KB Meniado is a writer and editor with over 14 years of professional experience in media and publishing, with exposure to public policy, youth development, and entrepreneurship. As an avid reading advocate, she runs *Bookbed*, a Filipino book community, and is part of the Philippine

Board on Books for Young People and other Filipino creative communities like Bibi Mangki #thereadingmonkey, Book Writers Club, and a soft landing., among others.

» [Feel the Kilig: What Makes a Filipino Love Story Unique?](#)

» [More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time](#)



Kim Minhae (Korea/Singapore)

Min is a Manager at Yeon Agency. She earned her BFA in Graphic Design from Parsons and worked as a UX designer at Samsung HQ in Seoul, Korea for 10 years. After relocating to Singapore four years ago, she became an artist agent. Her experience gives her a unique understanding of both

corporate and freelance environments. Min has been surrounded by art and design for over half of her life. She loves exploring the beauty of being in the creative world.

» [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



Kimberly Lee (Malaysia)

Kimberly Lee serves as the Managing Editor of the parenting platform makchic.com, in addition to being a lawyer and author of *BOYS DON'T FRY*, the upcoming *100 DAYS* and co-author of *WHAT IF?*. Kimberly advocates for the transformative power of storytelling and believes in every child's right to be heard. She resides in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with her husband and two sons. Connect with her online at www.kimberlyleebooks.com or on Instagram and X as @kimlisywrites.

» [From Parenting to Publishing: Seeing a Need and Stepping Up](#)



Kristine Mandigma (Philippines)

Kristine "Tin" Mandigma is the President and CEO of Vibal Group and President of IBBY Philippines.

» [Weaving the SEA: Championing Southeast Asian Cultures](#)



Lauren Ho (Malaysia/Singapore)

Lauren Ho is a reformed legal counsel who now prefers to write for pleasure. Hailing from Malaysia, she is currently based in Singapore with her family. She is the author of two critically-acclaimed adult contemporary fiction novels, *Last Tang Standing* and *Lucie Yi is Not a Romantic. Bite Me, Royce Taslim* is her first young adult novel.

» [Bookwatch: PGI3-Romances](#)

» [To Agent or not to Agent?](#)



Lawrence Schimel (US)

Lawrence Schimel (New York, 1971) is a full-time author, writing in both Spanish and English, based in Madrid, Spain, who has published over 130 books in a wide range of genres. His picture books have won a Crystal Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators,

a White Raven from the International Youth Library in Munich, and have been chosen by IBBY for Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities (three times), among other honors. His writings have been translated into over sixty languages, including Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Chinese, Urdu, Farsi, Kurdish, and Basque. In addition to his own writing, he is a prolific literary translator, primarily into English and into Spanish, who has published over 160 books. His translations into English have won a Batchelder Honor from the American Library Association, a PEN Translates Award from English PEN (three times), and a National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship (with Layla Benitez-James), among other honors. He is Editorial Director for

Ediciones NorteSur, the Spanish-language imprint of children's book publisher NorthSouth Books.

- » [Beyond the Text: A Picture Book Translation Masterclass](#)
- » [From Manuscript to Print : A Guide in Picture Book Editing](#)
- » [Translation Forum Keynote: Our World of Stories—Championing Translated Children's Books](#)



Lianne Ong (Singapore)

Lianne Ong, an editor and award-winning children's author, has published 18 picture books. Renowned for *Stacey & the Museums* and *A Place for Us*, she won second prize in the POPULAR Reader's Choice Awards (Children's Category) in 2022 for *Sing A Song of Hawker Food*. This year,

she's excited to launch two new books on rough sleeping in Singapore and an environmental fractured fairy tale, *The Emperor's Gazillion New Toys*.

- » [Once Upon a Green World - Saving the Environment Through a Child's Eyes](#)
- » [The Emperor's Gazillion New Toys](#)



Liew Shiang Hui (Singapore)

Liew Shiang Hui is a medical social worker at the Institute of Mental Health. She is currently working in the field of Forensic Psychiatry. Shiang Hui has worked passionately with children, youths and their families in the last 20 years and is trained to teach mindfulness.

- » [Mindfulness for Asian Youths Workshop - Discovering the Secrets of Polderstein I3](#)



Liwliwa Malabed (Philippines)

Liwliwa Malabed has been writing for children for over two decades. She is the author of *A Bunch of Flowers*, a wordless book illustrated by Saumya Oberoi and published by Singapore Book Council Limited. The book was created as a part of the Asian Festival for Children's Content *Build Your*

Book Hackathon in 2022. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños. She is also currently taking her PhD in Creative Writing in UP Diliman.

- » [Textiles, Cultures, Narratives: Representing the Philippine Culture through Storybooks](#)



Liyana Taff (Malaysia)

Liyana, a former public relations practitioner and government consultant, currently serves as the Special Projects Director of makchic, an online parenting platform based in Malaysia. With a mission to inform, support, and uplift families, she co-authored *WHAT IF?* in 2021, published

by makchic. Passionate about connecting through literature, Liyana finds books to be invaluable for initiating conversations that might not occur otherwise. Find her on Instagram as @liyana.taff.

- » [From Parenting to Publishing: Seeing a Need and Stepping Up](#)



Liza Flores (Philippines)

Liza is one of the leading children's book illustrators in the Philippines. Her books, *The Secret is in the Soil* (2012), and *Ang Maliit na Kalabaw (The Tiny Carabao)* (2021) have been included in the National Children's Book Award Best Reads for 2012-2013 and 2020-2021. She mentors illustrators

from different countries through Room to Read, an international nonprofit organisation.

Liza also runs Studio Dialogo, a graphic design studio in Manila. She designed the book, *KarapatDapat* (2018), which was included in The White Ravens list in 2020.

- » [Kulay: Breathing Colour into Philippine Children's Books](#)



Louisa Joanne Lee (Singapore)

Louisa's Go, Go *Green Gavin* books, celebrated by environmental advocates, showcase her passion for living in harmony with nature. As a Professional Member of the Storytelling Association of Singapore and member of the National Storytelling Network, USA, she holds UK Licentiate in

Speech & Drama and Public Speaking. Louisa earned Magna cum Laude for her BA (Theatre Arts) and an MA (Communications) from New York, USA.

- » [We need a hero! A Green Superhero!](#)



Low Lai Chow (Singapore)

A journalist by profession, Low Lai Chow is a children's book author with nine books to her name including *Becoming Margaret Leng Tan: The World's First Toy Piano Virtuoso* (2023) and *Catch Mee If You Can: Find the Noodles, Eat the Noodles!* (2022), which was nominated for Best

Picture Book at Singapore Book Awards 2023. She is the creator of National Gallery Singapore's Art for Tinies (2020) board book series and has worn multiple hats as publisher, illustrator and author of *Penguins Eat Pancakes* (2022). Her attempts at doodling are best described as questionable.

- » [Creating children's curiosity: A Peek into the Lives of Inspiring People](#)
- » [Playing With Food: Creating Worlds of Flavour in KidLit](#)



Luis P. Gatmaitan (Philippines)

Luis Gatmaitan is a medical doctor and an author of more than 40 children's books, some of which have been translated into Nihongo, Thai, and Bahasa Indonesia. He is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) and now sits as Chair of the National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) as a child development specialist.

Known as Tito Dok to his readers and listeners, he hosts a weekly radio storytelling program, *Wan Dey Isang Araw* at 702 DZAS of the Far Eastern Broadcasting Company. In 2003, he was one of the recipients of The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM).

- » [Reclaiming our Narrative: Decolonising Content and Community](#)



Mae Coyiuto (Philippines)

Mae Coyiuto is a Chinese-Filipino writer, born and raised in the Philippines. Mae earned her BA in Psychology from Pomona College and her Master's Degree in Writing for Young Adults/Children from The New School. If she's not writing, she's usually fangirling over Beyoncé, tennis,

Gilmore Girls, or all of the above. She currently lives in Manila.

- » [Chloe and the Kaishao Boys](#)
- » [Feel the Kilig: What Makes a Filipino Love Story Unique?](#)
- » [Trending Pages: How TikTok Transforms Book Recommendations and Sales](#)



Mary Ann Ordinario (Philippines)

Mary Ann has written 45 books for children. Her stories have won various awards in the Philippines and overseas: her first book, *The Crying Trees*, won grand prize at the Samsung KidsTime Authors Award in Singapore; *Malong, the Magic Cloth*, was awarded Best ASEAN Fiction Children's

Book Illustration in the first International Children's Content Rights Fair (ICCRF) in Thailand; *The Pencil Who Would Not Write* recently won first prize in the Los Angeles International Indie Children's Book Cover Award (2021); and *Bulul*, was awarded Best Reads at the National Children's Book Awards (2020/2021).

Many of her books have been translated into Nihongo, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, Thai, Russian, Korean, Nepali, Azerbaijani, and Bahasa Indonesia. She is the founder of ABC Educational Development Centre and currently a member of the governing board of the National Book Development Board (NBDB)-Philippines.

- » [Fish Out of Water: Dealing with Difficult Topics in Filipino Children's Literature](#)
- » [Mom's Best Playdough Activities: Wild Animals](#)
- » [The Pencil Who Could Not Write](#)



Michelle Chan (Hong Kong China)

Dr Michelle Chan, who earned her PhD at Royal Holloway, University of London, is affiliated with the Department of English Language and Literature at Hong Kong Shue Yan University. Her research includes Victorian Literature, Fantasy, and Children's Literature, with a recent focus on

healing and picture books, fairy tales, translating visual narratives, and transmedia presentation of children's literature.

- » [Curiosity in City Narrative – Hong Kong Children's Picture Books](#)



Migs Bravo Dutt (Philippines/Singapore)

Mignon 'Migs' Bravo Dutt is a writer and researcher who has published work in several countries, regions, and cultures. She is the author of the contemporary novel, *The Rosales House*, and the interlinked novella collection, *Room 216*,

both from Penguin Random House SEA (PRHSEA).

Her short fiction was selected for 22 *New Asian Short Stories*, *Kitaab's The Best Asian Short Stories*, and *Growing Up Filipino 3*. Migs has co-edited *Get Lucky: An Anthology of Philippine and Singapore Writings* (2015) and its sequel, *Get Luckier: An Anthology of Philippine and Singapore Writings II* (2022). She has co-authored *Dreaming of the Divine Downstairs*, a poetry collection.

- » [Pamana: The Storytelling Tradition in the Lives of Filipino Children in the Diaspora](#)



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.

- » [How The Publishing Industry is Grappling with A.I. Now](#)
- » [Writer's Pitch](#)



Muhammad bin Kamit (Singapore)

Muhammad Bin Kamit, also known as Chief Sidekick Mudd, has been educating children since 2010 and preschool educators since 2016. He advocates for outdoor learning, fostering confidence and curiosity in young minds. Mudd excels in simplifying learning through purposeful play, injecting

adventure through stories, and creating games from everyday items. Passionate about play's value, outdoor learning, and presence for children, he has inspired over 10,000 students and trained 3,000 educators.

- » [Staying Curious! Harnessing the Power of Books in the Outdoors](#)



Muhammed Shahril Shaik Abdullah (Singapore)

Muhammed Shahril Shaik Abdullah is a librarian at the National Library Board, Singapore, managing reading programs for children aged 1 to 9. He holds a Master of Education from Monash University, specializing in Leadership, Policy, and Change. His

research focuses on children's literature and critical education, with published works in KOMENTAR and AMP's Karyawan magazine.

- » [The Varieties of Literary Expression in Children's Literature in Nusantara](#)



Murti Bunanta (Indonesia)

Murti Bunanta is a children's literature specialist, writer, and founder of two nonprofit organisations, The Society for The Advancement of Children's Literature and the Indonesian Board on Books for Young People. She has authored 50 books, given lectures in 22 countries, and written 250 essays.

Her works have been translated into several languages, earning her seven international recognitions for her books and six for promoting children's literature.

- » [Indonesian Folktales Through the Eyes of Local and International Publishers](#)



Myra Loke (Singapore)

Myra Loke is a theatre director, puppeteer / performer, designer, maker and educator.

Her artistic journey in Singapore's theatre started 18 years ago when she was the pioneer batch of ARTivate, the youth wing of Drama Box Ltd. Now, Myra is part of the core team of The Finger Players,

one of Singapore's leading theatre companies, best known for their visually-arresting productions and its strong advocacy of puppetry. She led the company as co-Artistic Director from 2020–2023.

Myra also co-founded The Wanderlings, where she co-created *You Can Reach The Sky* (2017 – 2019), Singapore's first immersive theat-

rical experience for babies. Myra believes in the transformative power of Puppetry for dialogue, reflection and social change.

Photo credit: Juliana Tan

- » AFCC Opening Keynote: The Many Forms of Curiosity
- » From Parenting to Publishing: Seeing a Need and Stepping Up



Namita Moolani Mehra (India/Singapore)

Namita Moolani Mehra is an agented children's book author, freelance writer, and entrepreneur. Her latest picture books are *The Light Within You* and *Anni Dreams of Biryani*. She has been a speaker at AFCC and held workshops at Singapore

Writers Festival. She founded Indian Spicebox, a social-impact platform that has funded half a million meals for underprivileged children in India.

- » Creating Curiosity in Picture Books
- » To Agent or not to Agent?



Noesis Marquez (Philippines)

Marc Noesis Marquez is a theatre and film artist who graduated from Arellano University-Manila. Currently taking up his master's in Theatre Studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Noesis is currently the Executive Assistant II for the Office of the Executive Director of the National Book

Development Board (NBDB)-Philippines.

- » Walk the Philippines! An Interactive Storytelling Tour for Families



Noretta Jacob (Singapore)

Noretta Jacob, Pengasas Safar Training and Consultancy, menyediakan latihan komprehensif untuk pendidik dan ibu bapa. Dengan pengalaman yang luas dalam peranan kepimpinan, Noretta merupakan seorang yang berdedikasi meningkatkan pemahaman dan pengetahuan

tentang pendidikan awal kanak-kanak dalam masyarakat Islam di Singapura.

Noretta Jacob, founder of Safar Training and Consultancy, provides comprehensive training for early childhood practitioners and parents, recognizing them as primary educators. With extensive experience in leadership roles, she is a dedicated change-maker focused on enhancing understanding and knowledge of early childhood education within the Muslim community in Singapore.

- » Menyemarakkan cinta untuk membaca melalui bercerita! Stories come Alive! Instilling the love for reading in your child through story telling and reading techniques



Nori Ismail Bocquillion (Singapore)

Nori merupakan seorang pendidik dan penyokong budaya yang berpengalaman luas. Mahir dalam bidang seni, muzik dan drama, Nori juga mempunyai pengalaman bekolaborasi untuk projek-projek antarabangsa. Beliau menggabungkan pengalaman yang pelbagai ke

dalam projek-projek yang bermakna serta menggunakan kemahiran beliau untuk memberi sumbangan terhadap pertumbuhan komuniti.

Nori is a dedicated educator and cultural advocate, boasting 25 years of enriching experience in fostering creativity and learning. She passionately champions multicultural experiences and storytelling as pathways to understanding. Skilled in arts, music, and drama, Nori

has collaborated worldwide, nurturing young minds and promoting inclusion. She merges diverse experiences into meaningful projects, utilising her expertise to contribute to community growth.

- » Menyemarakkan cinta untuk membaca melalui bercerita! Stories come Alive! Instilling the love for reading in your child through story telling and reading techniques



Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar (Singapore)

Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar has translated children's picture books, fiction and poetry since 2017. She won the Inaugural MASTERA Translation Prize for Poetry in 2019 and Honourable Mention for Translation at the Golden Poing Award 2023. She has conducted translation workshops for students.

She is also an editorial consultant and an author of eleven children's picture books.

- » Across Worlds: Translating Our Myths and Folktales
- » AFCC Translation Hackathon



Pauline Loh (Singapore)

An acclaimed author and writing teacher, Pauline Loh boasts a diverse portfolio: 15 adult non-fiction, 5 Young Adult, 9 children's storybooks, and 3 junior chapter books. Among the awards that she has won include the Scholastic Asian Book Award 2012, 1st runner-up, Samsung KidsTime Author's

Award 2015 & Singapore Book Awards 2016 and Popular Kids' Choice Award 2021.

- » Once Upon a Green World – Saving the Environment Through a Child's Eyes
- » The Little Mermaid Saves Our Seas



Pham Thi Hoai Anh (Vietnam)

Pham Thi Hoai Anh, a children's picture book author and educator, founded Vietnam's ICBC (Initiative of Children's Book Creative Content). Leading diverse educational programs, including visual art exhibitions and interactive storytime, she aims to enrich children's artistic

experiences and spread the joy of reading. Hoai Anh sees this as a vital responsibility as a children's book author.

- » "Play hide and seek with stories" – Dive deep into the world of word-less picture books



Ping-Shi Kao (Taiwan)

An experienced educator, Ping-Shi Kao studied and taught in various countries, earning her M.Phil. in Children's Literature from Trinity College Dublin in 2017. As a full-time lecturer at Tatung University since 2019, she teaches picturebook translation, multimedia learning, and negotiation courses.

Her research explores visual texts, material culture, and war animals, emphasizing cross-cultural collaboration in storytelling as a catalyst for curiosity and creativity. Ping has connected her picturebook class with Fighting Words Ireland to foster bilingual storytelling at story-meetsstory.net.

- » Inspire and Ignite: A Cross-Cultural Storytelling Adventure

Pixie Tan (Singapore)

Pixie Tan is an Art Director and Educator from Singapore. Currently a Designer in Residence at LASALLE College of the Arts, her practice takes a collaborative approach to questioning the conditions of labour. Drawing from her experience in fashion and advertising, she designs sustainable and socially minded solutions for artists and cultural groups. She has worked with Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, The Arts House Singapore, Both Sides Now and National Youth Council amongst others. She is the co-founder of Stranger(s) Touch, and a founding volunteer of Don't Mind If, an award-winning ground-up initiative designed with the hopes of uplifting, celebrating and advancing the local communications design industry, community and profession.



Priscilla Hoon-Tan (Singapore)

Priscilla Hoon-Tan is the co-creator of the *Awesome Women Series*. She calls herself an “accidental author” – prior to writing and running a business, she spent 7 years as a professional in the finance industry. With two young daughters, she co-created the *Awesome Women Series* with

her husband to empower young girls everywhere with inspiring stories of female role models. Her interests include girl empowerment, early literacy and financial literacy for children. She is currently working on a new series of gender-neutral books for young readers.

» [Creating children's curiosity: A Peek into the Lives of Inspiring People](#)



Rachelyn Gordon (Singapore)

Rachelyn Gordon grew up inventing stories to get out of trouble. Though her stories did not often work, the practice came in handy for her job as a primary school teacher. Teaching with colourful stories did not quell the ideas in her head. Instead, it pushed her to write and publish *Rosie And*

The Mamak Shop in 2020 and *Curly* in 2023. Rachelyn is currently working on her next picture book and transitioning out of mainstream teaching to teaching private creative writing workshops.

Find out more about her at rachelyngordon.com / www.instagram.com/teacherwhowrites/

» [Rooted in Affirmation: Talking About Physical Appearances in Picture Books](#)



Radhika Sheno (India)

Radhika Sheno is an editor at Pratham Books. She enjoys creating books for children—be it editing or translating them. She's currently trying to make friends with the dogs around her.

» [AFCC Translation Hackathon](#)



Rafidah Jalil (Singapore)

Rafidah Jalil adalah pengasas STEAMSEL Edutainment, yang mahu menanamkan minat terhadap Sains, Teknologi, Kejuruteraan, Seni, dan Matematik (STEAM) dalam kalangan kanak-kanak berusia 5 hingga 8 tahun. Dengan latar belakang dalam perbankan antarabangsa selama

lebih dari satu dekad, perjalanan Rafidah ke dalam bidang pendidikan bermula apabila beliau menjadi ibu kepada tiga orang anak. Oleh kerana kekurangan kandungan STEAM dalam Bahasa Melayu untuk

anak-anaknya, beliau menubuhkan STEAMSEL Edutainment untuk mengisi kesenian ini.

Rafidah Jalil is the founder of STEAMSEL Edutainment, dedicated to instilling a love for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in children aged 5 to 8. With a background in international banking spanning over a decade, Rafidah's journey into edutainment began when she became a mother of three. Recognizing the scarcity of STEAM content in Bahasa Melayu for her children, she founded STEAMSEL Edutainment to fill this gap.

» [Dari Mana Datangya Buku? Persembahkan Live oleh Kak Fifi dan Mimi!](#)
» [Where Do Books Come From? A Kak Fifi and Mimi Live Show!](#)



Raissa Avery Marfa (Philippines)

Raissa Avery Marfa, a literacy and peace worker from Bantayan Island, Cebu, Philippines, collaborates with Friends Peace Teams to establish peace libraries. Committed to fostering peace and community empowerment, she conducts storytelling sessions, develops children's books in local

languages, and pursues a master's degree in Reading Education at the University of the Philippines.

» [Practicing Peace with Children through Community Peace Libraries](#)



Rommel Joson

Rommel Joson is an illustrator, painter, and educator based in Quezon City, Philippines. He received Honourable Mentions from the Philippine Board of Books for Young People-Alcala Prize in 2008, 2010, and 2021. He illustrated the book, *Isang Harding Papel*, which was awarded the 2015

Filipino Readers Choice Award, Best Children's Book. He currently teaches at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts.

» [The Illustrator's Playground: Drawing Place and Space in Picture Books](#)



Sally Murphy (Australia)

Australian author Sally Murphy, OAM, known for acclaimed children's books like *Queen Narelle* and *Pearl Verses the World*, also contributes to education with works like *Teaching Poetry for Pleasure and Purpose*. Awarded an OAM in 2022, she's recognized for her contributions to children's literature and education. Sally works at Curtin University in the School of

Education, focusing on literacy education and children's literature.

» [The Poet's Toolkit](#)



Sandhya Prabhat

Sandhya Prabhat is an Independent Animator and Illustrator based in the Bay Area, California and is from Chennai, India. She holds an MFA Degree in Animation and Digital Arts from NYU Tisch School of the Arts Asia, and a Bachelor's Degree in Literature from Stella Maris College.

She is represented by Alice Sutherland-Hawes of ASH Literary for UK/USA Children's Books. For more information, please visit sandhyaprabhat.com



Sara Patricia Kelly (Australia)

Sara Patricia Kelly is a creative storyteller and keynote speaker. Born in Australia, she loves creating words, singing nursery rhymes, and having family morning walks. Sara authored *4 a.m. Raspberry Party: Childhood Poems* and manages flossiebossy.com, a poetry site for kids.

She is a regular speaker at spoken-word events and holds an MA in Creative Writing from LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore.

- » [4 a.m. Raspberry Party with Teddy](#)
- » [Green Pea Monster Poetry Workshop](#)



Sarah Ang (Singapore)

Sarah Ang, a children's book illustrator and author, initiated her career illustrating Christian children's books before venturing into writing. Her aim is to craft literature that instils eco-consciousness. She penned *The River that Brings Us Life*, chronicling Singapore River's cleanup. At AFCC, she unveils

Charlie the Sweeper and *The Three Little Builders*, blending heart-warming narratives with fractured fairytales.

- » [Once Upon a Green World – Saving the Environment Through a Child's Eyes](#)



Satomi Ichikawa (Japan/France)

Having left her home in Japan, Satomi Ichikawa arrived one day in Paris, without knowing a single word of French. She decided to stay no matter what the price. She didn't know that her professional calling was in the field of drawing – she had this revelation while looking through an illustrated

book by Maurice Boutet de Monvel.

- » [Creating Stories from the Heart: A Conversation with Satomi Ichikawa](#)
- » [Storytime with Satomi Ichikawa](#)



Serene Choo (Singapore)

Serene Choo, revelling in newfound joy post-corporate life, embraces creative pursuits with freedom. Immersed in writing, dancing, singing, and imaginative ventures, she values openness and learning through experiences, both good and bad. Over the past five years, she's ventured into

unexpected realms—composing children's songs, gracing the Esplanade stage, and penning children's books, among others.

- » [The Curious Case of Singing a Story](#)



Shalom Lim (Singapore)

Shalom Lim is a former painter who writes for Muscular Dystrophy News, sharing his lived experiences with the condition. He has a criminology degree from the University of Liverpool and a counselling graduate diploma from The School of Positive Psychology. Shalom dreams of becoming

a counsellor and playwright working with the disabled.

- » [MADE IN/VISIBLE](#)



Shawn Tan (Singapore)

Shawn Tan is a lawyer by profession and a children's book author by passion. With two young daughters, he co-created the *Awesome Women Series* with his wife to empower young girls everywhere with inspiring stories of female role models. His interests include early childhood education

and the Japanese concept of *Ikigai* – finding one's purpose and joy in life. Through the *Awesome Women Series*, he hopes to inspire children to be anything they want to be and to navigate life's adventures with courage and purpose.

- » [Creating children's curiosity: A Peek into the Lives of Inspiring People](#)



Sherry Toh (Singapore)

Sherry "Elisa" Toh is a writer and SMA advocate, whose professional start began with her column on SMA News Today. *Loud Little Mermaids* is based upon her friendship with fellow columnist Brianna Albers. In 2023, she had an essay included in Singapore's first printed disability studies

anthology, *Not Without Us: Perspective on Disabilities and Inclusion in Singapore*.

- » [MADE IN/VISIBLE](#)



Sim Ee Waun (Singapore)

Sim Ee Waun, renowned author of *The Little Singapore Book* and *We Shall Remember: The Story of Singapore at War*, is dedicated to bringing Singapore's history alive for children. With nearly 30 years as a food writer and editor, she now focuses on historical creative non-fiction, co-founding

Pepper Dog Press. Ee Waun also teaches part-time at the National University of Singapore and is a Former Ford Factory Museum docent, fervently sharing her passion for Singapore's past.

- » [Beyond Exams: Raising a curious, thinking child through books](#)
- » [Writer's Pitch](#)
- » [Illustrators Portfolio Review](#)



Soumya Ayer (India)

Soumya Ayer, intrigued by the narratives held in objects, explores stories of times, places, and people influencing our world. The author of three children's books on Indian mythology, her fiction debut, *The Ghost of Malabar*, intertwines history and storytelling. It has been shortlisted for the

Neev Book Awards 2023, Atta Galatta Children's Book Fiction Prize 2022, and PVLFF Author Excellence Award 2024. Soumya volunteers as a docent in Singapore's museums and is part of SCBWI's Singapore chapter.

- » [Bridging real and imagined worlds: museum artefacts in children's books foster curiosity](#)



Srividhya Mohan (Singapore)

Srividhya Mohan is an English Language teacher at Jing Shan Primary School. She enjoys working with children to provide rich language experiences that will develop their love for the language while equipping them with social emotional skills. As a book lover, she particularly enjoys children's literature and believes that stories is an effective teaching tool that captivates children's attention, brings learning to life and creates platforms for teachable moments.

» [Beyond Exams: Raising a curious, thinking child through books](#)



Tan Beng Tian

Tan Beng Tian is a disciple of the late renowned traditional hand puppet master Li Bofen and is a recipient of the JCCI Singapore Foundation Culture Award in 2005. Major companies she has worked with in her twenty-seven-year-old career are Checkpoint Theatre, Drama Box, Esplanade

Theatres on the Bay, The Finger Players, The Necessary Stage, The Theatre Practice, Toy Factory Productions, Wild Rice and Zuni Icosahedron (Hong Kong). As a multifaceted independent theatre practitioner, Beng Tian has been actively promoting theatre making and passing on her puppetry knowledge through Masterclass Workshops and talks.

» [MADE IN/VISIBLE](#)

Terence Lau (Singapore)

Terence Lau is a technical theatre professional and educator with over two decades of active engagement in Singapore's theatre and dance scene. With a strong passion for both the arts and education, Terence has worked with several renowned arts companies, including T.H.E. Dance Company, The Necessary Stage, Wild Rice, Pangdemonium, Dream Academy, TENG Ensemble, Sing Theatre and SLO. He is currently a lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts.



The Inteligente Publishing, Inc. (Philippines)

The Inteligente Publishing, Inc. is a company dedicated to producing high-quality educational materials for children. They have received the Golden Globe Awards 2023 for Best Trusted Textbook Publishing Company as well as the Gawad Filipino

Awards 2024.

Represented by *Trixia Vail U. Dalumpines* and *Miguel Anton M. Flores*

» [Outside the Box: Navigating Textbook Creation in K-12 Philippines](#)



உமையாளம்பிகை இராமகிருஷ்ணன் (Umayalambigai d/o Ramakrishnan) (Singapore)

கடந்த 20 ஆண்டுகளாக தமிழ் மொழி ஆசிரியராகத் திகழும் முனைவர் உமையாளம்பிகை கலை உலகிற்குப் புதியவர் அல்ல. அவர் 1997-இல் தொண்டுழியராகவும், நடிகையாக அறிமுகமானார். அவர் தமிழ் மீதான தனது பற்றைத் தொடர, பல நாடக குழுக்களுடன் பணியாற்றுவதோடு தனது சொந்த நாடகங்களையும் எழுதி இயக்கியுள்ளார். சிங்கப்பூரில் தமிழில் முதல் சிறுவர் நாடகம் உருவாக வழியமைத்தார். முனைவர் உமையாள், பல நாடகங்களை எழுதி, மொழிபெயர்ப்பதில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளார். அவரது குறிப்பிடத்தக்க படைப்புகளில் தமிழில் ஷேக்ஸ்பியரின் "வெனிஸ் வணிகன்" ரெஜினால்ட் ரோஸின் "பன்னிரண்டு ஆத்திர மனிதர்கள்" மற்றும் பல.

முனைவர் உமையாள், அவாண்ட் நாடகக் குழுவுடன் இணைந்து 'நம் காட்டினிலே' மற்றும் தேசிய கலைகள் மற்றும் 'பியாண்ட் வோர்ட்ஸ்' ஆதரவுடன் 'காணாமல் போன கிழங்குப் பாட்டி' என்ற இரண்டு சிறுவர் நூல்களை எழுதியுள்ளார்.

As a Tamil Language teacher for the past 20 years, Dr Umayalambigai is no stranger to the arts world. She started off as a youth volunteer in 1997 and a debutant as an actress. She pursued her love for Tamil and worked with several theatre groups and flourished to directing her own plays. Notably, she paved the first children's theatre in Tamil in Singapore - Ali Baba. The flare for scriptwriting grew on Dr Umayal and she has since written, translated and worked on transcriptions of several plays. Her notable works include Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice in Tamil as 'Venice Vanigan', Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men* and many more.

Dr Umayal has written two children books; one entitled 'Num Kaatinilae' together with Avant Theatre and Language and 'Kaanamal Pona Kizhangu Paatti' with the support of NAC & Beyond Words Singapore Book Council.

» [தலைப்பு: உமா ராமகிருஷ்ணனுடன் கதை நேரம் :](#)

[சின்தனையிலிருந்து கதைகளாக](#)

[Storytime with Uma Ramakrishnan: From Ideas into Stories](#)



Vetri (India)

Vetri is an editor for Tamil language with Pratham Books based out of Chennai. They love translating poetry, writing short stories and spending time at the beach.

» [AFCC Translation Hackathon](#)



Virgie Nicodemus (Philippines)

Currently working as a Project Development Officer at the National Book Development Board (NBDB), a national agency that provides technical and developmental assistance to the whole book publishing industry, Virgie handles and coordinates for both local and international exhibitions of NBDB. She is a founding member of The Manila Collectible Co. and Culturaid, a non-profit organisation that documents, safeguards, revitalises and promotes the practice and relevance of Philippine cultural heritage.

» [Walk the Philippines! An Interactive Storytelling Tour for Families](#)



Wenny Yosselina (Indonesia)

As an illustrator, designer, and researcher at KIBA ITB Bandung, Wenny Yosselina focuses on creating inclusive media for children with special needs. She has actively engaged in community projects since 2017, including providing disability tools and children's books. Recent initiatives involve 3D printing

for Low-Vision Children, fostering cross-ability collaborations, and producing research articles guiding picture book design evaluations in Southeast Asia. As an illustrator, designer, and researcher at KIBA ITB Bandung, Wenny Yosselina focuses on creating inclusive media for children with special needs. She has actively engaged in community projects since 2017, including providing disability tools and children's books. Recent initiatives involve 3D printing for Low-Vision Children, fostering cross-ability collaborations, and producing research articles guiding picture book design evaluations in Southeast Asia.

- » [Inclusive Co-creation: Picture Books with Southeast Asian Art & Music](#)



Xi Zuq (Philippines)

Xi Zuq is a writer and reading advocate from Southern Mindanao. He is also a publishing personnel of Aklat Alamid, an independent publishing house for children's books.

- » [More than a Village: Connecting 7,641 Islands One Book at a Time](#)

- » [On The World Stage: Promoting Southeast Asian and Asian Stories](#)



Yan Du (China)

Yan Du received her PhD as a Cambridge Trust scholar at the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Education. Her research focuses on representations of writing and girlhood in youth fiction, poetry, and media culture. She explores contemporary Chinese youth literature with a keen interest

in visual and transmedia content. Yan also translates children's books and authored *My Pocket Bathroom*, published by Yehoo Press.

- » [Vibrant Afterlives: Reshaping Ancient Chinese Mythologies for Young Readers through Webcomics](#)



Zeno Sworder (Australia)

Zeno Sworder is a writer and artist who lives in Melbourne with his young family. After studying Chinese literature and migration law at university, he ended up as a dishwasher. Later, he went on to work as a journalist, an English language teacher, a consular officer, an advocate for refugees and

immigrants, and a jewelry designer. But he has always felt most himself sitting at a table drawing pictures and making up stories. He is a lover of all stationery but has a particular soft spot for pencils. Sworder is the winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) 2023 Picture Book of the Year for *My Strange Shrinking Parents*. In 2021, Sworder was named the CBCA New Illustrator of the Year, and his first book *This Small Blue Dot* was a CBCA Notable Book, the winner of the 2021 Australian Book Designers Association's Award for Best Designed Children's Illustrated Book, and the Designers' Choice Children's/Young Adult Book of the Year.

- » [Picture Perfect Prose: Understanding Writing and Illustration](#)
- » [Surrealism in Children's Illustration](#)



周见信 (Zhou Jian Xin) (Taiwan)

图文创作者，国立台北艺术大学造形硕士，国立台东大学儿童文学博士。

2016年以《小白》获得信谊幼儿文学奖首奖，出版有《寻猫启事》、《小小的大冒险》、《小朱鹮》、《机车妈妈》、《黑武士林雕》等绘本。2021年以《来自清水的孩子》获得金鼎奖、金漫奖新人奖、台北书

展大奖，及德国白鸟鸦奖，并授出多国版权。

Zhou Jian Xin is an illustrator and writer. He has a PhD in children's literature from the National Taitung University and a Master's of design from the Taipei National University of the Arts. In 2016, he won the first prize at the Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award with *Puppy and I* (《小白》). Other picture books by him include 《寻猫启事》 (*The runaway cat*), 《小小的大冒险》 (*Xiao Xiao's great adventure*), 《小朱鹮》 (*The maroon oriole*), 《机车妈妈》 (*Mum rides a bike*), and 《黑武士林雕》 (*The black eagle knight*). In 2021, Zhou won numerous awards, such as the Golden Tripod Award, the Golden Comics Awards Best New Talent, the Taipei Book Fair Award, and the White Ravens Award with his *Son of Formosa* (《来自清水的孩子》). The book has since been published in many countries.

- » [来自清水的孩子: 通过漫画揭示战后台湾](#)
The Boy from Clearwater: Uncovering Post-war Taiwan Through Comics
- » [通过漫画小说叙述历史故事](#)
Using Graphic Novels to Tell Historical Stories



Moderators

For information on moderators, please scan the QR code or visit afcc.com.sg/2024/moderators

AFCC Ticketing

Ticket Types	Regular	Group (≥5-9) 25% off	Group (≥10) 30% off
4 - Day Pass	S\$ 220	S\$ 165	S\$ 154
2 - Day Pass	S\$ 150	S\$ 112.50	S\$ 105
1 - Day Pass	S\$ 80	S\$ 60	S\$ 56
Lectures	S\$ 30	S\$ 22.50	S\$ 21
Masterclass	S\$ 60	S\$ 45	S\$ 42

Notes:

- Prices indicated here exclude ticketing charges. Eventbrite ticketing charges apply.
- Concessions passes for students (with valid student ID) and senior citizen (60 y/o and above) are available on the ticketing platform

Pass Benefits	4-Day Pass	2-Day & 1-Day Passes
Access to Translation Forum and Publishing Forum	✓	✗
Access to presentations, panel discussions, lectures, workshops and individually ticketed sessions Admission is specific to ticket type for 1-Day and 2-Day passes (e.g. A 2-day pass for 25 & 26 May will allow admission to sessions on those dates only)	✓	✓
Access to masterclass sessions	✓	✗
Discounts • 15% discount to separately ticketed events Discount codes will be sent in the confirmation email after passes are purchased	✓	✓

Festival Venue

National Library Building

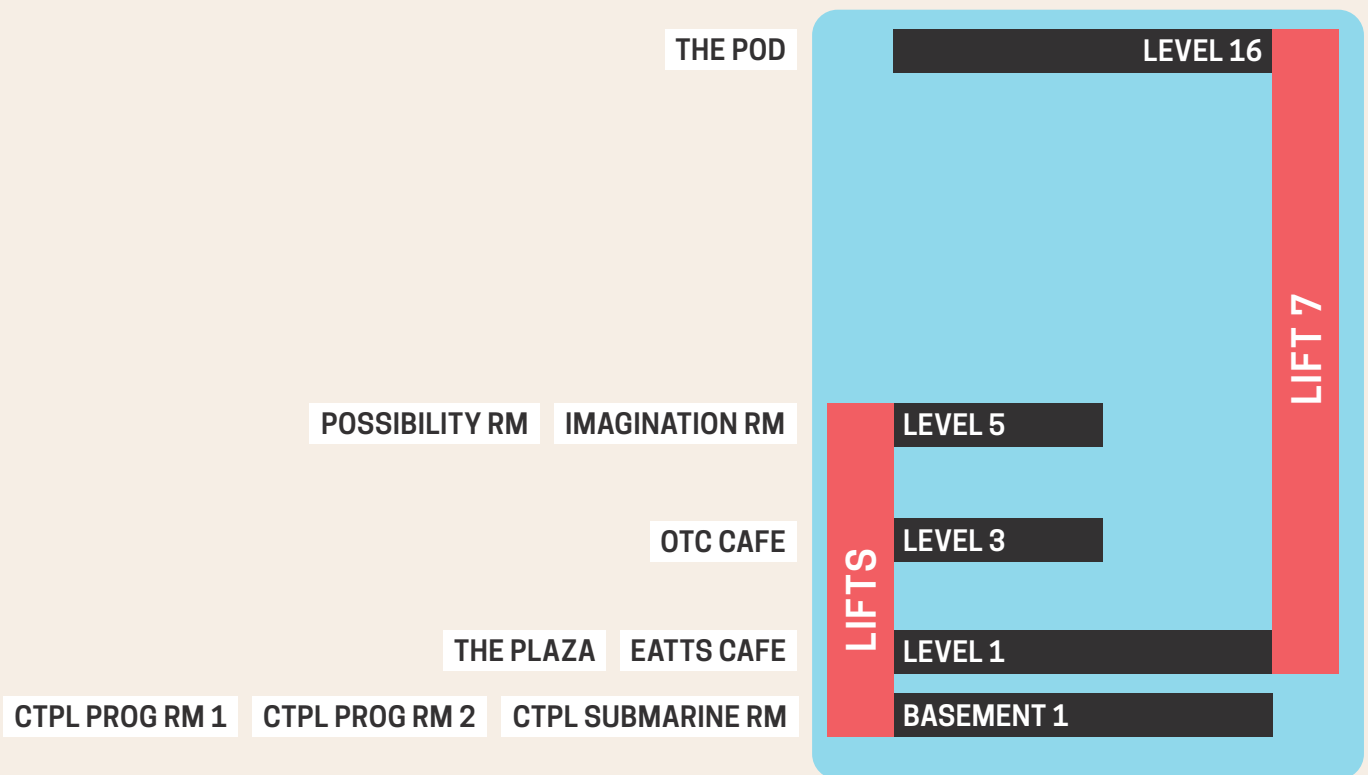
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