

SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



KELOMPOK PENCIITA BACAAN ANAK
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Crafting Historical Mystery Novel for Children & Young Adult

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ABSTRACT

Children always love **mysterious stories**. They like to be thrilled in a 'safe' way, enjoying dangerous adventure while knowing that the villain will not hurt them in a real world.

This presentation will focus on author's experience when writing mystery books with historical background for young readers. References will be made to author's several mystery book : ***Misteri Kota Tua (Mystery of the Old City)*** and ***Misteri Kampung Hitam (Mystery of Black Kampong)***. It will also highlight the importance of research to make engaging reading experience as well as making authentic story.

WHY MYSTERY?

Everyone loves mystery

33% readers like mystery genre in England in 2013 *)

47% readers in the US prefer reading mystery book and

33% had read history books in 2015 *)

*) information from statista.com

Writing mystery books is also so much fun!



IDEAS DIGGING

1

THEME

- Detective story?
- Historical mystery?
- Horror mystery?

Going for LOCAL
Contents

2

SETTING

- Real / Fantasy
- Local / Faraway places
- In the past / modern days

Historical mystery in local historical sites set in today's timeline experienced by 2 main characters a boy and a girl age between 10 – 12 years old

3

CHARACTER

- Age
- Gender
- Race / Nationality
- Traits



Secret Mission

“To introduce history to children, not in a boring monotonous way but in an exiting, interesting, adventorous, FUN, interactive way.

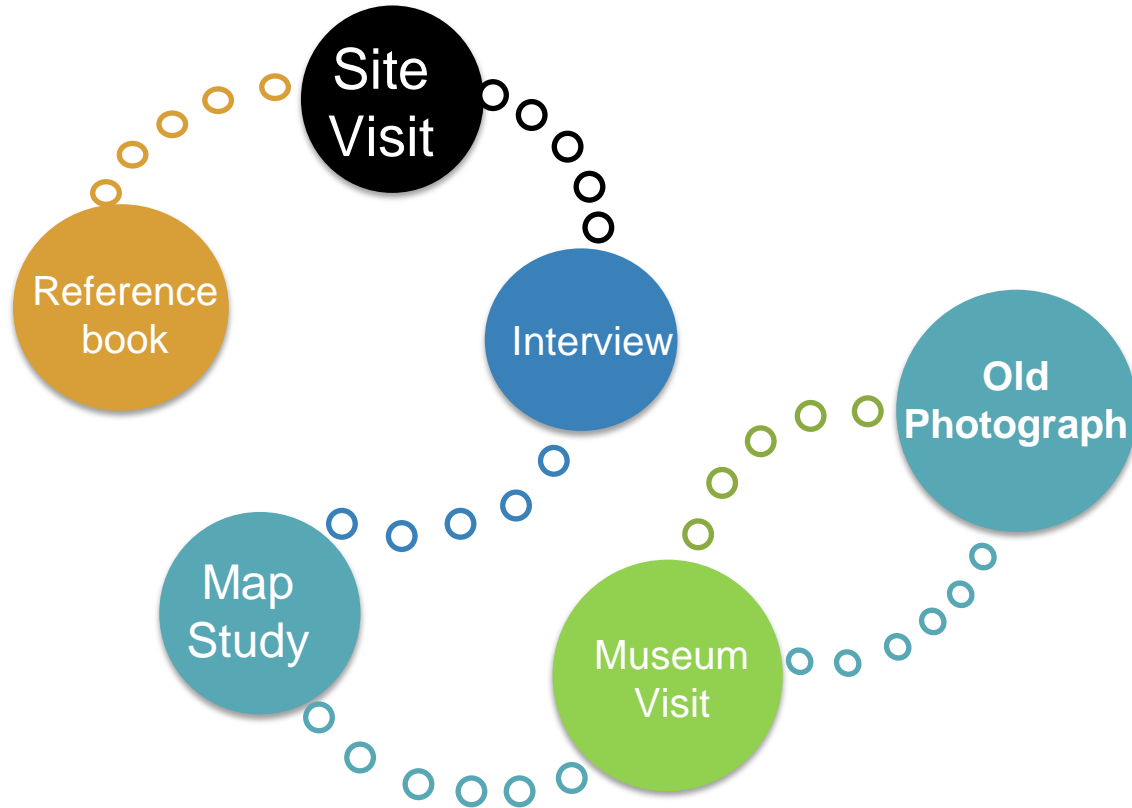
Not the twisted, full of prejudice –type of telling but the ones based on facts.”

SETTING

- Familiar to author and readers.
- Having distinctive historical role.
- Fit to be explored by main characters (which are children) – Environment must not be too harsh / too dangerous.

KEY : to **connect** the story to readers.

RESEARCH DIAGRAM



PLOTTING & WRITING

- Write it first in forward timeline. Example: from year 1 – year 2 – year 3 – year 3 day 1, day 2, day 3 and so on.
 - Scramble it! Add false clues, red herring, actions and surprises along the way!
- Example : the story can begin in year 3 day 3 then move backward to year 1 then move forward again to year 3, and so on

::: *Handwriting* is always useful and faster to get your mind moving :::



SUMMARY

*“Mystery book is fascinating not only for readers but it is exciting
for writer as well.*

*Historical mystery book can add value by exchanging knowledge
as well as entertaining .*

*Writing this kind of book require extra
effort in reseraching and plotting”*

THANKS!

Any questions?