

ANNEX III: AFCC 2018 Programme Highlights – Country of Focus Sessions, Masterclasses and Kwan Shan Mei Exhibition

AFCC 2018 returns this September 6 to 8 for the 9th edition. The festival theme is Imagine-Asia with Singapore as its Country of Focus to celebrate local children's literature. Some of the programme highlights (selected) include:

Country of Focus Sessions

Creating Mythology: Singapore – Style | 8 Sept. 9:00am – 10:00pm | Possibility Room

Speakers: Zed Yeo, Lin Xueling, Suffian Hakim

Creating fantasy fiction for young readers is not a stretch for these writers. They drew on the richness of our local myths to conjure up mythological, make-believe worlds. Find out where they get their source of imagination from and how they inject local flavour into their works.

Cruising In and Taking Off | 8 Sept. 9:30am – 11:00am | Imagination Room

Speakers: Karen Lee and Wong Swee Yean

Birds embody the spirit of Southeast Asia – endlessly diverse and brimming with the potential for flight. This workshop takes you on a journey through bird-themed storybooks, with storytellers showing you how to bring out the richness of cultures in our region and make them accessible to young children through the art of storytelling.

Giving a Voice: Inclusivity in Singapore's Kid-Lit | 7 Sept. 4:00pm – 5:00pm | Imagination Room

Speakers: Eva Wong Nava, Eunice Olsen, Marie Toh

The writers on this panel are united in making the under-represented groups in society more visible, be it through creating female heroines or understanding those with special needs. By opening up the window into these marginalised or oft-hidden worlds, they show how inclusivity can be advocated through kid-lit.

How I Came Up With My First Book | 6 Sept. 11:30pm – 12:30pm | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: Gabby Tye, Elodie Kyra, Ashley Koh

What happens before writing the first word? From drawing on past memories to the practical task of juggling different careers, our speakers reveal how they each took the plunge and put pen to paper for their first book for children and youths.

How I Started: A Writer's Journey | 6 Sept. 5:45pm – 6:45pm | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: David Seow, Emily Lim

Behind every successful writer is a long journey. Find out from some of our most established children's writers as they look back on their first steps, along with the bends and roadblocks, as well as successes, that have led them to where they are now.

Indie Spirit: How Children's Bookstores Survive in Singapore | 6 Sept. 3:15pm – 4:15pm | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: Shannon Ong (Woods in the Books), Sung Yuen Ling (Maha Yuyi), Suriya Ratna (Raji)

The current retail market is tough, but probably even more so for independent bookstores. The speakers on this panel, owners of bookstores that specialise in children's books in different languages, talk about how they continue to engage their customers and maintain an edge in the market.

Is there a Singapore Illustration Style? | 6 Sept. 2:00pm – 3:00pm | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: Priscilla Tey, Khairuddin Baharom, Patrick Yee

Is there a style of illustration that we can call our own? A distinctive sense of aesthetic that is easily identified as "Singaporean"? Or is there a need to develop one? Join a few of our established illustrators as they tackle these questions and more.

Knowing Our History Through Children's Books | 8 Sept. 10:15am – 11:15am | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: Sim Ee Waun Josephine Chia Radhika Puri

Knowing our history is an integral part of forming our identity and culture as we grow up. Our speakers have brought different parts of Singapore's past to life through their books. They talk about why it is important to raise awareness about our history and to keep these stories going.

Making a Mark: Iconic Children's Characters in SingLit | 8 Sept. 3:15pm – 4:15pm | B1 Programmes Room

Speakers: Adeline Foo, Lesley-Anne Tan

Gamification has been identified as an essential strategy in engaging the young in reading and learning. Book Bugs and Myth Masters are two such initiatives that have

been successful in weaving gaming components while keeping reading at the forefront.

Read Our World: Getting SingLit into the hands of Children | 6 Sept. 10:45 – 11:45 | Possibility Room

Speakers: May Tan, Denon Lim, Viyanand Thamothran, Rilla Melati

There are many efforts to inculcate the habit of reading among children, but what about getting them to read our very own literature? Join our panel of speakers as they discuss their initiatives to get SingLit into schools and making local books more accessible to students.

Roundtable: How SingLit is Used from Preschools to Primary Schools | 7 Sept. 2:45pm – 4:15pm | Possibility Room

Speakers: Ginia Ng, Seetha Lakshmi, Mohd Mukhlis Bin Abu Bakar, Tan Chee Lay

In this special roundtable discussion, we have gathered experts and practitioners working in mother tongue language education. They will discuss how SingLit is used in language acquisition as children move from preschools to primary schools, and how the transition can be facilitated further.

SingLit in Classrooms: How Three Schools Do It | 7 Sept. 1:30pm – 2:30pm | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: Teacher representatives from Da Qiao Primary, Haig Girls School, NAFA Arts Kindergarten Derbyshire

Teachers from three primary schools show how they have carved out spots for Singaporean stories in their classrooms. This discussion looks at how the teachers have used SingLit to impart both a love for reading and for languages among their students.

Translating Singapore Kid-Lit | 8 Sept. 4:30pm – 5:30pm | Possibility Room

Speakers: Vijayanand Thamocharan, Nur-El Huda Jaafar, Yang Shu Hung

Translation opens up the window to different cultures, and this is especially important in a multilingual, multicultural place like Singapore. This panel of translators discuss the nuts and bolts of translating kidlit, and why sometimes it is better to show than to tell.

Venturing Out: Selling Beyond Singapore Market | 8 Sept. 11:30am – 12:30pm | Possibility Room

Speakers: Edmund Wee, Mindy Pang, Eliza Teoh

Small nation, big reach: Each of the publishers in this session has ventured out and found places for children's SingLit in the overseas market. They discuss what it takes for the local to go global, and the hurdles they have to overcome.

Writing For Multicultural Readers | 6 Sept. 12:00pm – 1:00pm | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: Quek Hong Shin, Rosemarie Somaiah, Sharon Ismail

Though there are an increasing number of children's books produced in mother tongues or a bilingual format, how many of them actually reflect the multicultural fabric of our society? This panel looks at the complexity of writing for young multicultural readers and how books can help facilitate cross-cultural understanding.

21st Century Writing: To Generation Z and Beyond | 8 Sept. 4:30pm – 5:30pm | B1 Programme Room

Speakers: Gabby Tye, Elodie Kyra, Ashley Koh

This new generation of authors may be born and bred in a digital age, but is their writing really that different from what we're used to reading? Our speakers confront the assumptions about who they are, why they write, and how they are writing the stories that a new generation of readers want to hear.

Masterclasses | 6 Sept. 10:45pm – 12:45pm | Drama Centre

Building Collective Storyworlds

Speaker: Marco Sparmberg

Digital technology has fundamentally changed how humans connect and interact with one another. New narrative models are emerging that lend themselves to the ever evolving environment of pervasive communication. In this hands-on session, participants will go through multiple stages of collective story creation by using elements of a transmedia universe as engine for a decentralised narrative approach.

Creative Storymaking : A Masterclass Taster | 8 Sept. 10:15am – 1:15pm | Multipurpose Room

Speaker: Adeline Foo, Hidayah Amin, Lee Seow Ser

FOR: Content creators working with digital platforms WHAT TO BRING: Adapted from a new Creative Storymaking programme at Singapore Polytechnic, this masterclass aims to introduce the nuts and bolts of creating content for the digital age. At the same time, participants can expect to meet TV industry practitioners, as well as an opportunity to network with the Cross-Platform Summit speakers.

From Craft to Contract: Stress Test Your Work without Stressing Out | 7 Sept. 10:00am – 1:00pm | Drama Centre

Speaker: Cynthea Liu

TO BRING: A piece of writing for anonymous discussion (optional, submission information below)

Getting published is a daunting task, but writing the book is most often the hardest part of all. In this masterclass by well-known author and publisher Cynthea Liu, learn techniques on how to stress-test your work for the children and teen book markets, to land that desired publishing contract. Participants can choose to submit a piece of their writing in advance for anonymous discussion and review by Cynthea at this session. Submission guidelines: First 5 pages (1250 words max) or query letter (250 words max). Send submissions to <https://wfcatsubmittable.com/submit>

Make Your Words Count: Writing for Young Adults | 8 Sept. 10:15am – 4:15pm | VBR

Speaker: Sarah Odedina (UK)

Led by publisher Sarah Odedina, this intensive masterclass is aimed for those ready to push their Y.A. writing to the next level. Be ready to tackle every component of the writing process big or small, from finding your own voice to crafting compelling

dialogue, characters and settings. Participants will also gain practical expertise as Sarah draws from the many stories she has worked with in her publishing career.

On Illustration | 7 Sept. 1:30pm – 4:30pm | VBR

Speaker: Satoshi Kitamura (Japan)

It is said that a picture speaks a thousand words. But how do you create a narrative through illustrations alone? Join award-winning illustrator Satoshi Kitamura as he explains the creative process behind his books and leads a series of creative exercises in this interactive session.

Pitch-Perfect: The Ultimate Pitch-Ready Masterclass! 6 Sept. 11:00am – 1:00pm | The Pod

Speakers: Marc Checkley (International)

FOR: Anyone with a budding idea they wish to sell

Back by popular demand! Do you have an amazing idea or series concept, but with no clue how to bring it together and pitch it to the right people? This pitching masterclass gives you all the necessary tools, skills and feedback to make you a pitch-pro! *Please note that this masterclass is mandatory for all those wishing to participate in the Speed Pitching (Media) event. This session is separately ticketed.

Play and Replay: How to Prepare Your Creations for Multiple Platforms and Adaptations | 7 Sept. 10:15am – 12:15pm | Multipurpose Room

Speakers: Colin Goh

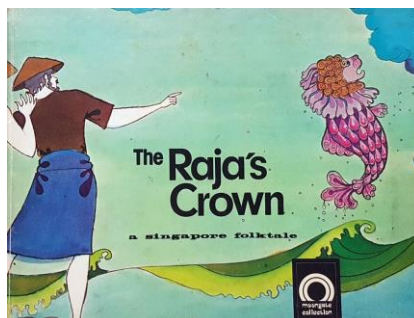
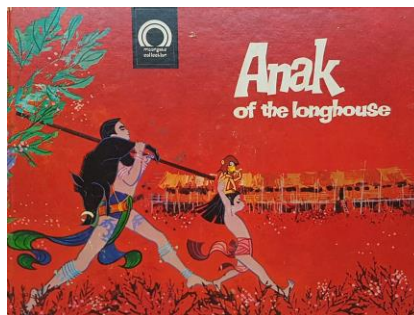
FOR: Content creators working with multiple platforms, anyone working with adaptations

WHAT TO BRING: Participants should ideally have a creation in progress and be willing to share basic information for brainstorming and feedback purposes. If you're spending time and effort creating something, why not adapt it for multiple platforms as well? In this masterclass, Colin Goh, co-creator of critically-acclaimed comic series Dim Sum Warriors, reveals how his kung fu-fighting dumplings developed from an app to printed graphic novels and children's picture books, to and most recently, a stage musical. Participants will take away key skills to map the potential of their own creations and capitalise on available opportunities.

Kwan Shan Mei Exhibition and Panel Discussions

Kwan Shan Mei: Drawing From The Heart 关山美:以心动笔

In conjunction with Singapore as its Country of Focus, AFCC celebrates the life and work of the late children illustration pioneer, Kwan Shan Mei 关山美 (1922 – 2012). In this retrospective exhibition Kwan Shan Mei: Drawing From The Heart 关山美:以心动笔, we will showcase a selection of her books and drawings provided by her family.



(Illustrations by Kwan Shan Mei. Source: Estate of Kwan Shan Mei)

Madam Kwan is the recipient of the Book Council's inaugural Book Award in 1976 for children's books. The citation extols her illustrations for the Moongate Collection of Folktales from The Orient series as having the ability to be "as lively and full of action or soft and dreamlike as the story dictates".



Madam Kwan is also popularly known as the artist of the beloved children series, The Adventures of Mooty the Mouse. Her drawings have graced many a cover and interiors of the school textbooks of the 1970s and 1980s. She taught for many years at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts before retiring in Vancouver, Canada in 1999.

Panel Discussions

Session 1: Memories of Kwan Shan Mei

25 August 2018 | 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Multipurpose Room, B1, Central Public Library

Kwan Shan Mei lived and worked in Singapore from 1963 to 1999, creating many classics such as the Moongate series, the Adventures of Mooty the Mouse and Animal Frolics. But her readers did not know much about her as she was a very private person. Join us for an intimate afternoon of sharing by friends and ex-colleagues as they reminisce about the consummate illustrator.

Speakers: Lee Yeow Heng, Edwin Ng, Lim Geok Leng, Wendy Toh

Moderator: Oscar Ng Hwee Leng

Admission is free, register [here](#) or <https://afcc2018-memoriesofksm.peatix.com/>

Session 2: Children Magazines and Stories in Singapore

25 August 2018 | 3pm – 4pm

Multipurpose Room, B1, Central Public Library

Kwan Shan Mei was a pioneer in illustrating children stories in books, magazines and textbooks in Singapore. However, she did not work in a vacuum. From the 1950s to the 1980s, the publications for children and youth were very varied - from the UK weeklies of Beano, Dandy and Look and Learn to the Chinese periodicals such as World Children and Children's Paradise and the youth magazines like The Young Malaysians and Youth Monthly, these reading materials aimed to shape the hearts and minds of the young of a new nation. This panel will explore the rich reading culture of that period.

Speakers: Edgar Liao, Li Zhiping

Admission is free,
register [here](#) or <https://afcc2018childrenmagazinesandstories.peatix.com/>

ANNEX IV: AFCC 2018 Speakers' Bios (Selected)

Adeline Foo (Singapore)

Adeline Foo has 28 published children's books, sold in Singapore, India, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Slovakia, Turkey and Australia. In 2017, she won the Asian Children's Book Award for *Tiny Feet, Tiny Shoes*. Adeline has also written for MediaCorp's Channel 5 and okto, for *Two Boys & A Mermaid*, *The Diary of Amos Lee* and *Whoopie's World*.

Ashley Koh (Singapore)

As an avid reader and a fervent writer, Ashley pursued her dream and published her first novel, *Rosemary and the Wood Hut Fairies*, awarded the NAC Presentation and Participation grant, and its Chinese counterpart at 11. She continues to find ways to pursue her passion, and in her spare time, studies at Singapore Chinese Girls' School and offers you dictionary definitions

Colin Goh (Singapore)

Colin Goh is one half of the husband-and-wife creative team behind *Dim Sum Warriors*, a critically-acclaimed bilingual comic app, which has also been adapted into a musical premiering in Shanghai. Together, they founded the satirical website *TalkingCock.com* and made the movie *Singapore Dreaming*, which has bagged numerous awards at film festivals worldwide.

Cynthia Liu (US)

Cynthia Liu is an award-winning children's book author, publisher and consultant. She is published with Penguin Random, Disney, S&S, and Scholastic, with her work translated into multiple languages. She is also the publisher of Starts With Us, which empowers children to change the world in pursuit of their talents and interests.

Denon Lim (Singapore)

Denon Lim Denan is the executive director and chief editor of Lingzi Media, and President of the Singapore Association of Writers. He is also a poet, having won the Golden Point Award and been shortlisted for the 2006 Singapore Literature Prize. His new poetry collection 《如果还有萤火虫》 (If There Are Still Fireflies) was published in December 2017.

Edmund Wee (Singapore)

Edmund Wee is the founder of Epigram Books which was set up to champion Singaporean literature. Its authors regularly win major book prizes, including the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award, Singapore Literature Prize and Singapore Book Awards. It also hosts the annual Epigram Books Fiction Prize and its London office started publishing literary fiction from Singapore and Southeast Asia in 2017.

Emily Lim

Author Emily Lim is the first outside North America to win three medals at the IPPY Awards and first in Southeast Asia to receive the Moonbeam Children's Book Award. Her Toy Series has been published in 4 languages in 5 countries. Emily was named Mediacorp's Singapore Woman Award 2013 Honoree for inspiring readers through her writing.

Eliza Teoh (Singapore)

Formerly a journalist and sub-editor at The Straits Times, Eliza Teoh is the author of the national-bestselling Ellie Belly series. Her books are infused with fun animal facts and language tips, which appeal to reluctant readers. Eliza has been a mentor to many young authors, conducting writing workshops in schools and facilitating workshops for the GEP Creative Writing Programme

Elodie Kyra

Elodie Kyra had her first taste of literary success as the co-author of her mother's national bestseller Ellie Belly #8: Otter Out of Water. This year, she released Rage, the first book in a planned trilogy. Elodie's debut novel hit the national bestselling list and proceeded to stay there for over 15 weeks, making her Singapore's youngest national bestseller.

Eva Wong Nava

Eva Wong Nava is an art historian, educator and writer. She founded CarpeArte Journal, which publishes her flash fiction and art writing alongside other contributors. Elsewhere, she reads and writes voraciously and authored Open: A Boy's Wayang Adventure, which encourages young readers to be more compassionate to people on the Autism Spectrum.

Eunice Olsen

Eunice Olsen is an actor, host, pianist, founder and executive producer of Eunice Olsen Media. She created the International Emmy Nominated series WomenTalk TV, an online interview program featuring unsung Asian 'sheroines'. In 2018, she published her first children's book I'm a Girl. See what I can be!, a series of poems inspired by the women she interviewed on WomenTalk.

Francis Wong (Hu Wei)

Architect Francis Wong Hooe Wai is the author of several books of prose and is a regular columnist for Lianhe Zaobao. He currently teaches creative writing in schools and often conducts storytelling and activity sessions. His recent picture books Grandpa's Little Room and Go Trishaw Go take their settings from old Chinatown.

Gabby Tye

Gabby Tye is an 18-year-old Veterinary Sciences student and also the national-bestselling author of the RunHideSeek trilogy. She has five books released and is now completing EverAfter, the sequel to RunHideSeek. Gabby is the youngest Singaporean author to have had her book rights acquired by a major Chinese publisher. The movie rights to her books have been optioned to Woosh Pictures.

Ginia Ng

Dr. Ng Sok Hoon, a senior lecturer from SEED institute, holds a Doctoral degree of Education from East China Normal University, specialized in Early Childhood Education. She rose through the ranks with more than 20 years of early childhood teaching and training experience. She is a prolific writer who had written 64 Chinese readers for young children.

Hidayah Amin

Hidayah Amin had her first short story published when she was 11. It was only when she lost her childhood home that she resumed writing and published Gedung Kuning in 2010. She has since written six non-fiction books and six children's books, including the award-winning The Mango Tree.

Josephine Chia

Josephine was inspired to be a writer and share the stories of her kampong life and Peranakan heritage. Her books often incorporate Singapore's social and political history, with Kampong Spirit Gotong Royong winning the 2014 Singapore Literature Prize. She has spoken at several international writing festivals, and mentors teenage and adult aspiring writers.

Khairuddin Baharom

Khairudin Saharom's journey in children's book illustration began with "What Sallamah Didn't Know", a heartfelt story written by Sharon Ismail. A firm believer that illustrations are capable of triggering the senses and capturing emotions, he uses drawing as tool for communication in his work as an architect. Khai has also conducted classes on doodling as a tool for language mastery.

Karen Lee

Karen is a storyteller and trainer with years of experience in the education field. She has been telling stories to people of all ages at schools, libraries and various community space, believing in their power to inspire people, teach values and bring communities together. She also trains preschool teachers, adults and students eager to use storytelling in various ways.

Lesley-Anne Tan

Lesley-Anne Tan is currently an undergraduate studying at Yale-NUS College. She co-wrote the action-packed Danger Dan children's book series, published when she was just 16. Her popular Secrets of Singapore series has clinched several awards. She has spoken at numerous schools and literary events, and has been interviewed by both local and international media.

Lee Seow Ser (Singapore)

When not lawyering or mothering, Seow Ser writes, edits and leads Project to S.I.R (Socially Inclusive Reads) with Love. She is the author of four children's picture books including Si Ma Guang and the Giant Jar (IBBY Outstanding Book for Young People with Disabilities 2017) and The Rain Tree.

May Tan

May Tan is the Director of Literary Arts at the National Arts Council. She works closely with the literary community and government partners to champion Singaporean literature and writers as well as to cultivate an appreciation of the diverse stories from Singapore.

Marie Toh

Marie Toh is an illustrator currently based in London. She enjoys visual story telling and illustrated her first book, The Boy in the Whale Suit, which was published by Epigram. She has since illustrated movie posters for local independent cinemas such as The Projector and Anticipate Pictures.

Marc Checkley (New Zealand)

Marc has over 15 years of experience in broadcasting, content production, development and consultancy across the Asia-Pacific, and is a regular speaker and workshop facilitator at creative business events. He is Chairman of AFCC's Cross-Platform Summit and was a key advisor to Singapore's Workforce Development Agency. He launched IO Creative, a production, development and consultancy agency in 2016.

Marco Sparmberg (Singapore)

Marco Sparmberg has worked on numerous new media pioneer projects in China, Hong Kong, Germany and the UK during the past 12 years. He is one of the leading transmedia evangelists in Asia. As Audience Development Lead at Mediacorp, he drives the organization's social media strategy as well as digital business transformation in digital content.

Mindy Pang

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

Mohd Mukhlis Bin Abu Bakar

Mukhlis Abu Bakar is an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. He obtained his MA and PhD from the University of Wales, Bangor, UK. His current research interests lie in the fields of bilingualism, biliteracy, and literacy learning, and spans the domains of home, school and faith.

Nur-El Hudaa Jaafar

Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar began writing fiction in 2014. Since then, she has won awards for her children's books, short stories and poetry. She is also a translator and an editor. A volunteer storyteller at a library, Nur-El-Hudaa believes that there is no age limit to enjoy a children's book.

Patrick Yee

With 180 books to his credit, Patrick Yee is one of Singapore's leading illustrators. In 2016, he received The Most Prolific Illustrator award from the Singapore Book of Records. His works include the Lee Kwan Yew and Rosie Rabbit series, the latter translated into eight languages. Patrick also lectures at various tertiary institutions and teaches Art Therapy to special needs children.

Priscila Tey

Priscilla Tey is an illustrator and art educator. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), she loves woolgathering and maintains a healthy sheep obsession. Her first picture book, *In-Between Things*, was published worldwide by Candlewick Press in 2018 and she is currently working on two more books under the same publisher.

Radhika Puri

Radhika Puri is an award-winning journalist. She has won the World Press Institute Media fellowship and the Polestar Award, the latter for her contributions to internet journalism. She moved to Singapore in 2007, where she became a research associate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. *Mountain of Fire* and *The Fibonacci Revelation* are her first two novels.

Rilla Melati

Rilla is a pioneer of Malay speech and drama programmes for schools in Singapore, and the founder of Mini Monsters Ltd. Author of several Malay children's storybooks, she has written scripts for many Malay children's TV shows since the 1990s. Rilla has also translated SR Nathan's *The Crane and the Crab* into Malay.

Rosemarie Somaiah

Rosemarie Somaiah runs Asian Storytelling Network. One of Singapore's best-known storytellers, Rosemarie works with all ages. She creates original content in text and performance for educational, community and corporate organisations. Her books include *The Never Mind Girl and Other Stories*, *Gateway to Singapore Culture* and *Indian Children's Favourite Stories*.

Sharon Ismail

Sharon's love of books since young has resulted in her current passion to write books for children on issues relevant to their lives. In addition to being an educator from primary to university levels, Sharon also acts and hosts for stage and television. *The Ghost with Dirty Feet* is her third book after *What Sallamah Didn't Know* and *Makan Time!*, a bilingual picture book.

Sim Ee Waun

A food & travel writer and freelance editor for 28 years, Sim Ee Waun turned to writing children's books as her second career. She co-authored history-based *The Little Singapore Book* and *The House on Palmer Road* and is a founding partner of boutique children's publisher Pepper Dog Press.

Suffian Hakim

Suffian Hakim is a writer; contributing articles, and scripts to magazines and television shows. He has authored two novels and in 2017, he was the second runner-up for the prestigious Esquire X Montblanc Fiction Writer Prize. While described as "undoubtedly one of the most whimsical, creative and unpretentious young voices in Singapore literature" by *The Straits Times*, his mother has described him as "criminally negligent in cleaning his room."

Sung Yuen Ling (Maha Yuyi)

Yuen Ling left the engineering profession to join her family business Maha Yu Yi Pte Ltd. She started the children's bookstore 8 years ago and it now has the widest collection of Chinese children's books in Singapore. She sources books for the National Library, preschools, primary schools, and international schools in Singapore.

Suchen Christine Lim (Singapore)

Suchen Christine Lim is the first winner of the Singapore Literature Prize (Fiction) in 1992, for her novel *Fistful of Colours*. Lim, who written novels, is also the author of short stories, children's stories, students' textbooks and a play. In addition, she has held writing residencies and conducted writing workshops in various countries overseas.

Sarah Odedina (UK)

Sarah Odedina has worked in the area of children's publishing for over two decades and with authors ranging from JK Rowling and Neil Gaiman, to debut authors whose stars are just rising. Sarah is Editor-at-Large for Pushkin's Children's Books as well as Editor of Scoop Magazine.

Satoshi Kitamura (Japan)

Satoshi Kitamura is a Japanese children's picture book author and illustrator. In 1983 he received the Mother Goose Award for the Most Exciting Newcomer to British Illustration for Angry Arthur (written by Hiawyn Oram). He has written and illustrated over 50 children's books and continues to explore the medium.

Tan Chee Lay

Associate Professor Tan Chee Lay is Executive Director of the Singapore Centre for Chinese Language and Deputy Head of NIE's Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group, Nanyang Technological University. A prominent writer and artist, he has won several writing awards, including the Golden Point, Young Artist and Fang Xiu Literary Awards. Dr. Tan also has over 20 books published.

Tan Ter Cheah

Tan Ter Cheah lost her right leg to synovial sarcoma at age six, with her debut book ONE based loosely on her memories of the experience. Trained as a lawyer, she later obtained her professional accountancy qualification while working full-time. She hopes to share her love for words and her life experiences with children and adults alike.

Vijayanand Thamothran

Vijayanand Thamotharan is the Director of Crimson Earth. He has previously worked as the Director of Absolutely Parents. His interests include publishing, business development, education planning and content development.

Wong Swee Yean

Swee Yean is a storyteller who enjoys sharing the joy of the oral tradition. She has trained teachers and emerging storytellers of all ages and regularly shares the folklore of Asia with local children, sometimes re-imagining the traditional tales for a modern audience for better appreciation of the values as well as respect for cultural diversity.

Woo Yen Yen (Singapore)

Woo Yen Yen is one half of the husband-and-wife creative team behind Dim Sum Warriors, a critically-acclaimed bilingual comic app, which has also been adapted into a musical premiering in Shanghai. Together, they founded the satirical website TalkingCock.com and made the movie Singapore Dreaming, which has bagged numerous awards at film festivals worldwide.

Yang Shu Hung

Currently a Chinese teacher, freelance translator and interpreter, Yang Shu Hung spent her schooling years buried in both English and Chinese literature. Her love for both languages is rooted in a belief that they are interconnected. She hopes to instil in her students the same passion for languages and literature - just as her teachers had in her.

Yusof Gajah (Malaysia)

Yusof Gajah is Malaysia's foremost naive art artists. He studied art and later launched his career as a full-time artist where he proceeded to make waves in the art world. A writer and illustrator of children's picture books, his books have won numerous awards, most notably the Noma Concours Grand Prix Award for *The Real Elephant*. He regularly conducts art workshops and enjoys working with children.

Zed Yeo

Zed Yeo is the writer of the Saurus Series picture books and the YA fantasy novel, *Half Ghost*. He has also written a collection of bizarre short fictions for mature readers, *Unapologetically Insane Tales*. His favourite toy is a wind-up bird. He does not own a glove with five glittery gems... yet.

ANNEX V: About Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award

The Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award started in 2011 in honour of Mrs. Hedwig Anuar. It is presented biennially to an outstanding children's book written by a Singapore citizen or Permanent Resident.

Its objectives are to encourage the quality and quantity of books published for children and to promote the publication of books, set in a familiar and meaningful background that is relevant to the Singapore children.

The prize carries a cash award of \$10,000, which is to be shared by the writer and the illustrator. Should the book be a translation, the award will be shared equally between the writer, illustrator and translator.

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. Though she made contributions to all aspects of library work and put in place the foundations of the modern library system in Singapore, this award recognizes her outstanding contribution to children's librarianship in the promotion of books and reading for children.

For more information, please visit: <https://bookcouncil.sg/>

Panel of Judges

Name	Designation	Bio
David Seow	Chief Judge	David Seow is a well-known children's book writer in the Singapore literary scene, having written 42 children's books.
Sarah Odedina	Judge	Sarah Odedina is the Editor-at-Large for Pushkin's Children's Books and is also the editor of Scoop Magazine
Emily Lim	Judge	Emily Lim is an award-winning children's book author and is the first South-east Asian recipient of the Moonbeam Award (2009).

Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award Shortlist

<p>Author: Xie Shi Min</p> <p>Book Title: Dragonhearted</p> <p>Scholastic, 2016</p>		
<p>Bio:</p> <p>Xie Shi Min spends her time writing books and living in a book fort. She has written for lifestyle publications, and have been published in journals. Her first book, Dragonhearted, was shortlisted for the Scholastic Asian Book Award in 2014 and the Singapore Book Awards in 2017.</p>		
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Xin Long is like any ordinary ten-year-old girl. She prefers Wushu to studying, likes hanging out with her friends, and loves listening to her Ah Ma's stories. But when these stories tell of an ancient mythical beast that threatens to destroy the world, Xin Long realises that she is the only one who can stop it.</p> <p>Can she destroy this evil? As time flies by, Xin Long and her friends – Shu Ping, Four Eyes, and dragon guardian Xiao Lan – must unlock the secrets of ancient Chinese mythology to find a way to stop the end of the world.</p>		
<p>Author: Ben Lai</p> <p>Book Title: I Can</p> <p>Epiphany Arts, 2017</p>		
<p>Bio:</p>		

Ben Lai is a freelance designer and illustrator based in Singapore. Having trained in industrial design and worked as a digital artist, he eventually devoted himself to making picture books after the birth of his first daughter.

Synopsis:

Embark on a journey of discovery around Singapore as you learn about the island nation's most famous landmarks and icons.

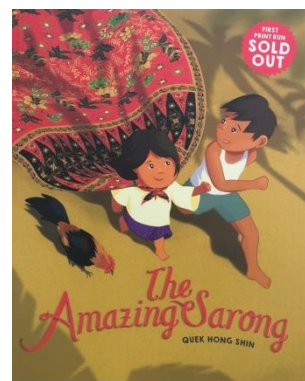
The story stars a young girl who proudly proclaims "I can" as she engages in fun activities in her interaction with these places and objects. A sense of ableness and independence is thereby conveyed to young readers.

"I Can" is the perfect introduction to life in Singapore for early readers. This is a book for every child growing up here.

Author: Quek Hong Shin

Book Title: *The Amazing Sarong*

Epigram Books, 2015



Bio:

Quek Hong Shin is a freelance illustrator who has illustrated several picture books. *The Amazing Sarong*—the first book he wrote and illustrated—was shortlisted for Best Children's Title at the Singapore Book Awards 2016. He intends to promote local culture to the young through his works and storytelling.

Synopsis:

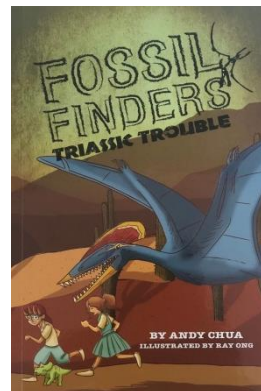
Isn't a sarong just a boring big piece of cloth? What can be so amazing about it? Nora and Adi are about to go to the beach when their mother takes off her baby sling and hands it to the two children. They discover that there is more than meets the eye to this seemingly ordinary sarong. Join Nora and Adi as they go on a playful day out and discover what unexpected fun, joy and new encounters the sarong can bring.

Author: Andy Chua

Illustrator: Ray Ong

Book Title: Fossil Finders 3:
Triassic Trouble

Bubbly Books, 2017



Bios:

Andy Chua

Andy Chua has been collecting fossils since he was 20, and now owns over 400 unique specimens. As a pioneer member of the local palaeontology society, Singapore Fossil Collectors, he is a guest speaker on prehistoric life and dinosaurs in schools, libraries and museums.

Fossil Finders is his first children's book series.

Ray Ong

Ray is a designer/illustrator based in Singapore. She is trained in concept game art, storyboarding, animation and motion graphics. On the side, she runs her very own webstore, designing and selling iron-on patches, enamel pins and other knick knacks. More of her work can be viewed at: <https://www.behance.net/rayong>

Synopsis:

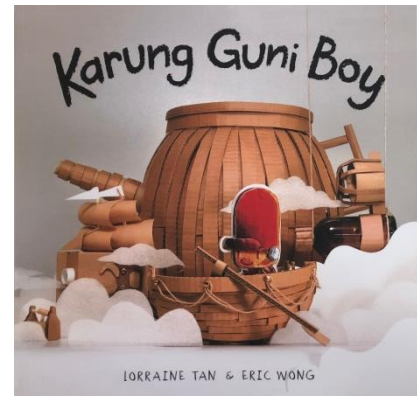
Armed with a magical watch from Norus, the guardian of the prehistoric exhibit at the Singapore Science Museum, Samuel and Anna get transported back to the time of the dinosaurs. However, Samuel is hiding a secret that will endanger the lives of those closest to him: a triceratops egg he brought back from the past has hatched. Samuel is hiding a real, live baby triceratops in his room...

Author: Lorraine Tan

Illustrator: Eric Wong

Book Title: Karang Guni Boy

Publisher: Epigram Books,
2016



Bios:

Lorraine Tan

Lorraine Tan is a lecturer at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Her first children's book, *Pip's Garden*, won the First-Time Writers and Illustrations Award in 2009. In 2013, her picture book, *Origami Girl*, was the Singapore first prize winner for the Daekyo Eye Level Children's Literature Award.

Eric Wong

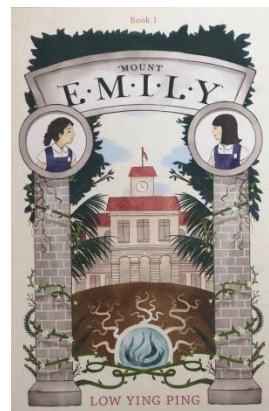
Eric Wong is an illustrator who takes every opportunity to deliver work that is witty and aesthetically pleasing. He is always finding and experimenting with new ways to challenge his limits.

Synopsis:

Ming is a very creative boy who loves to make things and he would love the chance to create his fanciful inventions.

He didn't have the money to buy the things to make his inventions, and was wondering what to do when the sound of the Karung Guni man's car horn beeped. This gave Ming an idea: he would become Karung Guni boy and make things out of things he collected instead. So he went door-to-door to his neighbours asking for things they no longer wanted. Soon he had enough to build his machine. The grateful neighbours came to the unveiling of Ming's invention and were delighted to see that he had built a machine that would serve as a helper for them, whenever they needed an extra hand.

Author: Low Ying Ping
Illustrator: Chee Jia Yi
Book Title: Mount Emily
(Book 1)
Epigram Books, 2016



Bio:

Low Ying Ping

Low Ying Ping holds a Master's degree in English Literature from the University of Warwick. Her poems have appeared in *Singa*, the journal of the National University of Singapore Centre for the Arts; and *QLRS* (Quarterly Literary Review Singapore). *Mount Emily* is her first novel.

Jia Yi (No photo)

Jia Yi is a full-time graphic designer with experience in advertising and publishing in Singapore. She currently designs book covers and layouts and helps with illustration when needed. While versatile in style, her work occasionally contains influences from Japan and its culture. She works with digital, ink and watercolour.

Synopsis:

While digging around their school's backyard in search of an urban legend, Patsy Goh and her best friend Elena are whisked back in time to 1987. Trapped in their mums' 13-year-old bodies, the duo race against the clock to hunt down the magical time crystal that got them in this mess, before the evil Midnight Warriors find it and cause a time crisis that could destroy all of existence.

ANNEX VI: About Scholastic Asian Book Award

The Scholastic Asian Book Award is a joint initiative between the Singapore Book Council and Scholastic Asia that started in 2011. To promote Asian experiences and expression in creative and innovative forms, this award recognises writers of Asian origin whose manuscripts have the potential to share uniquely Asian experiences of life, spirit, and thinking with the rest of the world.

The objectives of this award are:


- To recognize excellence in fiction in Asian stories for children
- To showcase the diversity of literary talent within Asia
- To encourage and inspire more Asian-themed books and stories


For more information, please visit www.scholasticbookaward.asia

Panel of Judges

Name	Designation	One-Liner Bio
Daphne Lee	Chief Judge	Daphne Lee is Editorial Consultant at Scholastic Asia, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was part of the team responsible for the creation of the Scholastic Asian Book Award.
Colin Goh	Judge	Colin Goh is a Singaporean film maker, satirist and cartoonist who produced <i>Dim Sum Warriors</i> , a graphic novel about Kung Fu-fighting dumplings.
Ruth Wong	Judge	Ruth Wong teaches at the National Institute of Education, NTU and specializes in methodology courses on teaching English at the primary level.

Scholastic Asian Book Award Shortlist


Author: Yuet Lan Dora Tsang	
Manuscript Title: BLUE ²	
Country: HKSAR, China	
<p>Bio: An author and painter by profession, Dora Tsang is an avid artist and hidden hedonist by nature. She spends a great deal of her time working with children, writing and creating art.</p>	
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>BLUE², a novel-in-verse set in Hong Kong, is about a relentlessly self-disciplined bulimic girl. On the surface, she wants to drop a few kilos. Deep inside, the weight she wants to shed is mammoth: her coming-of-age confusion, her guilt about her brother's death and the burden of her colonized city being handed back to its motherland.</p> <p>The novel addresses the question of whether she can come to grips with her past and to terms with herself before bulimia kills her.</p>	

Author: Tina Jimin Walton	
Manuscript Title: Last Days of the Morning Calm	
Country: Singapore	
<p>Bio: Tina Walton is a Korean-American writer who lives in Singapore. She studied writing at Vermont College of Fine Arts, where she received her MFA in Writing in 2016. She's a new, unpublished writer who has written a middle grade historical fiction novel, short stories, and picture books.</p>	
<p>Synopsis:</p>	

In a prominent manor, life is changing for Ji-nah, the fourteen-year-old ward, and Han, the seventeen-year-old servant. When Master Yi, the court envoy, sends a mysterious letter putting Tutor Lim in charge, the two, young people suspect foul play. They uncover the tutor's hand in the master's disappearance and his broader conspiracy to overthrow Queen Min. As the "hermit kingdom" falls further into chaos, Ji-nah and Han must save the queen, whose fate seems tied to their master. In their mission, the two discover their own identities in the closing chapters of the Joseon era.

Author: Mabel Gan	
Manuscript Title: My Ghost Story	
Country: Singapore	
<p>Bio: Mabel writes and directs for film and television. She graduated from Florida State University with an MFA in Motion Picture, Television and the Recording Arts. In 2011, Mabel founded the Singapore International Children's Film Festival which she continues to produce each year.</p>	
<p>Synopsis: Ten-year-old Bee Ling is raised in a wealthy family in pre-war Singapore, waited on by <i>Amahs</i>. Her world is shattered when an air-raid kills her sister, and the Japanese invade Singapore. To help Bee Ling through this difficult time, her sister's ghost returns. The new challenges take Bee Ling on a journey of self-discovery that will bring her a newfound appreciation of the <i>Amahs</i> and her family.</p>	

Author: Josephine Chia	
Manuscript Title: Queen of the Sky	

Country: Singapore	
<p>Bio: Peranakan author, Josephine Chia, is published internationally in both fiction and non-fiction. Josephine has won literary prizes and awards in UK and Singapore. Her books have been translated into Bahasa Indonesia, Malay, and work-in-progress in Chinese.</p>	
<p>Synopsis: Fauziah is a modern, nine-year-old Malay girl. She adores her Great Grandmother whom she nicknamed GGM. GGM has lots of exciting tales to tell her about old Singapore. She took Fauziah to see the site of her old kampung, an attap-thatched village along the Kallang River where she had met famous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart. GGM is very active and does not behave like a doddering Senior. She started skiing at sixty and wants to do something adventurous for her 90th birthday. But the entire family does not approve.</p>	

Author: Varsha Seshan	
Manuscript Title: Red Eyes	
Country: India	
<p>Bio: Varsha Seshan is a children's author with thirteen books to her credit. She was shortlisted for the 2016 Scholastic Asian Book Award. She enjoys working with children and facilitates workshops both independently and with the British Council. In addition, she conducts a Writers' Club for pre-teens in Pune.</p>	

Synopsis:

Eleven-year-old Veer Prann runs away from boarding school to his parents in Suryanagar, a village at the gate to a wildlife sanctuary. When he catches sight of a pair of red eyes in the forest, he is pulled into a world where powerful people are engaged in a silent competition to capture a creature that is rumoured to have an evolutionary advantage over human beings. Veer knows he must save the creature from being captured as a lab specimen or a special attraction at a zoo. The problem is that he does not know how.

Author: Joel Donato Ching Jacob

Manuscript Title: Wing of the Locust

Country: Philippines



Bio:

Joel Donato Jacob grew up in a garlic farm in Cabuyao, Laguna before moving to Los Baños. He is currently taking up Creative Writing in Filipino in the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. His stories and poems may be read in many magazines and journals.

Synopsis:

Tuan is uplifted from his mediocrity and homeliness by the tutelage of the Muhen. Tuan is shocked that his apprenticeship requires him mutilate his body to gain power—to see through the eyespots of a moth at the cost of his eye; to inject life-saving venom through the sting of wasps that have eaten his kidney; command locusts that nest in the cavity of his collapsed lung. Then he learns of the craft's applications in espionage, sabotage and assassination. But when his friends are abducted, Tuan must consider giving up his humanity in order to save the ones he loves.