ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY
A Selection of Children’s and Young Adult Literature from Singapore
Foreword

“Once Upon A Garden City” conjures a time and place of imagination.

A time that is distant but also perennially present in the way that all fairy tales seem to come from a long time ago and yet, still, they speak powerfully to us today.

A place that is pastoral and urban, as tranquil and green as moss, leaves and grass, and yet also steely and shiny like a skyscraper, gritty and speedy like cars zipping by on tarmac.

In the listings that follow, the paradoxical and poetic amalgam of Garden and City will be seen to display a wide array of fruits of the imagination. The books, written for children and young adults, were seeded and nurtured by writers for whom the imagination is not in the margins but at the centre of life.

And what exuberant visions of life they have planted! Adventure stories and fantasy are dominant genres, with ordinary life often morphing into something extraordinary with life-changing consequences.

The Garden City of stories is a place where hope and literary language are symbiotically related. The trials and tests endured by the heroes and heroines of these books embody their creators’ conviction in the power of the imagination to change lives. But first there is also a deep-rooted unshakeable belief in language as an agent of change, as much as the imagination.

Once upon a Garden City, there were four distinct languages, stemming from fertile lands further afield with their own cultural legacies and histories. In this sense, Singaporean literature is world literature.

A complex potpourri of different cultures, histories, and influences is evident from a glance at the linguistic diversity of the authors’ names. It is also the source of inspiration for some of the books.

At their core, these are not English, Malay, Chinese, and Tamil stories, but Singaporean stories. They come from writers who have looked closely around them, felt deeply about what they observed, and were compelled to release their innermost thoughts and feelings to the world through literature.

Without language, without wonder, there could not have been any once upon a time in the Garden City. With every word, a sound and an image come into being. With every book, a new world of sounds and images is created and extends its invitation to the reader: “Come, be with me a little while.” And with every reader who can do this and is willing to do this, there is wonder.

The books could not have existed without the act of writing. But they are also testament to the vital role of the reader. It is through the reader that fictional lives spring into action.

In 2015 Singapore celebrates her Jubilee year. Looking back, we see fifty years of massive development, giant strides in economic growth and progress, the constancy of change (that many times makes one wish for the impossible: that everything and nothing will change). The storyline has become familiar, but this should not reduce in any way its miraculousness, however jaded one might be.

For this is also a story that vindicates the imagination: the imagination of Singapore’s first generation of leaders and citizens. When the work of building a nation began after 1965, Singaporeans put their imagination to work. The Garden City of today is the book of wonder that they wrote.

Dr. Yeo Wei Wei
Independent researcher for the arts
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One day, Yang Yang decides to pay a visit to his Ah Ma’s house. Little did he know that he would embark on an exciting adventure! "A Visit to Ah Ma’s House" is a lively and heartwarming picture book celebrating the power of the imagination.

Yang Yang and Kai Kai are brothers who enter an imaginary world of forest and sea animals and have a wonderful time. But when monsters mount an attack on them, Yang Yang steps up to defend his younger brother. This is a picture book that celebrates the imagination of children and the love of siblings.
Anupa Roy

Travels of Little Rice Grass

Long, long ago, there was a small blade of grass. Born in the marshes along a river, the wild grass embarked on exciting travels with early humans. It crossed rivers and mountains, visiting many distant lands, setting down roots and making itself at home wherever people chose to settle down. The little grass is loved by all. Can you guess its name?

Travels of Little Tea Leaves

How did tea come to be grown and savoured in different countries around the world? What is the story of Little Tea Leaves that leave their home in search of big adventures abroad? Travels of Little Tea Leaves tells this fascinating story using rhymes, illustrations, and even a delightful song!

Anupa Roy has been based in Singapore for the last 10 years. She worked as a librarian in a university library in Mumbai before she became a writer. The Travels series marks her first foray into picture books. Travels of Little Rice Grass was shortlisted in the National Arts Council’s Beyond Words competition in 2012. Her writing has been published online in India and Singapore.

Lianne Ong

Stacey Goes to the National Museum

Stacey and the Museums is a series on a little girl, Stacey’s adventures during her visits to museums in Singapore. Stacey’s experiences are filled with fun and excitement. Produced in partnership with the National Heritage Board of Singapore, these books feature actual exhibits from the museums.

One cool spring day, Reuben finds a caterpillar in the school garden. He names her Maxilla and hopes to see her become a butterfly. But Maxilla is a special caterpillar that can only thrive in her natural habitat. Will Reuben keep Maxilla or will he release her into the wild?

Lianne Ong is a freelance writer with a focus on parenting, education and lifestyle topics. She is the author of Maxilla, a children’s picture book and the Stacey & the Museums series published in partnership with the National Heritage Board. Lianne’s education background is in Southeast Asian Studies and International Relations. She resides in Singapore with her husband and two children, Reuben and Phoebe.

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Squirky realises that he looks very different from his daddy, mummy and sister Emma, and wants to know why. His parents tell him the story of how he came to be part of their family. Squirky finds out that he’s not actually from Earth, but a mysterious place called Planet Q!

Squirky and his sister Emma embark on an exciting space adventure by travelling in the capsule that Squirky had used to come to Earth. Their first stop: the South Star! They meet Queen Stella, a beautiful and kind lady who seems rather sad and secretive. What is she hiding? Will she be able to help them find Squirky’s birth parents?


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LANGUAGE English
The Adventures of Squirky the Alien 1: Why am I Blue?
978-967-415-255-0
The Adventures of Squirky the Alien 2: What happened to Planet Q?

Squirky realises that he looks very different from his daddy, mummy and sister Emma, and wants to know why. His parents tell him the story of how he came to be part of their family. Squirky finds out that he’s not actually from Earth, but a mysterious place called Planet Q!

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Sharon Ismail has always had a passion for words, whether spoken or written. Her first children’s book based on her mother’s childhood, *What Sallamah Didn’t Know* has been adopted as a Primary 6 text in the Ministry of Education’s STELLAR syllabus. The Ministry of Education has also requested a book set of her co-authored bilingual picture books with Rilla Melati Bahri, *Makan Time!* and *Ati’s Baju Melayu* for each pre-school centre in Singapore. Apart from lecturing, Sharon also acts and hosts for MediaCorp Channel 5 and Suria productions.

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**PICTURE BOOKS**

**Pauline Loh**

**Ryan the Playground Expert**

This book is about a little boy Ryan who has muscular dystrophy. But this does not stop him from pursuing his grand dream – Ryan wants to visit all the playgrounds in his country! Ryan takes pictures and notes for his playground project and creates beautiful scrapbooks on his favourite topic.

*Ryan the Playground Expert*

**The Little Red Helicopter**

Charlene and Kevin love the little red helicopter in the playground. One day, they notice the little helicopter looks quite different – it looks real! Join them as they go on a fantastic flight of fantasy in the little red helicopter!

*The Little Red Helicopter*

Pauline Loh is a children’s book author and stay-at-home mother of three children. She has been writing professionally for more than two decades. She won the First Time Writers and Illustrators Publishing Initiative 2009 award with her picture book *The Little Red Helicopter*. In 2012 she was first runner-up for the Scholastic Asian Book Award.

*LANGUAGE English*  
*ISBN 978-981-4542-469*  
*Ryan the Playground Expert*  
*978-98124266-369*  
*The Little Red Helicopter*

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**PICTURE BOOKS**

**Sharon Ismail**

**What Sallamah Didn’t Know**

Sallamah was born into a poor Chinese family and given away to a Malay family. Through her birth certificate, Sallamah discovers a secret which would alter the reality of all that she thought she knew and understood.

*What Sallamah Didn’t Know*

When Sarah goes out with Grandpa, it is always Makan Time! Join Sarah as she discovers local delicacies such as nasi lemak and roti prata with her grandfather.

*Makan Time!*

Sharon Ismail has always had a passion for words, whether spoken or written. Her first children’s book based on her mother’s childhood, *What Sallamah Didn’t Know* has been adopted as a Primary 6 text in the Ministry of Education’s STELLAR syllabus. The Ministry of Education has also requested a book set of her co-authored bilingual picture books with Rilla Melati Bahri, *Makan Time!* and *Ati’s Baju Melayu* for each pre-school centre in Singapore. Apart from lecturing, Sharon also acts and hosts for MediaCorp Channel 5 and Suria productions.

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On the day of the storytelling competition, Little Crow hurriedly flips through a storybook to do last-minute preparation. But the book disappears before he finishes reading it! What will Little Crow do at the competition? Young readers will be tickled by Little Crow’s antics and may even see a bit of themselves in him!

The Naughty Mynah

Paul Jones, an art teacher visiting Singapore, befriends a clever mynah. Agreeing to help Mr Jones learn Mandarin, the mynah accompanies him to surprise his students on the first day of school. The mynah soon learns that it is too clever for its own good. Or does it?

Something Special

Mum and Dad are glad that Jia Ying has a hobby. But her hobby is becoming a problem and everyone around her tries to help. Jia Ying does not see anything wrong with her hobby until one day…

Where is My Home?

Poor Callie loses her way and can’t find her way back home. This is a story about her search for home and the different animals she meets on the way. She discovers the value of home and learns to appreciate the meaning of a home of one’s own.

PICTURE BOOKS

Evelyn Sue Wong

The Naughty Mynah

Evelyn grew up in Toronto, Canada. She married a Singaporean, and has two children who have grown up in Singapore with her love for reading and storytelling. While teaching and writing on industrial relations and corporate social responsibility, she pursued her interest in creative writing. The Naughty Mynah has been selected by the Learning Connections, an arts-integrated learning organisation, to be adapted into a multi-sensory storytelling performance that will tour preschools in 2015.

PICTURE BOOKS

Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar

Where is My Home?

Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar is an executive at a local publishing firm. Her first job after she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from NUS in 1992 was as an editorial assistant for a children’s books publisher. An avid reader, she believes that one is never too young or too old to enjoy a children’s book. She also writes poetry and short stories.

PICTURE BOOKS

X Kwang

Little Crow Tells a Story

Whenever the tortoise and the hare are mentioned, people will naturally think of the famous race. In this innovative new take on that age-old tale, the hare and the tortoise have been transformed from enemies to friends. Both animals use their strengths to work with each other, demonstrating the value of friendship and cooperation.

LANGUAGE

Chinese / English

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Rights Available

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ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY
Ramanathan Ramachandran

The Snail Who Didn’t Want His Shell

Sentil Snail loves to race and finds a way to beat his friends. In the process, he learns that his shell is more valuable than he first believed it to be.

Baju Melayu Ati (Ati’s Baju Melayu)

A surprise awaits Ati when she opens her grandmother’s antique bag. What can it be? Follow Ati on her journey of discovery!

Adil’s Dining Table

What happens when Adil’s dining table gets taken away by Ah Pek, the rag-and-bone man? Will Adil get to be a soccer hero? Or will he drive his vehicle into the garage? Or will he become a doctor to Teddy?

Chu Qiao is a bibliophile who has attempted to check out more books than allowed at the school library since young. She believes that when you read a book, the book reads you too. Her hope is that Purple will one day become a cherished favourite for children who will learn that the gems are found between the lines.

Purple

Ridiculed by the family of warm colours and left alone by the neutrals, Blue finally stumbles upon the truth of his intrinsic beauty and finds a friend in Red. But will the rest allow Red to mix with Blue?

Rilla Melati Bahri

Wang Chu Qiao

Shanghai Joy Publication 

THE NAUGHTY MYNAH

LANGUAGE English / Chinese
ISBN 978-981-09-0338-1

SOMETHING SPECIAL

LANGUAGE English / Chinese

WHERE IS MY HOME?

LANGUAGE English
ISBN 978-981-09-0339-8

THE SNAIL WHO DIDN’T WANT HIS SHELL

LANGUAGE English / Tamil

BAJU MELAYU ATI (ATI’S BAJU MELAYU)

LANGUAGE English / Malay
ISBN 978-981-07-3892-8

ADIL’S DINING TABLE

LANGUAGE English / Malay
ISBN 978-981-07-6262-0

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Once Upon a Garden City

Beyond Words is an initiative to encourage local authors and illustrators to create high quality content for young children. These winning entries have been published and some have been adapted into interactive e-book apps.

Carolyn Goodwin

Dragon’s Egg

A young girl tells us the story of a giant egg found at East Coast Park in Singapore. When the egg is hatched, a baby dragon is revealed, but it cries and cries! The girl realises something is wrong and she knows she has to do something quick! The rhymes and whimsical illustrations in this charming tale will delight readers of all ages.

Charlene Chua

Extraordinary Eloise

Extraordinary Eloise is a lyrical celebration of a child’s unique individuality. The story will tickle young children as they are introduced to the different types of clouds and the water cycle.

Gwen Lee

Little Cloud Wants Snow!

Little Cloud wants to make a snowman but he lives in the tropics where it doesn’t snow. Together with Mama Cloud, they set out on an adventure to find snow.

Tan Soon Meng

Pura the Cat

Pura is a cat living at Boat Quay with three friends Dexter, Mei and Bhavana. Other cats don’t pay attention to Pura until they realise he is a Singapura cat, a very special breed. When Pura is captured by some unscrupulous men, Dexter, Mei and Bhavana mount a rescue.

Yixian Quek

Happily Ever After is So Once Upon a Time

When do we realise that fairy tales are just tales, Santa Claus is your dad in a silly costume, and there is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Belle is a precocious seven-year-old who often wonders about life and learns that life is best lived with positivity and magic.

Carolyn Goodwin writes picture books, short stories, novels and poetry for children. Curse of the Viking Sword, her first novel for younger readers, was published in 2008. It was one of the awardees of the First Time Writers and Illustrators Publishing Initiatives. Carolyn is an active member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and is passionate about promoting literacy and love of reading in children.

Charlene Chua grew up in an animal research facility where her father worked as a laboratory technician. There, in the leafy outskirts of Sembawang, Singapore, she made friends with giant moths, thousands of laboratory mice and chimps, and a pair of geese called G1 and G2. She tried her hand at journalism and then entrepreneurship, before ending up in advertising. Today, she continues to monkey her way around the marketing jungle, crafting brand campaigns.

Gwen Lee is the author of the architecture book City of Waves: VivoCity and the children’s book There Was a Peranakan Woman Who Lived in a Shoe. A recommended book for the Read! Singapore Festival 2014, Little Cloud Wants Snow! has been translated into Korean (print) and Mandarin (app), and is being used by schools in Texas, USA, to educate children about weather science. Trained as an architect in the UK, Gwen is one of the few interdisciplinary writers straddling the fields of architecture and literature. Her works have been published in several design books and periodicals, as well as literary journals such as the Asia Literary Review.

Tan Soon Meng was a Marit Award winner in TheatreWorks’ 24-hour playwriting competition for his short play Accounting Principles and was a writer on Season 6 of the popular MediaCorp comedy series The Noose. His science-fiction comic story Ockham’s Razor was a winner in the Media Development Authority’s Ignite! Scheme for graphic novels and was published in the Arena comic book anthology. Soon Meng has also written a comedy screenplay titled You’re Killin’ Me Here, and a contract law book for lawyers titled Contract Smart. He won both the Nobel Prize for Literature as well as the Booker Prize in a dream he had two weeks ago.

Yixian Quek graduated from Nanyang Technological University with a ‘Best of Advertising’ prize at the Singapore Crowbar Creativity Awards. Her first book The Book That Was Handed Down won the inaugural Hedwig Anuar Award for outstanding picture book in 2011. Yixian is fascinated with how words and pictures combine to tell a story. She is currently working on a photography project with support from the National Heritage Board, to document all school uniforms in Singapore.

Lydia Leong, Managing Editor
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Yixian Quek

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When do we realise that fairy tales are just tales, Santa Claus is your dad in a silly costume, and there is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Belle is a precocious seven-year-old who often wonders about life and learns that life is best lived with positivity and magic.
Liow Yu Ting has always had an interest in the arts, particularly illustrated books for children. Her work, _Not Just Coloured Pencils_, has been featured in the Chinese category in the Top 10 list of Popular Readers’ Choice in 2013. Her illustrations and short stories have appeared in _Thumbs Up Little Junior_. Her other interests include photography and arts and crafts.

**Dong Dong Dong**

Mr. Giant takes care of us, accompanying us through life’s ups and downs. Although he disappears one day, the memory of his loving care gives us courage and confidence. Who knows, a day may come when we too are little giants for others, just like what he was for us.

**Mary and Tabby Black Cat**

A tabby black cat wanders into Mary’s life. Mary and the cat have a lot of fun, creating chaos everywhere in the house! What will happen when Mary’s parents discover the mess? Will they chase the cat away? Or will her busy parents learn an important lesson?

**Not Just Coloured Pencils**

Xiao Xiao is looking forward to receiving his birthday present from Grandma, but it turns out to be just a box of coloured pencils. But soon, Xiao Xiao realises that a simple gift like a box of colour pencils can be unexpectedly magical and wonderful too…
Andy Chua

Fossil Finders: Mesozoic Mission

Best friends Samuel and Anna go on an excursion to the museum where dinosaur fossils are on display. A magical collision in time awakens Norus, guardian of the exhibits. He needs Samuel and Anna to go back in time to retrieve an ammonite and an allosaurus tooth. Are they up for the challenge?
MacRitchie
Cloaked Classmate in
Sherlock Sam and the
ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY
CHAPTER BOOKS

Could ignore! Sherlock, Watson and their friends but there’s never been a mystery refuses to let the Supper Club help, Fearing the worst, Officer Siva Reservoir, and no one can find him. gone missing at MacRitchie mystery yet. His classmate has encounters his most important MacRitchie is where Sherlock Sam was with his parents over the mayhem This is the seventh book in the series, Sherlock Sam and the Cloaked Classmate in MacRitchie is where Sherlock Sam encounters his most important mystery yet. His classmate has gone missing at MacRitchie Reservoir, and no one can find him. Fearing the worst, Officer Siva refuses to let the Supper Club help, however, his arch-nemesis continues to taunt him at every turn. This time, the top-secret final script of Singapore’s most popular television series is stolen! It’s up to Sherlock and his friends to resolve the dastardly plot—before it’s too late.

The sixth in the series, Sherlock Sam and the Cloaked Classmate in MacRitchie, is where Sherlock Sam encounters his most important mystery yet. His classmate has gone missing at MacRitchie Reservoir, and no one can find him. Fearing the worst, Officer Siva refuses to let the Supper Club help, however, his arch-nemesis continues to taunt him at every turn. This time, the top-secret final script of Singapore’s most popular television series is stolen! It’s up to Sherlock and his friends to resolve the dastardly plot—before it’s too late.

This is the seventh book in the series. After getting in trouble with his parents over the mayhem at MacRitchie, Sherlock Sam was forced to disband the Supper Club. However, his arch-nemesis continues to taunt him at every turn. This time, the top-secret final script of Singapore’s most popular television series is stolen! It’s up to Sherlock and his friends to resolve the dastardly plot—before it’s too late.


Felicia was born and raised in Singapore. She spent most of her childhood with her head in the clouds and her nose buried in a book. She has a graduate degree in Literary Theory, and the Sherlock Sam series is Felicia’s debut writing effort, after accumulating years of experience buying, selling and marketing books.

w sherlocksam.wordpress.com

LANGUAGE English


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Sherlock Sam and the Cloaked Classmate in MacRitchie

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Sherlock Sam and the Stolen Script in Balester

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Arati Arundhati Vijayanand
Veena and the Missing Emblem

One night, while in a school camp, Veena discovers a chilling truth. A 180-year-old emblem in the school has mysteriously disappeared! Together with a team of loyal and determined friends, Veena vows to recover the emblem and bring glory and honour back to the school.

Veena and Nooriya had become great friends. Veena trusted and adored her friend very much, and this mutual respect and admiration formed the foundation of their friendship.

Veena was used to this. She loved the year-end camp for student leaders at her school very much and looked forward to it from the beginning of the school year.

However, she had a new role in this year’s camp. She had been appointed as the head prefect.

Never once did she ever imagine she would get the coveted post. Her teacher, Ms Joyce, had liked her friendly and responsible attitude towards the younger students. Besides, Veena had always stepped up to do things since she was a child and she helped others without complaining. Her teachers and her school principal, Mr Chan, loved her compassion and her drive.

“Veena!” a familiar call nudged the student’s gaze towards the direction of the voice.

Nooriya, in her neatly pressed uniform with her beautiful wavy hair pulled back in a ponytail, warmed Veena’s heart with her embracing smile.

“I am coming! Let’s go together!” Nooriya waved her hand.

Nooriya, blessed with angelic virtues, was a student who could work together with anyone. Over the past six years, Veena and Nooriya had become great friends. Veena trusted and adored her friend very much, and this mutual respect and admiration formed the foundation of their friendship. Veena pulled Nooriya close and hugged her.

“Would I go without you? I was looking for you!” Veena’s enthusiasm at seeing Nooriya showed clearly in her voice.

“No, I would not go without you. I was looking for you!” Nooriya started walking quickly.

“Let’s check if everyone is sleeping, just like Mr Chan had asked us to do so,” Nooriya started walking quickly.

Veena was used to this. She loved the year-end camp for student leaders at her school very much and looked forward to it from the beginning of the school year.

However, she had a new role in this year’s camp. She had been appointed as the head prefect.

Arati Arundhati Vijayanand is a 13-year-old attending secondary school in Singapore where she was born. She is a regular contributor to the Tamil newspaper, in particular, its student supplement Mir Ranor Runus. Inspired by her love for reading, Arati’s dream is to pen a series of adventure novels. In 2013, Arati’s dream came true when her maiden attempt Veena and the Missing Emblem was published with a grant from the National Arts Council.

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“I would like to nominate Veena as the head prefect,” Ms Joyce had nominated her for the post and Mr Chan had readily agreed. Veena was thrilled to know that Nooriya was chosen as the assistant head prefect, more than Nooriya herself.
CHAPTER BOOKS

Monica Lim & Lesley-Anne Tan

Danger Dan Spooks the Peculiar Peranakan Pirate

Lesley-Anne Tan and Monica Lim are a mother-and-daughter writing team. Monica is the mother and Lesley-Anne is the daughter, although sometimes their roles seem reversed. Lesley-Anne eats her veggies and occasionally has to force Monica to do the same. She’s weird that way. (“No, I’m not!” says Lesley-Anne). Monica runs her own writing business, has a blog on education and published a book in October 2013 entitled The Good, the Bad and the PSLE. Lesley-Anne is still in school so she mostly writes essays and papers, which isn’t quite as fun.

w hedgehogcomms.blogspot.com

Danger Dan Traces the Perilous Poison

In the fourth instalment of the series, Danger Dan and Gadget Girl travel back to 1819. The mysterious time warp has messed with Queen Elizabeth’s historic visit to Toa Payoh satellite town and the Queen is in danger of being poisoned! Danger Dan must race against time to save Singapore from disaster.

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ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY

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w hedgehogcomms.blogspot.com

Dr. Lynette Morrison (née Tan Yuen Ling) is a lecturer at the National University of Singapore. She taught in the disciplines of film and literature at universities in the UK and in Singapore for more than 12 years before becoming an author. Lynette was a Featured Author at the Singapore Writer’s Festival in 2014, and her books in the Pittodrie Pirates series have had glowing reviews in both magazines and online on Amazon. These books have also been awarded major grants for their contributions to literacy. Lynette is a mother of three young children, who inspired her to begin writing creatively. She is passionate about writing for children and creating beautifully illustrated stories that excite the imagination.

e lynettetimorrisonstories@gmail.com

www.pittodriepirates.com

CHAPTER BOOKS

Lynette Morrison

Pittodrie Pirates Series

(Pt 3) A Surprise in the Bluebell Woods

The Pittodrie Pirates need a present for Farmer Callum’s surprise birthday party. They decide to get it from the fairies that live deep in the Bluebell Woods. As night falls, they learn that something is watching them from the shadows… How will the Pirates escape, and make their way to the party in time?

(Pt 4) Shhh… It’s a Birthday Party!

The Pittodrie Pirates travel to Edin Island to throw Farmer Callum a surprise birthday party. They join his animals and quietly prepare the barn. But the surprise feast may be ruined if Farmer Callum heads for the barn before they’re ready! Will the Pirates be able to save the day?

Lesley-Anne Tan and Monica Lim are a mother-and-daughter writing team. Monica is the mother and Lesley-Anne is the daughter, although sometimes their roles seem reversed. Lesley-Anne eats her veggies and occasionally has to force Monica to do the same. She’s weird that way. (“No, I’m not!” says Lesley-Anne). Monica runs her own writing business, has a blog on education and published a book in October 2013 entitled The Good, the Bad and the PSLE. Lesley-Anne is still in school so she mostly writes essays and papers, which isn’t quite as fun.

w hedgehogcomms.blogspot.com

Monica Lim & Lesley-Anne Tan

Danger Dan Spooks the Peculiar Peranakan Pirate

Danger Dan Traces the Perilous Poison

This is the third book in the series. Danger Dan and Gadget Girl travel back in time to 1819. This is the year of Singapore’s founding, but it is up to Danger Dan and Gadget Girl to ensure that the signing of the historic treaty by Sir Stamford Raffles and Sultan Hussein will take place!

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Varathan’s father is a famous robotics scientist. Chancing upon a mini-robot invented by his father, Varathan gives it a name: Vikram. Varathan and his friends develop a close bond with Vikram. Things take a curious turn when a series of fires break out in school...

Day One – 9.10am

Varathan's thoughts raced in tandem with the hands of the clock he was holding. “Varathan, be careful with the clock. That’s meant to be a gift for Dr Michael Lee.” Varathan looked up, sensing the uncharacteristic anxiety in his father’s voice. He looked around the exhibition hall. Asia’s most eminent robotic scientists and experts had gathered for the robotics event of the year. Among these luminaries, Varathan’s father had received a special invitation to present a keynote address.

Varathan beamed at his father. He has always been proud that his father, Dr Chandrasekar, was a renowned scientist in the field of robotics. He too had a keen interest in robotics just like his father. Leading this field, where many scientists had achieved breakthroughs in recent times, Dr Chandrasekar would often state that robotics was a divine field of study that forged both the arts and sciences. So high was the pedestal he put his father on that whenever he read articles praising Dr Chandrasekar’s significant contributions to the field, Varathan felt a burst of joy.

“Who is this Michael Lee? I have never heard Father talk about him,” Varathan wondered. He got his answer almost immediately as a voice cut through his thoughts.

“It’s wonderful to see children like you in this robotics exhibition!”

Prema Govin

Varathanum Enthira Nanbanum
(Varathan and His Robot Friend)

Maranna Chan is a full-time mystery writer with a background in education. She has taught children of various ages, ranging from preschoolers to secondary school students. Maranna enjoys studying human behaviour and figuring out the personality types of those around her. A wife, and a mother to a young child and two hamsters, Maranna loves staying up late to watch back-to-back episodes of her favourite criminal investigation television series.

CHAPTER BOOKS

CHAPTER BOOKS

CHAPTER 3

you me her me him us her them

Danish writer Marcella Breuer

with a niece in a park. Inked across its pages a picture of the

World

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Maranna Chan

Varathanum Enthira Nanbanum
(Varathan and His Robot Friend)
Radhika Puri
Mountain of Fire

In a village on the slopes of Mount Merapi, Fitri and Agus watch anxiously as the volcano comes to life. The siblings stumble upon a cave and must find a way to unearth its secrets. But someone is watching them. What could the man want? And what does Fitri’s strange dreams about the Merapi mean?

Radhika Puri is a former business journalist. While working in India, she won the World Press Institute Media Fellowship, a fellowship awarded to journalists annually around the world, to travel around the United States and better understand the country. In 2002, she won the Polestar award, an Indian award for excellence in journalism, for her coverage of the internet phenomenon that year. Radhika moved to Singapore in 2007 and works at the Institute of Water Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy as a research associate. Before coming to Singapore, she lived in Indonesia for two years. She first started writing stories for her daughter and now hopes to write many more.

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CHAPTER BOOKS

ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY

In a village on the slopes of Mount Merapi, Fitri and Agus watch anxiously as the volcano comes to life. The siblings stumble upon a cave and must find a way to unearth its secrets. But someone is watching them. What could the man want? And what does Fitri’s strange dreams about the Merapi mean?

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CHAPTER BOOKS

Sheri Tan
Girl Overboard! A Rose Among Thorns

The first book in the Girl Overboard! series introduces Rosie Smith, a 13-year-old girl who was born and raised in New York City. When Rosie’s Singapore-born mother decides to move the family 10,000 miles to Singapore, a lot of things in Rosie’s world begin to change. Peek into her diary for tales about her spider-obsessed little brother, embarrassing episodes in secondary school and making friends and enemies in her new home.

In this second book in the Girl Overboard! series, Rosie Smith continues to document her adventures as she adjusts to life in Singapore and her new school. When she and her two friends, Pink and Ben, get lost on Pulau Ubin during a camping trip, Rosie must rely on her wits to help them find their way back to the campsite.

Sheri Tan
Girl Overboard! A Rose Grows in the Jungle

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Sheri Tan worked as a children’s book editor in New York City for many years. She is the author of a wide range of titles, including Seiji Ozawa (a biography of the former Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor) and Handshake in Space (The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project), as well as books featuring licensed characters such as Winnie the Pooh, SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer.
Yiliang is a student obsessed with computer games. He enters into the world of cyber-reality and embarks on a great adventure! With the help of his teacher, Yiliang survives the shuttling back and forth between the world of games and the actual world, and learns a lesson or two about friendship, romance and individuality.

Excerpt from book

That feather from the dove.
At the very instant I was about to tumble into emptiness again, I lifted my head in despair, and saw once more that feather drifting lightly to my side. I tried reaching out to touch it, never expecting that it would instantly shatter, as if made of glass, emitting brightly coloured radiance through the darkness around me...

I'd passed the test!
I stood on the cliff edge, wind tousling my hair, gazing up at the sky full of stars. One of them was particularly tiny, but also the brightest, glowing an intense bluish-white. Could this be the Sirius star?

Have you heard the story of Sirius?" said a clear voice. It was an old man in a white robe – when had he appeared behind me? – his face obscured by a white cowl. I couldn’t make out his features, apart from a pair of glittering red eyes.

The red eyes of a dove. He made me think of that bird's mysterious appearance.

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ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY

Young Adult Fiction

声 音 随 风 飘 , 飘 出 了 好 远 。
然后是 倩 倩 的 行 列 , 对 着 大 海 大 喊 。 然 后 是 曹 尚 飞 , 然 后 是 托 蒂 ,
“ 我 会 记 得 ” , 雷 诺 站 到 了 米 米 身 边 , 加 入 了 她
“ 我 会 记 得 ” , 米 米 对 着 大 海 喊 。
每 一 种 经 历 , 和 朋 友 共 同 的 经 历 , 她 会 一 直 记 得 。

校 园 生 活 继 续 着 , 在 中 学 的 头 两 年 里 , 米 米 觉 得 收 获 很

to primary school.

Primary to secondary school.

The stories revolve around children

from different cultural backgrounds

and their unforgettable tales from

Chapter Three

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Gabby Tye

Run: the first book in the RunHideSeek series

Groundbreaking work in genetics has unleashed something

unimaginable. Something that has killed off every living thing… except humans. Somewhere in Singapore, a 15-year-old girl wakes up with no memory. With nowhere to go and no one to trust, she joins a band of young survivors like her. Together, they must hunt for food and fight to survive.

Excerpt from book

That October afternoon, the group of boys and girls ran up and down West Coast Park like maniacs, screaming till their throats were hoarse and their legs wobbly, whereupon the lot of them collapsed onto a platform overlooking the sea.

“Ahoy! I forgot to tape that – we were shouting for nothing!” Totti suddenly cried out in anguish.

“Never mind, next time we’ll come find you in Beijing, and we can shout from the top of the Great Wall!” Renault waved his hand loftily.

As the setting sun elongated their shadows, their voices startled the seagulls again and again, swirling from the ocean’s surface up into the sky. Everyone had long forgotten the contest that they didn’t win, the upcoming streaming exercise, and that they must hunt for food and fight to survive.

Excerpt from book

Everyday is digital now. Or was, before the electricity stopped running.

With books, you can trace your fingers over the sentences the author has

written and try to feel what he felt to write what he wrote.

Printed books aren’t forever either though they last hundreds of years, but

electronic devices soon ran out, ebooks couldn’t be read anymore. Fictional books,

what everyone doesn’t realise is that technology isn’t forever. When batteries on

electronic devices soon ran out, ebooks couldn’t be read anymore. Fictional books,

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how the words in them are.

With books, you can trace your fingers over the sentences the author has

written and try to feel what he felt to write what he wrote.

You can breathe in all his metaphors about the girl who no longer loves him back and how even time doesn’t erase the memories of her but only makes the ghost of her touch burn even brighter.

I sat down in the corner of the store surrounded by books and I read of how her heart breaks like the shattering of a snow globe when she watches him leave the building with someone who isn’t her.

I read of how a widowed mother clings to her child during a war because her

baby is all that’s left to remind her of his presence.

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ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY

Tunggu Aira di Kota Bandung
(Wait for Aira at Bandung City)

Falling in love was the last thing on Aira’s mind when she first arrived in Bandung. But Faisal Syahputra was an exception. He always knew the right words to say, giving Aira butterflies in her tummy. Just when their relationship starts to bloom, Aira discovers Faisal’s deepest secret and without another word, she leaves.

Nirrosette

Nirrosette has written short stories and poetry for the local Malay newspaper Berita Harian since she was a teenager. At 17, she was the youngest author to be signed by Emeri Seni, a publishing house based in Malaysia. At the age of 21, she already has four novels under her belt, including:

- 2010: (2010) and Reza (2014). She is actively involved in the Malay literary scene, giving talks as a young writer and was an ambassador for the Malay Language Month. She has also represented Singapore in several conferences, such as Majlis Sastera Asean Tenggara (MASTERA) held in Ayer, Indonesia.

nirrosette@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Kaseh didn’t believe in love at first sight until she met Adam Khalis, her senior in university. While he played hard-to-get, she was determined to ask him out. After much persuasion, Adam finally said yes. Little did Kaseh know, terms and conditions apply!

Ikhlas A.K!
(Sincerely A.K!)

Excerpt from book


“Sejuk bila ni Adam? Aku tak tahu menahu pun?” Keningnya terjungging tinggi. Since when did Muhammad Adam Khalis jatuh cinta dengan Nur Kaseh Kaisara sampai ada a collection of his sketches dalam sketchbook?


“Habis tu kenapa kau tak approach?” Gila kau? Mencerling mata Adam memandang Faiz. “Dia was attached.”

“Habis tu kau tak tartarik dia? Gila kamu? Mencerling mata Adam memandang Faiz. “She was attached.”

“Habis tu kau tartarik dia? Gila kamu? Mencerling mata Adam memandang Faiz. “She was attached.”

Adam pejam mata rapat-rapat. “Mungkin.”

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Adik sahaja dia melihat Faiz berhenti. “Nak cuba kau kenapa?” Gila kau? Mencerling mata Adam memandang Faiz. “She was attached.”

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Adik sahaja dia melihat Faiz berhenti. “Nak cuba kau kenapa?” Gila kau? Mencerling mata Adam memandang Faiz. “She was attached.”
A huge wolf materialized from the shadows and barred our path, growling almost inaudibly. Within a few seconds, a dozen more emerged from the shadows, circling us until we were surrounded by werewolves that were the size of small ponies. I looked into their eyes and regretted immediately. No Were had ever looked at me like that before — eyes filled with a chilling combination of human intelligence and fear that I backed away slowly.

"Do you know them?" I whispered.

"No," Joao said sharply. "Stand your ground." He looked at me and smiled slowly.

"What does your mistress mean by this, dog?" he asked, unusually calm.

One of the werewolves tensed, ready to spring. The strange marriage of singing blades and a horn, piteous whine from an injured werewolf. The strange marriage of singing blades and blood, so much blood, made the scene seem dreamlike. I blinked, mesmerized by the violent dance unfolding before my eyes. For a moment, all the werewolves lay on the ground in bloody heaps, except for one, who was still breathing raggedly.

Joao bludgeoned its jaw with an elegant kick. A few of its teeth flew out.

"What does your mistress mean by this, dog?" he asked, unusually calm.

"What does she want from the human?" I asked, unusually calm.

"What does your mistress mean by this, dog?" he asked, unusually calm.

The wolf regarded Joao with cool hatred. It turned to look at me and smiled slowly.

"Raven needs your pretty friend's help," it rasped.

One of the werewolves drew a few more gasping breaths, and finally lay inert on the ground. Joao cursed fluently in an injured werewolf. The strange marriage of singing blades and a horrid, piteous whine from the mouth of the unlucky werewolf.

"What does she want from the human?"

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Chen Xing was known for his excellent results. He was the "brightest star" at school because he topped his class for the PSLE and GCE "O" levels examinations. However, in his secondary school years, he went through many trials and tribulations. What would have happened to him if he had not shone through these years of darkness as a brightest star? And what happened to him after he was called to police headquarters to be questioned.

Once Upon a Garden City

The caning was administered by the discipline master, Mr Niu. Mr Niu was also a P.E. teacher, a burly man whose rough appearance belied a tender soul. As he caned Chen Xing, he couldn't help holding back. Each time his arm descended, he sighed almost imperceptibly, his heart tinged with pity and remorse for this student known as "the brightest star" in the school.

From the lack of power in Mr Niu's blows, Chen Xing could tell he couldn't bear to use his full force, and yet that was what he most wanted, for the discipline master to thrash him without mercy. His spirit was completely shattered, and he didn't want anyone's sympathy or concern.

"Don't be good to me. Hit me the way you ought to, don't spare me. I don't want to owe anyone anything," he said. "I've done nothing wrong. I don't want your sympathy or concern."

However, for the friends and family of Nian Xiao Hui and Jun Jie, it vanished from the wall, and the world returned to the way it was before, as if nothing at all had happened. Losing Jun Jie, it turned out, made no difference at all to the rest of the planet.

Of course, for the friends and family of Nian Xiao Hui and Jun Jie, the situation was terrible. Even as they were going mad searching all over the world for Jun Jie, the Lijin family came under police investigation – after all, he had vanished from their home. No matter how much they explained that they had nothing to do with this disappearance, they still found themselves being summoned again and again to the station for questioning.

Excerpt from book

Chen Xing was a committee member of the Singapore Association of Writers, a writer-in-residence at the Ministry of Education (MOE), as well as a mentor on MOE's Buddy Writers Project. She is a columnist in the Chinese newspaper Lianhe Wanbao and a member of the Beijing Writing Professions Literacy Institute. She has written many bestselling children's novels, including Dreams on Wings, which was chosen as one of the featured books of Read! Singapore. City of Love was shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize in 2010.

Excerpt from book

All of a sudden, just as Jun Jie was about to tell her what happened next, he realised his phone signal had vanished. The white wall in front of him abruptly grew soft, rippling back and forth like ocean waves. He thought he must be dreaming, but when he pinched himself it really did hurt. So why wouldn't the wall stop moving? Then, even more incredibly, the enormous force swirling within that wall engulfed his phone, and then his guitar, his bag, and everything else in the house, all these objects racing to the heart of the whirlpool.

俊杰正要告诉她接下来的事情，突然发现手机信号消失了。他前面洁白的墙壁突然变得柔软起来，就像大海里的波浪，来回翻涌着。他以为自己在做梦，就用手掐了一下，确实很疼啊。可是眼前的墙为什么在不停地晃动？接下来更夸张的事情发生了，他的手机被强大力量的漩涡带走了。然后是他的吉他，他的书包，还有屋子里的所有的东西，几乎都朝漩涡中心狂奔过去。他吓得大叫了一声：“不要带走我。”

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ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY

Yazid Hussein

Kumpulan Cerpen Armageddon

(The Story of the Leaves from the Armageddon Short Stories Anthology)

The narrative alternates between antagonists' and protagonists' perspectives in this fast-paced anthology of 12 short stories.

Extract from book

"The green lips of the young leaves slowly opened and then closed. Peals of laughter were suppressed. How strange the situation was between the two groups of leaves on the same tree. There was no understanding. No agreement. The group of leaves below could only lower their body. It almost touched the ground. They were unable to stretch their bodies towards the bluish sky. They were only able to turn their face towards the sun to secure the remaining light. It was not daybreak yet. It had yet to emerge. Sighs were heard from them. Strange whispers. The young leaves were swaying and laughing busily. Happily. Full of desire. Burning with passion and excitement. Whispering and singing in chorus. Harmoniously like a symphony gripped by desire. Burning with passion and excitement. Whispering and singing in chorus. Harmoniously like a symphony gripped by desire.

"This is not a sigh."

"Huh, what? Not a sigh!" The chief of the young leaves was shocked. It seemed the reply weird and illogical.

"Strange. It sounded like a sigh and a moan to us." The other young leaves responded, just like their chief, shocked. They regarded the reply as weird and illogical.

"Nature has bestowed us with honour," replied the group of leaves who were at the lowest level.

"We’re meditating." The young leaves excitedly nudged one another and turned about their pastel green bodies, indicating that they did not know the meaning of the word ‘meditating’. A very odd word.

"Perjanjian kita telah melupuskan hak engkau.
NOW Little Shen walks into the kitchen, planning to make himself some breakfast. This is a simple meal – a few slices of bread, an egg, and a cup of oatmeal. He knows how to spread butter on the bread, but isn’t sure how long to cook an egg for before it counts as soft-boiled. As for the oatmeal – how many oats, how much milk and sugar? As he’s trying to work it out, Mum appears behind him. ‘Little Shen, what are you doing in the kitchen? Get out, go on, get out! This isn’t a place for little boys.’

Now Little Shen turns over a few pages of the paper, when sure enough, Mummy appears with the food. He’s only turned over a few pages of the paper, when sure enough, Mummy appears with the food. After breakfast, Little Shen thinks at least he’ll wash the cup and spoon himself. Holding these two items, he stands and is about to head back to the kitchen, when Mummy asks, ‘Where are you going?’ Her brow wrinkles. ‘What’s up with you today?’ And then, under her breath, ‘As if you could get that cup clean enough.’

Plight of the Intruders

The intruders did not have intimate knowledge of the forest, thus they were running blind, with the trees and bushes grazing their skin as they ran. The policemen however were better prepared, as five of them had oil lamps in hand while the other five followed closely behind.

Both parties were interested in taking the intruders down, especially Zhang, but both groups were not working in tandem, rather they were like two different animals hunting the same prey.

Aman kept hitting the button on the remote, faster as it came toward Aman, with one of them

Aman leapt through the dark as fast, as far, as high as his machine legs could take him. With the remote in his hand he was running blind through the darkness, barely following the trails of the oil lamps the other men ahead were carrying. He had had his dinner, though what he did forget to do was to stock up on water. He drank water through his stomach but failed to add water to his steam engine. He had not had much need for it these few days, as he did not need to exert much energy recently.

A gunshot rang through the forest, scattering the bats hiding in the tree canopies by the hundreds, screeching as they flew off the trees. Somebody screamed a split second after, his voice ranging in the distance, dead.

Aman kept hitting the button on the remote, wondering, where is she? I need her now. While Aman waited behind a tree more gunsights were fired in intermittent bursts.

“Just on time,” he said.

He heard the dead and dried leaves on the floor crushed, trampled and pushed aside, in its wake was a roar that could have woken the dead from their restless slumber. He

Blackshaw heard the dead and dried leaves on the floor crushed, trampled and pushed aside, in its wake was a roar that could have woken the dead from their restless slumber. He wasn’t scared now of that roar. In fact, he smiled with Aman. ‘Just on time,’ he said.
It had stopped hurting. There came a point when the look madness in the eye and laugh.

by my side, because he was the only person I knew who could

was Us against Them, always had been. I was lucky to have him

skin that trapped the beast within.

slipping, slipping – and it was a relief to, at last, tear free of the

I had stopped clinging on to myself – my grasp was

more powerful and immune.

way I did, didn’t inflict pain on themselves to make themselves

rest of the world. Normal people didn’t crave pain or power the

something wrong with me. It was me who was crazy, not the

cold, too.

They left soon after they’d knocked me down. I

hands after I laid the last punch and was sent crashing against

you. I couldn’t feel anything else but the dull throbbing in my

after letting the Wolf in me take over my body.

All I remembered was the relief I felt after getting it all out,

couldn’t even remember why the fight started in the first place.

in a former life?”

“Do you remember what I told you that you might have been someone …

extraordinary … in a former life?”

“My past life? You see that too?” Song was intrigued.

He had often wondered about the topic of reincarnation. “So

what do you see?”

“I see … a wise powerful man with a long flowing beard

what do you see?”

He leaned in, motioning Song to come closer. “It’s
time I tell you a secret,” he whispered. “What if I was to tell you

that (pause) I can see your past life?”

Diego gazed into Song’s eyes. “You lived on Earth more

right?”

Song was fascinated. “He was probably Chinese,

East … not Korean …”

… radiating bright positive energy. He is Asian … from the Far

Diego gazed into Song’s eyes. “You lived on Earth more

in ancient China. You were

right?”

“I knew it!” exclaimed Song. “Please, go on.”

Julian Kim’s career in banking led him to

reside in cities such as New York, London, Hong Kong and Seoul. Julian now lives

in Singapore, dividing his time between

writing, managing a mining project with

friends and doing some financial consulting work. S.A.I.N.T.S Song of Winds received

a prize in the YA fiction category of the 2012 National Arts Council Beyond Words

competition.
Excerpt from book

Justine Laismith

The Magic Mixer

Mrs Dabble’s hands are full bringing up her children Billy, Melanie and Ruby. Poor Mrs Dabble has to solve crises at home every day! Thankfully Dr. Patsy Gerlaxi and her Magic Mixer come to Mrs Dabble’s aid. The Magic Mixer takes unique and useful features from animals and inserts them into humans!

Dr Patsy Gerlaxi was pressing some buttons on a big black machine. It was as huge as the wardrobe in her bedroom. Mrs Dabble got out of the chamber and stood in front of the locker door. Patsy peered in. “How are you feeling?” Mrs Dabble looked up and saw Mrs Dabble standing in the doorway with an owl. She stopped what she was doing and looked at Mrs Dabble quizzesily. “Hello! What brings you here?” Mrs Dabble too, was thinking about the incident in the locker room while she was driving. Nothing like this would have happened if she had had some extra help. Then her mind wandered to her chance meeting with Patsy, her inventor friend. Suddenly Mrs Dabble had an idea. She knew exactly what she had done to have had some extra help. The next day, when Granny came to visit, Mrs Dabble went to the pet shop and bought an owl. Then she went to see her friend. Dr Patsy Gerlaxi was pressing some buttons on a big black machine. It was as huge as the wardrobe in her bedroom. There was a metal door in the middle. To its side were some buttons and a computer screen. Mrs Dabble looked up and saw Mrs Dabble standing in the doorway with an owl. She stopped what she was doing and looked at Mrs Dabble quizzesily. “Hello! What brings you here?”

“Do you think I can try out your Magic Mixer, please?” asked Mrs Dabble, lifting up the owl that she had brought. “Of course! Just put the owl in that little room and press the red button.” She pointed to the other side of the machine, round the corner, where there was a smaller door. “Now you get in here.” Patsy pointed to the larger metal door in the front.

When Mrs Dabble was sitting comfortable in the chamber, Patsy pressed a button and the door shut. She pressed more buttons and waited. She studied the computer screen and typed on the keyboard. Her face was taut with concentration. A low humming sound began. Bing ba de bang! Both doors suddenly opened and the owl hooted. Patsy peered in. “How are you feeling?” Mrs Dabble got out of the chamber and stood in front of Patsy.

“Now you get in here.” Patsy pointed to the larger metal door in the front.

Excerpt from book

Margerie Williams

The Five Coins

Don’t you remember what Granddad told us about his coins? He said that they were from his travels. Have you never wondered how he could have afforded to travel to those mysterious places he told us about? Granddad was the only son of a coal miner and he worked until he was nearly sixty-eight years old. How could he have afforded all those exotic travels?

Margerie Williams obtained her BA (Hons) degree from McMaster University, Canada, and her MA (Mass Communications) from Oklahoma City University, USA. Margerie started work as an editor for fashion and interiors magazines, and was the Singapore correspondent for Singapore Tatler. She currently lives in England where she works as a learning support assistant, and is a writer of children’s books. Her chapter book The Five Coins was an awardee in the 2012 Beyond Words contest organised by the National Arts Council.

“Granddad told us tall tales with his vivid imagination just to entertain us,” replied Joy unconvincingly. Yet, she had to admit that James was speaking some sense about things that had baffled her, too. She had wondered how Granddad knew so many places and things so intimately.

“Come on, Joy, you must have seen how his eyes used to light up whenever he told us about the time he swam underwater with the dolphins in the turquoise sea in the Bay of Bengal. Then, there was the time when he met a Yeti while he was on a hiking expedition in the Himalayas. You must have been a little curious about how he could remember each magnificent story in detail, time and time again, as if he really lived them!

“No, I was never as curious as you,” Joy replied as she turned to leave. “I think we should tell Mum and Dad what we’ve found.”

“Wait, Joy, look!” exclaimed James as he stared at the picture of the snake on the rug. “I think I can see some words on the coiled body of the snake.”
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This publication is by no means an exhaustive documentation of all Children’s and Young Adult Literature recently published in Singapore. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the translations into English from the original Chinese, Malay and Tamil. Wherever possible, the authors were consulted and their approval sought.

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The National Arts Council of Singapore (NAC) was set up in September 1991 to spearhead the development of the arts in Singapore. Its mission is to nurture the arts and make it an integral part of the lives of the people in Singapore. Its vision is to develop Singapore into a distinctive global city for the arts. Anchored on the twin strategies of excellence and engagement in the arts, the Council aims to build a vibrant arts sector by creating a conducive environment where the arts is accessible to all and artistic talents have the necessary resources and capabilities to excel and achieve sustainability in the long term.

For more information on NAC’s programmes and initiatives, please visit www.nac.gov.sg

ONCE UPON A GARDEN CITY

The National Arts Council (NAC) is a Singapore government agency which nurtures the arts and makes it an integral part of the lives of the people in Singapore. It supports the practice and appreciation of the arts in Singapore and facilitates the internationalisation of Singapore artists and their works through various initiatives, programmes and events.

NAC’s funding supports the creation of literary content, research, capability and talent development, organisational development, publishing and translation, production and market development, and the presentation and promotion of the literary arts. International publishers and literary agents can tap on grants and other assistance to bring original Singaporean literary works to the world.

An important event on the literary arts calendar is the Singapore Writers Festival which has multilingual programming, with a strong emphasis on Singapore’s four official languages – English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil.

For more information on NAC’s grant schemes and initiatives, please visit the Council’s website at: www.nac.gov.sg or email: nac_literary_arts@nac.gov.sg

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