

Words Go Round**The Singapore Writers Festival 2011 School Programme.****TALKS**

The dates are listed for booking by schools and subject to availability. Schools will be charged \$150 for each session they book. All sessions last approximately 1.5 hours.

1. Children/Young Adult Literature | Ho Minfong and her Books

March 1 – 4 (morning & afternoon)

Speaker: Ho Minfong

Target Audience: Pri 5 – JC 2

Award-winning author Ho Minfong speaks about the ideas and impulses behind her writing process. She will touch on her various books, including *Rice without Rain*, *The Clay Marble*, *Maples in the Mist*, *Journeys: An Anthology of Short Stories*, and of course her first book, *Sing to the Dawn*, which was turned into a musical and an animated feature film. Come to this interactive session where students can ask her anything they like – no holds barred!

2. Drama | From Page to Lighted Stage

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

*Speakers: Natalie Hennedige, Kee Thuan Chye, Tan Tarn How & Jean Tay
(a choice of two playwrights)*

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Drawing inspiration from emperors, strange machines, swordfishes or things that go “boom”, award-winning playwrights speak from the heart about bringing their burning ideas to the page, then on to the lighted stage to bedazzle audiences.

3. Fiction | Ideas and Words behind *TellTales*

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Speakers: Dave Chua (writer) & Gwee Li Sui (editor)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

TellTales is a short fiction anthology of 11 gritty and evocative modern tales by various Singapore writers. It describes experiences marked by short happiness and haunting memories – from the death of a loved one to the menacing forces of nature. Dave Chua, one of the featured writers, and Gwee Li Sui, the anthology’s editor, give their take on this book, which is being used as literature textbook in some secondary schools. Get an inside scoop on how the anthology was conceptualised and compiled.

4. Fiction/Journalism | In Conversation with Neil Humphreys

March 9 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Speaker: Neil Humphreys

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

This is not your typical late-night talk show on TV. Neil Humphreys can chat about a range of possible topics: kiasuism, sports, the arts, careers, writing and more. By posing questions to the author, students can help propel the conversation in fascinating directions.

5. Graphic Novel | Going, Going... *Gone Case*

March 11 – limited to two sessions (1pm & 3.30pm)

Speakers: Dave Chua (writer) & Koh Hong Teng (artist)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Set in a HDB estate, Dave Chua’s *Gone Case* is a coming-of-age story with many memorable moments. Let Dave and artist Koh Hong Teng share their experiences on turning the text of the book into a graphic novel.

6. Journalism | Being There

March 7 (morning & afternoon)

Speaker: John Lui

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Get a peek into the pulsating world of Straits Times journalist, John Lui, as he shares his insights on the cult of celebrity, Hollywood and taking on different jobs in the name of journalism.

7. Poetry | Female Intuition

March 7 – 9 (morning & afternoon)

Speakers: Miriam Nash & Vivimarie VanderPoorten

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Two female poets, Miriam Nash (UK) and Vivimarie VanderPoorten (Sri Lanka), break down walls and chat about their passion for poetry and the various issues – like social and gender concerns – that their perceptive poems touch on.

8. Poetry | Words on Wheels

March 7, 8 and 11 (afternoon only)

Speaker: Marc Nair

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Let Marc Nair regale you with all the things that inspire his writing – whether it's travelling on the MRT or to exotic countries abroad – as he delivers his poems that deftly fuse the beauty of written words with the power of performance.

9. Songwriting | The Power of Pop

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Speaker: Kevin Mathews

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Meet real-life singer-songwriter Kevin Mathews up-close, and pick his brains on how he composes music and writes lyrics that strike a chord with the listening masses.

10. Journalism (Chinese) | Braving the Media Circus

March 7 – 9 (morning & afternoon)

Speaker: Danny Yeo

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Danny Yeo is a recognisable face and voice, having worked in radio, television and theatre since 1991. He will inspire students through the sharing of his insights and experiences relating to the world of Chinese media, including writing for newspapers and magazines and publishing books.

11. Fiction/Travel Writing (Chinese) | Life and Literature

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Speaker: Tham Yew Chin

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

The wildly popular Chinese author, Tham Yew Chin (better known by her pseudonym You Jin), chats off-the-cuff about writing. And she will have plenty to share, in view of her vast body of works that includes short stories, novels and essays, and in particular, travel writing.

WORKSHOPS

A minimum number of 10 students (unless otherwise specified) will be required for a workshop to be organised.

1. Comics | How to Write Comic Books by Gwee Li Sui

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

How does one go about combining text and illustrations, and come up with a compelling comic book? That's the question that Gwee Li Sui will help to unravel with interesting examples and hands-on exercises. The workshop will be adapted to suit the ages and needs of each student group.

2. Drama | How to Write a 10-Minute Play by Kee Thuan Chye

March 9 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

This interactive workshop helps participants grasp what it takes to write a play through writing exercises and discussions. At the end of it, students will have written their own 10-minute plays. Participants are encouraged to come with an appetite for fun, sharing and learning.

3. Drama | Introduction to Playwriting by Jean Tay

March 8 (morning), 9 (morning & afternoon), 10 (morning & afternoon), 11 (morning)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – 4

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

This workshop provides a basic introduction to the craft of playwriting, and explore different avenues to come up with fresh ideas for plays through a series of exercises. Participants will also be introduced to some basic strategies on how to translate these ideas into plays, and how to create compelling characters and scenarios.

4. Fiction | Characters & Conflict by Dave Chua

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

How do you create compelling characters for your stories? What makes them tick? Dave Chua will guide students through what to keep in mind when coming up with characters for their stories, and how to make those stories stand out.

5. Fiction | Let Your Words Shine! By Ho Minfong

March 1 – 4 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

Ho Minfong will discuss the various reasons why she herself likes to write. For students who also enjoy writing, they can submit writing samples (through their respective teachers) two weeks before, and she will select a few pieces to critique with class participation. Students will also be encouraged to revise and expand their writing projects, and eventually to post polished pieces onto various international online zines.

6. Fiction | 3D Pop-Up Book Workshop by Mini Monsters (In Malay)

March 9 – 11 (afternoon only on all dates)

Target Audience: Pri 5 – Sec 2 (a minimum of 20 students is required)

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$40 per student (inclusive of materials)

Learn to create your own 3D pop-up Malay storybook in this exciting creative writing workshop based on well-loved Malay fables with positive messages, as taken from the book, *Cerita Kita*. Students will learn how to write a story from the ending of another story, as well as create characters and draft simple plotlines. They will also be guided to illustrate their own book and make it pop!

7. Journalism | How to Become a Journalist by Neil Humphreys

March 9 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

Get tips from the pro on how you can evolve from a wet-behind-the-ears rookie to roving reporter! Students will learn the basic structure of writing a news story, as well as interview techniques for news, sports and features. They will discover what's involved in editing copy, and gain understanding on basic headline writing, design and photojournalism.

8. Multiple Genres | Writing for Different Media by Neil Humphreys

March 9 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

Let Neil Humphreys share tips with students on how to shift written words from page to stage, to print, magazines, blogs and books. This workshop is all about writing for different kinds of media. The learning outcomes include understanding print media (an overview), writing dialogue for plays/novels, and finding humour and what works for blogs.

9. Poetry | Poetry Now! by Gwee Li Sui

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

This workshop seeks to get students excited about appreciating poetry (including Singapore writing) and to encourage them to pick up their pens to write their own poems. Led by respected literary critic and poet Gwee Li Sui, the workshop can be adapted to suit the ages and needs of participating students.

10. Poetry | Travelling Words by Marc Nair

March 7, 8 and 11 (afternoon only on all dates)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

Travel poetry can be crafted through the simple act of observation. Students will be taken through a number of images and scenarios that serve as springboards for poems to emerge. They will then learn the story and process behind several of Marc Nair's poems and also have a chance to write their own travel poems. Students will come to realise that poems can be found anywhere and everywhere.

11. Poetry | Where I'm From by Miriam Nash

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – 3

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

"I'm from arguments and broken mugs / word-missiles fired through walls," Miriam Nash writes in her poem, *Where I'm From*, which is inspired by George Ella Lyon's poem of the same title. In this workshop, students will get to learn the essentials of writing and editing as they craft their own "Where I'm From" poems through games, a performance by Miriam, and hands-on exercises.

12. Poetry | Write it, Perform it! by Miriam Nash

March 7 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – 3

Duration: 3h

Fee: \$30 per student

After completing your poem on paper, how do you deliver it in the best possible way? This workshop teaches students how to perform their poems, by engaging them in performance techniques, group games, as well as group performances for poems. (Each student is required to bring a few original poems that he/she has written.)

13. Poetry | Dreaming up Themes and Ideas by Vivimarie VanderPoorten

March 9 – 11 (morning & afternoon)

Target Audience: Pri 5 – JC 2

Duration: 1.5h (Pri 5 & 6) or 3h (Sec 1 – JC2)

Fee: \$15 (1.5h) or \$30 (3h) per student

The workshop will use devices and themes which are familiar to students to inspire them to think creatively and focus their thoughts and ideas to write short poems. Pictures and video clips will be used as clues to generate ideas for a story or poetry. Students will get to learn more about poetry and language in an interesting way through the use of literary texts.

14. Workshop for Teachers: Free Your Mind!

March 14, 9.30am – 5.30pm

Goodman Arts Centre

Instructor: Kee Thuan Chye

Target Audience: Teachers from secondary schools and junior colleges

Fee: \$150 per teacher

This is an interactive full-day workshop to help participants set their minds and imagination free so that they can open themselves up to write creative material like stories, poems and plays. Guided by renowned writer Kee Thuan Chye, participants will take part in writing exercises and discussions, aided by creative stimuli ranging from words, physical objects or artworks, to the ambience of places, which the participants can incorporate into their writing. Participants are encouraged to come with an appetite for fun, sharing and learning.

LITERARY OPEN-HOUSE EVENTS

1. Panel Discussion: *TellTale* and Fiction in Singapore

March 11, 1pm – 2.30pm

Hwa Chong Institution

Speakers: Dave Chua, Jeffrey Lim, Gwee Li Sui (editor)

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Fee: \$10 per student

TellTale: 11 Stories is an anthology that presents six distinct voices from Singapore: Alfian Sa'at, Wena Poon, Jeffrey Lim, Tan Mei Ching, Claire Tham and Dave Chua. The compilation of 11 stories examines the lives of complex characters who are tormented by dilemmas. Two of the featured writers, Dave and Jeffrey, will not only chat about the inspirations behind their stories on *TellTale*, but also converse with their editor Gwee Li Sui about the state of fiction writing in Singapore.

2. Workshop: Adventures in Story Development

March 11, 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Hwa Chong Institution

Instructor: Jeffrey Lim

Target Audience: Sec 1 – 3

Fee: \$20 per student

This workshop discusses various commonly-encountered obstacles in premise and plot development, and suggests solutions in enhancing premise/plot before embarking on the writing process. Students will enjoy a better appreciation of the nuances of story and plot development after attending the workshop.

3. Panel Discussion: Theatre and Society

March 9, 10.30am – 12pm

Goodman Arts Centre

Speakers: Natalie Hennedige, Kee Thuan Chye, Tan Tarn How & Jean Tay

Target Audience: JC

Duration: 1.5h

Fee: \$10 per student

This sterling group of playwrights will discuss how theatre reflects different viewpoints and pertinent issues in society, as well as how it can act as a vehicle to provoke thoughts and initiate further discussion about our roles in the world we live in.

4. Poetry Showcase: Words Come Alive!

March 7, 1.00 – 2.30pm

Hwa Chong Institution

Speakers: Marc Nair, Miriam Nash & Vivimarie VanderPoorten

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Fee: \$10 per student

Let the featured poets of Words Go Round enchant you with the contemplative beauty, energy and strength of poetic words. Marc Nair (Singapore), Miriam Nash (UK) and Vivimarie VanderPoorten (Sri Lanka) will lead you into their respective universes in this memorable poetry showcase that celebrates both similarities and diversity. There will be a time for Q&A with students.

5. Talk: In Conversation with Neil Humphreys

March 9, 4.00 – 5.30pm

NUS High School

Speaker: Neil Humphreys

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Fee: \$10 per student

This is not your typical late-night talk show on TV. Neil Humphreys can chat on a range of possible topics: kiasuism, sports, the arts, careers, writing... and students, by posing questions to the author, can help shape the conversation to flow in fascinating directions.

6. Talk: Braving the Media Circus (in Chinese)

March 9, 2 – 3.30pm

Venue to be confirmed

Speaker: Danny Yeo

Target Audience: Sec 1 – JC 2

Duration: 1.5h

Fee: \$10 per student

Danny Yeo is a recognisable face and voice, having worked in radio, television and theatre since 1991. He will inspire students through the sharing of his insights and experiences relating to the world of Chinese media, including writing for newspapers and magazines and publishing books.

7. Workshop (Fiction): You Too can Become a Writer (in Tamil)

March 9, 2pm – 5pm

Goodman Arts Centre

Instructor: Pon Sundararaju

Target Audience: Sec 4 – JC 2

Fee: \$30 per student

This workshop, conducted by respected Tamil writer Pon Sundararaju, will cover a history of short story writing in Tamil, from the 19th century till present age, as well as touch on famous Tamil writers and their works. He will then go through different aspects of short story writing – from beginning a story to how you can develop it towards a climax and proper ending. Students will enjoy the hands-on session where they will get to create their own short stories.