

# TO GATHER, TOGETHER



TAN CHIN TUAN FOUNDATION



## About Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

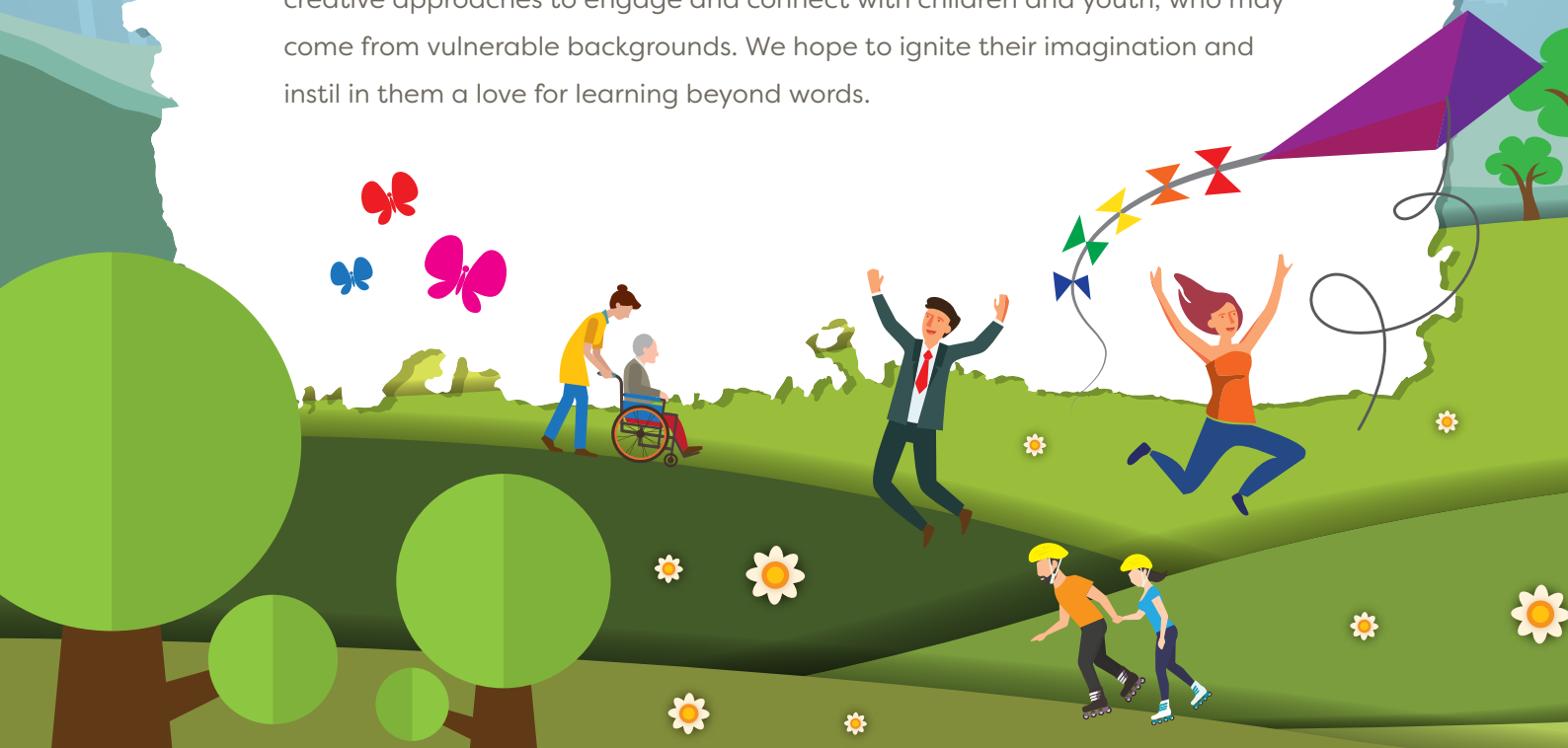
The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) was set up in Singapore on 10 April 1976 by the late Tan Sri (Dr.) Tan Chin Tuan to help the needy. Aligned with our founder's giving philosophy, the foundation supports causes and projects that are viable, sustainable and have positive impact on our society.



## About More Than Words

In line with our focus on education and community development, this programme offers opportunities for children to learn and communicate creatively. Initiated in 2013 and fully funded by TCTF, the programme has reached more than 2,500 beneficiaries.

Enrichment workshops were also extended to charity staff to equip them with creative approaches to engage and connect with children and youth, who may come from vulnerable backgrounds. We hope to ignite their imagination and instil in them a love for learning beyond words.





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By Yap Su-Yin  
CEO of Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

The ancient Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle sagely said, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”







As our More Than Words programme enters its fourth year, I have chosen the theme “To Gather, Together” because when we come together with open hearts and minds, we learn much from one another. We also grow in our understanding and appreciation of one another.





This collection of creative fiction, poetry and illustrations celebrates the wonderful things that are possible when we bring children and teenagers from different backgrounds, with unique talents and interests together.





With sponsorship from the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, our More Than Words programme has supported hundreds of less privileged children in writing better, speaking more confidently, and encouraged them to continue thinking imaginatively. These qualities were evident from the enthused participation of the children, as well as their contributions in class, onstage, and in the More Than Words books we have produced over the years.

In every way, these children and teenagers were our co-creators. Leaning in to mentor them, and to whom we are grateful, were enlightened partners specialising in storytelling, theatre, prose-writing, as well as our interns, volunteers and staff.

Thank you everyone for believing in this programme, and enabling many children to enjoy learning and creating new works together.





# The Way Home

Inspired by Jayden Hee Ho Ruan and Ryan Quek Jing Han

Billy Jackson Hat, a polka-dotted hat, was lost.

“Where am I?” he looked around, bewildered that he could not recall anything about his surroundings!

It was not long before Billy Jackson Hat realised that he was on a deserted island. He took in the scenic views of the trees swaying and inhaled the fragrant scent of frangipanis that was infused with the salty ocean air.



Illustration by Toh Jie Yu



Billy Jackson Hat walked on, hoping to find a fellow hat that could help him figure out where he was. After walking for an hour, he spotted a Santa Bear, eating grass all by himself. Billy Jackson Hat decided to approach him.

“Bonjour! My name is Panlie. What are you doing on this beautiful island? How may I help you?” Panlie asked Billy Jackson Hat. “I am lost! Can you help me find my way home please? My family must be very worried,” Billy Jackson Hat replied anxiously.

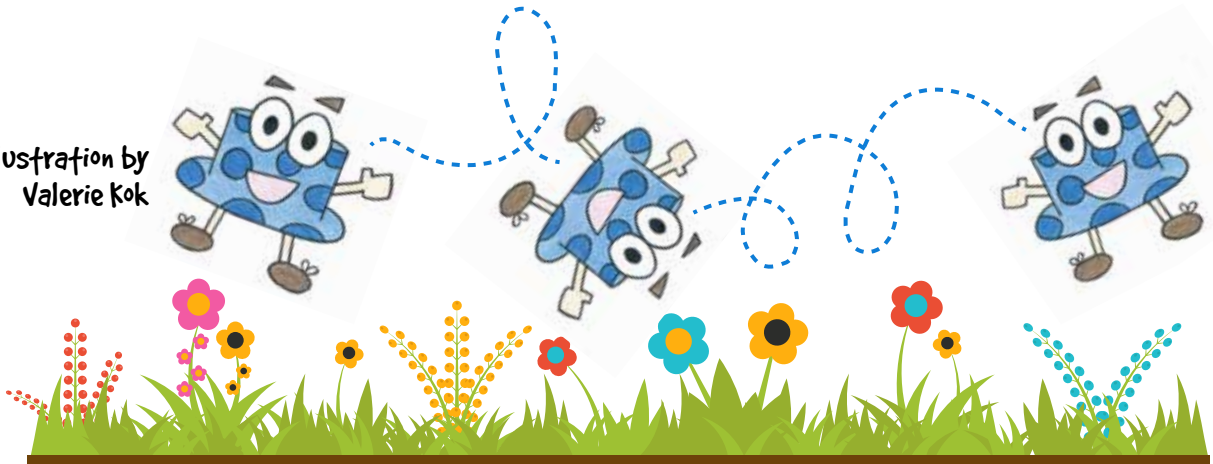
## The Enchanted Mushroom

Panlie comforted Billy Jackson Hat, “Don’t worry, I will try my best to help you!” He dug into his magical backpack and fished out a strange looking fungi. “This is an **enchanted** mushroom! Perhaps it can help to bring you home?” Panlie suggested.

“Thank you so much!” Billy Jackson Hat squealed gratefully. “I wonder if it can really bring me home. Madagascar is very far away.” Just then, the mushroom squeaked, “Say the magic words! Abracadabra, Fly, Dust Magic, Genie!” Uncertain, Billy Jackson Hat muttered the magic words.



Illustration by  
Valerie Kok



The effect was immediate. He started to float! “Look Panlie, I am flying!” Billy Jackson Hat exclaimed. However, the effect did not last! He fell onto the floor with a loud thud.

“Ouch! That hurt!” Billy Jackson Hat cried. “Perhaps you could say the magic words louder!” Panlie encouraged. Determined, Billy Jackson Hat repeated the words with *gusto*. This time, he flew right up into the clouds. “This is fantastic! But, which direction should I fly to?” he wondered.

Just then, he heard a worried voice from afar. “Billy Jackson Hat, come home this instant! Where have you been?” the voice wailed. Billy Jackson Hat squinted into the distance and saw a familiar figure flying towards him. It was Billy Jackson Hat’s mother, Mother Mitten! She had been frantically searching for him all morning.

Mother Mitten hugged Billy Jackson Hat tightly. “I thought I would never see you again!” she cried. After their happy reunion, the pair decided to head back home. It was then that Mother Mitten realised, in her anxiety to search for her son, she had lost her way too! Luckily, Mother Mitten knew of a friend who lived nearby. “Let’s go and find my friend for help! Perhaps, he can help us find our way

home. I think he lives there,” she said, pointing to a green striped house with a red roof among the sea of houses in front of them.

Billy Jackson Hat used the enchanted mushroom to navigate their way to the friend’s house. Within minutes, they reached Panda Lai’s house. Mother Mitten knocked sharply on the door. A grumpy, unkempt face, with tufts of white fur sticking up in all directions, opened the door. It was Panda Lai. His face lit up upon seeing Mother Mitten.

“Mother Mitten, please come in!” he said happily. Panda Lai invited them into his house and offered them some tea. “Thank you for your **hospitality**. We have come today to ask for help. You see, my son and I are lost and we do not know how to return home!”

Mother Mitten explained, wringing her hands.

“Not to worry, I will help you.” Panda Lai said. Panda Lai started to huff and puff until his whole face turned purple from the exertion.

At first, Billy Jackson Hat and Mother Mitten were confused by his efforts. Then they realised what Panda Lai was trying to do. He was trying to blow them home!



Illustration by Valerie Kok





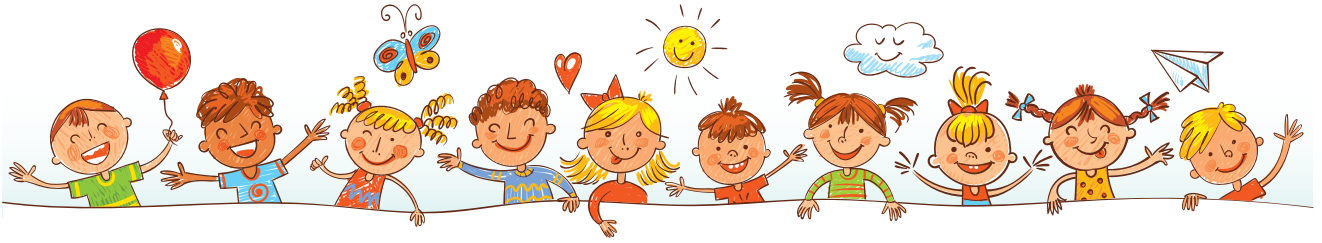
Illustration by  
Valerie Kok

## The Roller coaster Ride Home

Billy Jackson Hat and Mother Mitten started to feel an invisible force lifting their chairs up. They grasped tightly onto the arms of their chairs, which started to float out of the door. “I have instructed the chairs to bring both of you home! They will follow the dotted lines that I have created!” shouted Panda Lai as he bid goodbye to them.

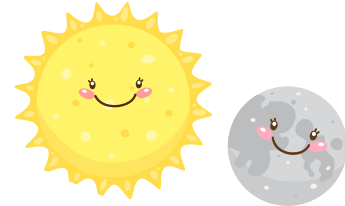
“Dotted lines? What is he talking about?” Billy Jackson Hat wondered. In front of him, were rainbow-coloured, dotted lines leading them southwest, towards home. It truly felt like a roller coaster ride and he loved it very much!

The two chairs came to a stop in front of their house. They had finally reached home, all thanks to Panda Lai and Panlie. Billy Jackson Hat’s father, sisters and brothers came rushing to the front door to hug him. The family was finally reunited!



# Together Is

Inspired by Nur Shazrizam Bin Yazid and  
Muhammad Dzulqarnain Bin Suhardi



Together is,  
like the fork and the spoon.  
It is,  
like the sun and the moon.

Together is,  
like Sambal and Nasi Lemak,  
my mother buys to fill my stomach.

Together is,  
like the leaves on the branches,  
sheltering me, so I can run with ease.

Together is,  
like a child and his mother,  
whose love is sweeter than candy in a wrapper.



How things connect when they are together.  
Showing how much we really need each other!

# The Adventures of Jimmy Jellapas

Inspired by Danny Shafiq Bin Mohamed Aizan  
and Amira Binte Aman

Once upon a time, a dog named Jimmy Jellapas was searching for food in the mountains. Jimmy used to live in the city and often brought joy to others. However, his owner and friends abandoned him now that he has grown old. “Why don’t they love me anymore?” sobbed Jimmy. He decided to search for a new companion.

## Finding A Companion

Just then, a stork flew past and stopped when she saw Jimmy sulking. “Hello! Are you alone?” asked Jimmy. The stork shook her head and waved her wings into the air. A flock of birds gathered in response. Jimmy was delighted. “So many new friends! I don’t have to grow old alone anymore!” he **rejoiced**. The stork gestured again, this time, asking Jimmy to follow her.

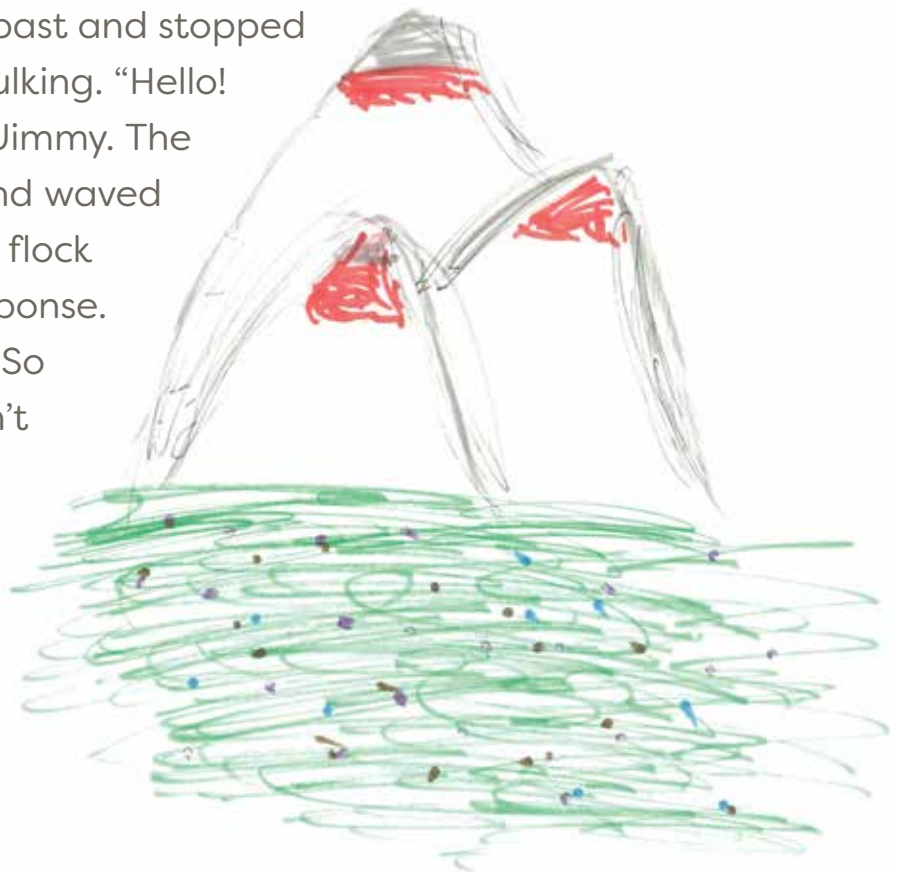


Illustration by Amira Binte Aman

She flapped her wings and took off towards the adjacent mountain, with the rest following behind. Alas, Jimmy had no wings! “Wait, wait for me!” he cried.

“I will not give up!” Jimmy was determined to find a new friend. He continued walking up the mountain. However, age had caught up with him. Jimmy panted heavily after a day of walking. He spotted a treehouse and decided to take a rest there. On the front door, there was a nameplate labelled ‘Xavier’s’. The name rang a bell – he had long heard of an owl with magical powers.

Jimmy knocked on the door and a brown-coloured owl appeared. “Hello Mr Xavier! I’m Jimmy Jellapas. I was abandoned by my owner and am finding a companion. I’ve heard that you know magic! Can you help me find a new friend, please?” Jimmy asked earnestly. Xavier raised an eyebrow at him. “Why should I? What will you give me in return?” he asked.



Illustration by  
Siti Nurfitriah Binte Mohammad Sulaimi



Jimmy pursed his lips and considered for a long time. He suggested, “I heard that you feel lonely. I can help you with that!”

## Planting Seeds of Friendship

Jimmy decided to share his most prized possession, a blue bean which he had won in a race. It possessed the ability to grow and bear all sorts of peculiar yet tasty fruits in the whole wide world. He extracted the shimmering blue bean from his collar and planted it just outside the treehouse.



Almost immediately, a huge tree sprouted and **exotic** fruits grew.

The tree released a fragrant scent, which attracted creatures from all over the world – Santa from the North Pole came riding on his reindeer, as well as Aslan, the King of Narnia, amongst others. Together, they sat under the tree to enjoy the succulent fruits.



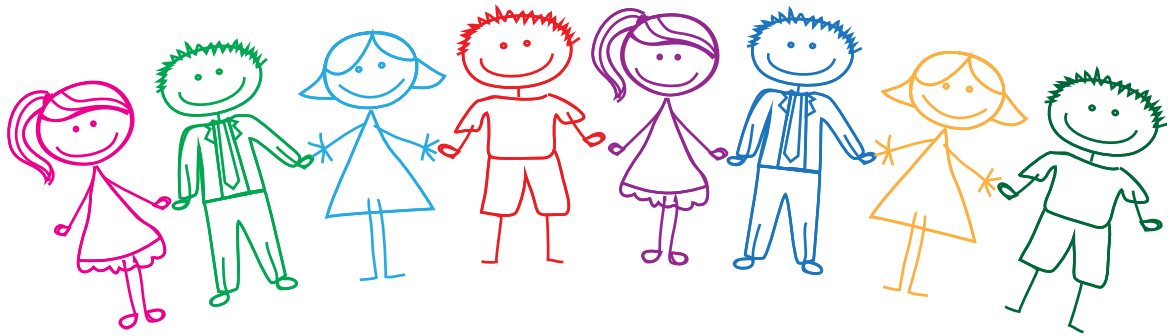


“So... so many visitors!” Xavier beamed with joy. “You know what? I don’t even have to use my magic to grant your wish! Why don’t you move into my treehouse and be my friend!” Xavier suggested. Jimmy was overjoyed. He got more than what he had asked for – a friend and a home forever! From then on, Jimmy and Xavier extended their friendship to the other amazing creatures around the world by hosting a fruit party every month. They continued to live happily ever after!



Together  
AS  
one

Illustration by  
Nurul Wardina Bte Noor Azman,  
A'dini Nurdania and  
Farisha Nazirah Bte Mohd Nadzlie



## Life's Lessons

Inspired by Mohamad Farhan Bin Hazni,  
Muhammad Fahim Bin Yusof and Danny Airish Bin Rizuan

Together as one,  
We can make a better future.  
Until we are done,  
Let lessons be our teacher.

Help each other,  
Make the world a better place.  
My brother from another mother,  
Why are we doing things in **waste**?

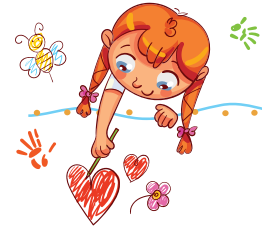
Let us remember that together,  
With respect and kindness,  
We look out for one another,  
To make the world better!







# Activity Page



List 4 things which  
you can help your neighbours with.



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# Vocabulary Glossary

## FAMILY

### Father's Love

**Breadwinner:** A person who earns money to support the family

**Crestfallen:** Sad and disappointed

**Melancholic:** Feeling or expressing deep sadness

**Triumphantly:** Feeling or expressing joy after an achievement

**Dressed to the nines:** Dressed fashionably

### The Elephant Family

**Jovial:** Cheerful and friendly

**Frolic:** To play about cheerfully

**Trepidation:** Trembling movements or motion

**Pandemonium:** Wild and noisy situation

**Jubilant:** Extremely happy

### The Way Home

**Enchanted:** Under a spell

**Gusto:** Enthusiasm in doing something

**Hospitality:** Generous reception of people

## FRIENDS

### A Birthday Surprise for a Special Friend

**Traumatic:** Deeply troubling and upsetting

**Limousine:** A large, expensive car driven by a chauffeur

**Astonishment:** Great surprise

### In Search of Mr Tom's body Story of Friendship and Responsibility

**Contemplated:** Thought deeply and at length

**Out of his wits:** At a loss as to what to do next

### The Adventures of Jimmy Jellapas

**Rejoiced:** Felt or showed great joy

**Exotic:** Rare or unusual

### **The Bedok North Ninjas**

**Enthusiastically:** In a way that shows eagerness

**Malicious:** Intended to harm someone

**Quick-witted:** Able to think quickly

**Retaliation:** Counter-attack

### **The Detective and the Guardians of the Enchanted Gold**

**Loomed:** Appeared as a large, frightening figure

**Trudged:** Walked slowly with heavy steps

**Sleuth:** To carry out an investigation

**Ironically:** In a way that is opposite from the expected result

**Enthralling:** Fascinating

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Acts of Bravery can make a Difference**

**Vigilant:** Keeping watchful of danger

**Sweltering:** Uncomfortably hot

**Appalled:** Greatly dismayed or horrified

### **Let's be neighbourly!**

**Scrumptious:** Delicious

**Amicably:** In a friendly and peaceable manner

### **Life's lessons**

**Haste:** Hurry

### **Three kind and helpful siblings**

**Sumptuous:** Splendid and expensive-looking