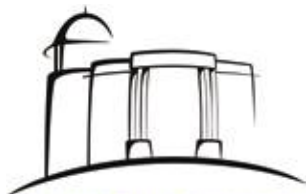


# C.H.A.N.G.E.



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 poor and needy. He rendered assistance to the deserving and provided services that helped to build a sustainable society. Aligned with our founder's giving philosophy, the foundation supports projects and causes that are viable, sustainable and well-managed with definable social outcomes, taking into account evolving social needs.

## About More Than Words



In line with its focus on education and community development, TCTF initiated the "More Than Words" programme in 2013 to provide opportunities for children to learn and communicate creatively. TCTF engaged arts specialists to train the children in speech and drama, creative writing, music or dance. Our beneficiaries were ferried to plays, musicals, animation workshops and museum tours.

This year, TCTF extended enrichment workshops to social workers and youth counsellors who interface with children from vulnerable backgrounds. Close to 600 children and adults from 35 charitable organisations joined our "More Than Words" journey in 2015, which culminated in a book launch and performance on 10 September at ACS (Independent) School. Themed "C.H.A.N.G.E", the performance and publication – comprising writings and illustrations by participants – are our gifts to the children to encourage them to *Be The Change They Can Be.*

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# Foreword



By Yap Su-Yin  
(EO, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation)

This book, aptly titled **C.H.A.N.G.E.**, is a collection of stories, essays, poems and sketches that chronicles how children feel about their **Community** and **Home**, what **Aspirations** they have for our **Nation**, and the impact they can make on **Gaia** and the **Environment**. The publication is part of TCTF's "More Than Words" programme.

My idea to seed this initiative started from observing that resource constraints and family circumstances resulted in missed opportunities for many children when it came to their exposure to the literary and performing arts. This not only affected their ability to read and express themselves well, but also their self-esteem.

How wonderful and lasting a gift it would be if we created avenues for these children to blossom in self-confidence as they learned and grew through speech and drama, music, dance, creative writing workshops and educational excursions. With support from our Council and a dedicated TCTF team, “More Than Words” was borne. Over 2,000 people have participated in this programme.

Our theme for “More Than Words” this year is “Be the Change We Can Be”.



Change is transformative. Children who never touched a musical instrument learned to play an Indonesian musical instrument made from bamboo called the *angklung*. Teens were taught to communicate their views constructively through critiquing plays.



Amateur cub reporters interview youth performers and also learn more about traditional cultural arts from other teens.



Change has multiplier impact. TCTF partnered NUS Radio Pulze, an internet radio station manned by varsity students. Children referred to us by charities went on radio to air their views about how they would change this world for the better. A TCTF colleague, who had been a part of this station when she was an undergraduate, connected TCTF to NUS Radio Pulze to share this opportunity with others. As a result, a whole new world of radio opened up for these children.

This year, the foundation added a training-the-trainer's component to avail staff from charities of creative ways to connect with children they worked with. This was our way of boosting their ability to inspire, empower and transform the young.



We have enlightened volunteers and partners – ACTs of life, Encore! The European Season, Little Arts Academy, Singapore Creations Etc., Singapore Repertory Theatre and our former scholar from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts – to thank for making this journey an enriching one.

Together, we plant trees today not just for ourselves to enjoy, but that future generations might take comfort in their shade long after we have gone.

Yap Su-Yin



# CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH NEW TOWN CAREHUT



# The Mighty Car

Inspired by Tan Wan Ting

Ours will be especially useful, you see  
They are very functional and gasoline-free.



There's an electronic tablet once installed  
Works like a mini super-store.

Our robot drivers make knowledgeable teachers.  
School will come to the sleepy late-comers.

Smart phones can't compare to this brilliant car.  
It is voice-controlled and it travels far.

Don't worry when you are feeling down.  
It knows how to erase your frown.

Forget your parking **woes**, because it is foldable;  
With a zip-zap, it becomes portable.

The mighty car will be affordable for everyone.  
Even children can drive it and have fun!

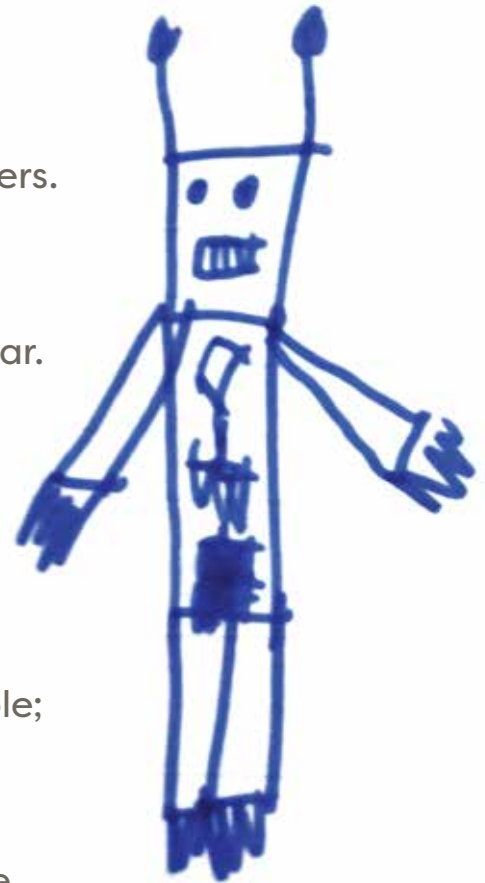
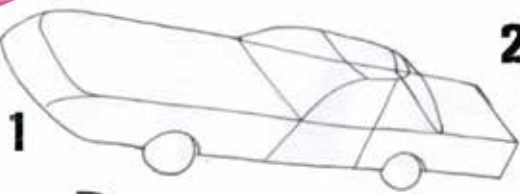
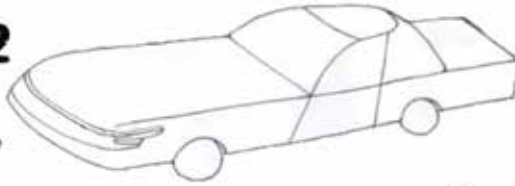


Illustration by Mvhd Nur Zikry



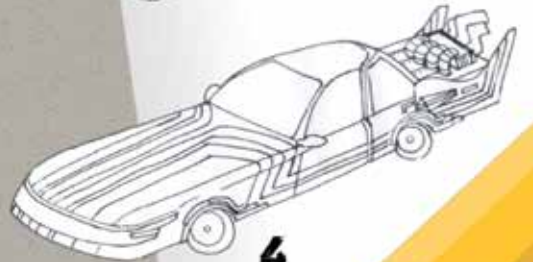
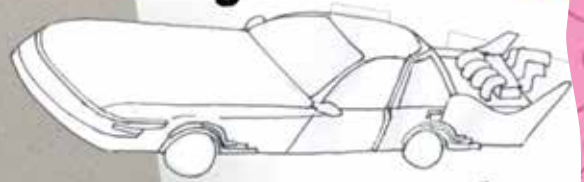
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# DRAW YOUR OWN MIGHTY CAR

3







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# Seeds of Change

Seow Ling Ern,  
Hwa Chong Institution

A little boy  
(no less than five),  
Searching for a path,  
where he could thrive.  
For he was lost, like a  
wanderer in the desert,  
His spirit scorched by the  
futility of his efforts.   
Seeing his tears as the boy   
began to cry,  
A dandelion called out:    
"Give it one more try!"  
"Be the Change that you can be,  
You could start by setting me free!"  
With one breath the little boy blew,  
And a thousand little white  
seeds flew.  
Each to enact change in  
their own small way,  
Inspiring growth, and  
seizing the day.



# Seeds of Future

Grand Piano

We plant trees from lit-tle seeds. We give hope for chan-ge. As seeds

grow They trans-form In-to strong-er trees. This is our life Here's our ho-me Be the

change that We can be. For our bet-ter fu-ture We are se-eds we grow in-to

trees



Composed and illustrated  
by Tran Thanh Xuan  
TCTF Scholar (2013-2015),  
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

# Mother Nature Fairy Lends a Helping Hand

Inspired by Shakir Zofayri, Nur Ain Madhiyah and Nurin Nadhirah

In future Singapore, trees are a rare sight. This is because humans have been **deforesting** forests for land to develop housing, for dumping waste, and using the trees for paper, which they use and discard thoughtlessly. For a long time, it was not the humans who had to pay the price of the damages they inflicted on Mother Nature, but the animals.

As deforestation continued relentlessly, with no end in sight, the animals' habitats were destroyed one by one. Kohl, the koala and his family decided to move from Australia to Singapore. Alas! Here too, the sun shone bright and fierce with no trees to provide shade. One day, from sheer heat, Kohl's makeshift home in MacRitchie Reservoir Park burst into flames, leaving the family of koalas devastated and sobbing helplessly beside the **parched** reservoir.

All of a sudden, a spot of water within the reservoir began bubbling vigorously. A beautiful fairy appeared floating above the water!

"I am Mother Nature Fairy," she said, "I have heard your cries and I am here to help you!"

Illustration by  
shakir zofayri





Illustration by Shakir Zofayri

Gathering water from the reservoir, she splashed it over the koalas' burning home and extinguished the fire. The koalas cheered with joy! However, everything was already in **cinders**.

"The house has been burnt down!" a small koala sobbed.

"Oh dear, oh dear!" exclaimed Mother Nature Fairy. She was very troubled. Where could she find the koalas another home?

Kohl, the wisest of his family, had an idea.

"If only we had Eucalyptus seeds," he said, "we could plant them and grow trees!"

Mother Nature Fairy was very impressed with this innovative solution.



Illustration by Shanice Ng

"I like to help those who help themselves," she smiled kindly and agreed to help them.

With a flick of her wand, seeds of every kind were scattered all around. She watered them by summoning a light drizzle, and the seeds quickly grew into a lush and blooming forest of trees!

The koalas were overjoyed to see their leafy new home nestled in **foliage**. It was also close to adequate food and water for the koala family. They thanked Mother Nature Fairy, and hoped that the humans would not destroy their homes again.

# Vocabulary Glossary

## Never Stop Learning Through the Ages

**Nostalgia:** A longing for things of the past or missing past experiences

**Tranquil:** Calm and peaceful

**Wafted:** To float easily or gently, as on the air

**Angklung:** A musical instrument originating from Indonesia that is made of bamboo

## Rowy and her Robot Friend

**Chronic:** Refers to a sickness or a problem that lasts a long time

**Pristine:** Clean and pure

## The Mighty Car

**Woes:** Troubles that cause sadness

## Learning from the Birds

**Azure:** A bright blue, as of clear sky.

**Eureka:** Used to express triumph upon finding or discovering something

**Conundrum:** A confusing or difficult problem

**Devastated:** To be extremely sad

**Vile:** Evil

**Haven:** A safe and protected place

**Muster:** To gather or summon someone or something, for eg. courage





## Mother Nature Fairy Lends a Helping Hand

**Deforesting:** Cutting or clearing a large number of trees, like from a forest

**Parched:** To be very dry because of lack of water or to be very thirsty

**Cinders:** Ashes that are produced when objects are burnt

**Foliage:** A cluster of leaves

## The Orange Earth

**Perplexed:** To feel very confused

**Interstellar:** Located among the stars

**Phenomenon:** A fact that can be seen but cannot be explained easily

**Detoxify:** To remove dangerous substances from an object or a person

## A Magical Starry Adventure

**Reciprocated:** To return an action or a feeling, like shaking hands

**Picturesque:** A view that is so beautiful it looks like it is from a painting

**Sputtered:** To spit out words or sounds in an excited or confused manner

**Adorned:** To decorate to make an object or person more beautiful

## Popee the Penguin Finds a New Home

**Entrapped:** To be trapped by another person or animal with no way out

**Eternity:** A period of time that seems endless

**Ominous:** Suggesting that something bad is going to happen in the future

