

# TO GATHER, TOGETHER



TAN CHIN TUAN FOUNDATION

Copyright © 2017 Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

ISBN: 978-981-11-4297-0

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.

Printed in Singapore.



TO GATHER, TOGETHER

This Book Belongs To





## About Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

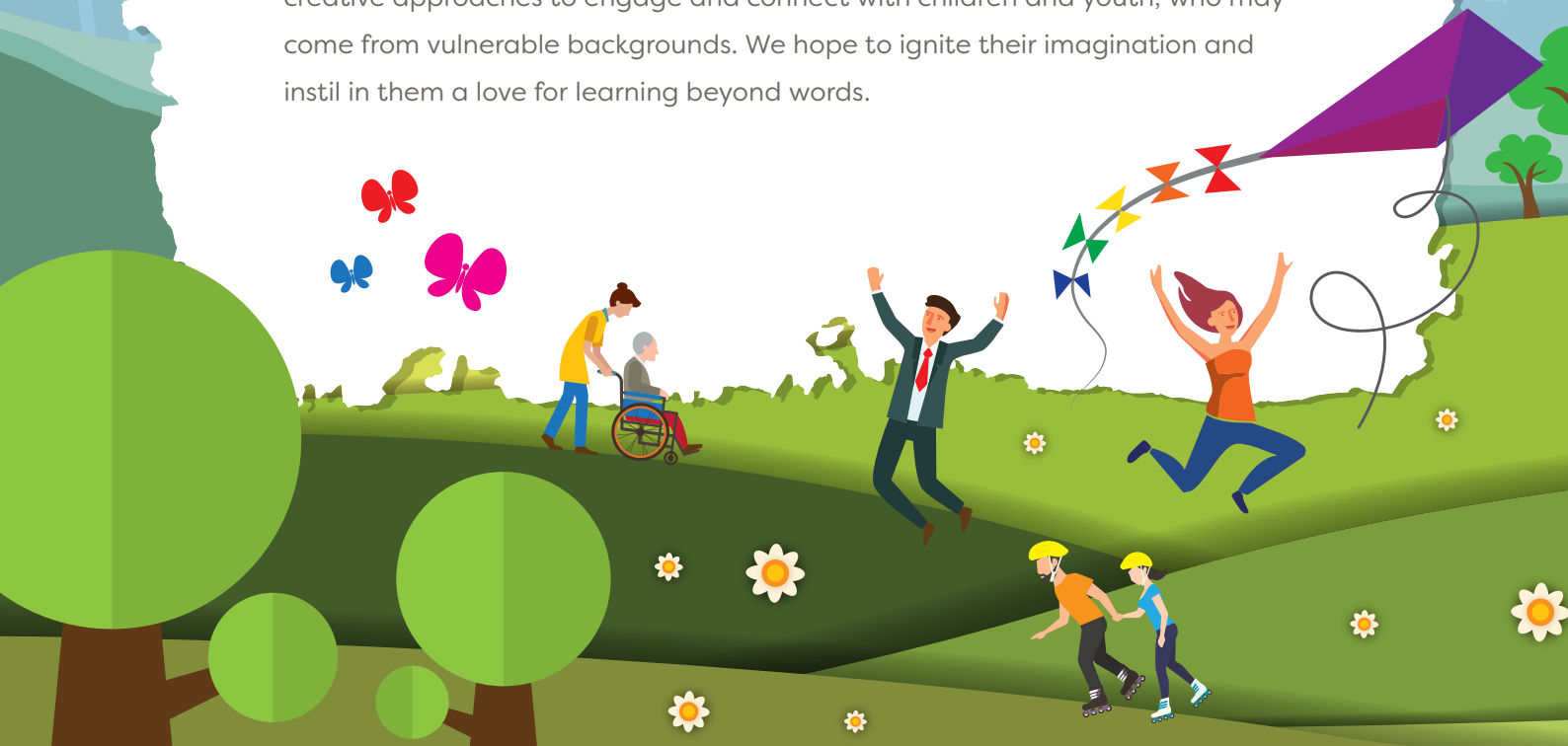
The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) was set up in Singapore on 10 April 1976 by the late Tan Sri (Dr.) Tan Chin Tuan to help the needy. Aligned with our founder's giving philosophy, the foundation supports causes and projects that are viable, sustainable and have positive impact on our society.



## 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.





# Contents

- 4. Foreword
- 9. Family
- 27. Friends
- 55. Community
- 72. Vocabulary Glossary
- 74. Acknowledgements

**TCTF Editorial Team**  
Yap Su-Yin  
Angeline Kwong  
Teo Qian Hua  
Fiona Lioe

**Book Design**  
Leap DS&C





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.





# FAMILY



# Father's Love

Inspired by Siti Nur Aina Binte Mohd Nazlee

Once upon a time, there was an old man, Peter, who lived with his four children in a secluded village. Peter lost his wife to cancer five years ago. Since then, he had been the sole **breadwinner**, who provided for his four children, John, Paul, Mary and Kate. Peter loved his children dearly. However, age had caught up with him and he found it increasingly difficult to manage his children. John and Paul always fought with each other, while Mary and Kate were not interested in taking care of the family.

Peter did all the household chores even after a long day at work. Feeling that the family was breaking apart, the old man mulled over an idea to change his children's attitude.

## Peter's Final Wish

On the eve of Christmas, Peter woke up feeling nauseated. He could not prepare gifts for his children. A depressing atmosphere loomed as none of his children showed concern for his sickness. Two days later, it finally dawned upon them that their father was critically ill. They were **crestfallen**. What would they do without their father!



With a heavy heart, the children cried, “Oh dear father, please tell us what we can do to help you!”

The father coughed incessantly and looked at them with

**melancholic** eyes,

“I am very sick.

Only one thing can cheer me up. I would

like to have one meal with my family.”



Illustration by  
NUR HUZAIRAH BINTE AIDIL HAKIM

Listening anxiously, the children nodded their heads. They were bent on fulfilling their father’s final wish. They knew he loved having turkey. However, how was it possible to find one in December, when the snow was falling so fast and thick? Despite the growing snow storm, John and Paul braved the freezing temperature and ventured into the nearby forest to try their luck at catching a turkey.

Meanwhile, Mary and Kate went to fetch firewood and heated up the pot. They also washed all the dishes accumulated over the past few days, laid the table for dinner and cleaned the house. Shortly after, their brothers returned **triumphantly**. “Mary! Kate! You won’t believe such a huge turkey existed!” John exclaimed, showing off their catch.

## A Show Put Up For Reconciliation

Now that the siblings had gotten the ingredients and tidied up the kitchen, the final challenge was to turn this turkey into a delectable dish. They worked hard to prepare the dish. It was the hardest task they ever attempted! The siblings started to realise how much their father had to go through to put food on the table whilst holding a full-time job. They felt a mixture of guilt and gratitude for their father. As they brought the turkey to the dining room, they saw the room beautifully decorated with fairy lights and candles, with presents lined beside the Christmas tree.

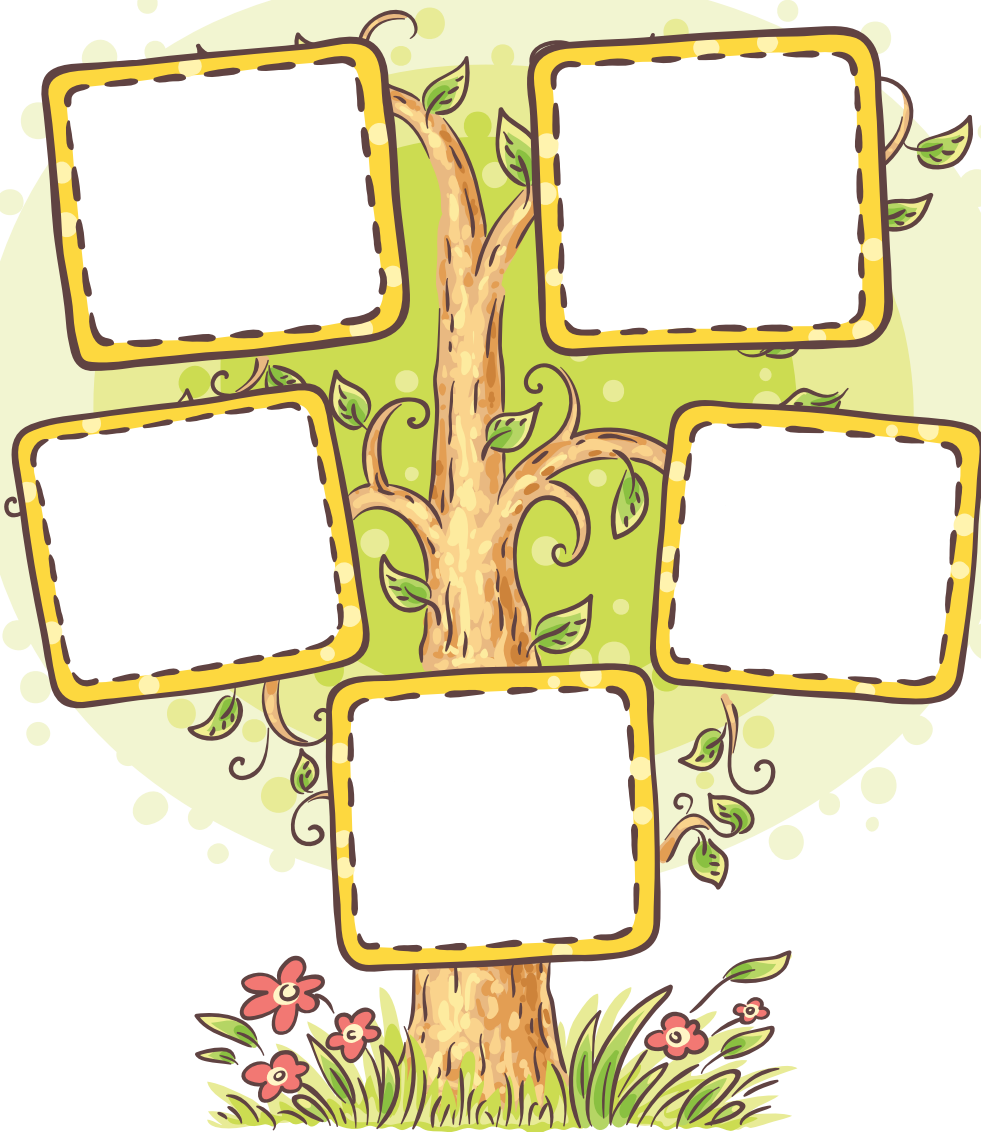
Illustration by  
Valerie Kok



They looked up and were shocked to see their father standing at the other end of the living room. He was not only **dressed to the nines**, but also radiated joy. It dawned on them that their father had tricked them! He had put on a show in order to get them to work together. The children felt remorseful for their past behaviour, and understood their father's intent. From then on, the family looked out for one another. Peter could finally take a break and enjoy his retirement in the company of his children!

# Activity Page

Write down the things that you want to thank your family for.





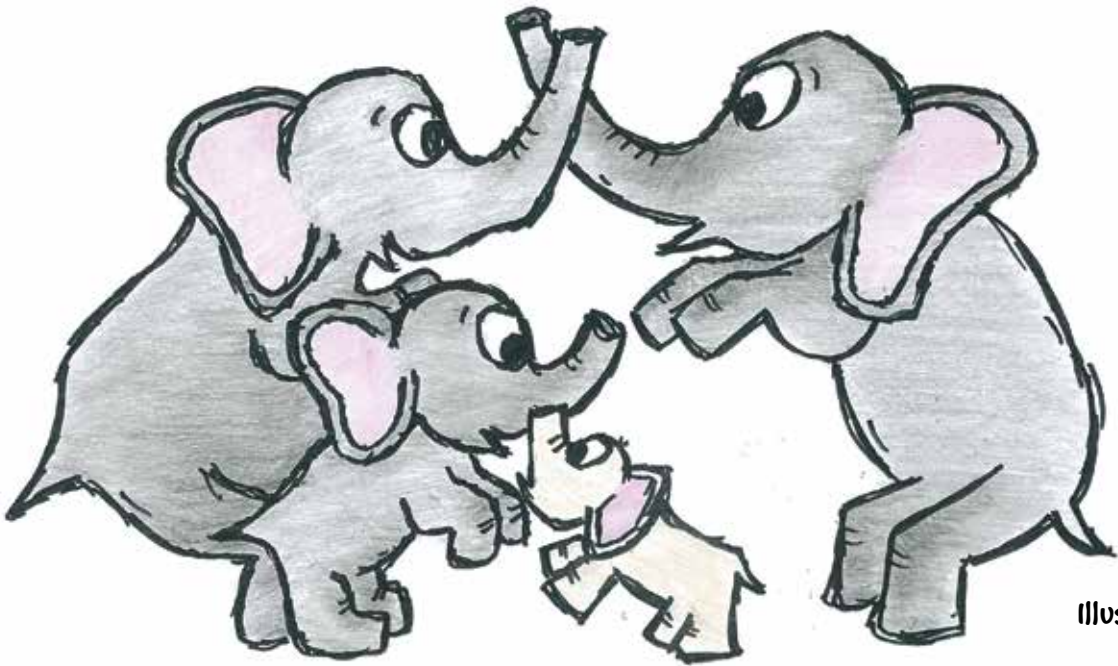


Illustration by  
Valerie Kok

## The Elephant Family

By Hannah Wee

There was once a **jovial** herd of elephants. They often teased one another, pulling each other's trunks and big floppy ears. Their favourite activity was to romp and **frolic** in the plains. But summer had arrived and the ponds were drying up. The herd decided to migrate to find new water sources. Midway, Mama Elephant realised that her baby elephant had vanished from their midst. "Max! Max, where are you?" Mama Elephant trumpeted in alarm. What would he do without his mother!

Distracted by some pretty butterflies fluttering in front of him, Max the baby elephant had wandered off. By the time he finished chasing the butterflies, he had long left the protection of his herd and was all alone. Alarmed and afraid, Max hid behind a bush.

He flopped his oversized ears left and right in **frepidation**, listening for his mother. Unbeknownst to him, the slim barrel of a shotgun was pointed at him. He was in danger!

## The First Attempt

The hunter's heart beat in excitement as he prepared to shoot. Max was a rare and valuable white elephant that could be sold for a huge profit. "All right! Here comes my bucket of gold!" the hunter thought. As he was about to pull the trigger, he was



interrupted by loud bellows. The herd had caught a whiff of the gunpowder and was charging angrily towards the hunter.

"After him!" The leader of the herd yelled as they stomped madly. The hunter screamed in fear and started scrambling for his life. "Mama!" Max called frantically from the bush. Mama Elephant raced towards Max. He snuggled against her, and the herd decided to let the hunter go.

The herd continued their journey again, breaking out in song as they trotted playfully in pastures along their journey. Little did they know that the hunter had not given up and was still gunning after them. Soon after, night fell and it was time to rest. The elephants curled around each other to sleep.

## The Second Attack

In the deep of the night, the hunter approached the herd with other hunters. Dressed in black, they were camouflaged. “This time round, I will catch the elephant for sure!” the hunter thought. However, one of the hunters, Ali, was overwrought with guilt. He was reluctant to hunt the elephants and was filled with anguish at the thought of attacking the herd.

Ali grew up in the forest and the other hunters needed his knowledge to find the valuable elephants. He had no choice as they threatened his safety if he chose not to join them. He agonised over what he should do. Then, he decided to create a diversion for the elephants.

“Bang!” The sound of the gun startled the herd. It was **pandemonium**. Elephants dashed in all directions, mowing down trees along the way.

“Max!” Mama Elephant yelled. Together, they escaped quickly. After what seemed like eternity, they ran out of sight of the hunters. By this time, the sun started to peek through the treetops. The duo soon found a cave to hide in.



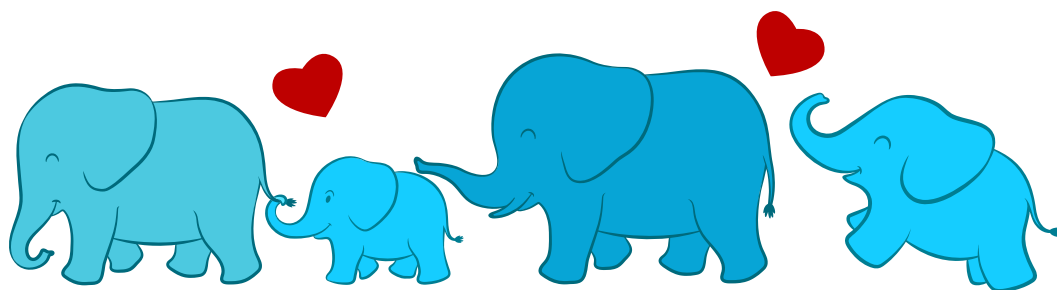


As they settled down from their panic, Mama Elephant consoled Max by gently running her trunk on the top of his head. She spoke to him soothingly as she calmed him down. They were crestfallen by their separation from the herd and yearned for their family.

## In Search of Family

Meanwhile, the herd had gathered back together. Despite their plans to find a new water source, they headed back to search for Mama Elephant and Max. They walked for days with little water under the hot sun and cold nights, trumpeting loudly for Max and Mama Elephant. Their hope of reuniting as a family motivated them to persist in their search for the two elephants.

Mama Elephant and Max rested for a few days, and started their search to find the herd but their strength slowly dwindled as they struggled to survive away from the herd. Just as the two elephants lost all hope, they heard **jubilant** trumpeting behind them. Their herd had caught sight of them! It was an emotional reunion as they greeted one another joyously in a chorus of rumbles, flapping their ears back and forth and stroking each other with their trunks affectionately. Through this episode, the herd became closer as a family.



# Activity Page

Draw your own elephant! Follow these easy steps and draw the elephant in the circle!

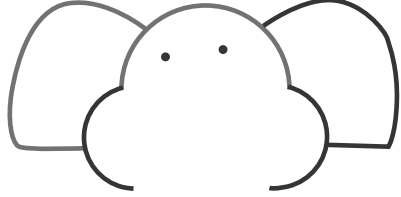
1



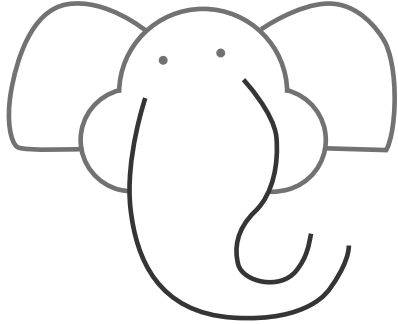
2



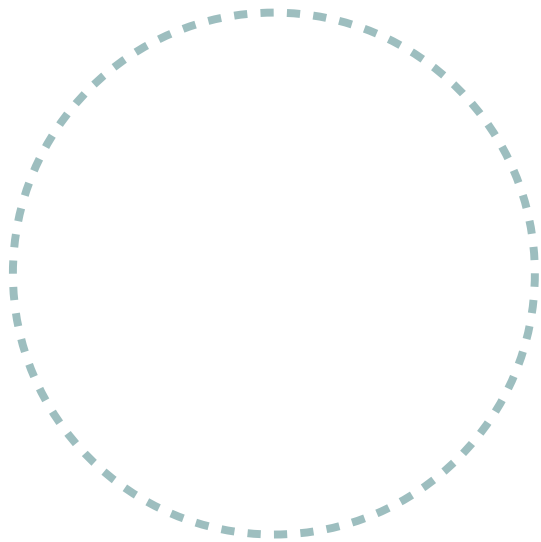
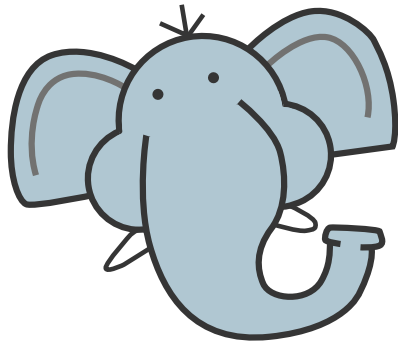
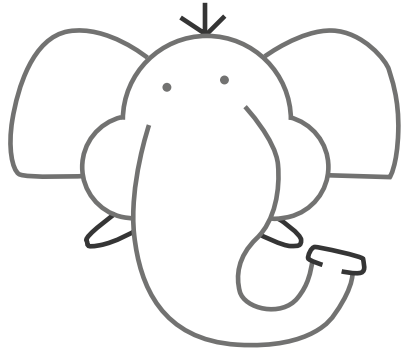
3



4



5



# 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.

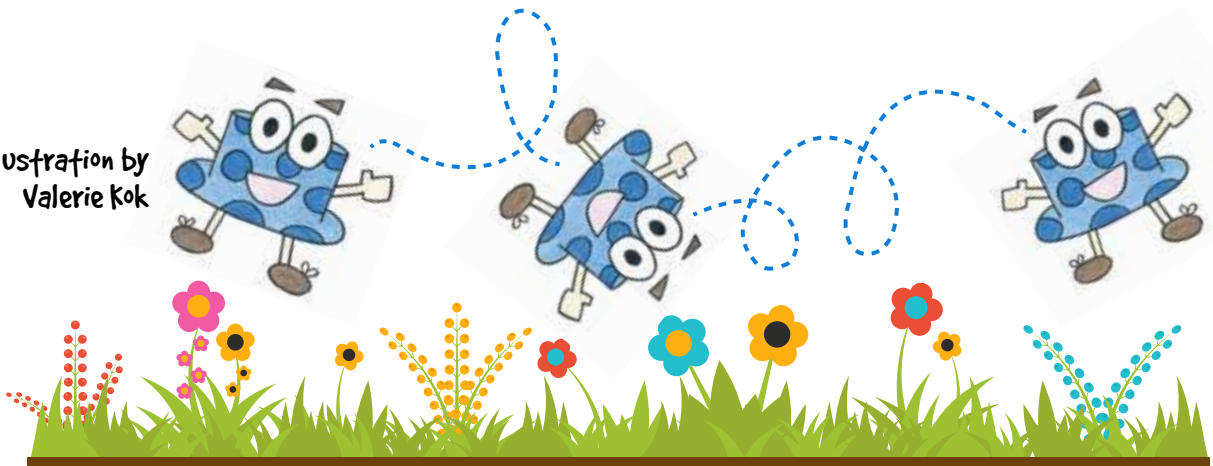
## The Enchanted Mushroom

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

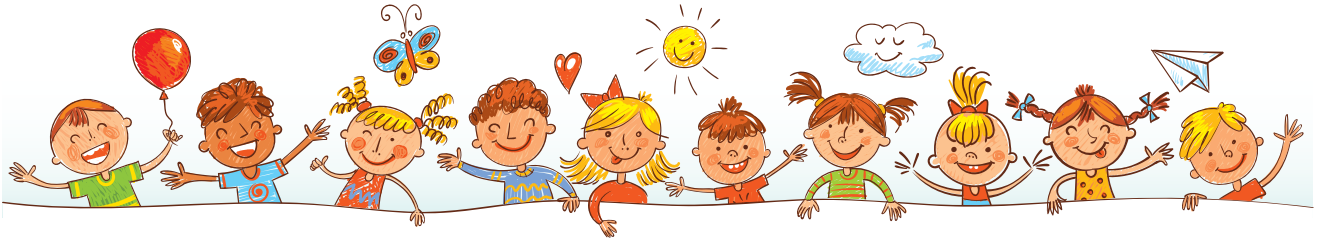
Billy Jackson Hat and Mother Mitten started to feel an invisible force lifting their chairs up. They grasped tightly onto the arms of their chairs, which started to float out of the door. “I have instructed the chairs to bring both of you home! They will follow the dotted lines that I have created!”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

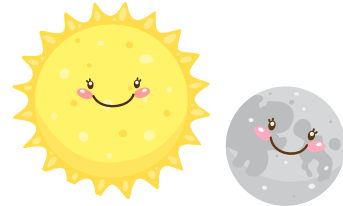






# Together Is

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!

# Activity Page

A lune poem is a very short poem.  
Some lunes are word based. It has 3 words in the  
first and last line, and 5 words in the center line.

Playful little children  
Splashing in the swimming pool  
Everyone had fun

Cooking with family  
Buying ingredients from the supermarket  
Baked or fried

composed by Khoo Zhee Hui

Try writing your own lune poem!



15  
+ 18

1 2 3 4 5

ABC

# FRIENDS



# A Birthday Surprise For A Special Friend

Inspired by Sharifah Nurin Asyeila Binte Syed Muhammad Hafiz, Farisha Anis Binte Mohammad Neezam and Nurreen Ryndiani Binte Muhamad Zuhri



The school bell rang. It was time to plan for Alex's birthday celebration! Alex of Class 2B had become wheelchair-bound after he was knocked down by a car two months ago. He felt depressed ever since the **traumatic** experience. Alex's thoughtful classmates decided to throw him a surprise birthday party to cheer him up.

## Hatching A Surprise

The organisers gathered in the canteen and discussed their plans for the birthday party. Danny suggested hosting the party at Hard Rock Café. This idea was supported by Farisha and Amirah. They were determined to plan the surprise down to the smallest detail. Zahirah and Aqidah were to prepare the balloons. Nurreen, Amirah and Danny were to fill up goodie bags with Alex's favourite treats. Dani, Dafique, Asyeila and Farisha were tasked to buy Alex's favourite cake, complete with dry ice for a dramatic effect. Alex's parents were also informed about the surprise. They were very supportive and shared with



the class what Alex's favourite cartoons and snacks were. Everyone looked forward excitedly to the party!

## Treated Like A Prince

After what seemed like forever, the day for the birthday party finally arrived! Alex and his parents had just returned from their holiday in Australia. Ashley waited anxiously for Alex and his parents at the airport's arrival hall with a beautifully decorated board that read 'Welcome back Alex!' Alex was pleasantly surprised to see her.



To his amazement, Ashley escorted them to a black **limousine**. Alex was extremely puzzled but excited to discover what lay ahead.

The driver, Ashley's uncle, generously provided the complimentary ride after hearing about Alex's misfortune. The ride was quite an experience! There was a television which screened Alex's favourite cartoons, extremely comfortable leather seats, complete with all kinds of snacks and drinks to go along. Soon, they reached the party's venue.





## Happy Together

Ashley led Alex and his parents into Hard Rock Café. Suddenly, the lights went out. Alex screamed in fright as he had been afraid of the dark since young. Just then, he saw a dim light approaching him. To his **astonishment**, it was accompanied by the sweet voices of his classmates singing the ‘Happy Birthday’ song! Alex smiled widely and tears of joy streamed down his cheeks. He was touched by his friends’ efforts to celebrate his birthday. Deep down, he knew they had done so to cheer him up! With a grateful smile, the birthday boy blew out the candles and made a wish for his parents and friends to be happy always.



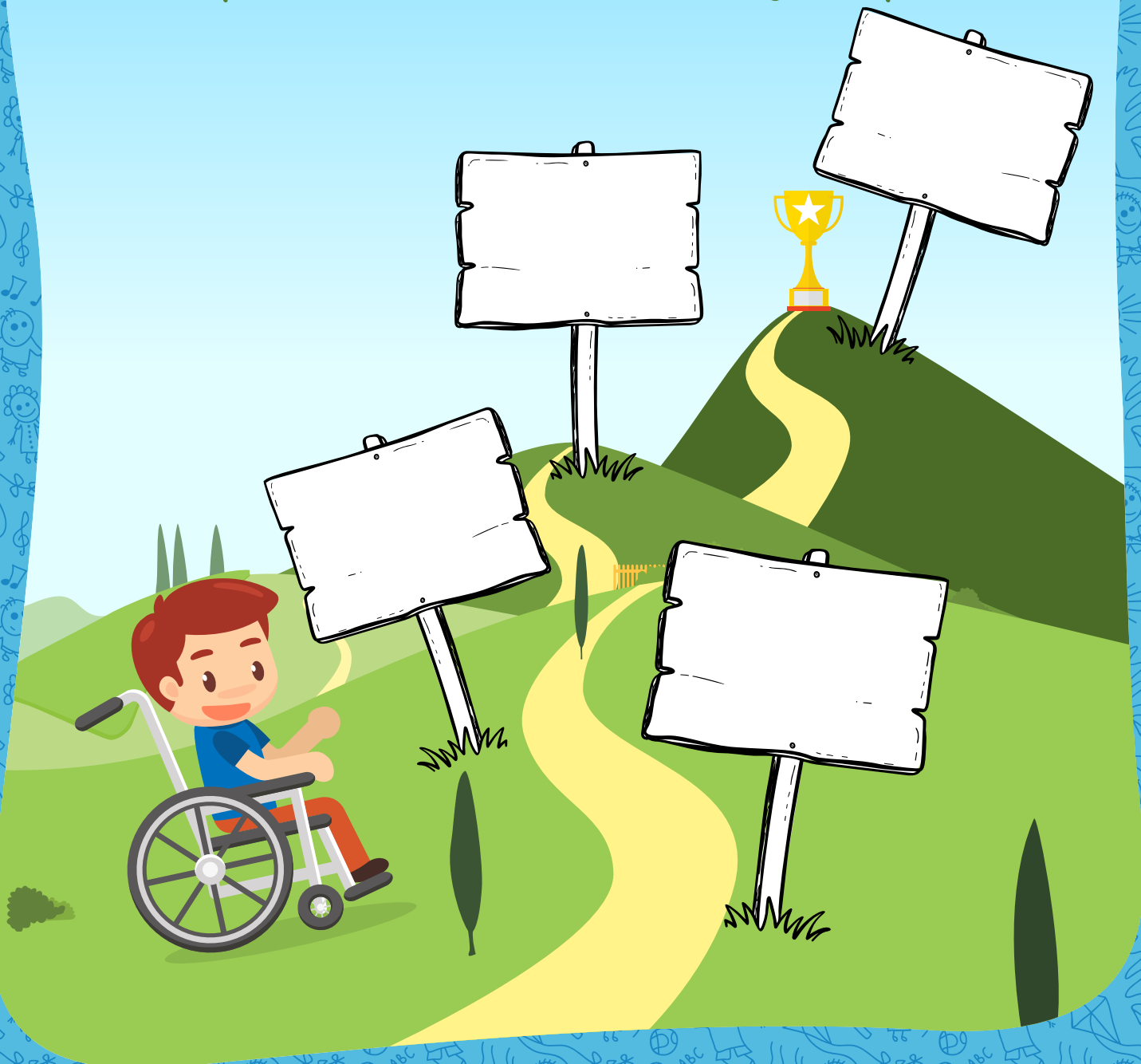
Everyone had fun playing games and singing songs. They were also entertained by a magician. Alex was very grateful for his wonderful friends. He declared the party the best he ever had! From that day onwards, Alex was no longer sad because he knew that he had many caring friends, who would journey with him on his road to recovery.



Illustration by  
Muhammad Rizqi Andika Bin Suri Suria

# Activity Page

If you were one of Alex's classmates, what would you do to encourage him on his road to recovery?  
Write down some words of encouragement.





# In Search of Mr Tom's Body Story of Friendship And Responsibility

Inspired by Aqil Bin Mohamed Dawood and Nazirul Mubin

Mr Tom, a silky black cat was involved in a terrible car accident which led him to lose his body. As he was the cause of the accident, the guardians of heaven punished him. They trapped his head in a silver cage, which he could not break free from no matter how hard he tried. All day and all night, he pleaded to the guardians of heaven to release him, but to no avail.



One day, his fate changed for the better when a wild fox came to see him. “Hello, can you help me, please?” cried Mr Tom desperately.

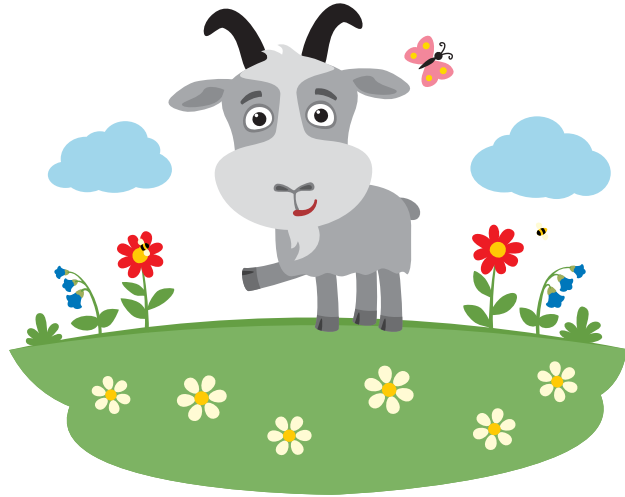


“Hi, I’m Angel Ash”, said the fox. The guardians of heaven have decided to release you. I am the angel sent to help you!”

Angel Ash explained that the guardians of heaven had hidden Mr Tom’s body in a secret place. In order to locate his body, Mr Tom had to use a magic toothbrush. Angel Ash persuaded Mr Tom to brush his teeth with it. “It’s not working!” yelled Mr Tom.

Angel Ash **contemplated**. He pulled out a sachet of magical star dust and sprinkled it all over the toothbrush. Then, he asked Mr Tom to brush his teeth with the toothbrush again. Nothing changed.

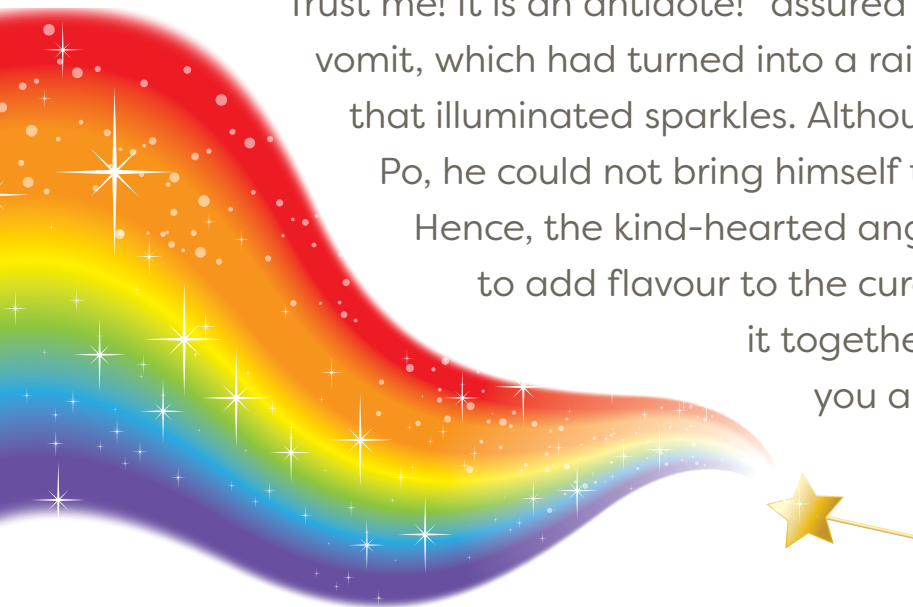
“Strange! This usually works!” cried the puzzled fox. Angel Ash was **out of his wits**. He decided to call his best friend, Mountain Goat Po, a fellow angel to help Mr Tom.



## Friends Rally to Help

Angel Po was happy to help! But what he did next was very, very strange. He vomited on the floor and asked Mr Tom to eat it. Mr Tom gasped in horror, and his face turned green at the thought of eating grotesque puke, even if it originated from an angel.

“Trust me! It is an antidote!” assured Angel Po, pointing to the vomit, which had turned into a rainbow-coloured substance that illuminated sparkles. Although Mr Tom trusted Angel Po, he could not bring himself to consume the antidote. Hence, the kind-hearted angels added sugar and milk to add flavour to the cure, and even offered to eat it together with Mr Tom. “Thank you angels for your offer!”





However, this is my punishment for being irresponsible. I have to face this on my own,” replied Mr Tom. With that, Mr Tom plucked up his courage and ate the antidote while the angels cheered him on. Within a split second, Mr Tom’s body appeared!

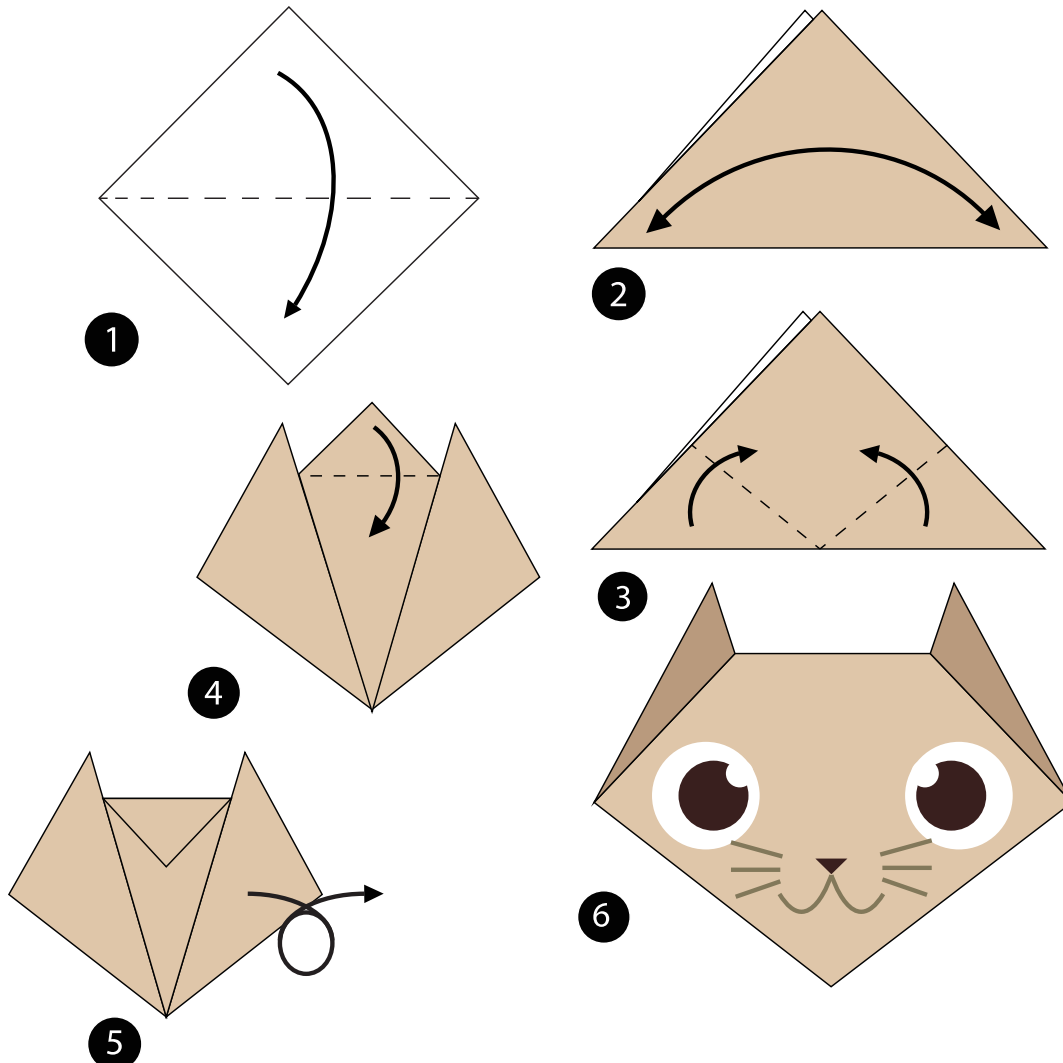


“My friends, thank you so much for your help!” Mr Tom extended his new found arms and hugged them tightly. Their friendship touched the guardians of heaven. The skies opened and the raindrops melted the silver cage. Mr Tom was finally free! From then on, Mr Tom learned to be responsible for his actions.



# Activity Page

Take a piece of square paper. Follow these easy steps to create your own cat origami!



# 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.

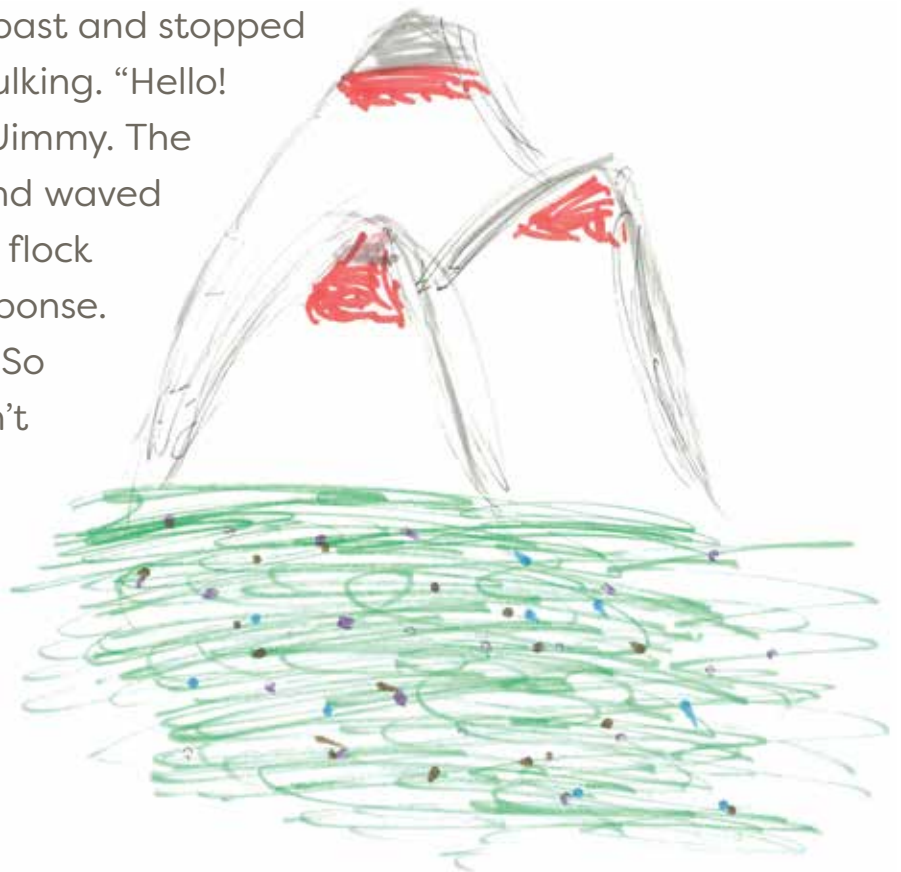


Illustration by Amira Binte Aman



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.

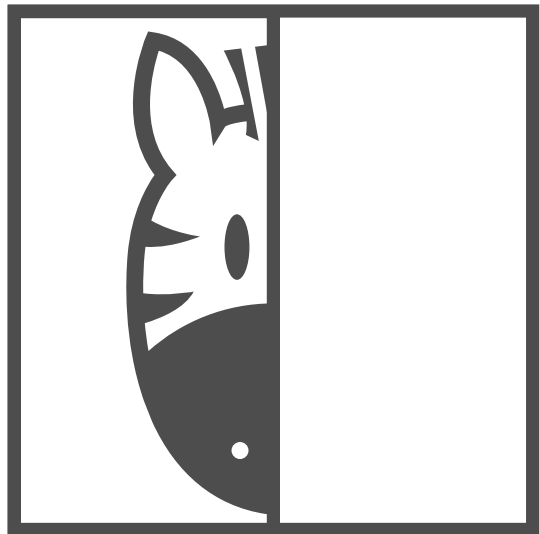
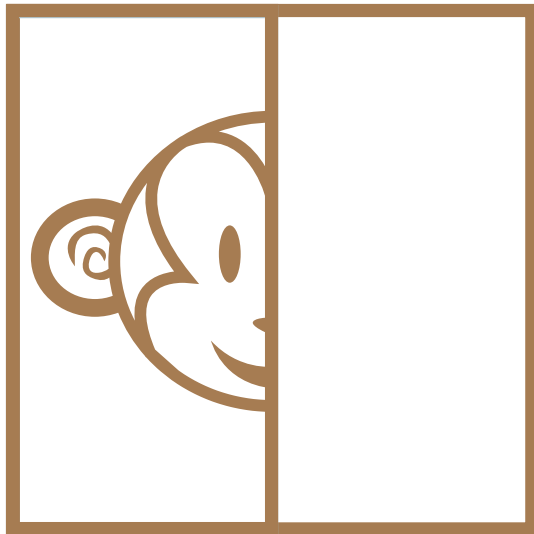
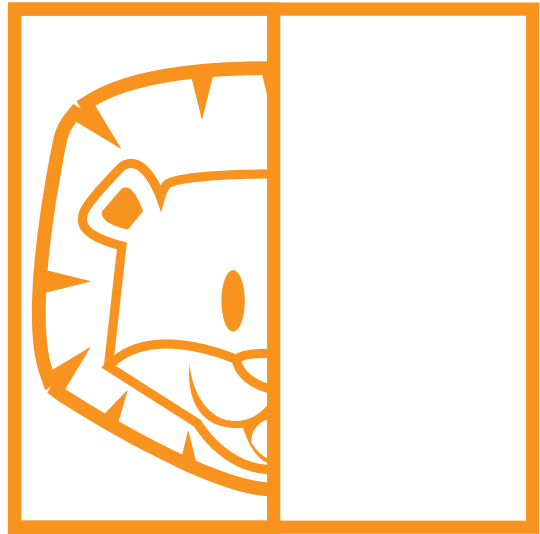
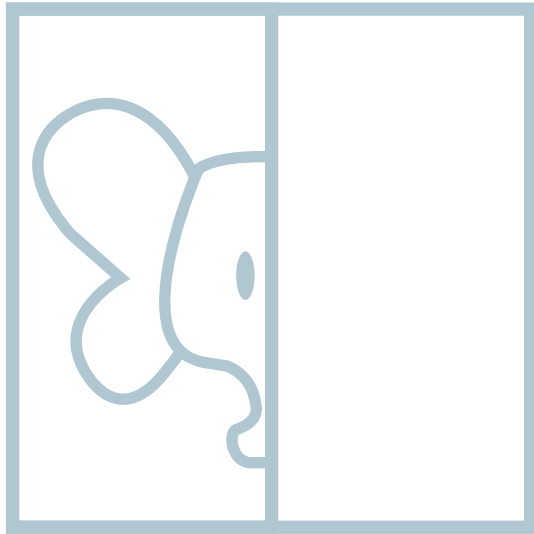




“So... so many visitors!” Xavier beamed with joy. “You know what? I don’t even have to use my magic to grant your wish! Why don’t you move into my treehouse and be my friend!” Xavier suggested. Jimmy was overjoyed. He got more than what he had asked for – a friend and a home forever! From then on, Jimmy 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!

# Activity Page

Oh no! Where did the animals' faces go? Draw the other half of the animals' faces on the right side of the boxes.





## The Bedok North Ninjas

**Inspired by Yusuf Bin Abdul Razak, Muhammad Naufal Bin Abdullah and Mohamed Deanie Matin Bin Nahar**

“Ring! Ring!” The telephone rang. Naufal dashed to the living room to answer the call. “Naufal, it’s me, Ishwar. Come to my house immediately! I have something very interesting to show you. I called Jing Yang, Ahmad and Nelson too!” exclaimed Ishwar.

Naufal, Ishwar, Jing Yang, Ahmad and Nelson had been childhood friends for six years and they all lived in Bedok North. The five called themselves the ‘BN Ninjas’ and did almost everything together. They were well-liked in the neighbourhood for their helpfulness and cheerful personalities. One of their favourite hobbies was to cook. They would plough through the Internet to find unique recipes and whisk up ingredients to create delicious cuisines, which they would then share with the elderly in the neighbourhood.



## An opportunity To Help Neighbours

Curious and excited, Naufal set off to Ishwar's house. Everyone arrived at Ishwar's house 15 minutes later. He powered up his laptop and revealed the exciting news. "Look at this!" Ishwar exclaimed with a wide grin, pointing to a poster on the screen.

'YGS Pte Ltd welcomes all aspiring young chefs from the Bedok North neighbourhood to take part in our cooking competition! Form a team of five and register online by this Sunday! The winning team will walk away with a cash prize of \$20,000!'



Everyone rejoiced! "That's fantastic! If we win, we can buy motorised wheelchairs for Mr Lim and Mr Selamat! Let's participate!" exclaimed Jing Yang. The BN Ninjas concurred and started discussing **enthusiastically** about the spread of food they would prepare.

## Whipping Up A Feast

On the day of the competition, Team BN Ninjas arrived at the venue. There were 12 other participating teams. Some were so nervous that they broke out in cold sweat. Others looked excited and all ready to show off their culinary expertise!

“Something seems amiss. Why is the crew chasing the contestants’ parents away?” whispered Ishwar to Naufal. Some unsuspecting parents had obeyed the crew’s instruction and left the competition ground, while others lingered outside the premises. “It is indeed very strange! Most competitions would allow supporters to cheer the contestants on. Furthermore, we were asked to surrender our mobile phones – now we can’t contact anyone!” Naufal muttered, with a tinge of fear in his voice.

Ishwar and Naufal wanted to inform their team of these observations. However, they were called to the front of the stage before they could do so. To their horror, the duo observed more worrying signs – the crew had locked the entrance door and they had guns hidden in their back pockets!



A middle-aged man with a devious look walked onto the stage to address the crowd. “Welcome my dears! Thank you for responding to our advertisement and participating in this competition. Allow me to introduce myself, I am Mr Seng, the CEO of YGS Pte Ltd. You may wonder, what does YGS stand for? Well, it means You Got Scammed!” Mr Seng let out a **malicious** laughter. “All of you have fallen into my trap. My plan is to kidnap all of you and collect ransom from your parents. All you have to do is to sit back, relax and enjoy! We will release you if, and only if, your parents pay us,” he sniggered.



## outwitting The Bad Guys

The contestants gasped in fear. Some started crying for their parents. One contestant panicked and dropped the bottles of spices he was holding. **Quick-witted** Ahmad immediately collected all the bottles and secretly distributed them to his friends. He then gestured to his friends to toss the spices at Mr Seng and his crew. The BN Ninjas nodded in agreement. Armed with two bottles of spices each, they slowly moved towards their targets. In a swift move, the BN Ninjas attacked the kidnappers, blinded them

momentarily and disarmed them. Upon seeing the **retaliation**, the other teams helped by kicking the kidnappers and hitting them with their bags. Everyone worked together to round up the villains.

Just then, the contestants heard the police sirens. Within minutes, policemen broke into the event hall and captured all the kidnappers. Anxious parents rushed into the premises in search of their children. Fortunately, all the contestants were unharmed.

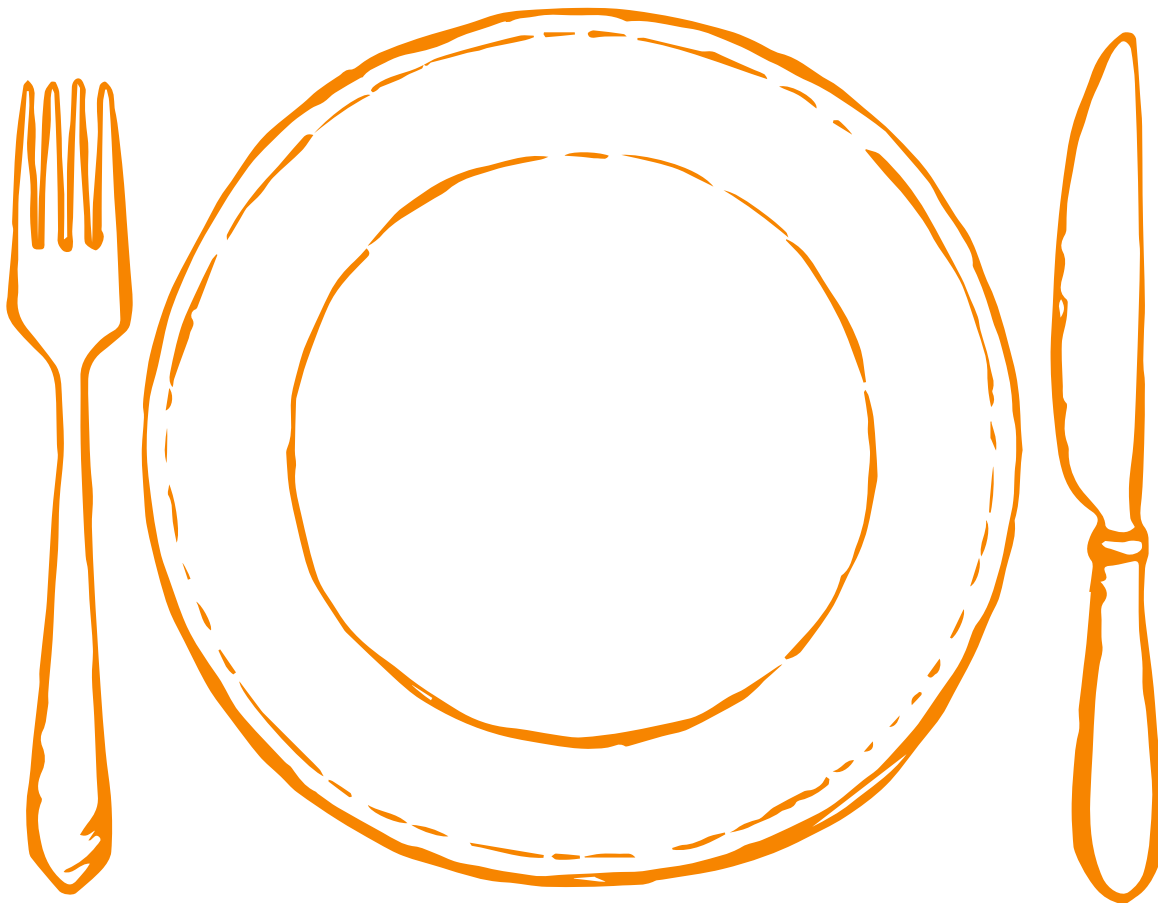
While everyone was grateful to the BN Ninjas, they were puzzled as to how the police found out about the conspiracy.

“Ishwar sensed that the cash prize was too good to be true, so he informed me to call the police if I didn’t hear from him by the time the competition started!” explained Ishwar’s mother. Everyone cheered for the BN Ninjas who had saved the day with their unity and bravery!



# Activity Page

If you had a chance  
to prepare a dish for your friends,  
how would it look like? Draw your dish here!







## The Detective And The Guardians of The Enchanted Gold

Inspired by Yuki Ng, Chloe Tan, Fong Mei Shan,  
Isabelle Bernard Zaini, Huang Wei Jia He  
and Usayd Ilham Bin Mohammad Zaid

Like many teenage boys, Usayd dreamt of becoming a detective. One day, he decided to visit his friend, Jia He. Upon reaching Jia He's house, he knocked on the door but no one answered. "Strange, Jia He told me he would be at home," thought Usayd.

Sensing that something was amiss, Usayd decided to search for his friend. He took reference from his favourite detective book, 'Sherlock Holmes' to solve the mystery. "Step one, search the surrounding for traces of evidence!" he recalled.

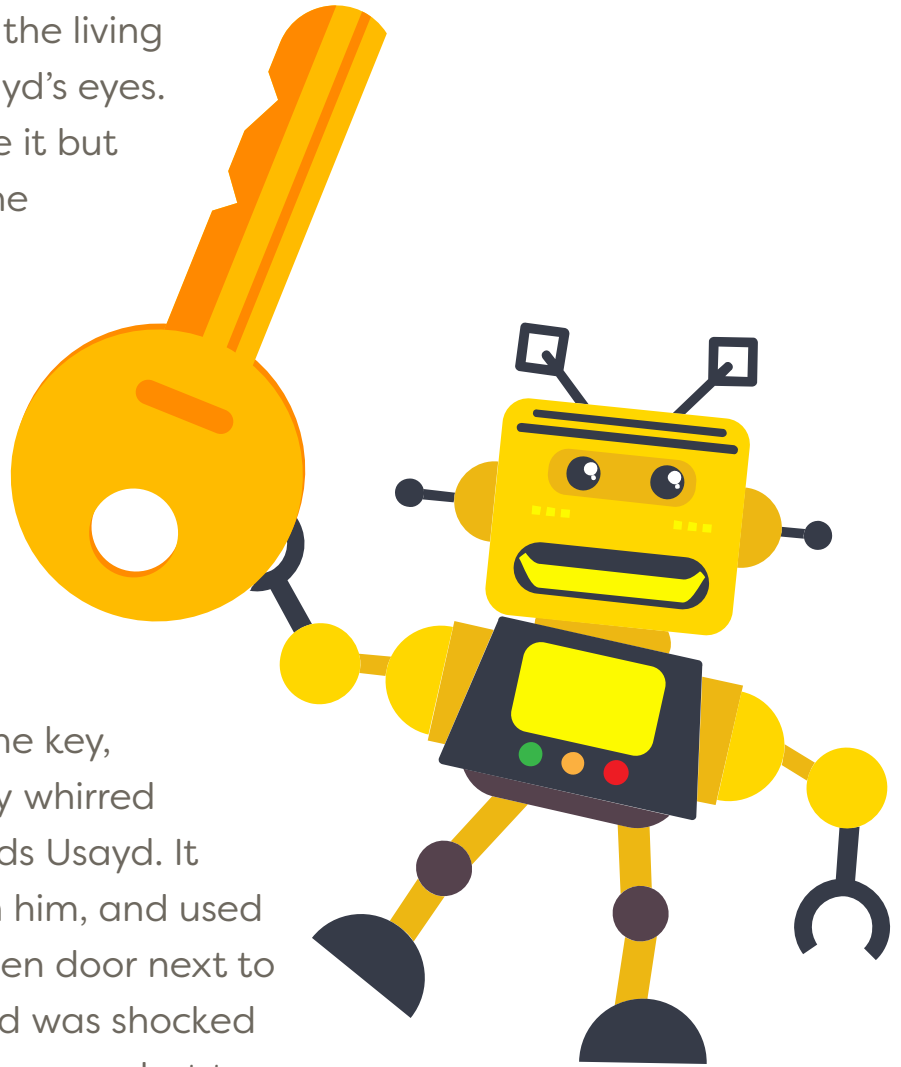
A set of muddy footprints caught his eye. He followed the trail and was led to an infamous haunted mansion. A large signboard **loomed** at the front porch, warning curious passers-by not to enter the accursed house. Usayd hesitated, but his curiosity and concern for his friend got the better of him. Heart thumping loudly, Usayd **frudged** forward. The front door creaked open with a slight push. He was surprised at how clean and exquisite the interior was, albeit dark and eerie.



## A Magical Realm

A golden robot toy on the living room floor caught Usayd's eyes. He wanted to examine it but decided to prioritise the search for Jia He. He continued to **sleuth** around the house and spotted a twinkle amidst the darkness. It was a golden key!

Before Usayd could figure out the use of the key, out of the blue, the toy whirred to life and sped towards Usayd. It snatched the key from him, and used it to unlock a tiny golden door next to the grand piano. Usayd was shocked and frightened. "How can a robot toy move?" he thought. However, bearing in mind that detectives are to be brave, he followed it. To his surprise, the robot toy turned around and shoved Usayd through the tiny door.





Usayd could hardly believe his eyes. In front of him, hooded figures circled a large pile of gold. A sinister green fog shrouded them. They were chanting words that he could not comprehend. This sight sent a wave of chills down his spine. Usayd's first thought was to run back to the tiny door. **Ironically**, the haunted house seemed like a much safer place.

However, Usayd could not find the door. Trapped, he had little choice but to walk forward. Suddenly, a warm hand clamped onto his shoulder. Usayd yelled in shock, but turned around only to

find Jia He, together with his classmates - Yuki, Chloe, Mei Shan and Isabelle, grinning at him. They explained that they were the guardians of the 'Wish-Granting Gold'. That

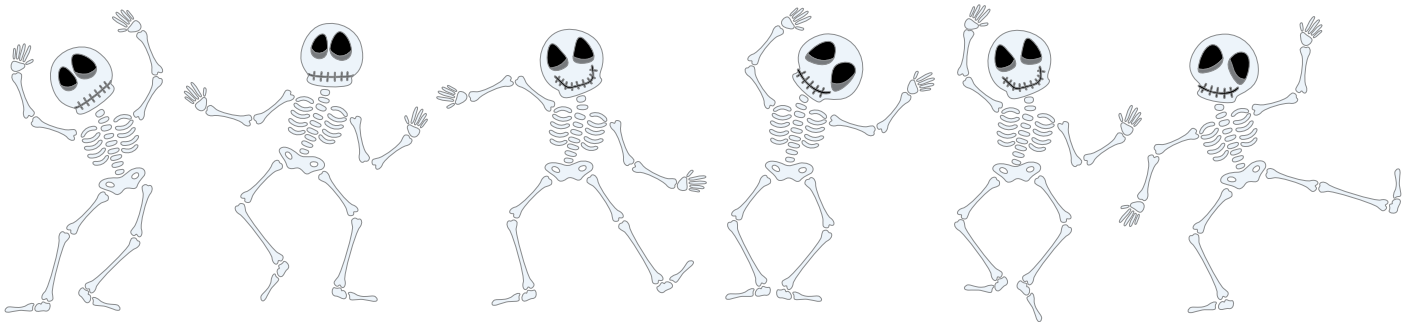


morning, they received news from the tiny robot toy, who was the keeper of the magical gold, that a group of hooded bandits had broken into the magical dimension to steal it. They had been secretly devising a plan to outwit the bandits.

## Teamwork Saves The Day

“The bandits are chanting a spell to break the protective shield around the gold! We are outnumbered!” whispered Chloe. “Don’t worry! With my detective skills and your fighting experience, we can work together to defeat them in no time!” Usayd assured his classmates.

Yet, they could not come to a consensus and started arguing over who had the best idea to tackle the evil bandits. Amidst their bickering, one of the bandits discovered them and began to cast spells to spawn skeletons to attack them. “Run! We need to hide!” Everyone scattered in panic.



Usayd decided to rally his classmates to work together.

“Hey guys, don’t panic! We need to work together! Just think of this as our usual play sessions and attack them!” He signalled them to synchronise their movements and attack as a team. Yuki and Chloe distracted the bandits with laser beams, while Mei Shan and Isabelle took down the skeletons. Usayd and Jia He sneaked behind the bandits and ambushed them with magical gold flakes. That did the trick! The bandits ran away!

The six hugged each other and cheered for joy. It was then that they understood the importance of teamwork. “I can’t believe we managed to defeat the evil all by ourselves!” shouted Jia He. Usayd grinned and exclaimed, “See, I knew we could do it!” As they exited the magical dimension, they could not help but to take a backward glance at the haunted house. It was an unforgettable and **enthralling** experience.





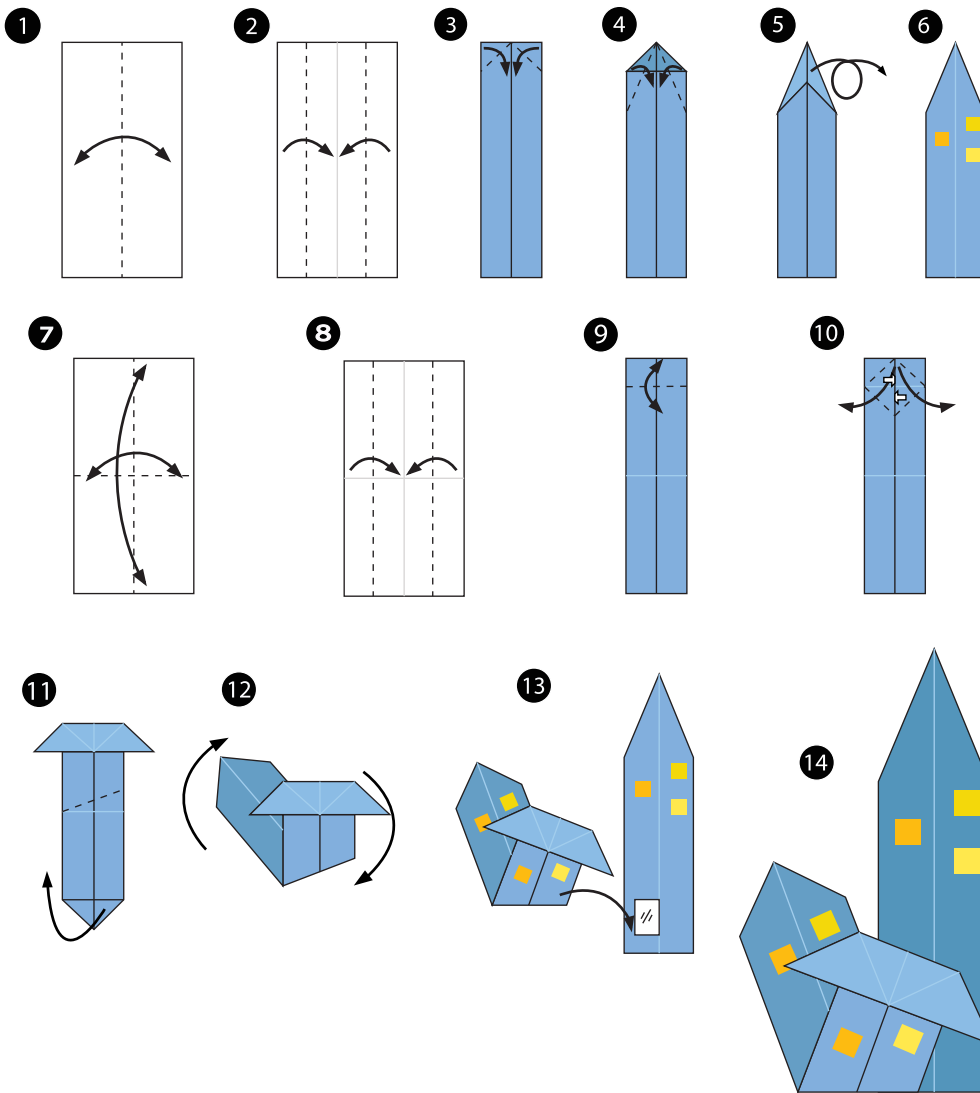


Together  
AS  
one

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

# Activity Page

Take a piece of rectangle paper. Follow these easy steps to create your own Haunted House!



# COMMUNITY



# Acts of Bravery can Make A Difference

Inspired by Leanna Adila Mas Ayu Binte Shawwalrudin and Sri Ainin Sofiya Binte Mohamad Osman

When was the last time you heard of a Singaporean's heroic act or the last time you had the courage to do something amidst impending danger? In school, we have always been taught to be **vigilant** and watch out for danger. Yet, many of us take our safety for granted.

Here is a story of how an act of bravery can save lives and make a difference. Yumni, Tosiree, Syafira and Leanna met in primary school and have been inseparable ever since.

Having different personalities and interests did not deter them from becoming best friends. However, never did they imagine that they would be involved in a life-threatening situation together.



It was a **sweltering** afternoon. As usual, the four girls were walking home together after school. However, just before they bid farewell and parted at the junction, they heard a loud explosion.

“Look! That recycling bin is in flames!” Yumni shrieked. The girls were so **appalled** that they stopped in their tracks.

“We must act fast!” gasped Syafira. In an attempt to contain the fire, Yumni and Syafira quickly grabbed a long branch and used it to close the lid of the recycling bin. In the meantime, Leanna and Tosiree dialled ‘995’ to alert the firefighters of the explosion. Curious passers-by stopped to see what had happened. Knowing how dangerous it was, the four girls made sure no one moved too close to the fire.



The firefighters arrived shortly after. By then, the fire had already been contained within the recycling bin and the firefighters put out the fire with ease. While his colleagues were tending to the fire, the head firefighter



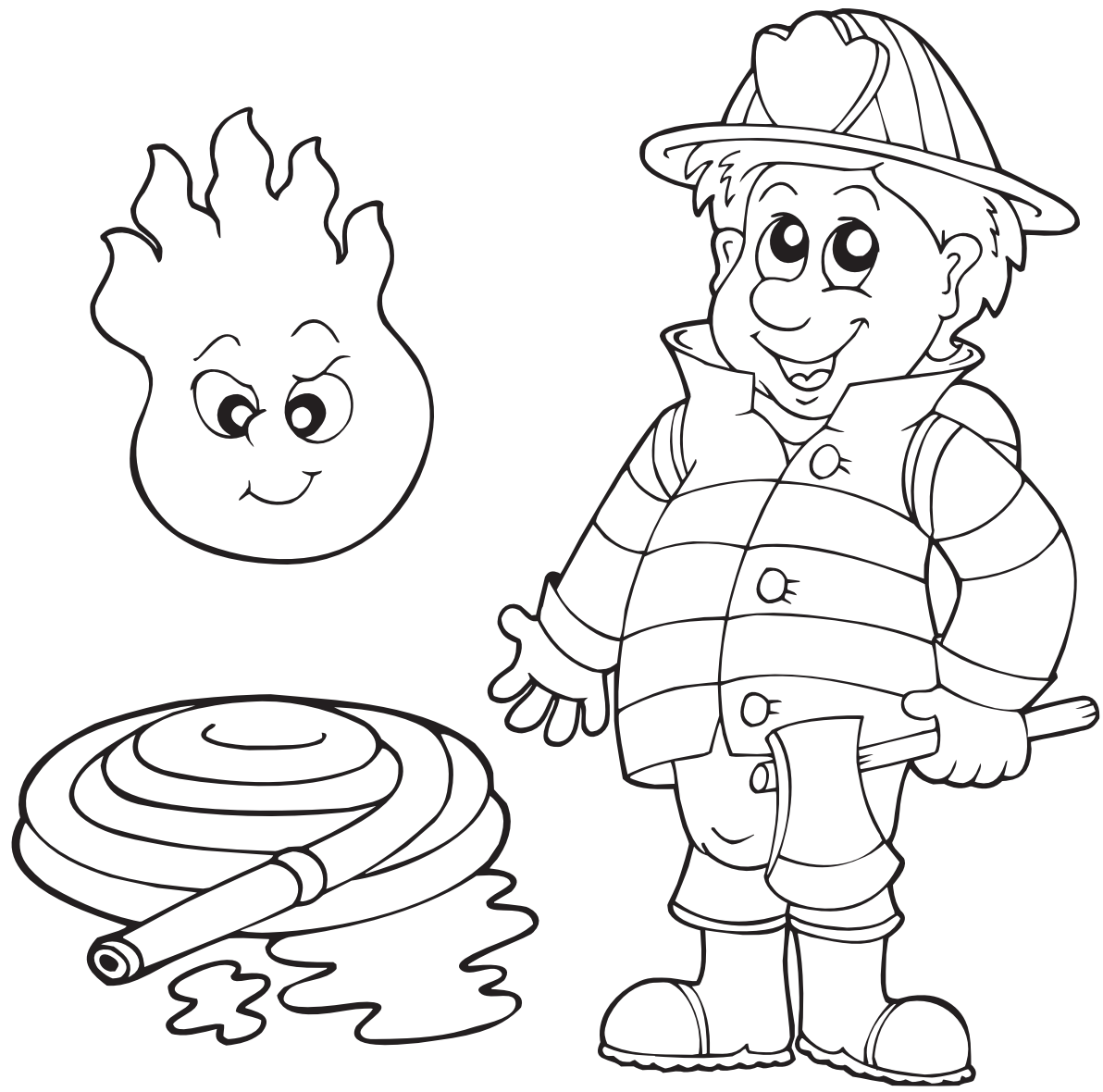


addressed the public and explained that the fire would have spread to the neighbouring building if not for the girls' swift action. He also commended the girls for their bravery and vigilance. Members of the public clapped and cheered for the girls. Yumni, Tosiree, Syafira and Leanna beamed with delight but were also very humbled by the praise that was bestowed upon them.

The following morning in school, an announcement was made and the girls were invited on stage during assembly. The principal presented the girls with plaques from the fire department as tokens of appreciation for their bravery. As they received the plaques, they smiled at one another and were glad to have shared such a memorable experience together.

# Activity Page

colour the firefighter!



# Lef's Be Neighbourly!

Inspired by Estelle Goh and Jacelyn Lim



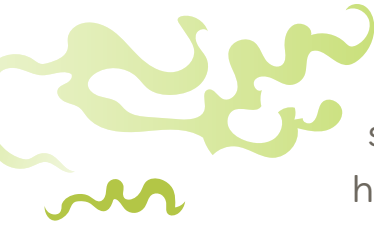
Ding! The lift door opened as I stepped out and headed to my flat. “Ew!” I pinched my nose as a foul stench greeted me. In front of my apartment were two huge plastic bags of rubbish. Shaking my head, I muttered glumly, “These must belong to Madam Low.”

Madam Low was a sweet elderly lady who moved next door a few months ago. Despite her age, Madam Low was extremely fashionable. She loved to style and dye her hair to the latest trends and took pride in her appearance. However, Madam Low had a bad habit – instead of disposing her rubbish properly, she threw them along the corridors. This habit attracted cockroaches and pests.

As I carried Madam Low’s trash to the rubbish chute, I saw Mr Ahmad and his family heading out from their unit. “Look Daddy, Madam Low threw her garbage along the corridor again!” Elira, the youngest daughter, exclaimed as she pointed towards my direction. “We need to do something about this!” Mrs Ahmad exclaimed, frowning.

Just then, Vanessa and her parents, Mr and Mrs Thorn, came out from their house as well. They complained about the same situation. “We should tell Madam Low






to throw her garbage into the rubbish chute!” Vanessa said. “Yes, but we need to be polite and everyone must help to persuade her!” I replied.

The neighbours assembled at the lift lobby to discuss what to do. Mr Thorn came up with a suggestion, “We can invite Madam Low for tea and raise the matter light-heartedly so we wouldn’t hurt her feelings.” Everyone agreed and started preparing a **scrumptious** spread of tarts and cakes for tea.

“Good afternoon, Madam Low. Would you like to join us for tea?” Vanessa greeted, as she knocked on the door. The cheery Madam Low replied, “Good afternoon. I would love to!”

We brought Madam Low to Mr Thorn’s house. We took our seats around the dining table and started chatting **amicably**. After everyone warmed up and became more comfortable with each other, I decided to raise the matter. “Madam Low, are you aware of the different facilities available in the neighbourhood?”



Picking up on the hint, Madam Low gasped and said, “I’m so sorry! I did not know where the rubbish chute was, so I kept the rubbish in my house. However, they attracted pests. So I had to throw them along the corridor. I think the cleaner has been helping me to remove them.”

Vanessa replied, “Madam Low, we have been cleaning up the rubbish. We can show you where the rubbish chute is after tea!”

“That will be most lovely. Thank you for helping,” the elderly lady smiled appreciatively.

After eating the last slice of cake, we went over to Madam Low’s house. We helped her to clean her place, loaded the rubbish onto a cart and pushed it to the rubbish chute.

“Now, I know where it is! Thank you!” said Madam Low. After this incident, the neighbours grew closer and the neighbourhood became an even more pleasant place to live in.

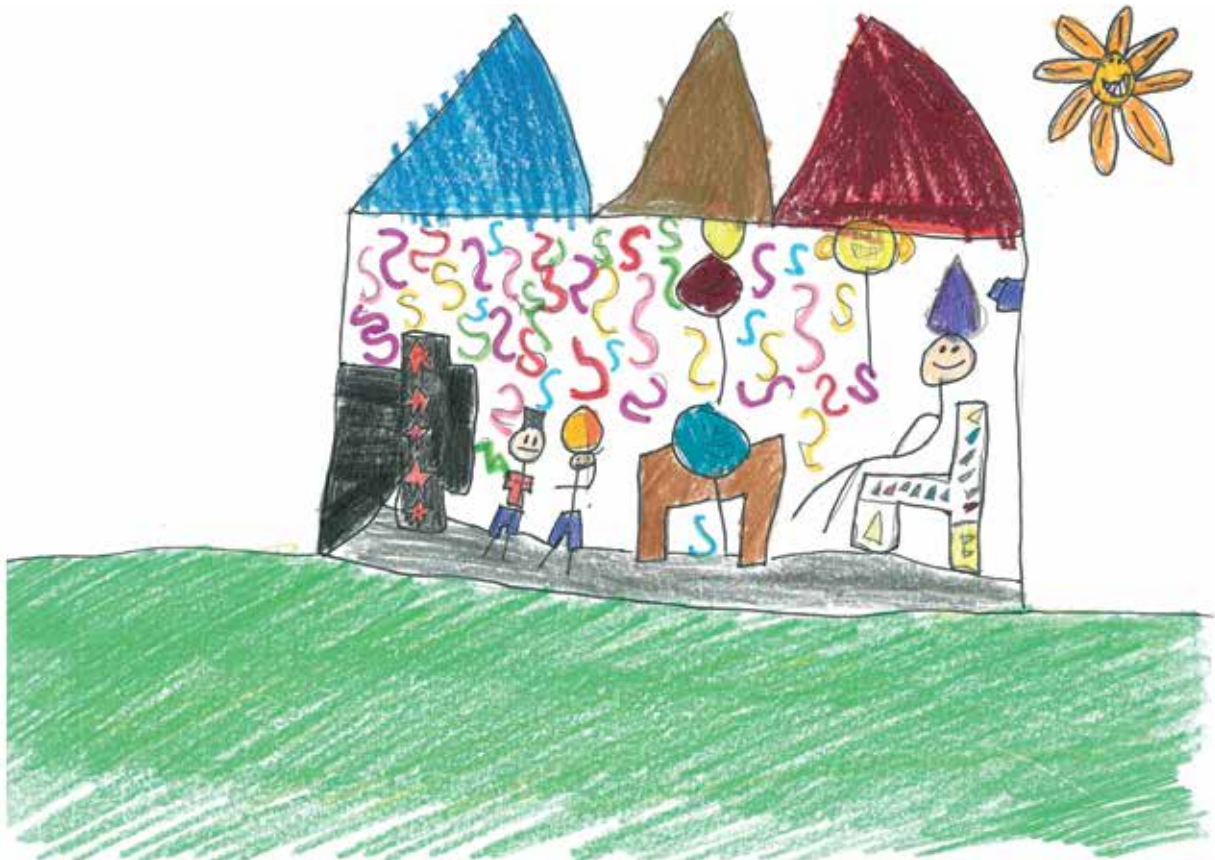


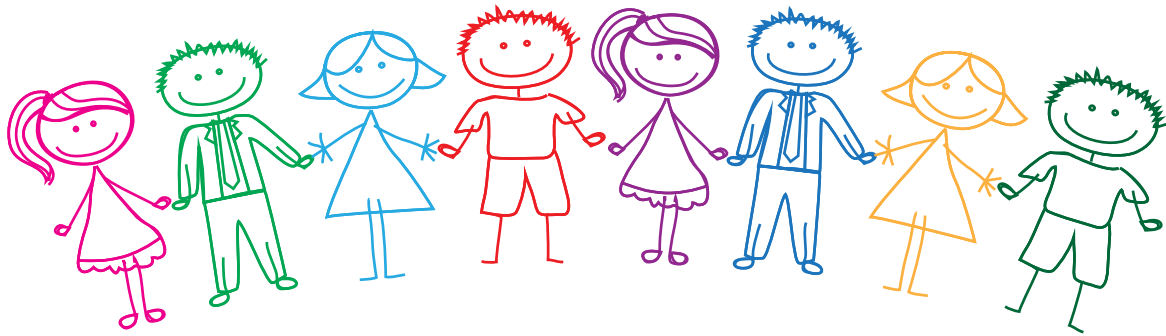
Illustration by  
Shahul Yushi Bin Youzimanto



# Activity Page

Can you help Madam Low find the rubbish chute?





## 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.

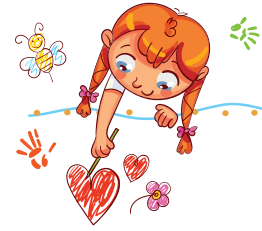
Help each other,  
Make the world a better place.  
My brother from another mother,  
Why are we doing things in **waste**?

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.



---



---



---

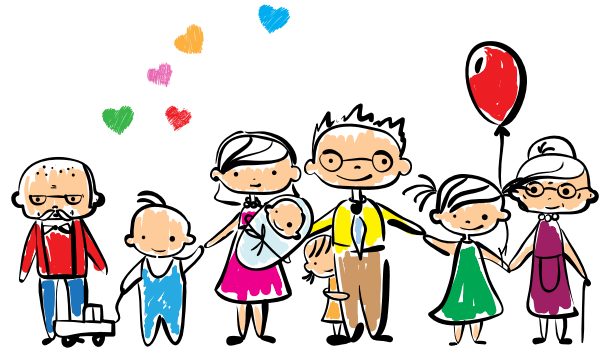


---



# Singapore, My Home

Inspired by Syarmayne Binte Shahril



**S**uperb and unique in all ways,

**I**sland full of vibrant activities and all the latest craze.

**N**ation strong and free,

**G**reen city where I roam in glee.

**A** small but beautiful place,

**P**eople interact with grace.

**O**h what a home this is,

**R**enowned for nasi lemak and kueh lapis.

**E**veryone speaks this unique language called Singlish!

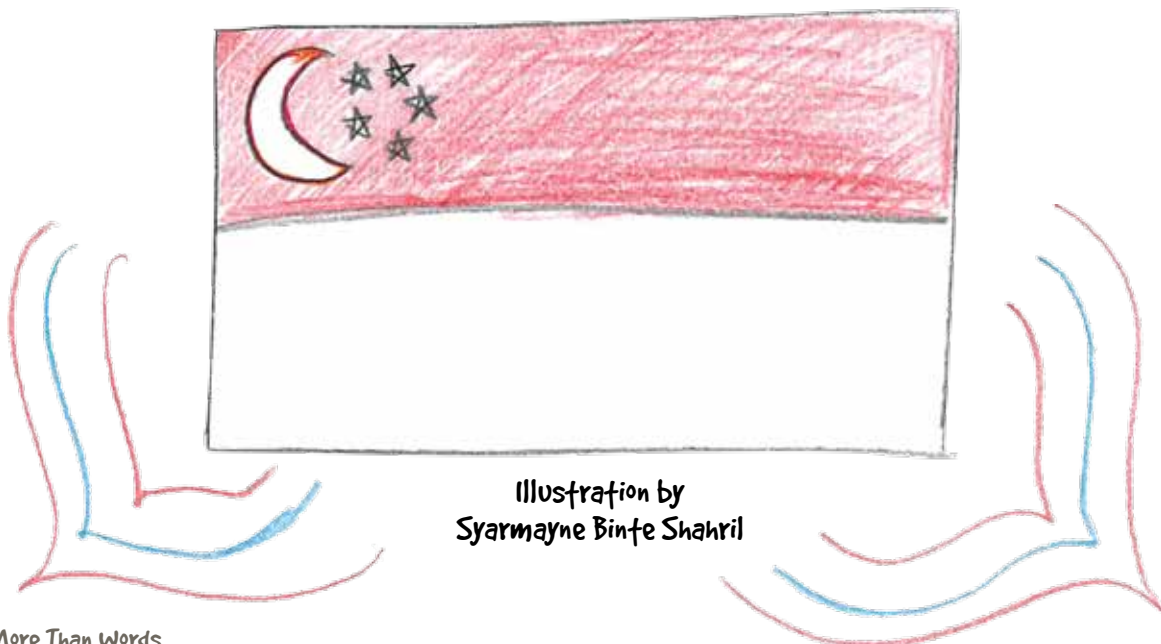
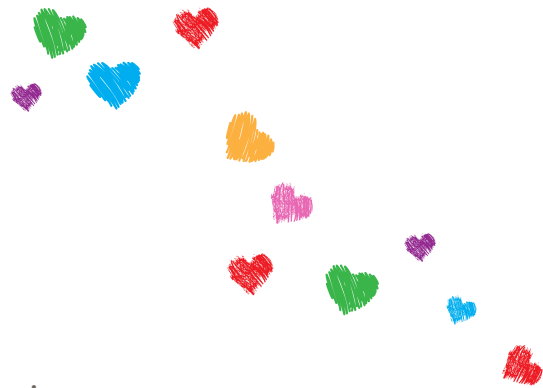
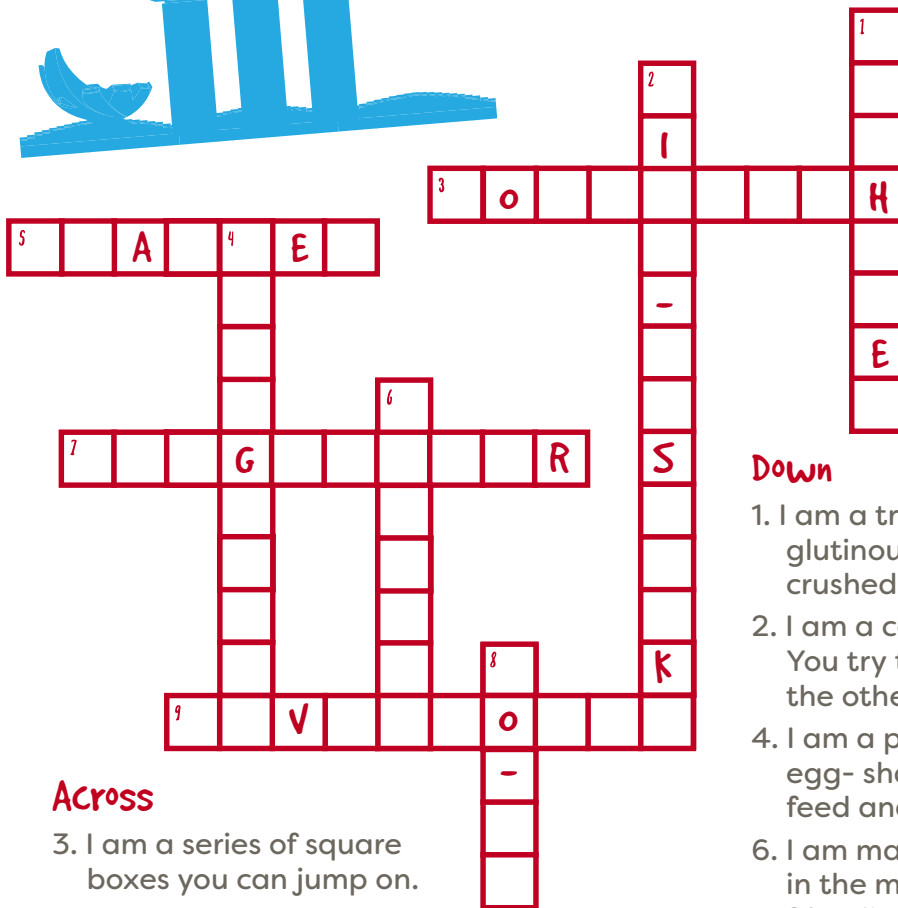
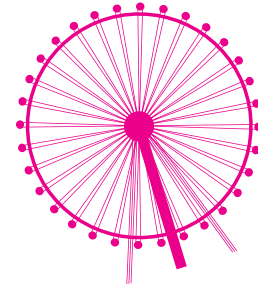
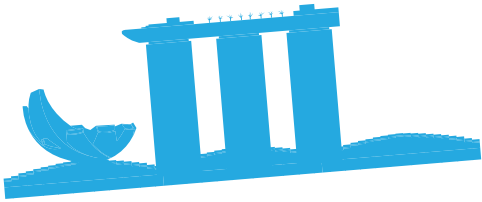


Illustration by  
Syarmayne Binte Shahril



# Activity Page

Which of the following items do you recognise from Singapore's history?



## Across

3. I am a series of square boxes you can jump on.
5. I am a bunch of feathers tied together and attached to a flat rubber disc.
7. I represent different countries and you flip me on top of your friend's pieces.
9. I come from a family of five. My siblings and I are made of small triangular cloth bags filled with seeds, rice or sand.

## Down

1. I am a traditional snack made of sticky glutinous rice, usually mixed with crushed peanuts and sugar.
2. I am a colourful mess of sticks. You try to pick me up without moving the other sticks.
4. I am a pet that is kept in a small egg-shaped device. I need you to feed and care for me.
6. I am made of glass with some colour in the middle. You use me to hit your friend's pieces out of the circle.
8. I am made of two discs attached to a string. You wind me up to roll me up and down.

- Answers**
- Down**
1. Hopscotch
  2. Munch Chee
  3. Chapteh
  4. Pick-up Sticks
  5. Marbles
  6. Yo-yo
- Across**
7. Flag Eraser
  8. Tamagotchi
  9. Five Stones



# Three Kind And Helpful Siblings

Inspired by Dani Syazwin Bin Suhaimi,  
Danish Aufa Bin Rahim and Dafique Aizel Bin Rafique

The sun was high in the sky and the birds were chirping merrily. Three siblings – Alex, Mikey and Mary – were making their way home from school. Along the way, they saw an elderly neighbour called Madam Siti. She was wearing a red dress and was walking very slowly. She was tired from carrying two bulging grocery bags while maintaining her balance with a walking stick. The heat from the sun made her walk even slower. The pavement was narrow and only had room for one person. People were frustrated at her walking speed. Some pushed her while others scolded her. The siblings felt sorry for her.

Madam Siti continued to walk towards the traffic light, hobbling and dragging her feet. Sweat trickled down her forehead and her hands were shaking from the weight of the bags. Suddenly, she heard someone calling her name. She turned around and saw three children rushing towards her.





Illustration by  
Nur Amirah Binfe Rahmat

Mikey and Mary gently took over the grocery bags while Alex held on to Madam Siti's frail hand and guided her across the road. Mikey and Mary struggled with the heavy bags and wondered how an elderly woman managed to carry them all the way from the supermarket! Mikey suddenly had an idea when he saw a boy on a skateboard zooming past. He ran after the boy.



Mary smiled as she watched Mikey returning with the skateboard. They heaved the heavy grocery bags onto the skateboard and pushed it across the road. They helped Madam Siti until they reached her house. Madam Siti was so grateful to them that she treated them to delicious ice-cream and tarts.

While the siblings were on their way home from Madam Siti's home, the grateful lady had given a call to their mother and sung praises about their kind deed. Their mother was so proud of her children that she cooked their favourite dishes for dinner. What a **sumptuous** reward!

# Activity Page

How many of these words can you spot in the grid below? Use a pencil to circle them!



T	N	E	M	E	V	A	P	Y	R	J	A	I	K	M
L	U	B	P	J	L	Y	D	R	A	W	E	R	K	A
K	S	S	H	D	M	Y	U	V	K	E	L	A	C	E
K	R	E	J	F	H	R	G	R	O	C	E	R	Y	R
J	U	Y	B	N	U	K	C	V	H	O	U	G	Z	C
X	O	E	S	Z	F	P	I	J	N	G	Y	T	S	E
R	B	S	T	C	W	D	T	I	I	Y	H	I	D	C
M	H	U	S	U	P	E	R	M	A	R	K	E	T	I
I	G	O	M	H	M	J	G	F	F	J	Q	V	K	L
E	I	H	R	L	F	A	V	O	U	R	I	T	E	C
J	E	Q	C	I	F	F	A	R	T	K	J	D	C	N
Z	N	J	M	W	V	R	R	F	E	I	R	N	L	L
M	K	R	Y	E	S	K	A	T	E	B	O	A	R	D
E	U	N	C	M	E	W	H	P	T	E	X	B	O	L
W	X	P	R	R	V	S	E	B	V	Q	O	W	S	F

NEIGHBOUR

GROCERY

PAVEMENT

TRAFFIC

SUPERMARKET

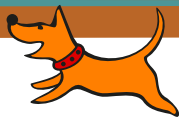
SKATEBOARD

HOUSE

ICE CREAM

FAVOURITE

REWARD



# 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**

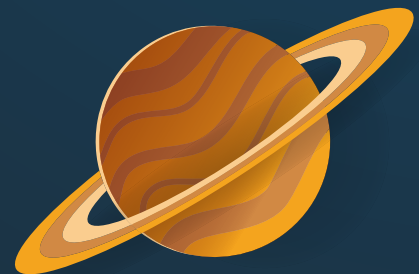
**Sumptuous:** Splendid and expensive-looking



# Special Thanks To

## PPIS Student Care Centre (Jurong)

Dafique Aizel Bin Rafique  
Dani Syazwin Bin Suhaimi  
Danish Aufa Bin Rahim  
Danny Airish Bin Rizuan  
Farisha Anis Binte Mohammad Neezam  
Mohamad Farhan Bin Hazni  
Muhammad Dzulqarnain Bin Suhardi  
Muhammad Fahim Bin Yusof  
Muhammad Rizqi Andika Bin Suri Suria  
Nur Amirah Binte Rahmat  
Nur Huzairah Binte Aidil Hakim  
Nurreen Ryndiani Binte Muhamad Zuhri  
Nur Shazrizam Bin Yazid  
Shahyul Yushi Bin Youzimanto  
Sharifah Nurin Asyeila Binte Syed Muhammad Hafiz  
Siti Nur Aina Binte Mohd Nazlee  
Siti Nurfitriah Binte Mohammad Sulaimi  
Syarmayne Binte Shahril





### PPIS Student care centre (Bedok)

Leanna Adila Mas Ayu  
Binte Shawwalrudin

Mohamed Deanie Matin Bin Nahar

Muhammad Naufal Bin Abdullah

Sri Ainin Sofiya Binte  
Mohamad Osman

Yusuf Bin Abdul Razak

### Morning Star Community Services

A'dini Nurdania

Estelle Goh

Farisha Nazirah Bte Mohd Nadzlie

Jacelyn Lim

Nurul Wardina Bte Noor Azman

### Student Care Service

Jayden Hee Ho Ruan

Ryan Quek Jing Han

Toh Jie Yu

### Industrial & Services

#### Co-operative Society Ltd (ISCoS)

Amira Binte Aman

Aqil Bin Mohamed Dawood

Danny Shafiq Bin Mohamed Aizan

Nazirul Mubin

### Lakeside Student Care (Jurong East)

Chloe Tan

Fong Mei Shan

Huang Wei Jia He

Isabelle Bernard Zaini

Usayd Ilham Bin Mohammad Zaid

Yuki Ng

### Lakeside Student Care (Jurong West)

Khoo Zhee Hui

### TCTF contributors

Clement Lim

Hannah Wee

Tan Kah Min

Valerie Kok

### Trainers

Playeum

Roger Jenkins

Samuel Wee





