

Recent Childrens - February 2021

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Tiger Tales : Almost True Animal Stories from Old Singapore / Chloe Chang (Illus.), Joyceline See Tully

Pepper Dog Press LLP, Singapore 2020

96p. ; 230x230mm.

9789811483615

\$ 25.00 / null

602 gm.

Welcome to Tiger Tales, an exciting collection of seven almost true animal stories from old Singapore, brought to you by the same people behind The Little Singapore Book. This 96-page hardcover compendium is aimed at 4- to 8-year-olds, and comprises stories based on actual, documented events that happened more than a century ago. Retold in gentle, storytelling narrative, they are accompanied by lusciously rendered illustrations to captivate little readers and fire their imagination.

With much of old Singapore still covered in jungle, encounters with animals were not uncommon for those who lived here. Tiger Tales brings to life some of these little-known episodes, from a crazy rain of fish and the discovery of a giant croc in the Rochor River, to a conundrum with tapirs and the delights of a zoo in our very own Botanic Gardens. Of course, no compendium of Singapore's animal stories can go without the legend of Sang Nila Utama—did he really see a lion, we wonder? —and the dramatic story of the tiger under the billiard room. Along the way, readers also meet a cast of colourful yet real people from the past—including Colonel William Farquhar, the First Resident of Singapore, the famous Ming Dynasty admiral Zheng He, and Charles Phillips, the former principal of the Raffles Institution who marches into these pages in his pyjamas.

The ultimate goal is to give our readers rollicking good stories that are perfect for bedtime reading or sharing aloud. Through these tales, they also discover a menagerie of animals—many native to our land—and learn to appreciate Singapore's amazing biodiversity past and present.

What's more, children are treated to a unique taste of life in old Singapore like never before, and hopefully have their curiosity piqued about our history. And just like The Little Singapore Book, all the illustrations here have been painstakingly researched and brought to life in captivating detail. All the animals and insects that appear in Tiger Tales can be accurately identified, thus offering another point of conversation and discovery for children.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=743339>

The House on Palmer Road / Si-Hoe S.S. & Sim Ee Waun (Illustrator) Lim Anling

Pepper Dog Press LLP, Singapore 2017

128p. ; 58 black-and-white illustrations.

9789811124761

\$ 14.00 / null

It is 1930s Singapore and war is raging in China and Europe. But for eight-year-old Sing and her nine brothers and sisters, life is carefree and fun at their wooden house in Palmer Road where they live with Mother, Father and Ah Seem. Join them as they go frog hunting, escape fierce guard geese, visit a 'coolie room', and head off on other exciting adventures in pre-war colonial Singapore.

This playful, fun-filled children's book is based on the childhood experiences of 83-year-old first time author, Si-Hoe S.S. who is the 'real' Sing. In the House on Palmer Road, young readers will fall in love with the large but lovable family, and relive a magical though tumultuous time in Singapore's past. Within the series of charming short stories, children will also gently encounter aspects of Singapore's history through vividly-described landscapes, snatches of overheard conversations among the grown-ups, and the many people they 'meet', from itinerant hawkers to coolies and night soil men.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=743340>

The House on Silat Road / Si-Hoe S.S. & Sim Ee Waun (Illustrator) Lim Anling

Pepper Dog Press LLP, Singapore 2018

172p.

9789811192777

\$ 14.00 / null

Adventure-loving Sing and her enormous family are back in this sequel to The House on Palmer Road.

Set in World War II Singapore, The House on Silat Road tells the adventures and experiences of nine-year-old Sing and her family during the Japanese Occupation. Barely have they moved into their big new house on a hill which Father built, that the first Japanese bombs fall on Singapore and their idyllic life is turned upside down.

Through Sing's simple but vivid storytelling, readers witness some of the most iconic events in Singapore's history—the Battle for Singapore, the fall of the island, the Sook Ching and finally the return of the Allies. Follow Sing and her family as they do their best to survive the Japanese Occupation—buying groceries under ration, growing their own vegetables, outwitting the Japanese while having English lessons, and listen to rumours of the outside world from people with hidden radios. Then through Sing's eyes, witness historic events that are not often described—the first Allied bombings as they re-take Singapore, the incredible shower of leaflets that announced the end of war, the seaborne return of the Allied Fleet, amongst others.

Based on the childhood of 85-year-old author Si-Hoe S.S., the authors hope to bring readers into the life of an ordinary family in Singapore in these tumultuous times—from how unprepared people were for the reality of war to their tenacity and resilience when the worst actually happened.

This book also brings alive again the exceptional house built by Si-Hoe's father, a self-made man of particular foresight. Anticipating that the war would come, the contractor had bought land on a hill and expressly built the house as high as he could to gain a vantage point of the surroundings. In the house, he also built a secret hidden floor, and a garage strategically tucked into the hillside which turned into a bomb shelter.

All these and more are captured vividly in over 40 illustrations by Singaporean artist Lim An-ling who drew them using references from photos and models of the house which had long been torn down.

Above all, The House on Silat Road is a story about hope and strength of ordinary people who lived through extraordinary times, and indeed the triumph of the child. For even in the darkest times, Sing and her siblings found happy moments, from the simple pleasure of getting scraps of candy, catching worms for chickens to sneaking a ride on a stubborn mule.

In its happy ending, The House on Silat Road pays tribute to the brave Singaporeans and all others who endured the war here, and who emerged the finest generation of our times.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=743341>

The Little Singapore Books / Sim Ee Waun & Joyceline See Tully (Illus.) Diane Ng Rose

Pepper Dog Press LLP, Singapore 2015

80p. ; 235x235mm.

9789810976248

\$ 25.00 / HB

The Little Singapore Book is a fresh take on the story of Singapore and its people, from the old kingdom of Temasek to the present day. Written for 5- to 10-year-olds. It introduces young readers to our history and culture through vibrant narrative and vivid illustrations packed with fascinating detail.

Meet samsui women, coolies and cattle farmers, and discover how neighbourhoods like Chinatown and Kampong Glam came into being. Did you know that Serangoon used to have cattle farmland or that there was a real fort that once stood at Fort Road?

The Little Singapore Book also contains fun activities and projects to make this journey of discovery exciting for little book lovers. It is accompanied by a website www.littlesingaporebook.com with more stories and activities to support parents, teachers and even the little bookworms themselves.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=743342>

Unicorn Adventures : The Dark Forest / Shriya Asha Sharma (Illus.) Rebecca Dore

Kitaab, Singapore 2021

74p.

9789811494956

\$ 15.00 / null

180 gm.

This story is set in the magical land of Unitopia and follows an adventure of three unicorn friends – Miso, Milky & Mocha. The three friends each have a special skill: Miso – is the smart one; Mocha – is the kind & helpful one and Milky – is the brave one.

The story starts at the entrance of the deep dark forest – that the three friends foray into looking for an adventure – and they certainly find one. In a castle in the forest, the unicorns discover the cursed evil queen and her two goblin servants who are trying to find ways to overcome the queen's curse. The unicorns initially get scared and run away from the castle, but as the darkness falls they end up spending the night in the woods.

Do the unicorns succeed in helping lift the curse from the dark forest?

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=745637>

Light of the Blood Moon / Naisha Gautam

Kitaab, Singapore 2020

88p.

9789811449093

\$ 16.00 / null

200 gm.

A simple hunt was all it was supposed to be. A fictional ghost family was all it was supposed to be. But in the light of the blood moon, anything is possible. Crystal and Jade did not see that coming. When they picked up that message at the cemetery, no one would have thought that anything could happen. Four new friends, a haunted house, and a ghost combat later, Crystal and Jade seriously beg to differ. 12 year-old Naisha Gautam studies in Singapore and is passionate about writing. She started working on her debut novella, Light of the Blood Moon, when she was 9 years old and completed it within a year.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=745638>

Solomon the Lion / Kristina Jones

Struik Children (Penguin Random House South Africa (Pty) Ltd), Cape Town, South Africa 2020

1v.

9781432310431

\$ 22.00 / HB

420 gm.

Solomon is a young lion who can't fall asleep. He tries sleeping in a tree, like a bat, but that's not quite right. He tries to snooze in a pond with the hippos, but that doesn't work, either. How long will it take until Solomon realises that it's not where you sleep that matters, but who tucks you in at night?

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747254>

The Amazing Lockdown Adventure / Benjamin G Hennet and Paddy Muldoon (Illus) Anja Stoeckigt

Puffin Books (Penguin Random House South Africa (Pty) Ltd), Cape Town, South Africa 2020

56p.

9781485900900

\$ 18.00 / null

300 gm.

The world is in lockdown, and Jack has been stuck at home for what feels like an eternity.

When he discovers a mysterious tunnel under his bed, an amazing adventure unfolds for Jack and his little sister, Lily. Together, they discover a magical forest, stop a powerful crystal from falling into the wrong hands, travel to the ends of the galaxy, and fight a gang of mutant hyenas. Along the way, they are joined by Winston, the Tortoise, and Dougie, a Mole whose superb tunnelling skills might just save the day. Or could the secret weapon be a stinky cheese sandwich stuffed inside a pair of underpants?

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747255>

Coco, the Silver Somali. Growing up in Johannesburg, South Africa / Sinta Margot Spector

Sinta Margot Spector (Nomadixx, LLC.), U.S.A 2020

1v.

9798626435825

\$ 20.00 / null

200 gm.

Coco the Silver Somali. Growing up in Johannesburg, South Africa," Is a mix between a real life story and a fictional story line. Kuniko Takashi, a young lady living with her family, had been looking for a while to the right cat to bring home to her family, living in Johannesburg, South Africa. Coco creates a life around his new human family, and neighborly, animal friends along the way. The book teaches, to be friendly towards everyone, no matter what race you are, and how nature is a big part of everyones, lifestyle, and protecting nature and animals, should be part of everyones, daily life.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747256>

I See a Lion / Elaine Macdonald (Illus.) Vanessa Mearns (Ed) Gill Gordon

Struik Children (Penguin Random House South Africa (Pty) Ltd), Cape Town, South Africa 2020

1v.

9781432310820

\$ 12.00 / null

150 gm.

I See a Lion tells the tale of a lion who is wearing woolly socks. When the rest of the lion family appears, all of them are dressed for winter, in hats, scarves and mittens. When asked why, Lion replies that winter is coming, and he doesn't want his family to catch a cold. Soon the other animals are also wearing warm clothing. But where are the items coming from? It doesn't take long before they realise that Spider is using her spinning skills to make sure they all stay warm and cosy for the winter.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747257>

Cornelia Button and the Globe of Gamagion / Edyth Bulbring (Illus.) Rosemary Banfield

Rosemary Banfield, South Africa 2020

204p.

9780994714565

\$ 22.50 / null

360 gm.

Cornelia Button's dream is to be a famous singer, but she can't sing for toffee. Her sister Maude is furious about the birth of her baby brother and wants to be a gypsy princess so that she can cast spells and make him disappear. And their friend, Zwelabo Maluleke, wants to be a brave hero like his mysterious, absent father. Cornelia's Aunty Hilda tells Cornelia she can be anything she wants to be if she can imagine it. The secret to realising their dreams is their father's globe, which has special qualities. So the children spin Mr Button's globe which opens the doorway to the Kingdom of Gamagion. Everything is perfect until Gamagion comes under attack from the Master of Evil, Darko Drogbarl. Cornelia is tasked by the King of Gamagion to find the weapon to destroy this monster and bring peace to the divided Kingdom.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747258>

Tween Tales : The Adventure Begins / Yusuf Moosa Bux (et al.) , Zaheera Jina

YIZ House Publishing, Lenasia, South Africa 2020

138p.

9780620882866

\$ 20.00 / null

220 gm.

"A collection that lightens the heart in a time of trouble - from witty poems to original life observations to well-rounded short stories - this collection takes the reader on a fresh vibrant journey into the way tweens see the world as it is today. The quality of the submissions is excellent and one would really like to see more from these talented tweens Clearly they've got what it takes to write the world in an entirely excellent and original way "Hamilton Wende: Tween Author - Arabella Series

"A delightful collection of adventurous, captivating stories and a wonderful window of the world through the eyes of these young writers who already frame their view with a unique lens. These well-written poems and stories captivate you with colourful strokes and give special insight into the mind of a tween. Enjoyable reading for young and old. - "Shafinaaz Hassim: Tween Author - Nisa Qamar Series.

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