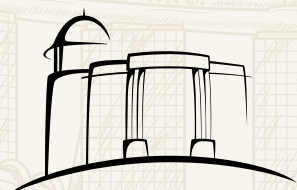
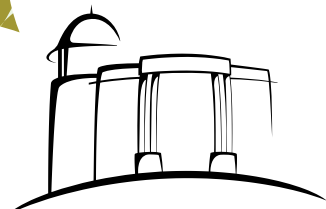


WE CAN

Create › Contribute › Care › Connect › Cherish



TAN CHIN TUAN FOUNDATION



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 3,000 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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Foreword

by Yap Su-Yin

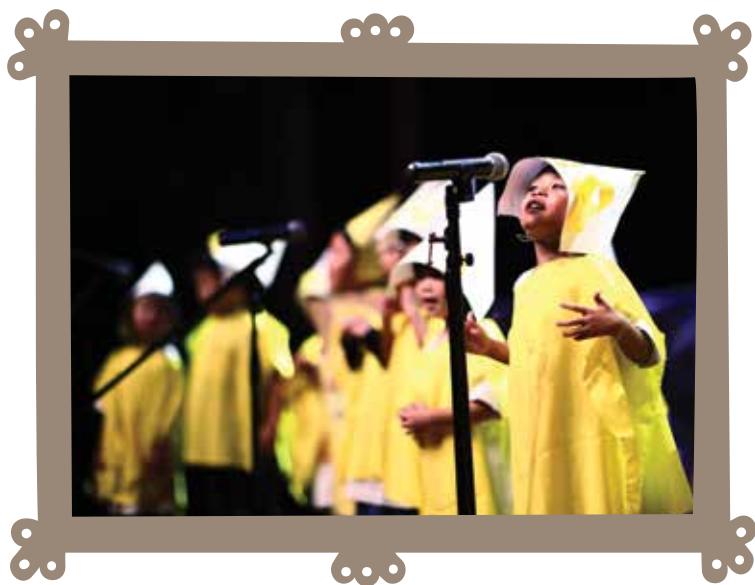
(EO of Tan Chin Tuan Foundation)



*"All of us have a talent.
Which talent will shine?"*

It is the one you nourish. The one you spend time to develop until it blossoms. Then it can be enjoyed by all, not just by you. When that happens, you have found a way for your talent to bring others comfort. You have discovered how to bring fulfilment and meaning to your life.





Since the More Than Words programme started in 2013, many talented children have found their voices. Talented arts trainers believed in them, adding to the children's confidence. Enlightened social workers encouraged them, by registering their beneficiaries for creative and educational workshops sponsored by TCTF.





The result was that children, who never got onto a stage before, seized their moment to perform international classics, such as “The Little Prince” and “The Tale of Peter Rabbit”. They expressed themselves through song. They danced to hip-hop, learned a new musical instrument and volunteered to be an emcee or storyteller. Others tapped on their imaginative juices to produce stories and poetry.





TCTF Deputy Chairman, Ms Chew Gek Khim, participating in a hat-making activity during the More Than Words Book Launch in 2017.

This is the fifth volume of TCTF's More Than Words book, which is a collection of original works of prose, poetry and illustrations by children from TCTF-supported charities.

The theme "WE CAN – Create, Contribute, Care, Connect, Cherish" is our applause to all those who believe as we do – that the child in us is ever-present, and that we are all inter-connected in this world.

When we learn to create, play, learn and laugh together, there is never a dull moment. When we care sincerely for one another, we will feel infinitely joyful. Thank you for journeying with us.



Signing "Thank You" in Sign Language to professional storytellers, Roger Jenkins and Gophi Nathan, as part of More Than Words book launch 2017's theme of inclusivity.



Over the Years...

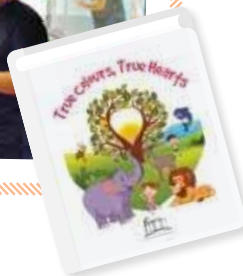
2014



2015



2016



2017



You can find previous editions of our
More Than Words book at your nearest library!

The Clean, Green Recycling Machine, Recylobots!

Inspired by Putra Al Haqqim, Muhammad Danish Irfan, Mohammed Adryqin and Muhammad Iman Ghazzi



“Oh no!” Mazlan shouted in frustration as he fell flat on his back after stepping on a banana peel.

“Why does this have to happen every single time? Why can’t everyone throw their rubbish in the bins provided? Why is rubbish strewn all over the streets?” Mazlan started muttering to himself as he walked back home, feeling frustrated and dejected. He was disappointed that people were not taking care of the environment.

Mazlan trudged home with a heavy heart. “I need to do something about this!” Mazlan told himself. As he saw the advertisement for the annual Young Inventors Competition at the void deck, an idea struck him.

“What if I created a robot that could help clean the environment? I could submit my work

to the competition and everyone will benefit from it!”

Mazlan exclaimed excitedly.

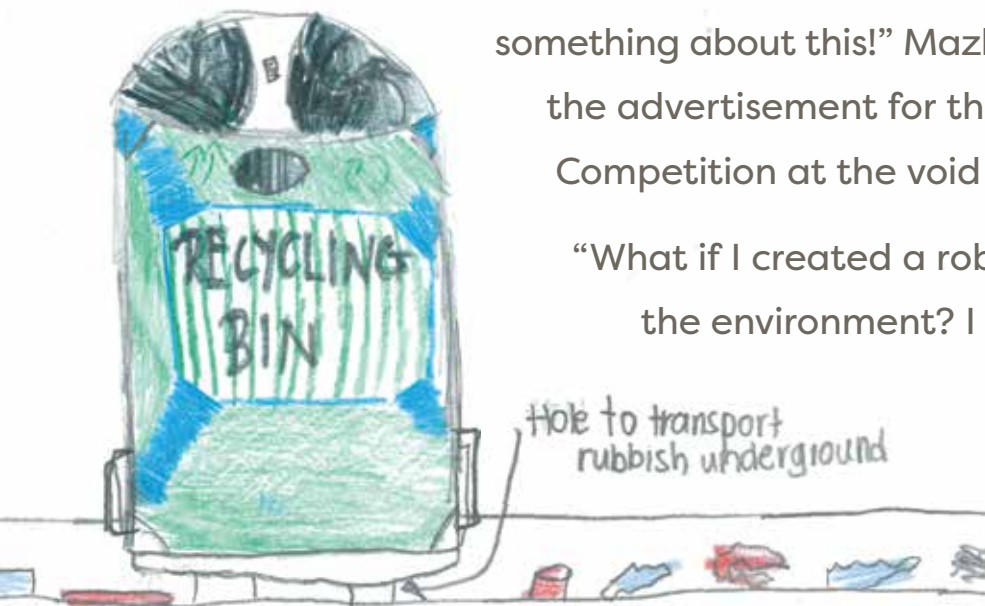


Illustration by Putra Al Haqqim, Muhammad Danish Irfan, Mohammed Adryqin and Muhammad Iman Ghazzi

With his new idea, Mazlan immediately whipped out his phone and signed up for the competition.

Over the next few days, he searched the neighbourhood for pieces of scrap metal and wood. He planned to build a robot with the materials he **painstakingly** collected.

After much tinkering and experimenting, Mazlan finally assembled his robot a day before the competition. He called it “Recylobot.” It was two meters tall with bright yellow **retractable** wings. Like all good inventors, Mazlan decided to test out his invention. He brought his Recylobot to the void deck and turned it on.

To Mazlan’s surprise, Recylobot zipped about quickly in different directions. It could collect rubbish on the street faster than he programmed. In addition, Recylobot’s wings worked well. He designed the wings to function like an air purifier, filtering the dirty air.

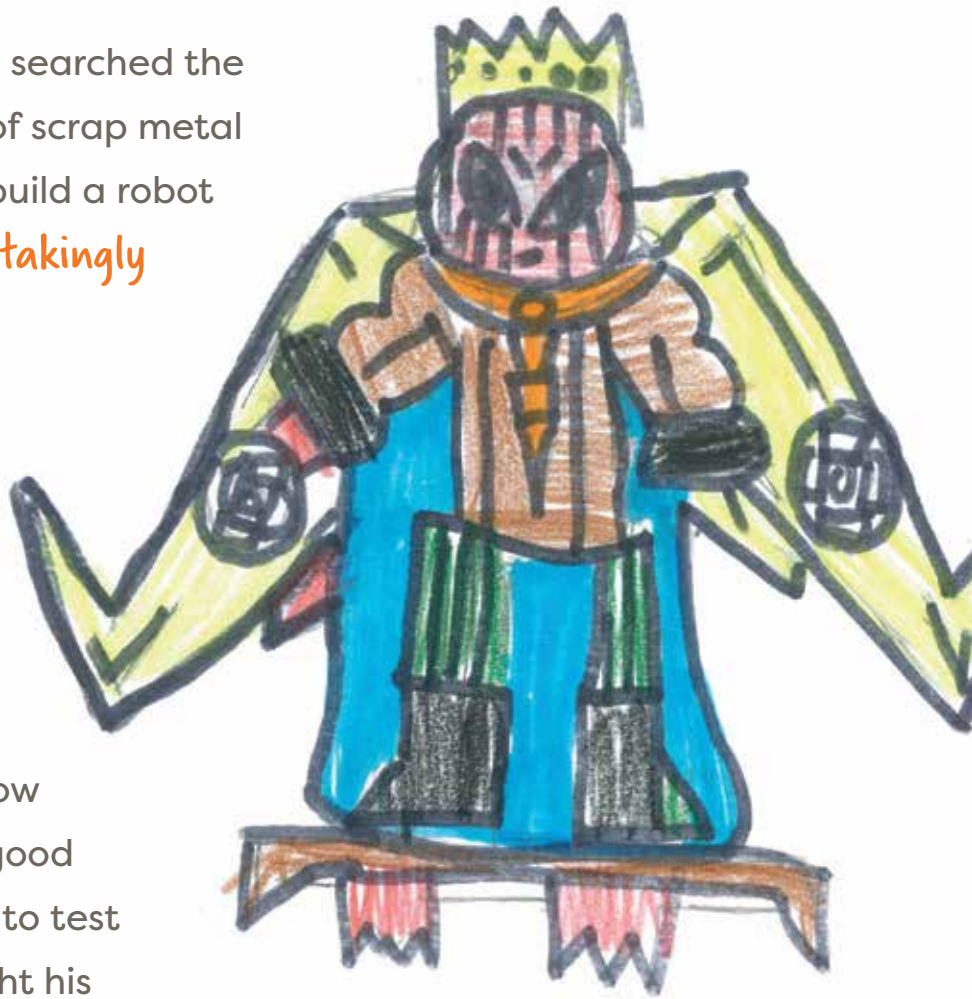


Illustration by Mohammed Adryqin



His invention was a success! Just looking at Recylobot moving around at lightning speed made Mazlan feel a sense of achievement.

The next day, Mazlan brought Recylobot to the competition. Everyone was amazed by his inventiveness. The judges were impressed too and Mazlan won the competition hands down. A **reputable** company was interested in his design and promised him that they would produce more Recylobots that were affordable. Glad to hear that his invention would help more people soon, Mazlan readily agreed.

Today, Recylobots are available to the public! They are now used on streets and in parks to keep the environment clean. Mazlan is very proud of his invention and hopes to invent more items that will help the environment. Whenever someone asks Mazlan how he came up with the design for Recyclobot, he will reply, “A banana peel inspired me!”



Sonnet from the Butterfly's Nest

Inspired by Muhammad Ilhan Amanthy

A butterfly flies swiftly through the sky.
And as it flies, it hears the chirping birds.
The birds then join the butterfly and fly
until they see a plant that's beyond words.

A mysterious plant it surely is.
It really looks just like a butterfly,
all bright and colourful indeed, because
each day, it dreams of being a butterfly.

"Come leave your eggs in here with me," it said.
"I'll watch them grow into caterpillars,
and as they grow, they'll feed on me instead.
I just need water from those sturdy stalks."

Indeed this plant is a special Butterfly's haven,
that truly loves Amanthy and all fair maidens.



Illustration by
Muhammad Ilhan Amanthy



Money Plant

Inspired by Muhammad Arman

Money for me, money for you,
money for the entire world,

Our environment can be saved
with this money plant

And equipment I bought to help
protect Earth.

Everyone knows I'm the coolest
inventor and the best of the best!

You and I will be rich in happiness,
that is my wish for all!



Illustration by Muhammad Arman





Illustration by
Cynthia Fong

Peachy and her Peanuts

Inspired by Cynthia Fong

Tap, tap, tap.

Everywhere Peachy went, this staccato beat would follow. Day in and day out, the little prickly creature could be seen with a peanut between her paws, tap-tap-tapping away on the forest floor.

Despite her small size, Peachy could eat up a storm! Her favourite snack in the world was...yes, you guessed it! Peanuts. She loved them freshly roasted under the summer sun, sprinkled with a little salt. Her crescent-moon eyes would flutter shut from just the smell of peanuts floating in the air. One could say she was a little **obsessed** but Peachy would never admit it. Oh no, never indeed.



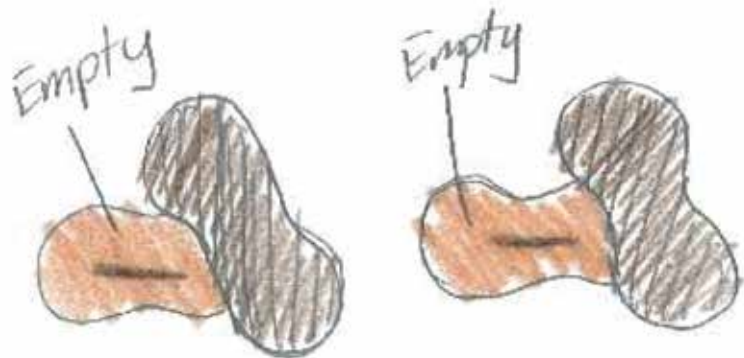
The forest which Peachy lived in was home to magnificent maple trees, wildflowers and peanuts of all shapes and sizes. There were thousands of Peachy's kind and the forest was their **haven**. They felt safe there for they never hungered.

However, as the seasons changed drastically over the years, the trees and flowers could not keep up. They withered away and the once beautiful and lush forest became **a shadow of its former self**. Light no longer danced across the enchanted woods and the peanuts shrivelled up one by one. All that was left were empty shells all over the forest floor.

Peachy spent weeks hiding away in her cave filled with her stash of peanuts, too afraid to share them with her friends. One by one, Peachy's friends left the forest to find greener pastures. On the day that the last of Peachy's friends left,

guilt overwhelmed her.

That very night, she tossed and turned under her leaf, unable to sleep. Peachy **resolved** to find a solution.





Bright and early the next morning, she gathered all her peanuts into her arms and curled away into a tight little ball. Then she rolled and rolled away towards the very edge of the forest where she hoped fertile

soil still remained. She carefully planted eleven of her biggest peanuts there and nudged them firmly into the ground. With her purple watering can – a beloved gift from her great-grandmother – Peachy watered them faithfully every single day. She even collected large, crinkly leaves to shield the buds when the sun was too scorching hot and the rain too bitterly cold.

She watched as her plants grew and her heart burst with joy when she unearthed her first harvest. Her efforts had paid off and she knew she would never run out of peanuts ever again. With a bounce, Peachy sped off to share the good news. She knew her friends would rejoice in their newfound home.

Every sunlit day of late spring, Peachy and friends would harvest many glistening peanuts, as big as watermelons. They would store away half of the harvest. These peanuts will always remind them of an important lesson – to **save for a rainy day.**



Protect Pandas

Inspired by Dianisha Hanez and Muhammad Fahim

Pandas spend their lives eating and sleeping.

Relaxing in bamboo forests of Southwest China, they are

Omnivores, and can consume plants and meat.

They live till about 20 years in the wild.

Endangered, they once were,

Caused by farming and logging.

The perpetrator? Make a guess.

Pandas are cute and chubby as they keep

Accumulating fats because

None of them likes to exercise.

Dark and light, black and white.

Act now to preserve these furry friends.

Save them or else, they will end up as history to future generations.



Illustration by Dianisha Hanez

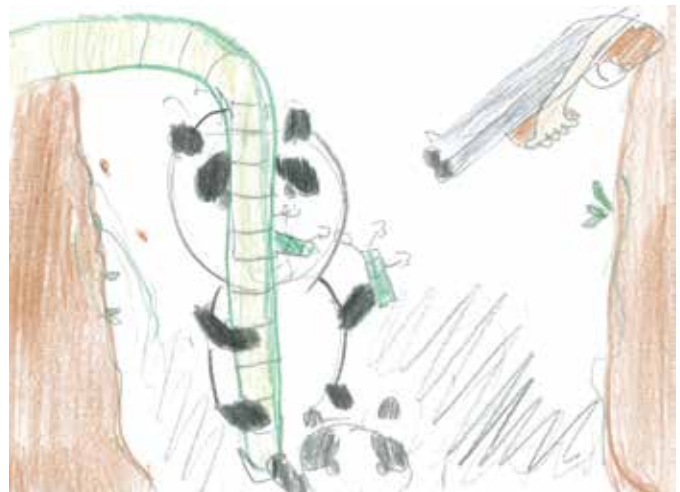


Illustration by Muhammad Fahim



Save Sharks

Inspired by Nur Huzairah



Sea monsters, we are called.

Are you sure? We are hunted by humans who removed our

Valuable fins and tossed us back into the ocean, drowning, to fill a bowl of

Extinction soup.

Save us, you have the power to stop

Hurting my family

And friends.

Remind everyone not to buy shark's fin. Be

Kind to me,

So my species can survive.

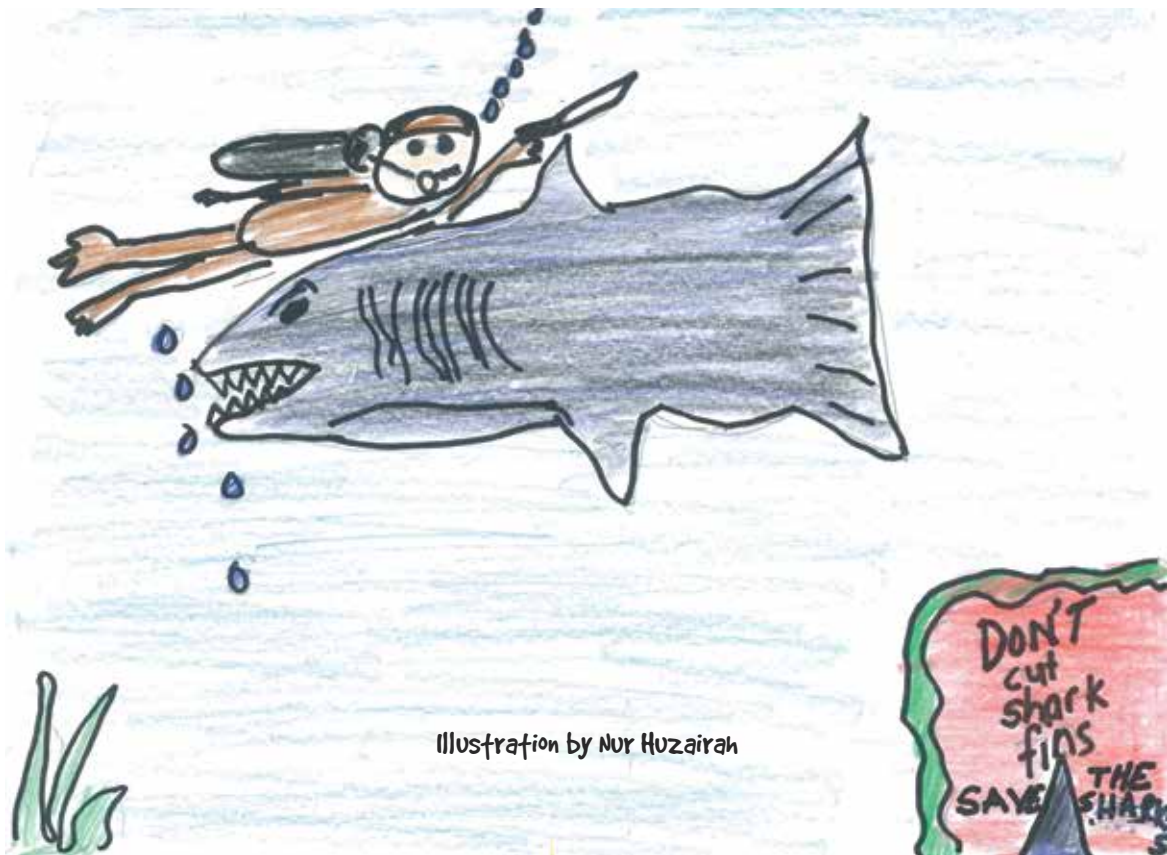


Illustration by Nur Huzairah

Haiku of a Dog's Week

By Yap Su-Yin

Monday

I am a puppy
Headed to the hills to play
Loving sunny days.

Tuesday

My shadow gambols
Up, down, twirling in circles
Watch us dance and prance.

Wednesday

A lazy siesta
It's too humid to do more
I dream of action.



The background is a warm, yellowish-orange landscape. On the right, a large tree with green and yellow foliage has red apples hanging from its branches. A small red heart is visible on the tree's trunk. In the top left, two bones (one orange, one grey) are floating. A small blue bird is in the bottom left corner. A dashed green line winds through the scene, connecting the clouds. Scattered autumn leaves in various colors (orange, yellow, red) are floating in the air.

Thursday

I buried two bones
They are my "perk-me-up" snack
Hope I remember.

Friday

Splashed into the lake
Drenched, my brown fur clings to me
Onshore, I shake dry.

A small brown dog with floppy ears is sitting on a yellow patch of ground, holding a green ball with its mouth.

Saturday

Go! Go! Go! Caught you!
Where has my ball vanished to?
I love Saturdays.

A small brown dog is lying on its back on a yellow patch of ground, resting its head on the ground.

Sunday

It rains, I am bored
My furry neighbour visits
I am thrilled once more.



You CAN be whoever you want to be

Inspired by Abdul Razak, Arissa Imani, Noor Haafiz, Nur Huzriyah and Zahirah

“I prayed for a daughter so I could do all these girlie activities with you. Things I would never have had the chance to do with your brothers.” Avery’s mother smile, as she braided Avery’s pigtails before slipping her daughter into a dress. She had chosen the frilly pink frock specially to celebrate the Christmas dinner with the family.



Illustration by Arissa Imani

However, if you knew Avery Smith, she was not the usual girl that one would expect. Avery loved to play soccer. She enjoyed watching her school’s soccer team chase the ball around the field every other day. She excitedly joined her father and brothers in their soccer practices every weekend. Her mother would frown in disapproval, labelling soccer a “boys’ game” and an activity that was unsuited for well-behaved girls.

Their home was beautifully decorated for Christmas celebrations. There were bright twills on the walls, a huge Christmas tree and a scrumptious spread across the dinner table. Every year, Avery easily guessed which present was hers. Amongst the conservatively wrapped ones, hers would be in pink wrapper with pink ribbons. She shrugged and walked to the front porch while waiting for dinner to be served. Perched on the balcony railing, she saw her neighbour Alex *pirouetting*.

She watched Alex perform his ballet piece, oblivious to his audience, and finally ending with a Grand Jeté. Avery found herself holding her breath in awe, clapping when it ended.



Alex glanced at Avery and glided effortlessly towards her. “I was picked for my school’s Swan Lake performance and my mother congratulated me by giving me a pair of new ballet flats for Christmas,” Alex announced proudly.

Flashing his new satin shoes at her, he continued, “I know you are thinking, what is a boy doing, dancing ballet? However, I think otherwise. Ballet is an art form where you express your emotions through movements. It takes countless hours of practice to perfect a dance routine. I would choose dance anytime, even if the boys in school think I am a disgrace.”

Avery looked down with embarrassment, “You are not a disgrace. Nobody who accepts who they are is ever a disgrace.” She added, “I feel embarrassed trying for the soccer team because I am afraid I can’t outrun the bigger boys. The boys in my school laughed at me when I tried for the team earlier. They commented that soccer is not a game for girls.”

“Nonsense! I am the only boy in my ballet class. Many told me that dancing is for girls and boys who dance are sissies. Do not get influenced by what others think! Keep your head up. Please promise me you’ll hold

on to your dreams.” Alex stuck out his pinky finger. Avery felt encouraged that she found her first supporter. She linked her pinky finger with his and promised that she would hold true to her dreams.

“AVERY!” Mrs Smith called.

“Uh-oh, thank you Alex. I have to go. Mum is calling me back for dinner.” Avery waved goodbye to Alex.

At the dinner table, Avery’s thoughts drifted to her earlier conversation with Alex. She did not pay attention to the jokes or conversations over the dinner table. “A penny for your thoughts, Avery?” asked her mother. Avery seized the opportunity to say, “Mum, I love soccer and I want to

try out for the school’s soccer team.” Everyone at the table, especially Mrs Smith, was taken aback by the sudden announcement. She looked at Avery’s father and slowly walked up to the table that was filled with presents. She picked up a present wrapped in pink and handed it to Avery.



As Avery unwrapped her present, her eyes widened in surprise. “This soccer ball is for you. I saw you the other day in school trying to score a goal. You tried so many times despite being laughed at by a group of boys. I was so proud of you. My child, I want you to keep practising, I believe in you. Here, have this too. This is from your father.”

Mrs Smith handed Avery a rolled-up present, **unravelling** a poster of Mia Hamm, considered to be the best female soccer player in history. It was in Mr Smith's study for the longest time! Her father scooped his little girl into his arms and whispered, "Be the Mia of your school's soccer team! Do us Smiths proud!"

That night, the Smiths watched the replay of Mia Hamm's debut for the United States women's national soccer team when she was just 15 years old! It was a memorable Christmas night of love and acceptance!

Avery trained hard and made it into her school team the following year. You see, the principal of the school was forming a female soccer team! She is still her mother's princess, dressing in tiaras and pink fluffy dresses sometimes. She learnt that she did not have to be a boy to learn how to pass a ball, skip in puddles, and score a goal! Alex too, became a star at his school. His Swan Lake performance was well received. He proved how outdated the **stigma** was of boys dancing ballet. Incidentally, Alex enjoyed soccer too. He just loved ballet more. Occasionally, you can see Alex with Avery at the soccer field, playing "Ballet soccer".

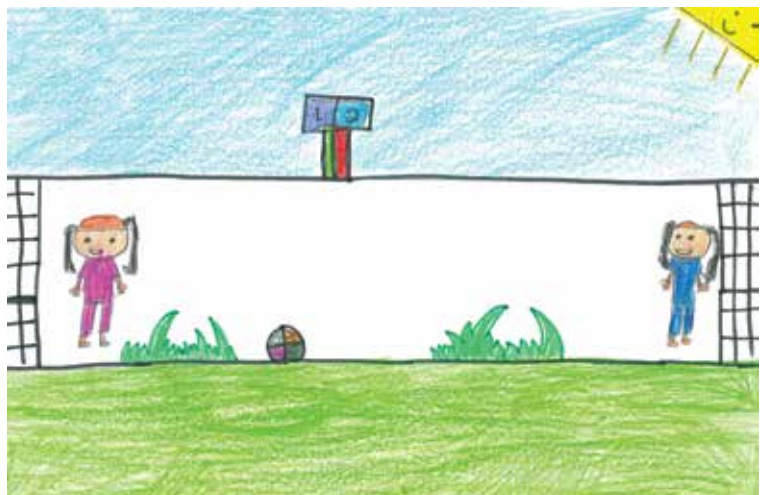


Illustration by Abdul Razak, Noor Haafiz and Nur Huzriyah

Glossary

Create

The Clean, Green Recycling Machine, Recylobots!

Painstakingly: Took great efforts

Retractable: Able to be withdrawn

Reputable: Highly regarded

The Environmental Adventures of Recycle Girl

Luscious: Beautiful and attractive

Empowered: Given the authority to do something with confidence

Lectured: Scolded

Endeavours: Attempts to achieve something

A Good Deed for the Environment

Hindering: Making it difficult for something to happen

Incredulously: In disbelief

The “Y” in Recycle is YOU

Pungent: Strong taste or smell

Bewilderment: Confusion

Incinerator: A device for burning waste materials

Depletion: Greatly reduced or almost used up

I Can be a Superhero too!

Picturesque: Pretty and charming

Restoration: Return to its original condition

Care

Spotty the Owl

Sweltering: Uncomfortably hot

Endangered: At risk of extinction

Poachers: A person who hunts illegally

Shivered with trepidation: Trembling or shaking due to fear

Extinct: No longer in existence

Marcus’s Dragon Scar

Imminent: About to happen

Harpoons: Long spear-like instrument used for marine hunting

Mayhem: Chaotic disorder

Wails of distress: To make sounds in grief or suffering



Wildlife trafficking: Illegal trade of protected species

Conservation area: An area where land, plants, animals and or buildings are protected by law against undesired change

Sammy the Leatherback Turtle

Ensnared: Captured

Threw caution to the wind: Doing things without consideration

Vice-like grip: A very firm hold which causes pain

Gnawed: Inflict injury on

Fear coursing through his veins:

An expression to describe the experience of fear in one's body

Peachy and Her Peanuts

Obsessed: Occupy the mind constantly

Haven: A place of safety

A shadow of its former self: Less capable as compared to the past

Resolved: Firmly determined

Save for a rainy day: Put something aside for a future time of need

Cherish

The Young Marine Animal Rescuers

Debris: Scattered pieces of rubbish

Makeshift: A temporary substitute used when nothing better is available

You Can Be Whoever You Want to Be

Pirouetting: Spinning around while balancing on one's toes

Unravelling: To reveal something that was hidden

Stigma: Negative belief that society has on a group of people

The Greatest Gift of All

Oblivious: Unaware of

Make ends meet: Earn just enough money to provide for basic needs

Smugly: Excessive satisfaction or pride in oneself

Affluence: Wealthy

Standing ovation: Audience standing and clapping to show their support

Humility: Modest opinion of one's importance



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