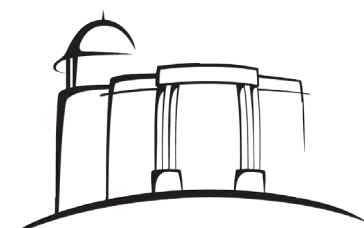


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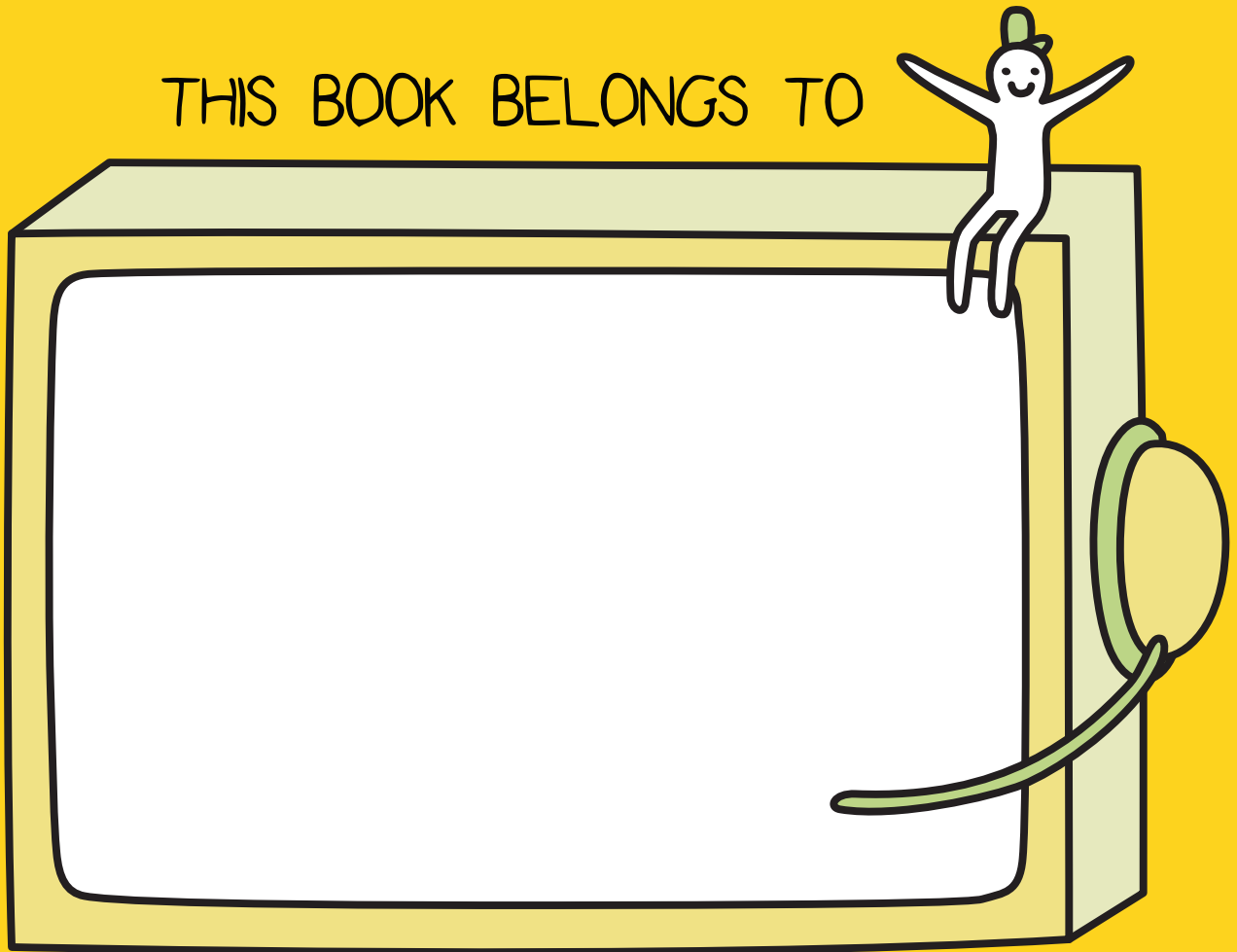


MY DREAM  
OUR FUTURE



TAN CHIN TUAN FOUNDATION

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



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Special Thanks

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# A HUMBLE SEED TODAY, AN APPLE ORCHARD OF LOVE TOMORROW

Sue planted five seeds, taking care to water them carefully. Soon there were five seedlings with tiny leaves. When she breathed too hard onto them in her excitement, the tiny leaves trembled. "Aren't you timid! I'll teach you a song to chase your fears away."

As she watered the seedlings, Sue whistled a melody her speech and drama teacher from ACTs of Life had taught her. Sue even did a dance, which her dance trainer from The Little Arts Academy had shown her. The seedlings giggled as cheerful Sue sang and jigged. The seedlings swayed to the catchy tune. They had so much fun, they no longer felt fearful.

When Sue was at school, the five seedlings missed her. Thoughtful Sue wrote them letters instead. She honed her writing skills with help from mentors from Janus Education. The seedlings loved her stories about what she learnt at school.

Even though they were deeply rooted, they learnt a lot about the world by being good listeners. Sue was an entertaining storyteller.





She nourished this skill under the guidance of her storytelling teacher from MoonShadow Stories. When she forgot parts of the story, the inventive child would add her own adventures into the tale.

Sue took care of her precious seedlings with love and patience. But she didn't achieve this feat alone. She listened carefully when her friends from the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation generously offered advice and support. With everyone pitching in to raise them, the seedlings grew up big, strong and wise.



One day, Sue fell ill. She had a high fever and had to stay in bed. She even lost her voice due to a sore throat. She could not visit her tree buddies. There were no delightful stories to listen to for many days.

Little Sister Tree squeaked, "Oh dear, Sue took care of us when we were small and weak. What can we do to help her now that she is unwell?"

"I know!" said Big Brother Tree thoughtfully, "Let's shake our branches very hard!"

"What for?" the rest of the trees chorused, puzzled.

Big Brother Tree, which always had the best ideas, replied, "We are apple trees, are we not? An apple a day keeps the doctor away. That's what Sue taught us when we were little seedlings. So let's shake our branches! When our apples fall, we will make those into apple juice. Sue can drink it and recover more quickly!"

"Brilliant!" chorused his apple-tree siblings. They were glad to do a good deed for their beloved Sue. In time, Sue recovered. Everyone rejoiced.

The trees learned to love and protect others as they were loved and protected when they were younger. From these five trees, a whole orchard of apple trees blossomed. Their leafy branches offered a rest stop for weary birds. The dew on their leaves and fruits offered little animals water and food. The shade from their canopy made Sue's afternoons very pleasant, as she lay in her hammock under the trees. With the guidance and help of so many good friends and teachers, Sue's humble garden was transformed into a bountiful apple orchard for all to enjoy.





## FOREWORD

Ms. Yap Su-Yin  
CEO, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

I wrote this short story to illustrate what we wish to achieve through the foundation's unique "More Than Words" programme, an initiative funded by the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF).

We wish to give children, who may not have such opportunities due to financial constraints or family circumstances, adequate support and avenues to learn and improve. With the help of enlightened arts practitioners and charities that are supporting these children and their families, our beneficiaries were able to stretch their potential. Within weeks, with guidance and encouragement, the youngsters impressed us with their ability to communicate more eloquently, to read and write better, make mistakes bravely, and to express themselves joyfully and with confidence.

This year, "More Than Words" reached out to almost 1,000 children, trainers and volunteers. Our arts partners - ACTs of Life, The Little Arts Academy, Janus Education, Kamini from MoonShadow Stories, Encore! The European Season, I Theatre and more - created invigorating workshops and learning journeys for these children.

Thanks to ACTs of Life, the experiential visit to Bollywood Veggies during the school holidays was a memorable excursion that brought to life the stories of Peter Rabbit for the children. They had earlier been acquainted with Peter Rabbit's adventures during their weekly

speech and drama sessions by ACTs of Life. Such activities spurred them to imagine what life would be like if they lived on a farm. Other children were “transported” to prehistoric Earth, thanks to Encore!, which facilitated the “Dinosaurs: Dawn to Extinction” exhibition at the ArtScience Museum. Together with volunteers from RSVP Singapore, the children from PPIS, Lakeside Family Services and the Eurasian Association journeyed through the exhibition. For many of them, it was their first visit to the museum.

Dovetailing with World Environment Day on 5 June, a team of young authors led by Janus Education conducted a full-day creative writing workshop to bring written words closer to these children, in a fun and nurturing environment.

In the midst of trainings and workshops, I hatched an idea to empower the children to dream about their future, by encouraging them to etch their aspirations on paper. Our amateur scribes and artists scribbled and sketched. They reimagined what Singapore would be like in a hundred years, and shared their hopes and vision of what home would be in this future.

Their creative contributions have been collated into this collection of short stories and children’s illustrations by a talented editorial team, comprising TCTF’s Joyce Chng, Nur Salshabila, Kirsten Law and Sharon Song, as well as our foundation’s award recipients from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Amanda Ler and Catharine Ciwira.

The culmination of our efforts lies between the covers of this publication, entitled “Singapore 2114: My Dream, Our Future”. This book is our gift to the children to encourage them to hold onto their dreams, come what may.

May we strengthen more lives through our words and deeds.





## ABOUT TAN CHIN TUAN FOUNDATION



The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) was set up in Singapore on 10 April 1976 by the late Tan Sri (Dr.) Tan Chin Tuan to help the poor and needy. He rendered assistance to the deserving and provided services that helped to build a sustainable society. Aligned with our founder's giving philosophy, the foundation supports projects and causes that are viable, sustainable and well-managed with definable social outcomes, taking into account evolving social needs.

## ABOUT MORE THAN WORDS



The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) initiated "More than Words" in 2013 to connect children and teens from vulnerable backgrounds to enlightened arts practitioners in the areas of dance, music, creative writing, story-telling and theatre. This year, almost 1,000 children from over 20 TCTF-supported organisations, as well as trainers and volunteers joined us on the "More Than Words" journey. By rejuvenating their creativity and boosting their self-confidence, we hope that this initiative can truly be more than words for our beneficiaries, volunteers and practitioners alike.



# IMAGINING OUR HOME



Illustration by Chua Hui Xuan

# MY HUMBLE ABODE

BY ZHANG ZHUO YANG & JAEDEN LAW

## Farewell 2055

I was at the carnival with my friends when we came across a tent that was shaped like a Time Machine. Standing at the entrance was the carnival cyborg. "Step in boy! Come experience an adventure!" With my friends' *cajoling*, I carefully stepped into the Time Machine – I mean what could possibly go wrong? It is 2055 now and already we could easily teleport ourselves to places, surely it would be safe to dive into the future?

I felt a sudden swoosh and with a loud thud, everything outside went silent. I peeked out and realised I was in the future, in 2114! Amazingly, it was just the same when I predicted it in 2014, when I was 10 years old.

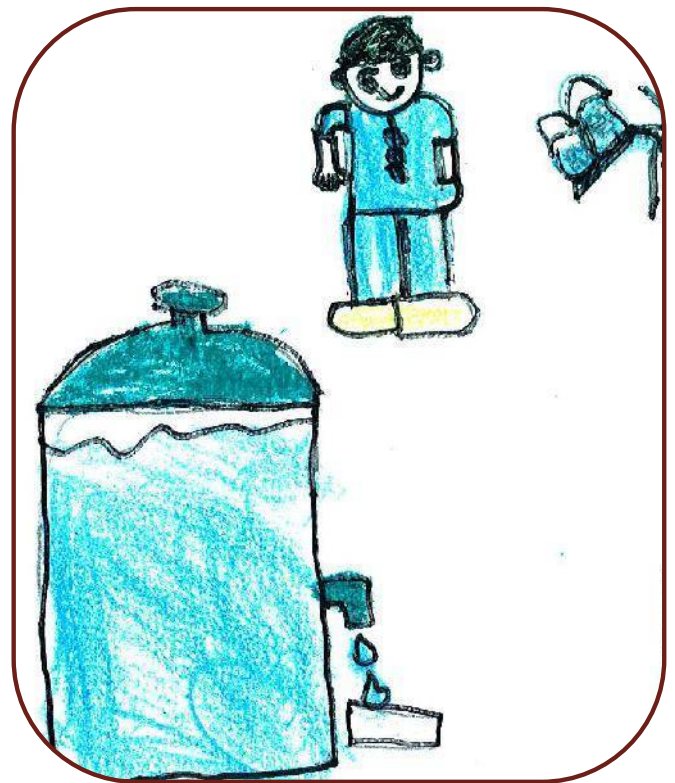
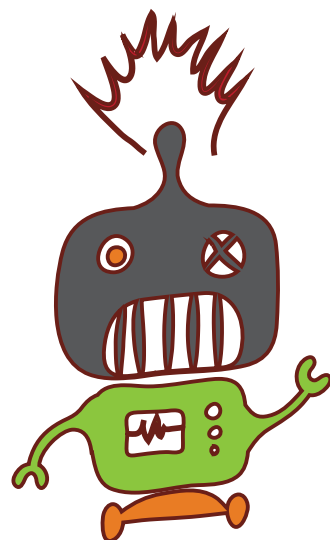


Illustration by Jonathan Lim



## My Future Home

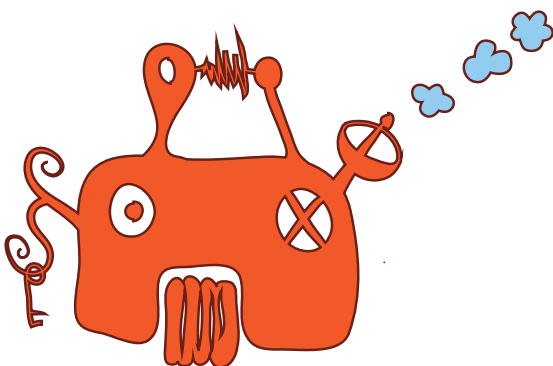
This place looked oddly familiar. As I was trying to get my bearings, I realised that I was actually standing right in front of my future house. It was my house, I was certain of it, because there was a sign on the front door that said "Zhang Zhuo Yang's House".



Illustration by Mevinderjit Singh

I wanted to barge through the doors to explore my house but then I remembered that my 10-year old self wanted a house that could transform into a piece of paper. Then I could fold it and keep it in my pocket when I was not in. I searched for the button on the side of the door that said "fold" and pressed it.

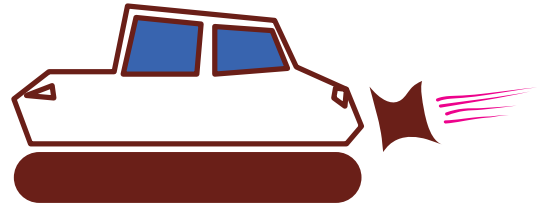
To my delight, it really did turn into a piece of paper. Satisfied, I pressed the "unfold" button to bring my ten-storey house back again.



Upon entering my house, I realised it was exactly the same as I had predicted! Could that creative writing class I had back in 2014 been magical? They told us to imagine our dreams in 100 years' time and here I was standing in my own home with a secret basement that contained my secret lab, my very own shopping mall on level seven, a whole level dedicated to an arcade and even a private cinema!

I was getting very excited at the thought of having my friends over so that we could play games and watch movies together in my swanky home, even those that had not been released in the cinema!

## A Flying Car



While I was still exploring the house, I heard a faint noise from somewhere in my head. Then just as suddenly I heard my mother's voice, "Zhuo Yang, we're running low on insects for dinner later. Can you please fly out to get some more? Thanks!"

As I was still trying to make sense of the message, I heard a "honk" right outside the window. Looking out, there was a flying red car waiting for me! Quickly I hopped into it and took off. To where, I was not sure. But this adventure was turning out to be really interesting!

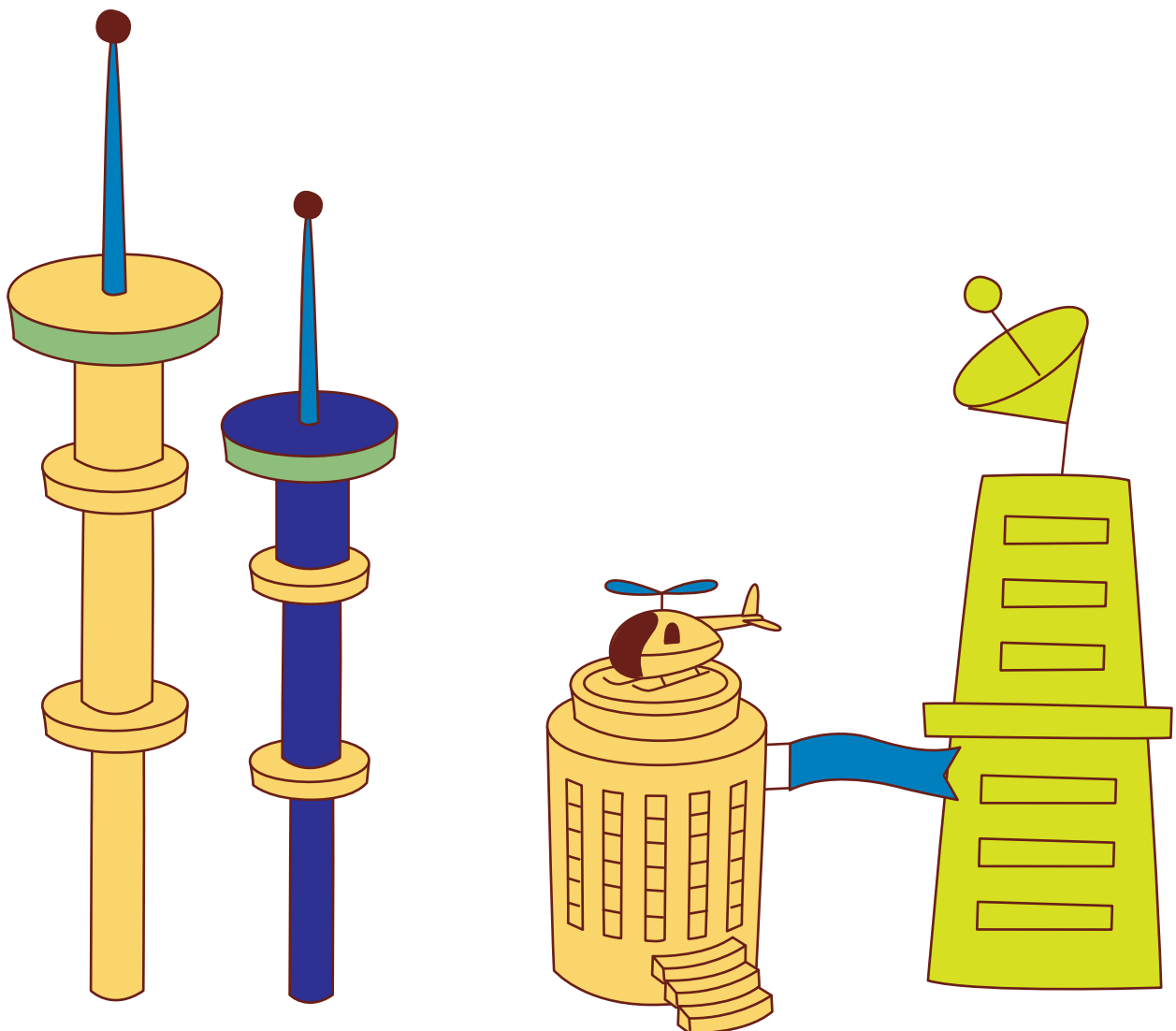
As I flew, I caught a glimpse of what it was like living in a future. There were more cyborgs in 2114 than in 2055. Apparently, they were like the police, guarding us from wars.



I even saw a robot talking to a child. It seemed as if it was trying to teach the child something. A teacher robot? That was pretty cool!

There was still so much more to see and as I steered my car to explore more, I realised it was not doing my bidding! Instead, it brought me back to me back to where I first arrived, at my front door, as if indicating that my time here was up.

Dejectedly, I walked towards the Time Machine and took a last look at my future home-to-be before stepping in to return to reality in 2055.



# A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW

BY JAYDEN TAN



## Natural and Man-made Environments are Merged

In 2114, Singapore is a modern, clean and high-tech city-state. The **inaugural** cloud-seeding rocket programme was launched in 2114. This project, which is repeated every year, successfully creates a super cloud covering the entire land mass of Singapore. This brings the average temperature of Singapore down to a cool 20 degrees Celsius.

Life is not confined to the land in Singapore 2114. Colonies in the air and underwater are commonplace as well. Residents use multi-modal cars that can be driven on land, underwater and in the air.

Schools are centralised play-camps, which allow school children to learn through interactive games and social exchanges. With educational ideologies that stem from the ancient **mantra**, "life-long learning", which surfaced in Singapore more than a century ago, all citizens are literate and engaged learners.

Singapore is also crime-free as security cameras are installed everywhere and electronic law-enforcement robots patrol the streets at all times. Tourists and business travellers choose Singapore as their choice destination for its safety and modernity.



## The Mighty Towers of Singapore

Singapore's numerous skyscrapers, at least 70-storeys tall, adopt state-of-the-art technology in construction and maintenance. Each building is powered by clean energy sources, mainly wind and solar power.

Some exterior building surfaces are plated with shimmering nano-technology plates that behave like chameleons, changing their appearance constantly to bring colour and life to the city.

Others are covered in vegetation to clean the air and encourage biodiversity. Species that have once been threatened by extinction, find Singapore 2114 a safe haven.

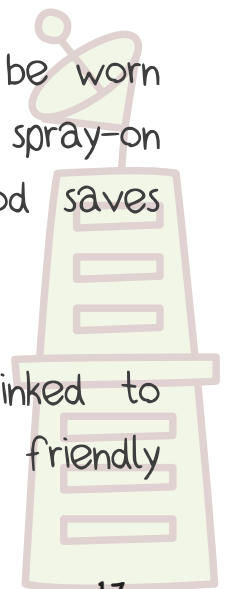
### Cutting-edge Technology



A full-body scanner is installed in every building's main entrance to medically analyse residents walking through. In this way, a full body check-up is done almost daily. This early detection saves many lives.

Fabric sprays will make clothes in a flash. These clothes will be worn about three times and then thrown out for recycling. These spray-on clothes form a thin and strong "outer covering". This method saves detergent and water for a cleaner and greener Singapore.

Recycling bins are replaced by a giant network of pipes linked to underground factories that process rubbish into environmentally friendly and safe energy.





## Family Life in the World's Strongest State

Singaporean families still live together harmoniously. Homogeneous designs with minimal variation make urban planning and construction efforts more efficient.

Self-expression is encouraged though. Microcapsules are used to decorate a house, so decorating your room will be a breeze. The microcapsules are simply tossed at a wall and the surface is painted evenly with one's colour of choice.

Last but not least, there is genuine peace, harmony, respect and graciousness among the residents. There is no more war as the entire world has finally sorted out the allocation of food resources, created enough meaningful jobs for all mankind and generated abundant prosperity for most countries.

Singapore in 2114 is a culmination of past generations' hard work and enterprising spirit.

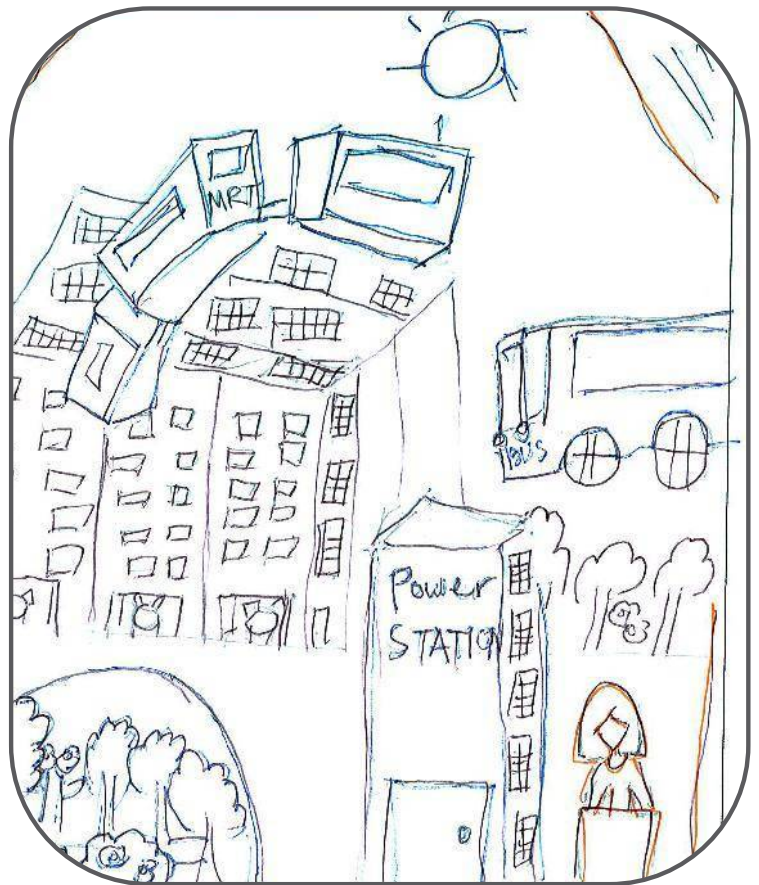
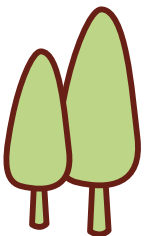


Illustration by Lo Shuk Yi

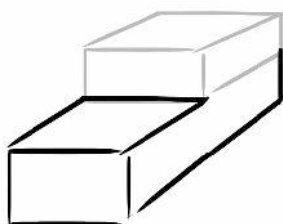


# HOW TO DRAW A FLYING CAR!

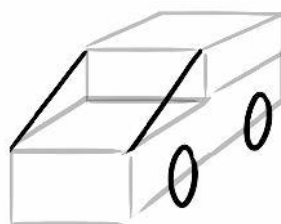
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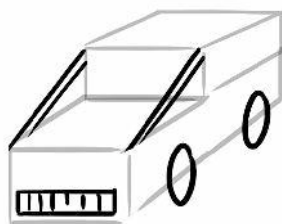
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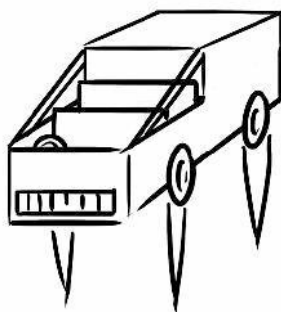
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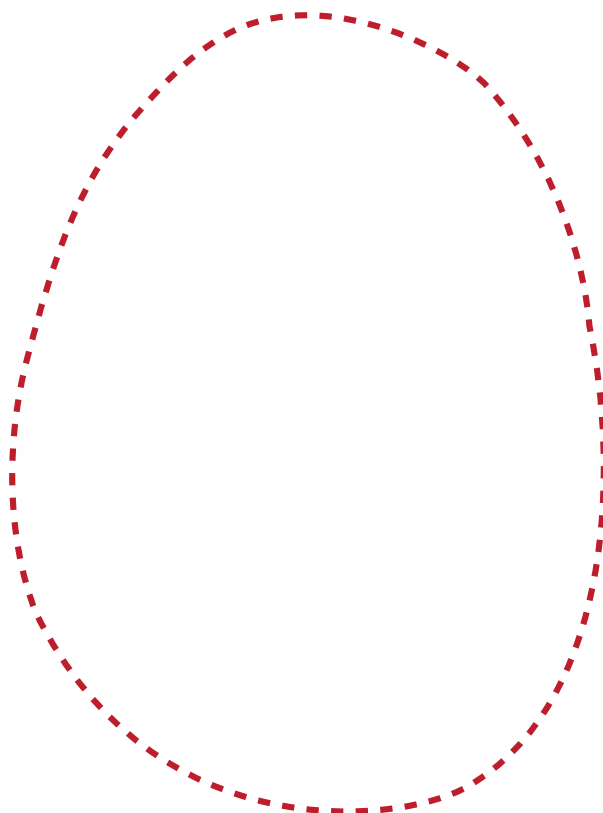
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5.



Now draw your own!



# GREEN SUPERPOWERS: A TRIBUTE TO GAIA

BY SHARIFAH SAFIYYA & JILLIAN HONG

## Barren Land

The year is 2110, and the human race, together with Earth, has come a long way since. From three world wars, massive deforestation and logging activities to uncontrolled pollution that are known to exist but remain unacknowledged, all in the name of furthering our quality of life have unquestionably put a huge toll on our planet.

The Earth as we come to know it in 2110 is barren land, with metal and glass skyscrapers lining the roads. No one ever spends time outside now because it is just too unhealthy, and not to mention **putrid** and hot. Even while commuting indoors, oxygen tubes are inserted into our noses to help us breathe easily.

Such is the depressing scene of Singapore if we choose not to look after it properly.

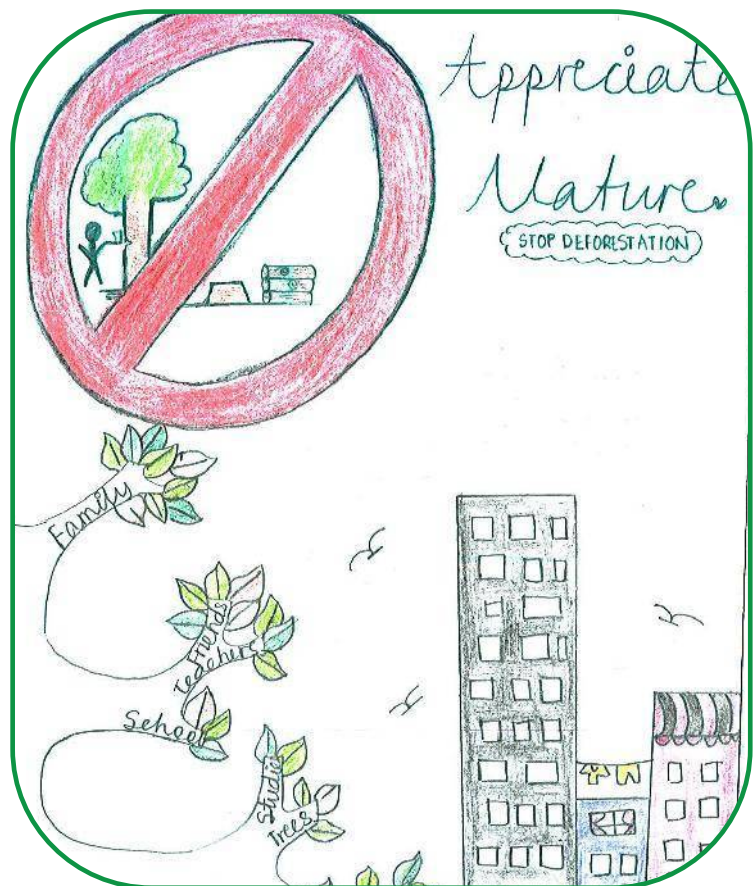


Illustration by Sharifah Safiyya



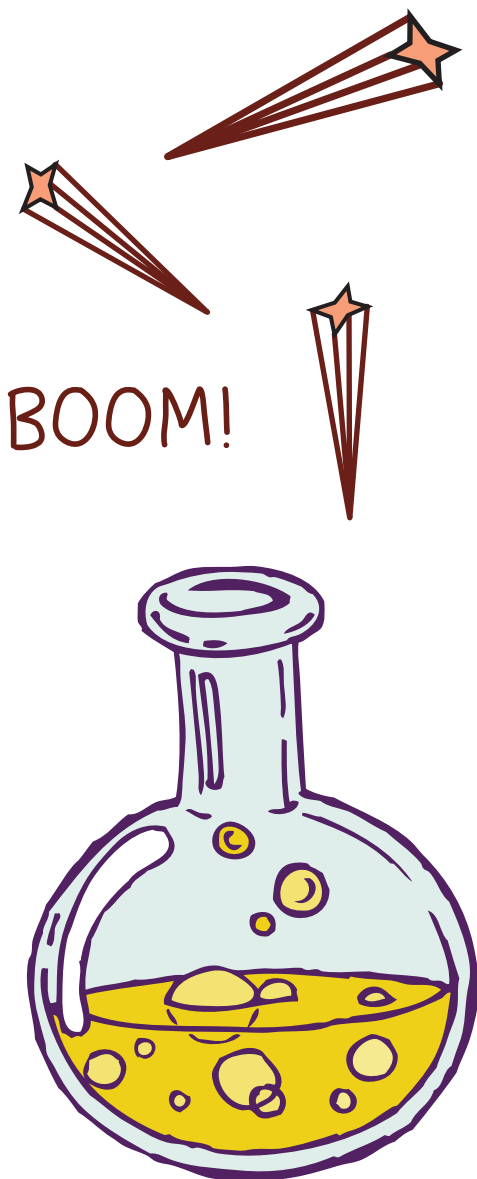
I could envision clearly what it might be, and I simply could not let it happen. I was determined to do something to help save our planet.

Hence, armed with a fully equipped research laboratory along with two of my very best friends, we decided to pursue our long overdue experiment on trying to create a serum that protects plants from harsh conditions and an **antidote** that counteracts pollution of any kind.

### Accidental Discovery

However, while doing our experiments one day, there was suddenly a deafening 'BOOM!' and the laboratory was covered in thick green and purple smoke. It first smelled of burnt wood, but later became an odd, though rather pleasant, mixture of floral and musky scents.

I could hear my co-researchers, Jillian and Emma, calling out to ask if anybody was hurt. We were all fine, but just felt a little funny inside. As a precaution, our laboratory had to be shut down for a week. With nowhere to go, we decided to grab a bite. It was only on our way to Swensen's for ice cream that we realised peculiar things starting to happen.



Dying plants were slowly coming back to life when Jillian walked past them. A limping cat approached Emma and upon rubbing its paw on her, it strutted off with feline grace. As for me, I noticed shots of small lightning-like currents **interspersing** my fingers!

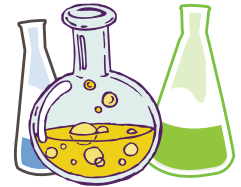
## Transformed

We slowly came to a conclusion that whatever happened in the laboratory that fateful day had led us to have unique abilities, one that we were determined to use to help save our environment. It took four years for us to harness and control our powers.

Emma has the power of reviving extinct animals and multiplying the number of endangered ones. Since then, she has invented a time machine to go back to the past in search of extinct animals to cast a spell on them that will protect them from any harm. She is also constantly looking out for endangered animals as well to protect them from becoming extinct, thus ensuring their survival on this Earth.

Jillian on the other hand has wonderful healing power. She can heal trees when they are going to die. She has even fashioned a special potion called, "Herbvora" that can make dying or diseased trees flourish by pouring it into the soil around the trees. The ingredients are: carrot, papaya, banana, sand, plastic cups and bags, leftovers from dinners, dried leaves and sheep's wool (unused). The "Water a Tree for Life" annual event was organised to educate people to use clean, recycled water for watering plants.

Apart from "Herbvora", what other special potion can you think of to help save the Earth? Share your recipe here!

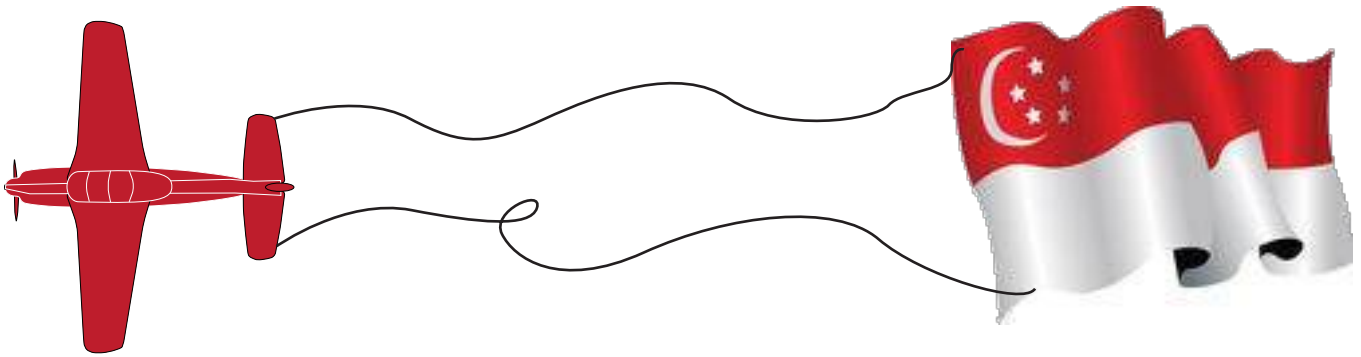


This is also the time where everyone who wishes to have their hair cut will be encouraged to send their unwanted hair to us where it will be collected and sent to a fashion house that does excellent coats made from hair.

For me, I have the power to create clean energy, like generating electricity. Burning of fuels to create energy will be a thing of the past. With cleaner air, due to lesser air pollution from factories, the Earth will be a much cooler place to live in as more green plants will thrive and lesser people will suffer from asthma attacks due to filthy air.

I am also working on preventing radioactive waste from being dumped into the sea to protect the plants and animals. The ozone layer will be protected and nursed back to how it was in the beginning of time and everyone will live by the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Such are our powers and commitment to save Mother Earth that from 2114 and beyond, the Earth will be a much cooler place to live in! To a better future!



## MY HOME, MY SINGAPORE IN 2114

BY CALEB LOH

9th August 2014 marks Singapore's 49th year as a fully independent nation. As we celebrate this milestone, it is a good time for us to reflect on what home means to us, and what we hope our city-state will be like in 100 years.

Will it be very modern, full of towering skyscrapers and **sleek** facilities? Will mega-supermarkets and e-markets replace wet markets? Will tablets and e-readers holding millions of books replace libraries? Will we still have dinners and gatherings, or will social media and online chat groups replace physical meet-ups?

All I wish is for a Singapore where I can belong. There are many things I identify with here. Not just the physical aspects such as familiar housing estates and my school, but 'softer' aspects too. 'Singlish', the unique Singapore culture and the world-famous Singaporean cuisine that we enjoy here at home all speak of 'home' to me.





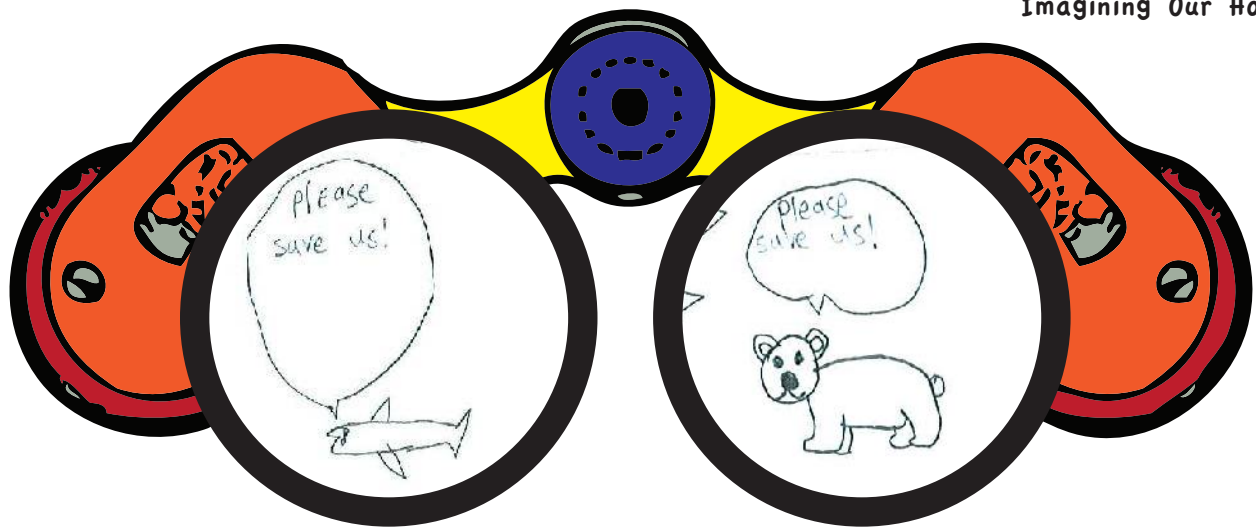


Illustration by Tan Sheng Jie

The word 'home' reminds me most of my family. I grew up in 2 households. I stayed with my grandparents in their flat in Woodlands until I was three years old. During that time, my parents took me back to their house only on the weekends as they were busy at work.

Staying with my grandparents was truly memorable for me. I remember going to the wet market with my grandmother every morning with her friends and being greeted by the **hustle-bustle** and the fragrant smell of fruits and vegetables in the air. I also remember playing games with my cousins and walking to the nearby spice gardens with my grandparents. But my favourite memory lay in the kitchen. I remember fondly the inviting smells of chicken rice and roast duck cooked by my grandmother. Dinners were fancy affairs attended by my parents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

In comparison, my parents' home was a modern and quiet condominium in Hougang with modern amenities. My childhood in two very different homes made me appreciate and respect my parents and grandparents

## More Than Words

very much. They made me feel loved, safe and secure. A home is not just a house with furniture; it represents a place filled with happiness and where family members help one another and do fun things together.

Families are the building blocks of Singapore's society. This is where my family, friends, relatives and roots are, and where I feel safe and secure.

My home, in a word, is my life. Here, I feel that I can achieve my goals and dreams. I have many ideas of what I want to be when I grow up.

There are many opportunities and possibilities for me here, as Singapore is a vibrant and colourful city with a strong economy. This is the Singapore I want in 2114.

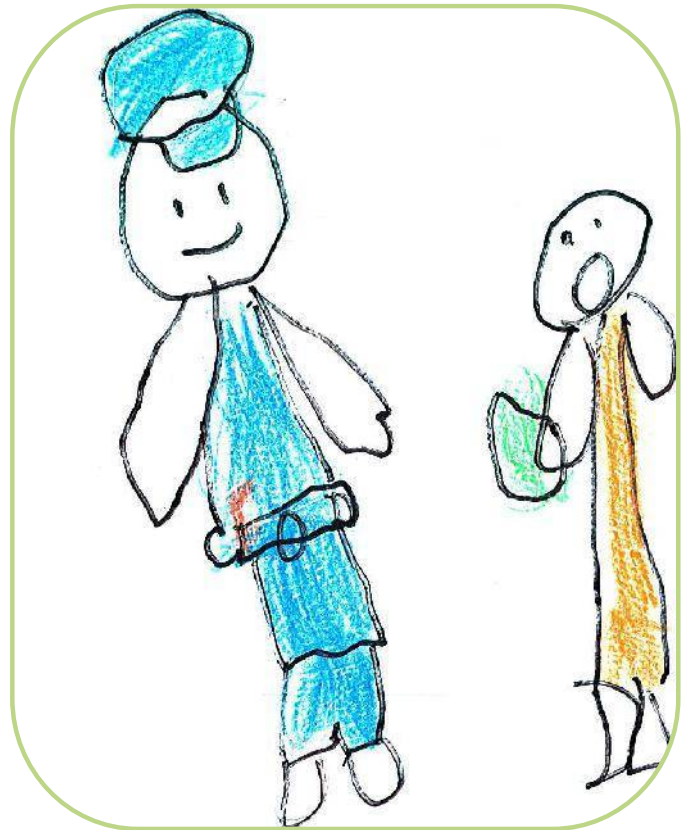
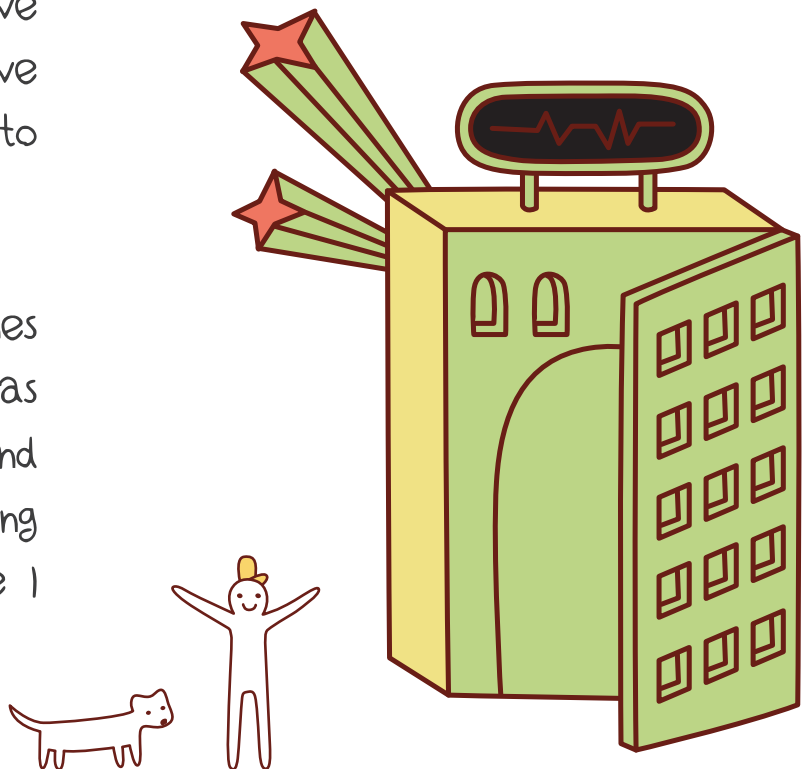


Illustration by Tan Yong Jie



# A SINGAPOREAN DREAM

BY JILLIAN HONG

I'm 13. Well, almost that age,  
And I haven't seen much of Singapore, just a short stage.  
But what I see is beautiful and green;  
A country with an almost new sheen.

The technology that sends us into the future, so far  
Fills the streets, the phones, tablets, cars.  
They will stay with us for eons to come;  
A techno-world we will become.

Right now, as I walk down the streets,  
Workers, shoppers, people rushing for important meetings.  
Not a single person stops to wave;  
If this is so, what relationships are there to save?

And then I walk past a **hunched** old lady, tissues in hand  
Pleading for some to buy her wares; her white hair and her messy strands;  
My heart stops, my heart is tugged.  
Why won't anyone stop, an executive, a tourist, with suitcase lugged?

I dream of a place, that's just as green as today.  
Newly discovered plants? I cannot say.  
When people on the sidewalk stop to admire  
The trees, the flowers, not destroyed by fire.



I hope that we'll be harmonious and connected,  
No one so lonely they defected.  
From the bonds of friendliness and care;  
Any challenge; greatly, we'll always fare!



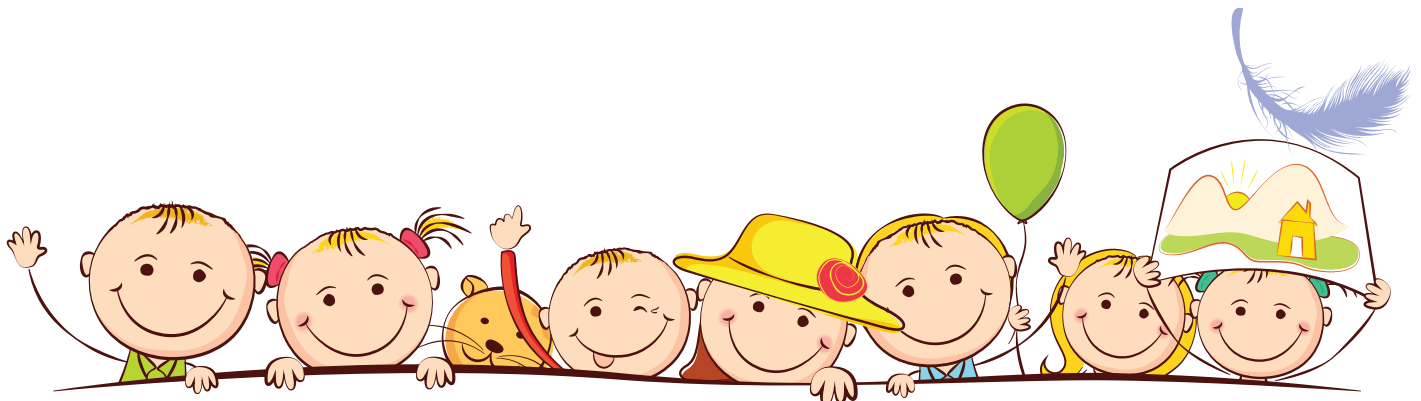
I wish for a Singapore where we know when to share,  
When to stop, help, for others we care.  
A tightly knitted society, knowing each and every one,  
Always enjoying each other's company, learning to have fun!



Yet I'm just a girl, a newly minted teenager.  
What can I do, move a leaf, I wager?  
But others have the same dream,  
Though silent it seems.



I believe if we work together,  
We could fly, as light as a feather.  
Unburdened by the bounds of peer pressure and stress,  
We could make Singapore, a paradise, I confess!





# FAMILY & FRIENDS



Illustration by Muhd Hidayat

# A TYPICAL DAY IN SINGAPORE 2114

INSPIRED BY OUR BUDDING WRITERS FROM  
PPIS STUDENT CARE CENTRE (JURONG)

## Off to School in 2114



"Amigo!" Zahirulhaq greeted his classmates, flexing his signature 'thumbs up' sign across his chest. Water rushed out of the underwater classroom with a loud sucking sound as he yanked the door open.

He smiled to himself, happy that the force-shield designed by his genius classmate Syarmayne to ensure that all buildings in Singapore 2114 were waterproof, was in perfect working order!

His fellow classmate, Sajjad, rushed behind him. Sajjad quickly dusted the water droplets off his new blue pants. He did not want to get his clothes damp. He sat beside Zikry, who was wearing a blue shirt. The two friends looked at each other and burst out laughing that their clothes matched.

Ever wanting to be dressed uniquely – even for school, Sajjad exclaimed, "I'll change my clothes to something different. I am thinking... lime green!" With that last word, Sajjad's pants glowed brightly and turned lime green within seconds.

Happy that his clothes were still in one of his favourite colours, Sajjad chatted excitedly with Zikry about Khalifah's birthday party that they were invited to attend after school.

## Blast from the Past

Soon, lessons for the day started. The students listened in astonishment at how Singapore used to be on dry land a century ago.

"There were no colourful pet robots to sing you to sleep and comfort you 100 years ago?", asked Sakinah **incredulously**.

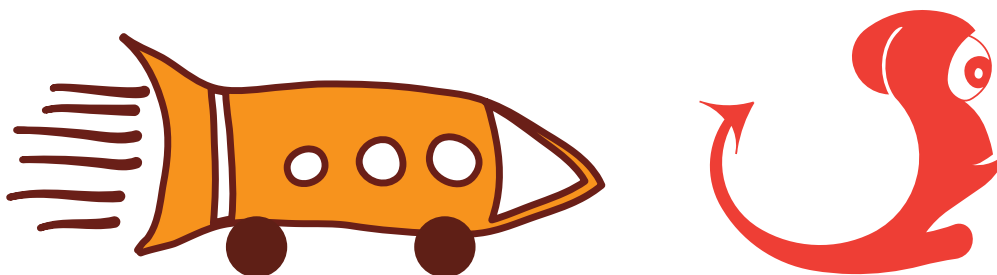
People did not live in submarines either, their robot teacher, Mr Rouborto said. At that, Aqasha, who was proud of his submarine home, sighed with relief that he lived in the 22nd century.

Time-travel portals did not exist back then as well. The children gasped with surprise and **clamoured** to pepper Mr Rouborto with more questions.

Nurin raised her hand, "What about food? Did Singaporeans in the past only eat hamburgers and drink squid ink like we do now?"

Amirah jumped in next with a question, "What about the robots going around giving us money whenever we need some?"

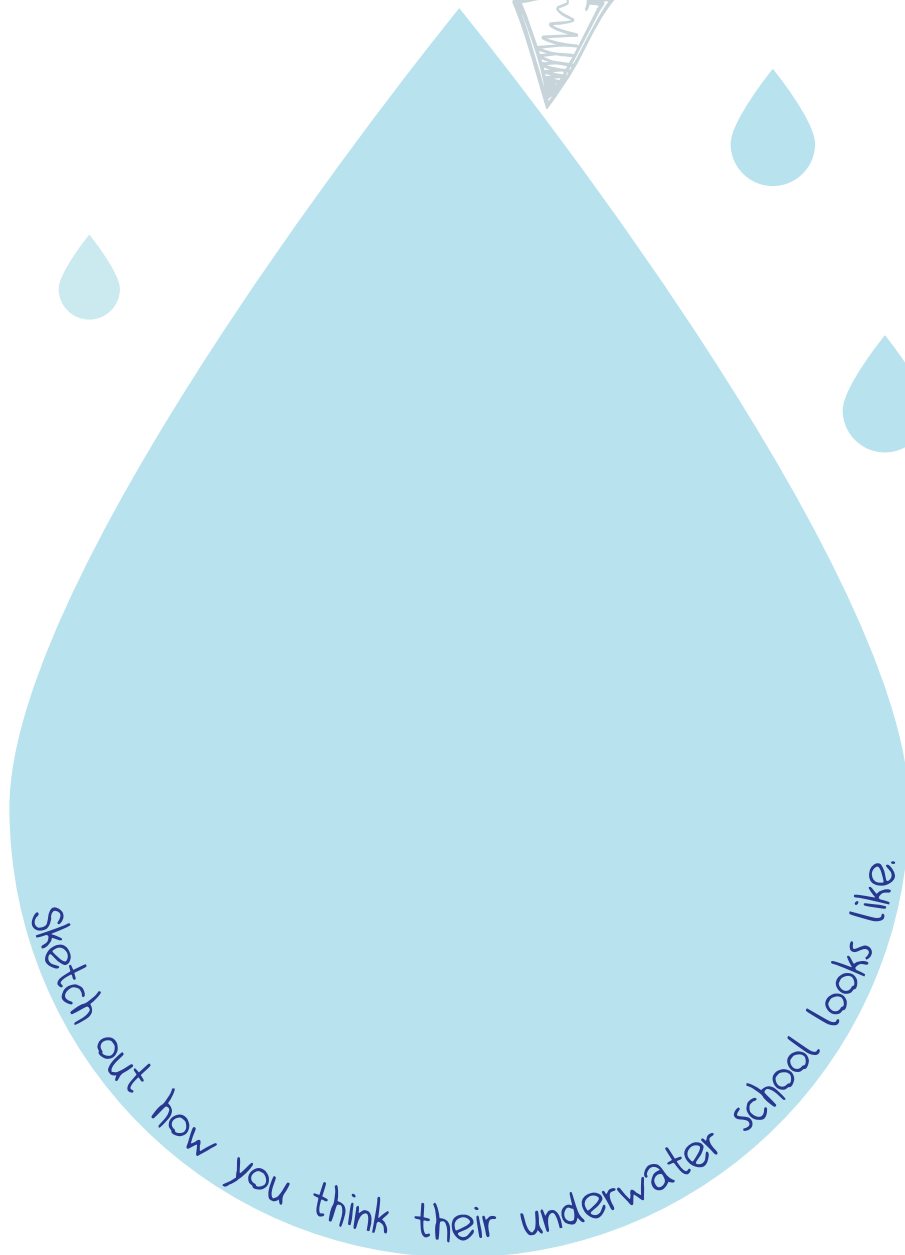
The lively discussion continued till the octopus bell **flailed** its eight tentacles wildly to signal the end of class.



## An Out-of-this-World Birthday Party

The children continued talking about historical Singapore as they zipped out of their underwater school. They arranged to meet up at Khalifah's house, where he was celebrating his ninth birthday.

Khalifah and his family lived way up above the ocean. Some students put on their clip-on wings and helmets, and zoomed upward.





Others hopped onto the floating buses waiting to take them to outer space, where Khalifah's family lived in a stylish rocket. The children could hardly wait for the traffic light to change from red lobster (which meant 'stop') to green seaweed (which meant 'go'). Finally, they alighted from the floating buses and entered the spacious rocket living room.

The children waved the magical wand attached to the television set and shouted out the name of their favourite cartoon show, followed by a loud "kaboom!" to activate the screen.

They happily watched the programme while house robots shuttled busily around them, serving food and drinks.

Khalifah's parents, who took special leave from work, joined the happy children in feasting and celebrating their son's birthday.

### A Prehistoric Treat

Suddenly, the house shell rang. It was Megan the Merry Mermaid from next door, who was an amphibian.

"Do you and your friends have some free time next week, say Friday? Let's visit the friendly dinosaurs!" squealed Megan, who aspired to be a "dinosauritarian", a veterinarian for dinosaurs!

The children excitedly huddled together in the living room to plan their upcoming time-travelling trip. Three girls, who were all named Putri,

volunteered to start a list. They carefully jotted down 'space suits' and 'waterproof clothes' to protect them from the radiation and rain.

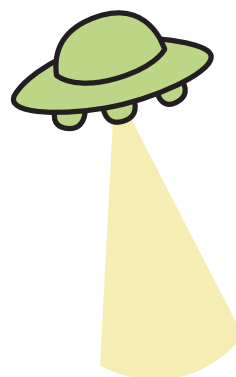
Who knew what sort of weather would greet the time-travellers in prehistoric Singapore? It was better to be well-prepared! After puzzling over what else could possibly be essential on their journey to see the dinosaurs, Azim had a brainwave!



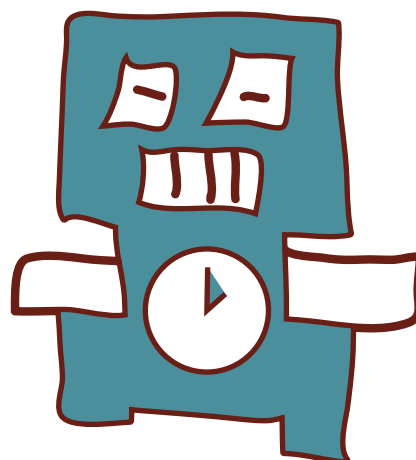
Illustration by Zahirulhaq

"Shall we bring our pet robot dinosaurs with us? They can play with the real dinosaurs and heal any sick ones with their infra-red light beams too!" he exclaimed.

The children took turns to add to the ever-growing list of items for their excursion the next Friday.



Finally, it was time to head home for dinner with their families. The children queued at the public teleportation stand in the space colony's community centre. In turn, each child took a giant leap into the teleportation device and was transported right back home.





# ENCORE! PARTNERSHIP – “DINOSAURS: DAWN TO EXTINCTION EXHIBITION”



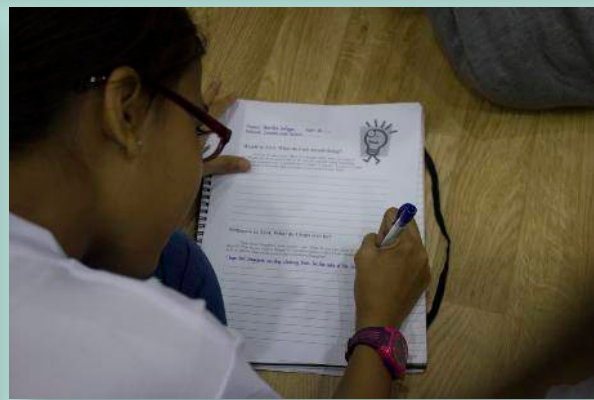


# CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH FEI YUE STUDENT CARE CENTRE





# CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH JANUS EDUCATION



# CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH JANUS EDUCATION





Sixty-nine children from four charities put pen to paper and drew what they thought Singapore would look like

100 years from now.

They had been invited to draw and illustrate their ideas on June 5 at New Life Community Services, as part of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation's More Than Words programme.

The programme, started last year, seeks to expose children from disadvantaged backgrounds to different art forms, to make learning fun and help them develop greater confidence as their talents and abilities are developed.

The answers, from the pupils aged seven to 12, covered everything from day-to-day life to the outrageous.

For some, the thought of Singapore becoming submerged by water seemed very real, considering global warming and rising sea waters.

However, Putri Iryannie, 10, a Primary 4 pupil, was not fazed by the potential prospect of the population drowning.

"By then, scientists would have discovered a type of material to help us breathe underwater. Like a mask," she said.

"I would love to live in such a place. Because I like to splash and play around in the water."

The future of Singapore's transport system was also an issue close to the children's hearts, as many of them came up with eco-friendly ideas such as solar-powered vehicles, or things out of science fiction, such as flying cars and teleporters.

One of the ideas floated by a group includes a train system that moves in a vertical manner and which has networks leading directly to homes.

Irvin Yong, 10, a Primary 4 pupil from Beacon Primary School, went a step further by dreaming about humans flying.

"Instead of walking, we can place mini propellers on our head and fly around. It's safe and you would not need to walk. You can also wear it when you are tired," he said earnestly.

Robots would also be used in most industries, as technology and machines get more sophisticated.

They would clean high-rise flats, sweep the streets and help out with chores, some of the pupils said.

The pupils' works will be compiled into a book, due to be published next month.

# Imagining Singapore

Flying cars, trains that go into your home and an underwater city. These were just some things kids drew to illustrate what Singapore would look like 100 years from now. **Amanda Phoon** reports



Children aged seven to 12 putting their ideas about a futuristic Singapore into drawings. They were invited by the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation under its More Than Words programme. ST PHOTO: LIM SIN THAI

The Singapore that the kids imagined sounds as if it came out of a science fiction movie. I can't wait to see the day.

**CURIOUS**



we're in  
the news!



## Working on their dreams for Singapore

ONE dream starred the Merlion. Another featured a robot with a square head; yet another conjured up fishes and a light blue sea.

These were a few of the objects drawn by about 60 children taking part in an activity yesterday to write and illustrate stories about their dreams for Singapore a hundred years from now, in 2114.

Their works will be compiled in a book, which is expected to be published this August in time to celebrate National Day.

The children, aged seven to 11 and from low-income families, are from Fei Yue Family Service Centre (Bukit Batok), Lakeside Family Services, New Life Community Services and PPIS Student Care Centre (Jurong).

They worked with 15 mentors from Tan Chin Tuan Foundation and creative writing group Janus Education during a workshop yesterday at New Life Community Services in Bukit Panjang.

The book project is fully funded by the foundation, as part of its More Than Words programme, in which young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are exposed to the arts. They do so through activities such as meetings with arts practitioners and excursions to museums. At the workshop, Janus Education also identified children whose writing talents could be further developed.

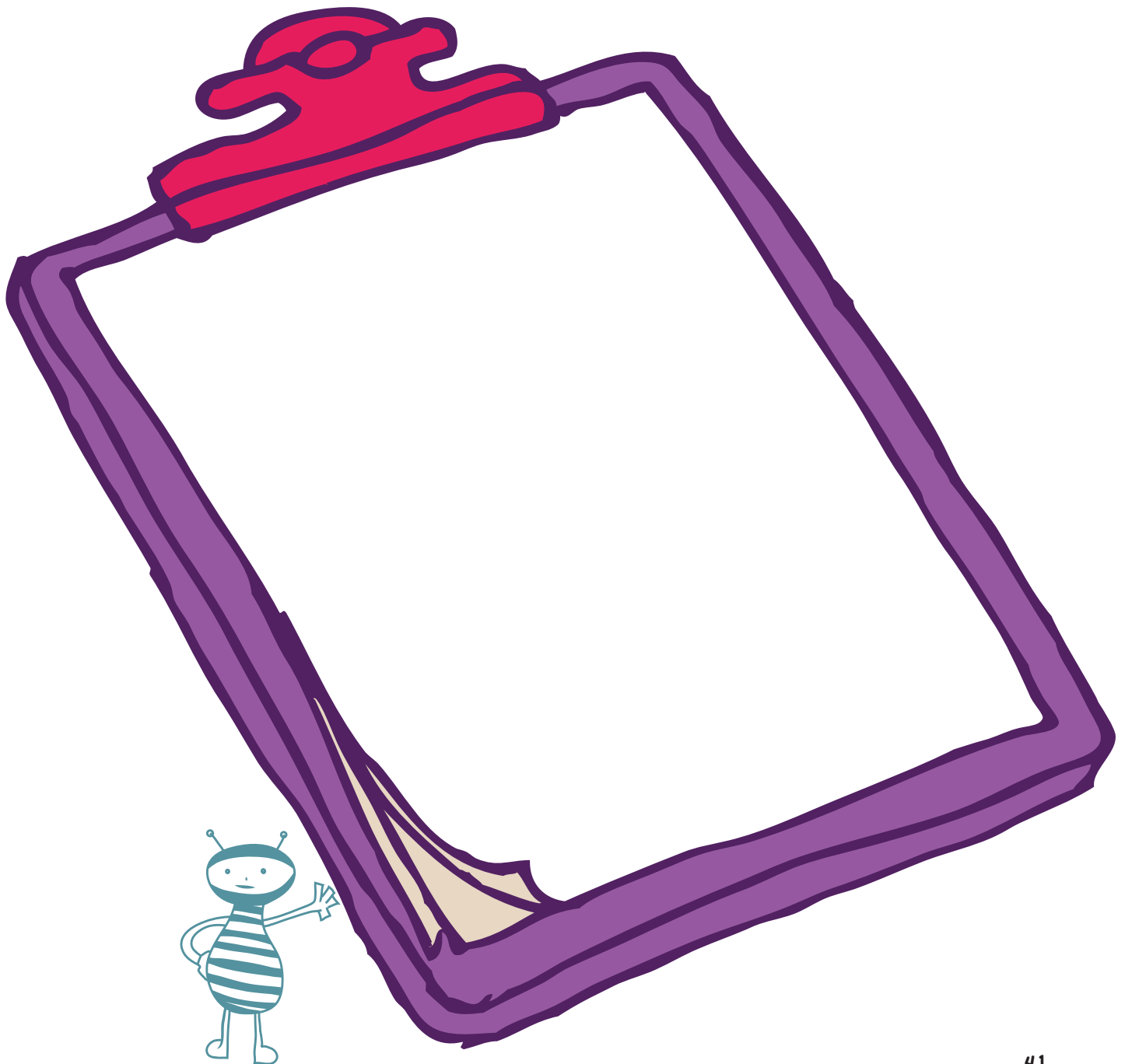
PRISCILLA GOY



Mentors from Tan Chin Tuan Foundation worked with 60 children from low-income households to write stories and create illustrations at the New Life Community Services yesterday. The works will be compiled in a book, expected to be published this August. ST PHOTO: LIM SIN THAI

# activity:

What do you think will happen next in the story when the group time-travels back to prehistoric Singapore to see the dinosaurs? Write your own short story about the upcoming adventure of Megan the Merry Mermaid and the children.





# HOW TO DRAW A ROCKET SHIP!

1.



Draw a long and thin oval as shown

2.



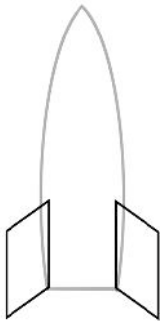
At the bottom end, draw a straight line

3



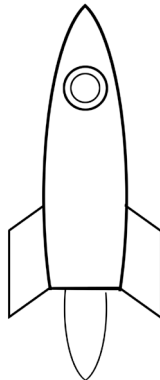
Erase the bottom tip as shown

4.



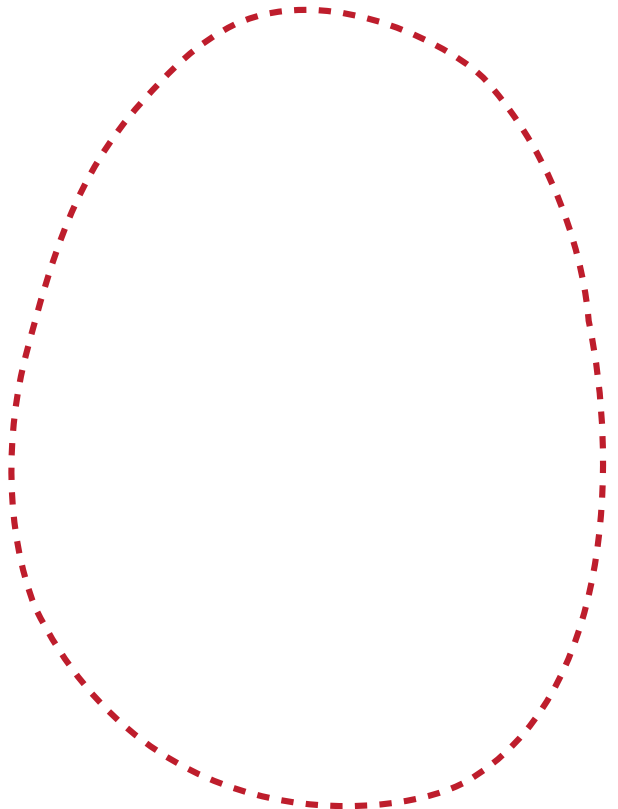
Add the fins of the rocket ship

5.



Add a window and fire

Now draw your own!



# THE TIME-TRAVELLER'S DECISION

BY PHUA JUN HAO

From 2014 to 2114

After decades of hard work and nearly giving up on many occasions, my time machine was finally completed.

Many cynics had jeered at me. They said that such a contraption was impossible and that I was insane to even try.

I shall tell you now, it was possible!

Taking a deep breath, I entered my shiny, new time-machine and turned the time dial to 1st January, 2114.

I gingerly pressed the 'Start' button. A faint humming started up and the motherboard began to glow. I started spinning, faster and faster, down a brightly coloured tunnel, which **morphed and warped** like plastic melting in high heat.

I woke up in a curiously smooth bed, which was shaped like a pod. I swung my legs over the edge of the mattress and wondered if I had bought new furniture for my bedroom. Everything looked strange and surreal.

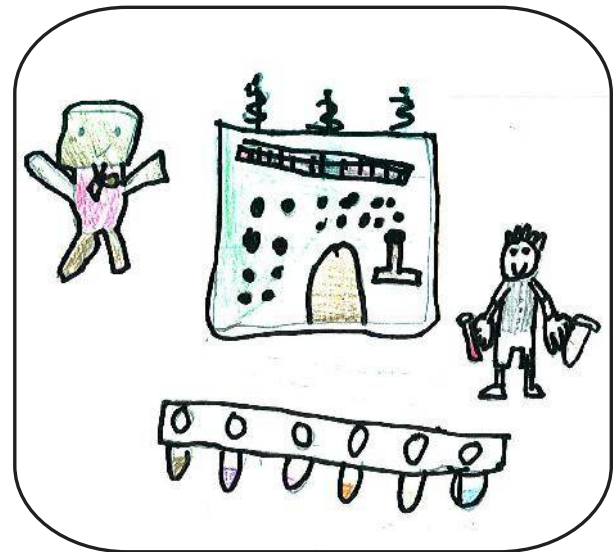


Illustration by Ace Khor

## More Than Words

Something was wrong. My feet dangled high above the ground! With amazement, I patted my face and body. My limbs had shrunk! I discovered I was 10 years old again.

I spied bright objects dipping and diving in the distance. I realised with delight that they were spaceships!

I had finally achieved my dream of time-travelling to Singapore 2114!

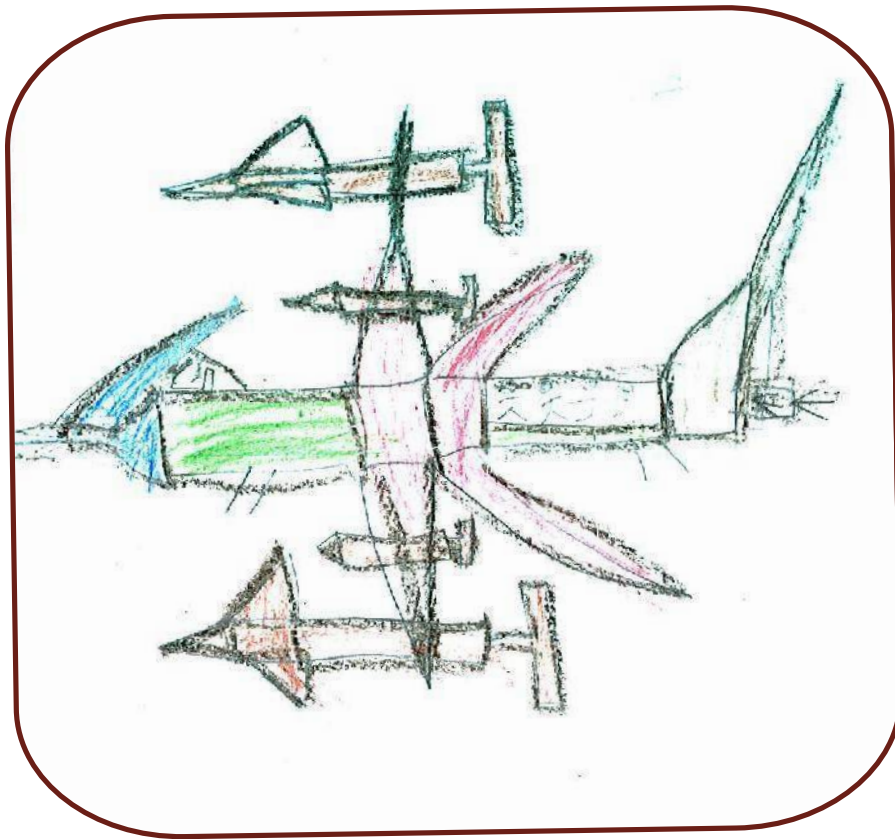
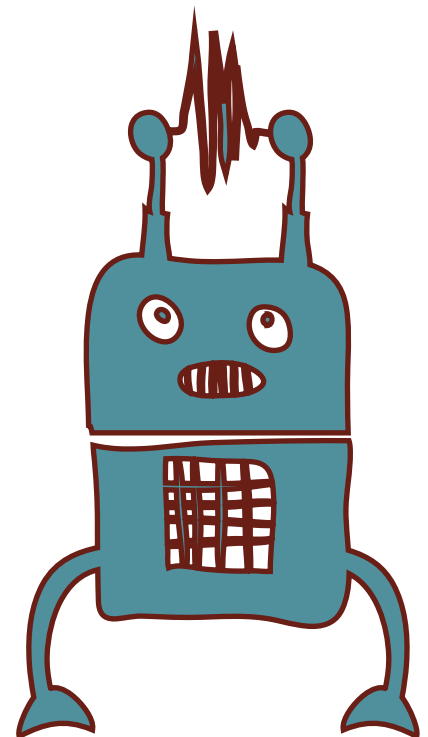


Illustration by Ang Wei Jie



## A Familiar Future



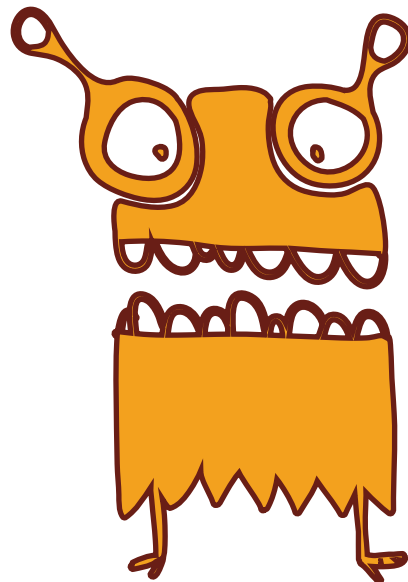
Illustration by Lee Li Ning

"Good morning, my boy!" a familiar voice boomed from somewhere below my room. A laughing voice interjected, "Wake him up gently, will you? Get washed up, Jun Hao! I made your favourite breakfast."

I recognised those voices anywhere! They were my parents, who worked abroad since I was a child. I have not seen them in years! How wonderful to hear their familiar voices again.

I spent a leisurely breakfast with my beloved parents and caught up with their lives on Singapore's first space colony.

After breakfast, I flew off to school gliding on the pair of wings my father attached to my back.





## My Detachable Brains

To my astonishment, the teachers that filled my primary school were all robots. I was spooked and tried to edge around them to get to my classroom.

When I finally found my class, I saw that my form teacher already typed his name in blocky letters on the big screen in the front of the room. Mr IR 612534 then instructed us to take out our brains.

"How am I even supposed to do that!" I thought wildly. I started looking for an escape.

My teacher came to me and said in a metallic-sounding voice, "Do I have to repeat my instructions?"

I shook my head mutely. Mr IR. 612534's cold claws went to my head and pulled out something, which **squelched** as it left my skull.

He left my brain on my desk and continued his lesson. Equal proportions of disgust and curiosity warred within me.

Upon closer inspection, I noticed that twinkling strips of data flowed from my robotic teacher's mouth and wormed into my brain. They circulated briefly before they disappeared. I realised that the lesson was captured in my mind automatically.

After a refreshing day of absorbing new knowledge, I flew home with mighty flaps of my wings. I thoroughly enjoyed being an athletic 10-year-old boy again!



## The Life-Changing Decision: To Stay or to Go

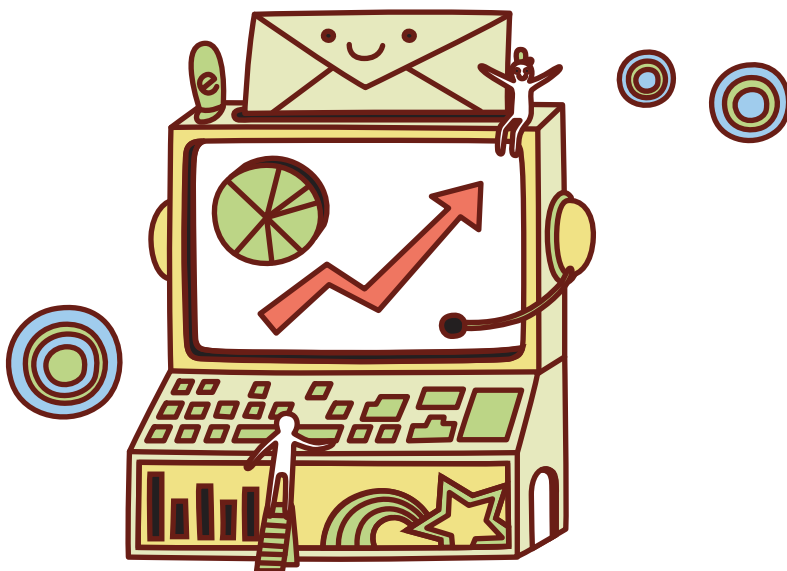
My parents were waiting for me at the door of our rocket house. They smiled widely at my arrival and welcomed me with big hugs.

My hand went to the small controller in my pocket that would take me back to the Singapore I belonged to, 100 years ago.

Should I return to the past? Could I not stay in the future with my parents? I now had a chance to live my life all over again – and in a space colony at that.

My father put his arm around my shoulders. My mother lovingly **tousled** my hair and asked how my day went.

I discreetly tossed the ticket to my old life into the thick bushes outside my front door as I told my parents all about the new things I learnt at school.



# SINGAPORE 2114: A DREAM OR A VISION?

## INSPIRED BY OUR BUDDING WRITERS FROM LAKESIDE FAMILY SERVICES

### An Adventure Through Time

Rays of sunshine peeped through the cracks of my bedroom curtains. I thanked my lucky stars that I had some time to laze around before breakfast.

Sleepily, I tapped on my phone to check the time. Suddenly, a great tremor rocked me. Everything in my room spun wildly around! The floor collapsed beneath me and I was dragged into a whirlpool of chaos that opened under me.

Just when I thought my arms and legs would fly off, everything stopped. I crashed to the ground with a loud thud.

It took all my energy to force my eyes open as I felt horribly sick. I looked up and realised that I was no longer in my room.

Impossible! The terrain around me had changed completely.

The sky was a shimmering gold and the ground was dry and scorched. In the distance, I saw humongous red buildings that glistened in the sun and seemed to wobble in the breeze.

## A Strange New Friend with a Strange New Name

"Are you lost?" I nearly jumped out of my skin. A girl around my age who was extremely amused by my confusion stood in front of me. In the most composed voice I could manage, I replied "Yes, I think I am. Where are we?"

"We're in Singapore of course. Pasir Ris to be exact!" she chirped. I was stunned. I had lived in Singapore all my life, but I had never seen such a sight before.

Just then I spotted a sign that read, "Best Chicken Rice of 2114". My mind raced, "Had I travelled in time? Was that whirlpool a portal? Maybe I should slap myself to try and wake up..."



Illustration by Nur Sakinah

The girl poked at my arm. "You look like you need a guide. Well, come on, I'm heading into town anyway. I'm Momo Fofa!" she introduced herself cheerily. I followed her as she walked through the tree-lined streets. The trees, however, looked different, and were cold to touch. I rapped on one and bruised my knuckles!

Momo Fofa chuckled and revealed, "We created trees out of bronze and copper to stop them from being cut down. Anyway, even if we cut one down, two will grow in its place."

I noticed that some people were shaking the trees with pots in hand. Before my surprised eyes, the leaves fell into the waiting pots and burst into flames. The people hurried to take meats out from their bags to cook on the fire.

Draw Momo Fofa!!

## Orchard Road 100 years from Now – Still Singapore's Shopping Paradise

Momo Fofo and I came to a row of lifts. I followed her into one labelled "Orchard". Inside the lift, there was only one large red button. Momo Fofo punched it and the doors slid shut.

Immediately, the lift **lurched violently**. Just as abruptly, the lift doors flew open.

I stumbled out just in time to hear Momo Fofo's proud proclamation, "This is Orchard, the biggest shopping area in Singapore!"

On the streets, I noticed people with mini laptops that they folded into the size of a tissue packet after use. The red buildings I saw earlier rose around me. On closer inspection, I realised they were made of jelly!

People leapt from rooftop to rooftop. Men and women in office attire, teenagers and even school-children bounced on the jelly buildings to get around.

Suddenly, a siren wailed.

"Oh no, it's going to rain," Momo Fofo yelled. She grabbed me by the arm as she sprinted towards the building ahead.

My ears were assaulted with the loud thuds of heavy objects hitting the ground. I turned around and saw that the streets were pelted with sparkling stones.





These were no ordinary stones – they were emeralds, rubies and diamonds! Some pedestrians who wore elastic pants and shirts stretched out their clothing to collect the falling treasures.

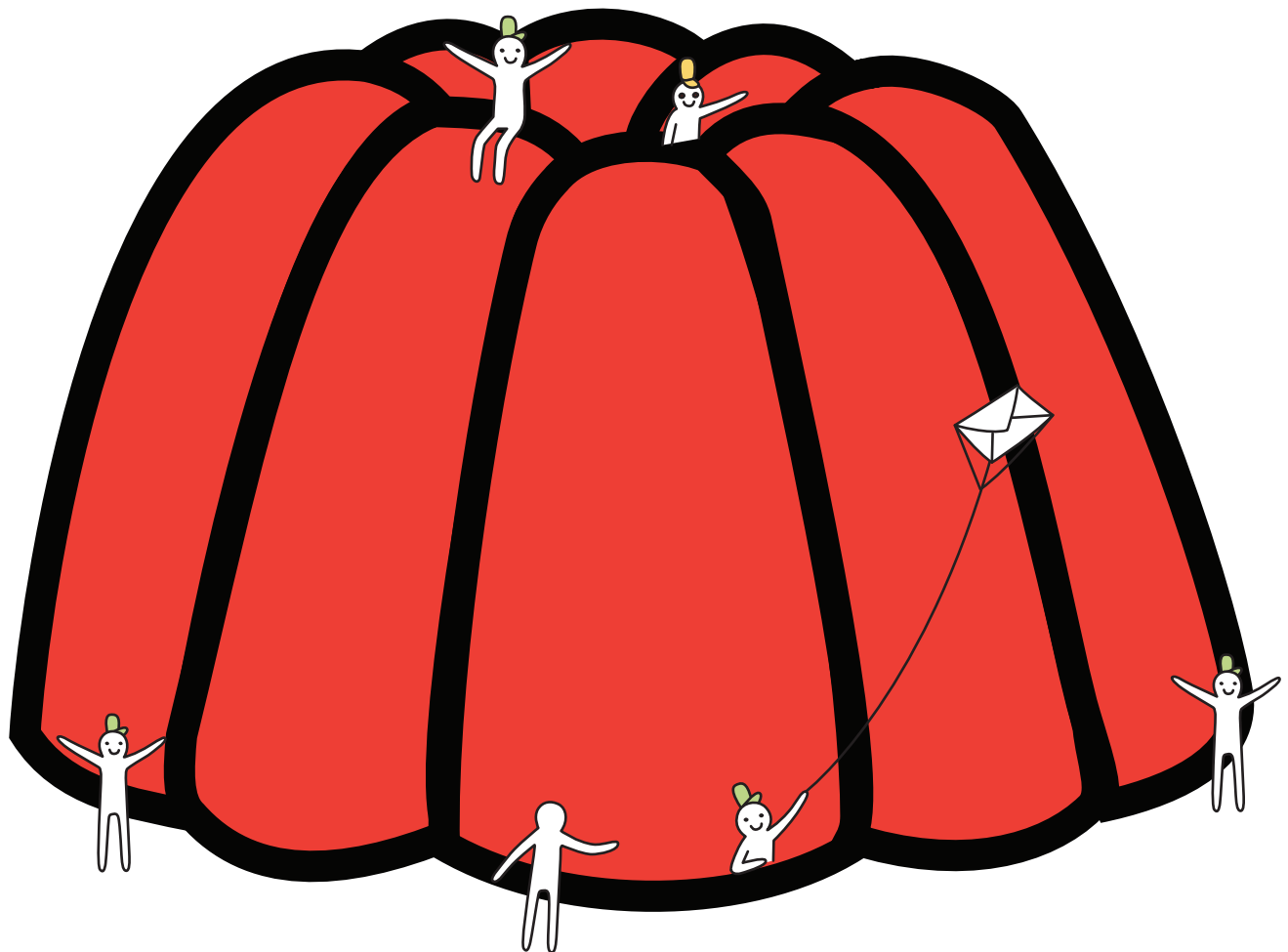
We had barely stepped out from the building when I heard booming footsteps.

I must have looked bewildered because Momo Fofu burst out in a fit of giggles. "I guess you haven't met our dinosaurs" she chuckled. "What?" I screamed in alarm.

"There are dinosaurs? We have to get out of here!" I shouted.

A dark shadow stretched over me. When I glanced up, I saw a frightful sight. A huge orange dinosaur with sharp teeth towered above me. It had a red eye which shot lasers around and had rough-looking skin and spikes on its body. I was **paralysed with fright**.

Thankfully, Momo Fofo comforted me with a soothing pat on my shaking back, and explained that these robot dinosaurs helped Singapore. They monitored the city, saving people from natural disasters and other **catastrophes**. The lasers were mostly used to kill mosquitoes.



## Back to Singapore 2014

In this new world, I felt like a stranger. I wanted to go home to my Singapore, where there were no metal trees, dinosaurs or jelly buildings. I wanted to go home.

"What's wrong?" My new friend whispered as she wiped a tear from my cheek.

I smiled, and slid my phone from my pocket. Instinctively, I clicked the home button but nothing happened. Panic rose in my chest. In frustration, I slammed my palm against my phone and boom!

I was hurtled through the air as everything turned foggy and blue. I struggled to keep my vision clear as I felt my strength draining away. Everything went black.

I woke with a jolt. It only took a moment to recognise my surroundings – I was back in my room!

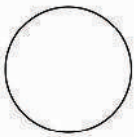
Home sweet home. The smell of toast and freshly baked cookies filled the air and my belly rumbled. I heard my parents moving around the kitchen – I was truly home.

That sure was a crazy dream!  
Or was it not...?



# HOW TO DRAW A DINOSAUR!

1.



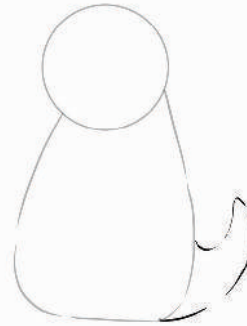
Draw a circle

2.



Draw a triangle  
as shown

3



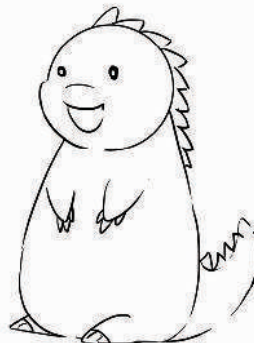
Add a tail

4.



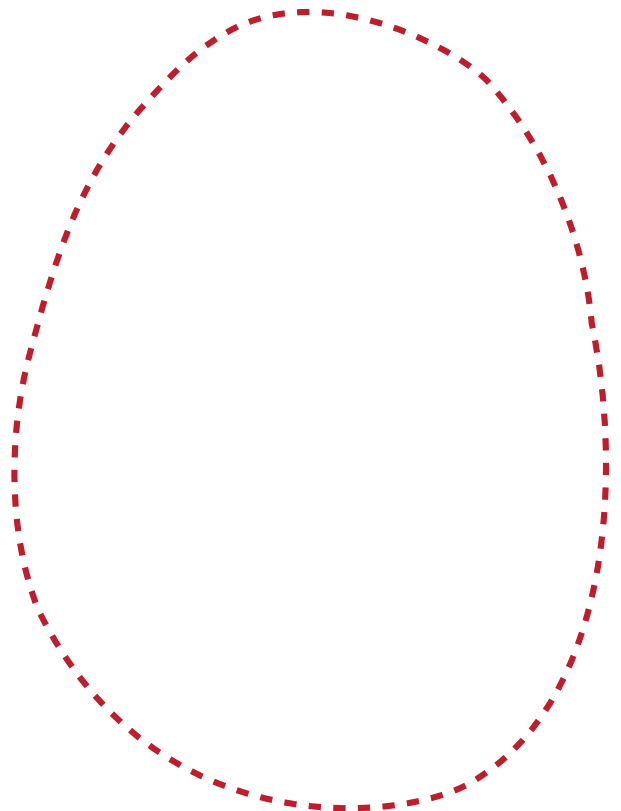
Add eyes, mouth, hands  
and legs as shown

5.



Draw triangles as  
claws and spines

Now draw your own!



# WORK HARD, PLAY HARD



"Dreams are extremely important.  
You can't do it unless you imagine it"  
- George Lucas



# HOW I DISCOVERED A TIME-TRAVEL PORTAL IN MY ROOM

BY ISAAC CHEE

## More than Spring-Cleaning

Stomp, stomp, stomp. I dragged my heavy feet to my room. I had to finish a chore I hated – packing my room.

Buoyed by the promise of meeting my friends after housekeeping, I tried to clean up as fast as I could.

Suddenly, I spotted something glinting in the corner of my room. As I approached it, my right foot fell through a shimmering **vortex** that appeared suddenly. With a scream, the rest of me followed.

A whooshing sound followed by a cold wind told me I was still alive. The first thing I saw was a tall signboard with the words “Welcome to Singapore”. My **interest piqued**, I walked through the gates of the city.

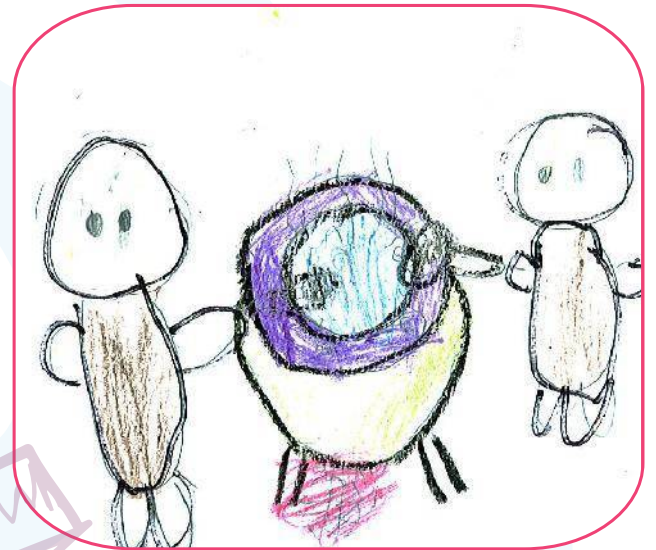


Illustration by Ong Chee Yu

## Welcome to Mars



As I peered around, I was stunned by a burst of light. When I opened my teary eyes, a tall man was standing in front of me. He said, "Welcome to Mars, Stranger. I'm William."

William continued, "I created an opening in the past to bring you here, so that you can tell everyone about the future. Our country was flooded so we decided to leave the planet. The scientists engineered people to live comfortably on Mars so that we do not need air to breathe."

"Come" he said, "let's view some of the sights. We can talk as we sightsee."

William explained, "Everyone here has perfect eyesight because we all have robotic eyes. We do not need water and air to survive."

He paused and gestured to a clear pool in front of us, "Our famous Merlion has also come alive!"

Summoned by William's words, I saw a creature with a milky-white lion head and fish tail pop shyly out of the water.

My tummy suddenly rumbled. I clutched it in embarrassment. William **chuckled**, "Come on. Lunch is on me! Shall we head to my favourite restaurant?"

Before long, I was faced with a spread of juicy hamburgers, crispy fries and succulent strawberries. I could barely restrain myself from gobbling everything up.

After that satisfying meal, we put on our wings and flew, free as birds, around futuristic Singapore for a tour.

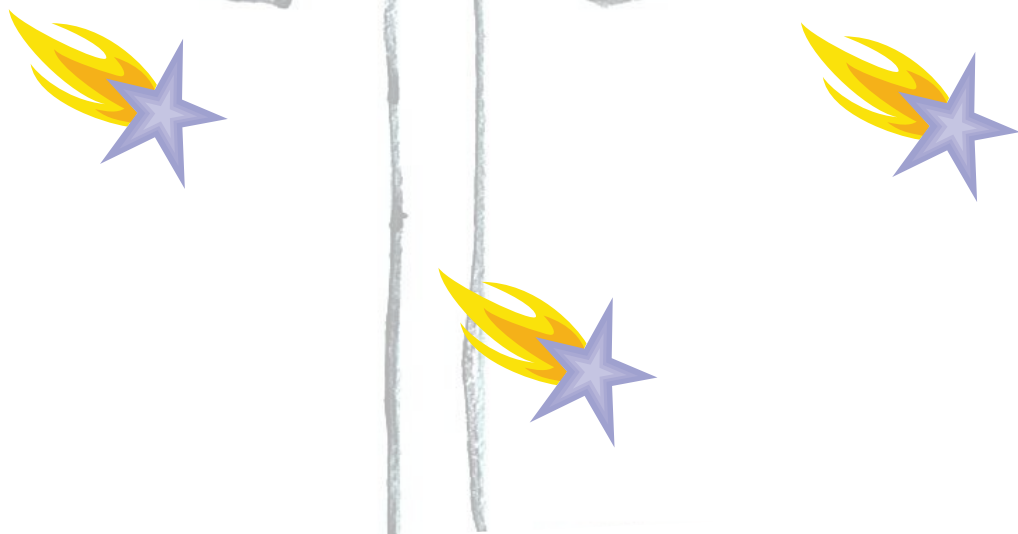
Seeing a familiar sight in the distance, I dove towards it at top speed. The Singapore Flyer was still standing on the banks of the Marina Barrage!

Families waved excitedly at me through the thick glass of the cabins. They motioned with their hands, inviting me to take a spin with them.

Although I would have liked to stay longer, I knew that I had a duty to return to the Singapore I am familiar with.

William nodded understandingly, "Return home and let Singaporeans know that this wondrous future awaits their children and grandchildren."

Suddenly, a portal opened up in front of me to take me back to year 2014. This time, I stepped into it unafraid.



# HOW TO DRAW A MERLION!

1.



Draw an eight

2.



Draw two circles like  
example above

3



Draw three triangles

4.



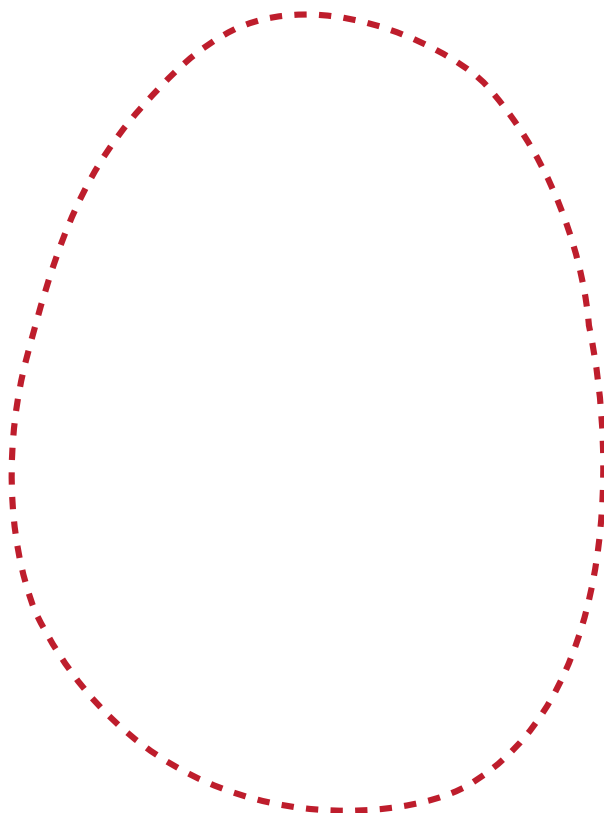
Draw simple lines

5.



Add eyes and  
connect the lines

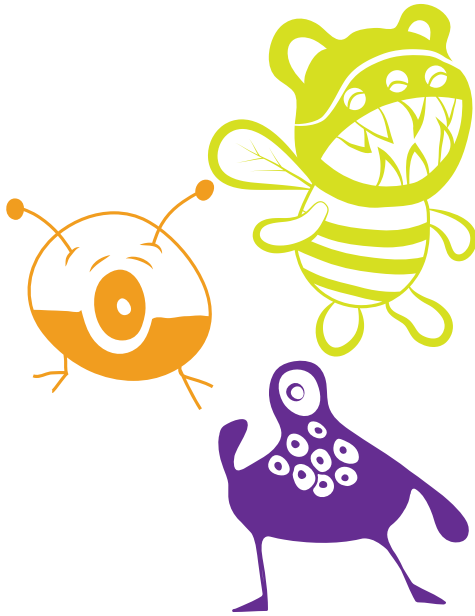
Now draw your own!





# FIVE THINGS TO DO IN SINGAPORE 2114

BY CHUA YE XUAN



A century ago, most people flew to their holiday destination on a plane. For the modern Singaporean, my method is somewhat similar – I teleport using a toilet bowl on the plane.

Today, Singapore is an inclusive space colony. We welcome everyone, even aliens and zombies.

## Attending Mr Rombie II's Class



My teacher, Mr Rombie II, is a big, fat, friendly zombie who gives us good tips on making ecologically-friendly bombs.

We unleash these bombs onto bad people's houses. These bombs will turn everything and everyone in the house a bright blue.

This colour cannot be washed off till the person truly repents. This is to warn bad people to **walk the straight path**.

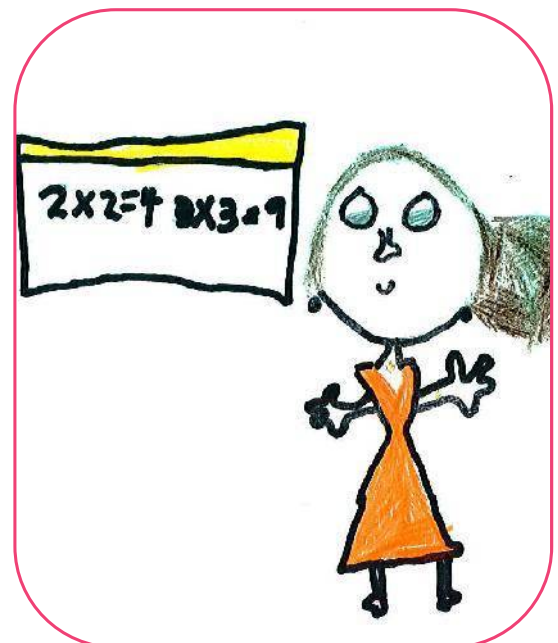


Illustration by Chang Tai Ying

## Recipe for Alien Cakes 2

My best friend in school is an alien called Meeb. Meeb and I spend recess together where we trade homemade snacks. His mother makes the best Alien Cake in the universe!

It is not hard to make at all. You just need 100 grams of space dust, 25 stars and a **dollop** of meteor paste. Mix that all up and bake for 365 days in the Milky Way. I guarantee that you will love it!

## To the Moon and Back 3

After school is out, I usually go to the moon where there is a beautiful viewing platform. Sometimes, pea-green moon rabbits appear and you can talk to one if it is in the mood.

If you stay long enough, you can see the Earth turn on its axis. I squint and stare, trying to imagine how humans in the past lived on that watery planet.



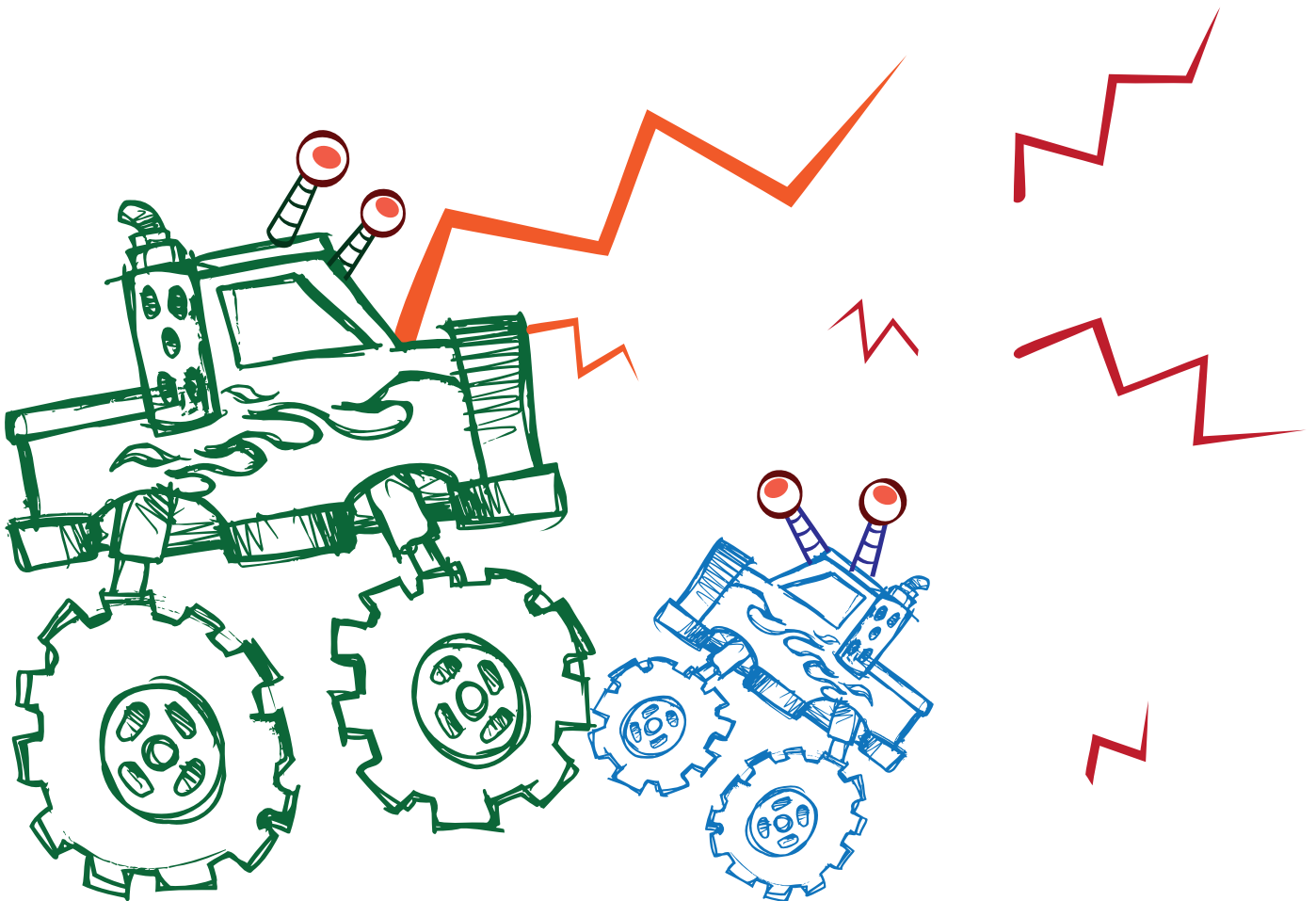
Illustration by Jilian Hong

## Out and About Town 4

I also like to occasionally pop over to the Esplanade to eat durians with my friends. The vendors there charge the same price for a box of durians as they are all robots.

To purchase some durians, you slot a gold coin into the robot's hand (One coin is equivalent to \$20,000 of your money).

Do not be alarmed if you hear a clacking noise. That is simply the robot durian vendor opening up the spiny fruit within its boxy body. Behold! A neat tray of creamy yellow durian seeds will slide out soon.



## An Invitation to the Narrator's Home 5

As my friends, you are all invited to visit me at home.

My house is controlled entirely by my phone. If it is a hot day, I can turn on the air-conditioner while on my way back. The house would be nice and cool by the time I arrive.

I can also command my household appliances to prepare us a **sumptuous** meal. As it is a smart house, it automatically knows what our favourite foods are.

Have I interest you in dropping by Singapore for a nice space vacation? Do say you'll pay me a visit. You can even borrow my teleporting toilet bowl!

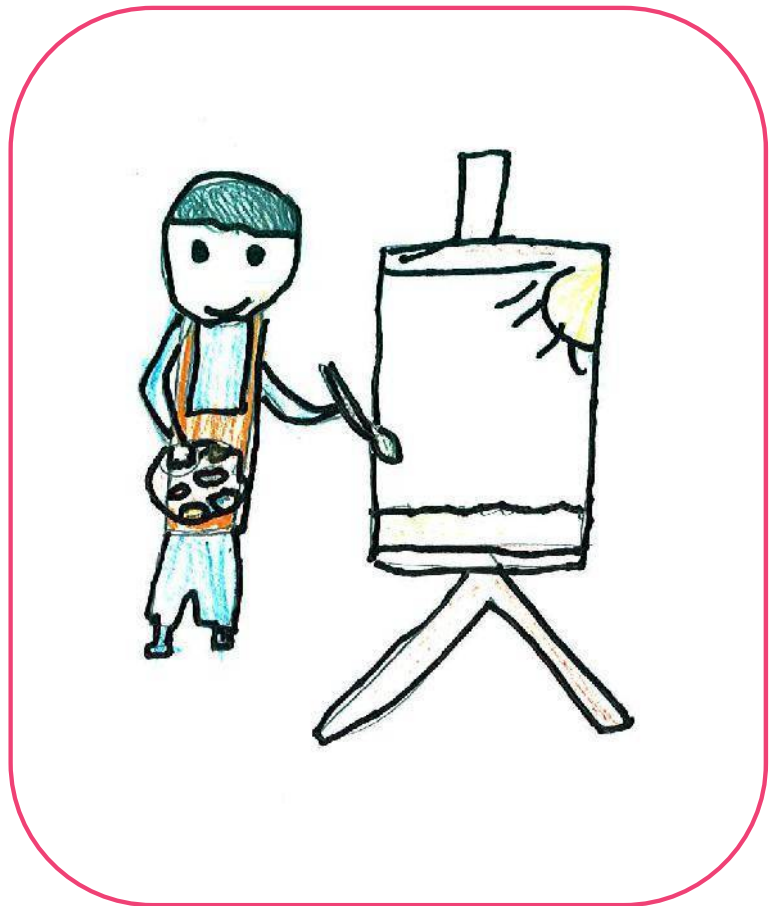


Illustration by Chua Hui Hock





# HOW TO DRAW A MOON RABBIT!

1.



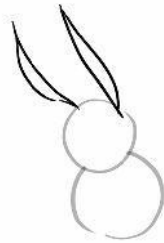
Draw a circle

2.



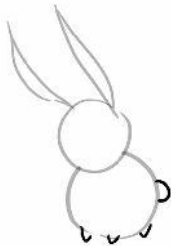
Draw a bigger circle underneath it

3.



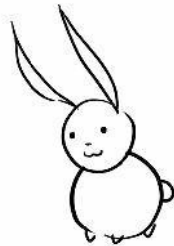
Draw two long ears on top of the smaller circle as shown

4.



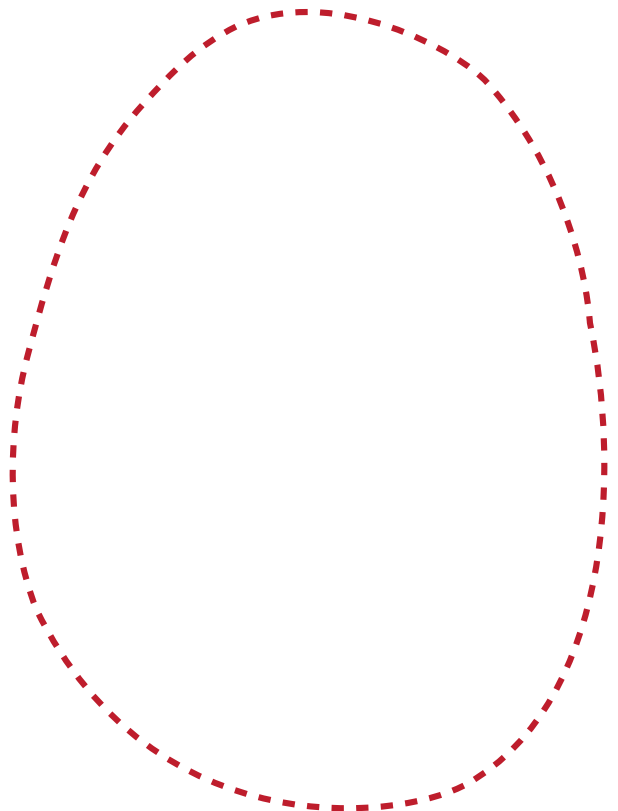
Add the rabbit's feet and a round tail

5.



Draw the rabbit's face

Now draw your own!



# A CONVERSATION: LOOKING BACK ON THE PAST 100 YEARS

BY NG ZHI HOU

## Extreme Living

It will be my 110th birthday soon and I have never felt better! As someone who lived through the different ages, come closer and let me tell you about the many wonderful things I saw.

I never believed that humankind would be able to achieve all these accomplishments in such a short time.

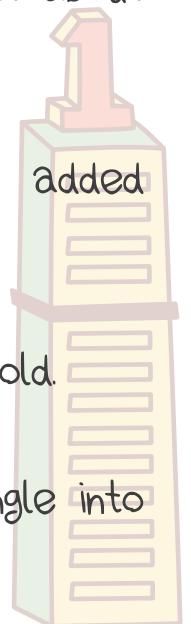
Fancy us living somewhere other than the surface of the Earth. In fact, we have taken to living in 'extreme' places!

You might think it is unbearable – impossible even – to live inside a volcano. It is actually quite cozy. The temperature is constant (at about 1100 degrees Celsius) and there is light everywhere we go.

We do not feel the heat as our brilliant scientists have added fire-resistivity to our bodies, along with longevity.

Everything inside our volcano is also grandly outfitted in solid gold.

It is a sight to behold when the sun shines at just the right angle into the mouth of our home. Everything sparkles and gleams!



The advantages of living within a volcano are varied. One of the top reasons is that we never get colds because we are kept warm all the time.

Another of my personal favourites is that I can simply fling meats at the walls and grill myself a **hearty** meal in seconds!

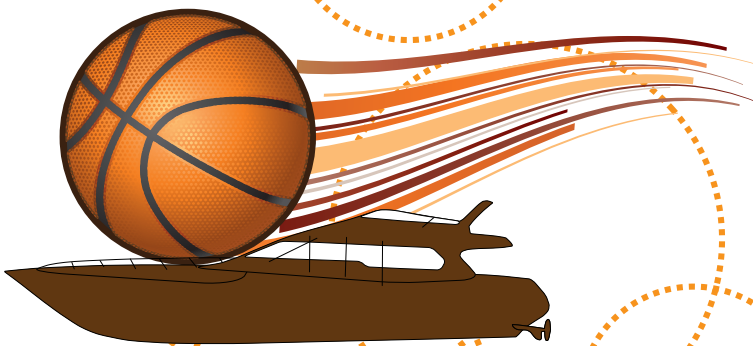
## Venturing Out

We are not confined to living our days in a volcano though. We can go out for trips around the region anytime we want.

We all have different modes of transport. My vehicle is called a basketball speed boat. It moves by expelling gusts of air from the basketballs I stock in the engine.

A bonus is that I always have a basketball handy for **impromptu** games with my friends!

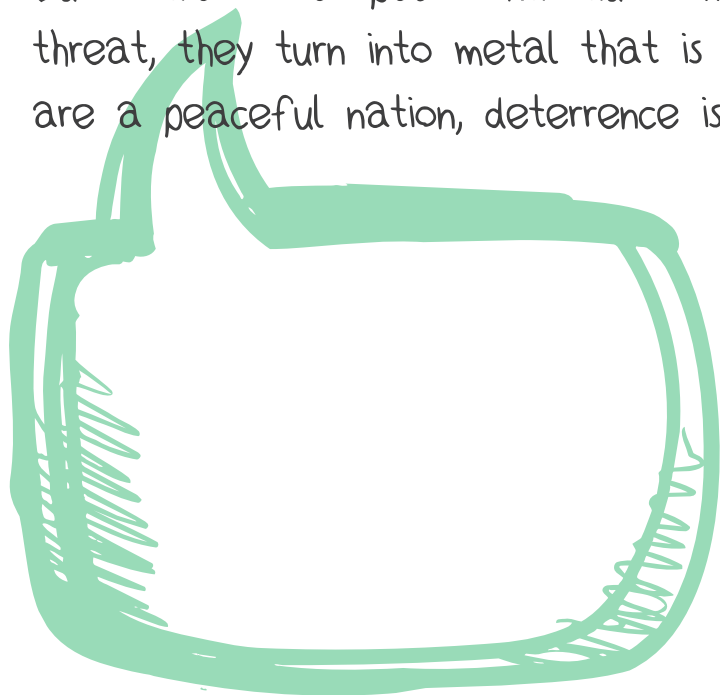
I usually park my vehicle anywhere I want. This is because Singapore is ranked as the safest country to live in.



## Peace in an Active Volcano

We can enjoy this serenity because our beautiful volcano-state is guarded by highly trained military forces.

Our soldiers are special individuals who can modify their bodies. Under threat, they turn into metal that is resistant to all weapons. While we are a peaceful nation, deterrence is always preferable.



How do you think  
soldiers in 2114  
will look like?

While I have retired, my eyesight is still as sharp as an eagle's! When I pledged to protect Singapore, I underwent procedures to make my eyes super-sonic, among other superpowers.

If you promise not to let anybody else know, I will let you in on a classified secret. I am able to create gold from air and read minds as well!



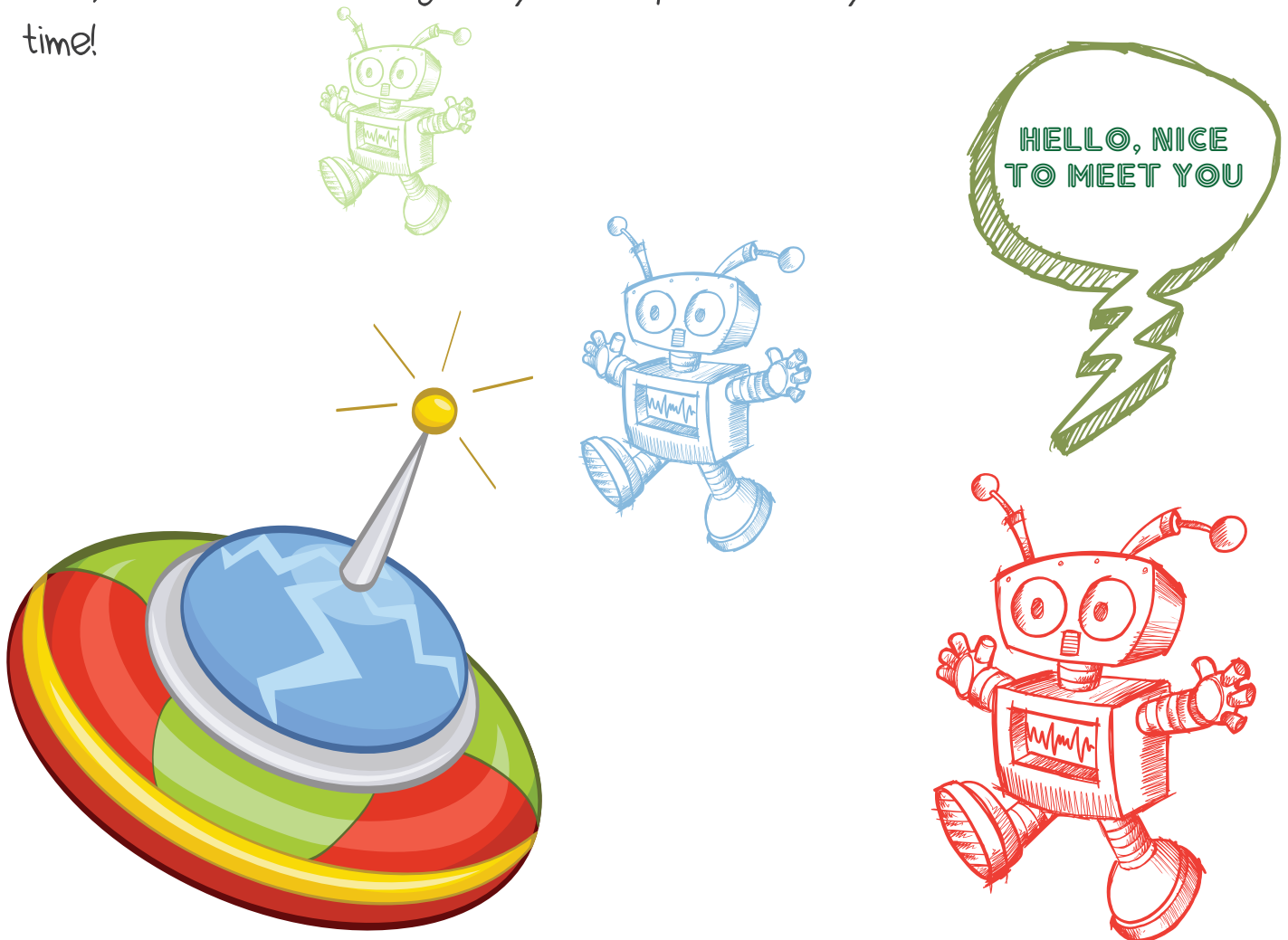


I can sense that you are itching to find out more about my life. Let me tell you about my grandson. He is just like me – a proud Singaporean who is honoured to protect everybody living in this volcano.

That tall building in the distance belongs to him. We all live there as a big, happy family. My wife and I take one floor, while various other branches of the family occupy the rest of the nine floors.

I see the sun is setting. It is getting late, I must be off! My eyesight, though supersonic, only works best in sunlight.

Well, it was nice talking to you. I hope to see you around some other time!



Hidden in the puzzle are 10 of your friends' dream jobs. Using the clues given for each job description, discover what they want to be when they grow up. What are YOUR dreams?



Illustrations by Mohd Rasydan Azim, Syarmayne and Sophie Tan



## Cross Word Puzzle

1. Clue: I am a creative individual, who sees beauty everywhere. I transfer what I see onto canvas with my trusty paints and brushes.

A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. Clue: I wield my instrument with grace and speed, hitting every shuttlecock with accuracy.

B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3. Clue: To be good at my game, I make sure that I drink lots of milk to grow tall and practise jumping and dunking.

B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4. Clue: I am quick on my feet and have a great sense of rhythm! To portray a story or lyrics to a song, I use body language and movements to tell you my story.

D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. Clue: People usually see me in my white coat and stethoscope, busily seeing to all those who come to me with some form of physical discomfort.

D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

6. Clue: The happiest time of my day is when I am with 10 other teammates on the green pitch, chasing a black and white ball.

F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

7. Clue: I have no wings but I can fly in the blue sky. My responsibility is to make sure my passengers reach their destination safely.

P \_ \_ \_ \_

8. Clue: Who says girls are not tough? I am a real-life superhero in blue and crime fighting is my specialty!

P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

9. Clue: The stage is where I touch all my fans with my voice. I can move my audience to tears or get them tapping their feet to my catchy songs.

S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

10. Clue: Some might think I am fierce but all I want is for my students to understand the joy of learning. When they grasp a concept, my heart is gladdened!

T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



# VOCABULARY LIST

## My Humble Abode

**Cajoling:** The act of persuading someone to do something by making promises or compliments

**Dejectedly:** The act of slowly and sadly doing something

## A Hundred Years from Now

**Inaugural:** To mark the beginning of an activity or programme

**Mantra:** An often repeated word or phrase that expresses a belief

**Enterprising spirit:** To describe someone, who is independent and has a "never-say-never" attitude

## Green Superpowers: A Tribute to Gaia

**Putrid:** Describing a very bad smell

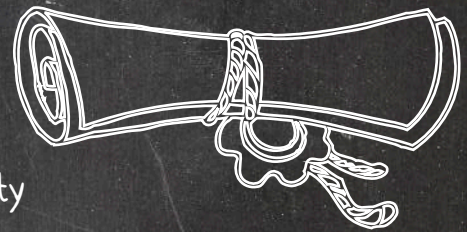
**Antidote:** A substance that stops the harmful effects of poison

**Interspersing:** Used in this story to describe lightning-like currents between the character's fingers

## My Home, My Singapore in 2114

**Sleek:** A surface that is smooth and shiny

**Hustle-bustle:** Describing busy and noisy activity



## A Singaporean Dream

**Hunched:** Someone whose back is curved forward and crooked

**Newly minted:** Used in this story to describe a new period of growth for the poet

## A Typical Day in Singapore in 2114

**Incredulously:** To show that you cannot believe something is true

**Clamoured:** To noisily speak up all at one time

**Flailed:** To swing something around wildly, used in this story to describe the crazy movement of the octopus bell's arms



## The Time-Traveller's Decision

**Morphed and warped:** To describe something that is bent and twisted out of shape, usually due to extreme heat

**Squelched:** The sucking sound when something is pulled from a sticky surface

**Tousled:** An action of making someone's hair untidy

## Singapore 2114: A Dream or a Vision?

**Humongous:** Something that is very huge

**Lurched violently:** Describing a very sudden movement sideways or forward

**Paralysed with fright:** To be so scared that you cannot move or talk

**Catastrophes:** Used to describe disasters

## How I Discovered a Time-Travel Portal in My Room

**Vortex:** A mass of spinning air that pulls objects into its centre

**Interest piqued:** Used to describe making someone interested or curious

**Chuckled:** A quiet laugh

## Five Things to do in Singapore 2114

**Walk the straight path:** Describing an honest life

**Dollop:** A small amount of soft food

**Sumptuous:** Something that is very delicious and luxurious

## A Conversation: Looking Back on The Past 100 Years

**Hearty:** Used in this story to describe a large and satisfying meal

**Impromptu:** Something that was not planned ahead of time







# SPECIAL THANKS



## Fei Yue Family Service Centre (Bukit Batok)

Chua Hui Hock, Chua Leng, Bellferlin Neo, Ferlinear Neo, Loo Jun Kai, Martin Hafiyyan Bin Kasmani, Nur Alisah Binte Abdullah, Nur Syarahmita Bte Safari, Ong Xu'er, Pavan Ram, Shaniq Syameer Bin Ab Rizam, Shariydan Syah Bin Ab Rizam, Shazirin Sazly Bin Ab Rizam, Sherwin Neo, Suriyan Raj Edward & Valencia Ong

## Fei Yue Student Care Centre (Bukit Batok)

Abel Leng, Bontha John Aparanjan, Chua Ye Xuan, David Lim, JJay Vikesh, Jaeden Law, Jonathan Lim, Isaac Chee, Loh Guan Jia, Louis Kok, Phua Jun Hao, Ng Jing Quan, Ng Zhi Hou, Tan Seng Yong, Wilber Ng & Zhang Zhuo Yang

## Janus Education, Young Author Scheme

Caleb Loh, Chua Hui Xuan, Dejay Shastikk Kumaran, Goh Si Yun, Jayden Tan, Jillian Hong, Lo Shuk Yi, Malcolm Tan, Ning Jun Kam, Sharifah Safiyya Hanim Aljunied, Sophie Tan & Zhang Jun Wei

## Lakeside Family Services

Ace Khor, Ang Wei Jie, Haw Yuan Jun, Jonathan Lim, Koh Chiang Liang, Lenny Cheong, Lim Jing Chong, Louis Lim, Meera D/O Narayansamy Naidu, Ong Chee Yu, Tan Sheng Jie & Vikrammathitan Kathiravan

## New Life Community Services

Ang Yong Kai, Chang Tai Ying, Chrishun Poh, Desmond Heng, Goh Guan Yi, Irvin Yong, Lee Li En, Lee Li Ning, Lee Li Xin, Liu JunSun, Muhd Edrian Ezany Bin Muhd Ridzuan, Muhd Hidayat Bin Muhd Hadi Ng, Michelle Heng, Suhaiqal Bin Suhaidi & Tan Yong Jie

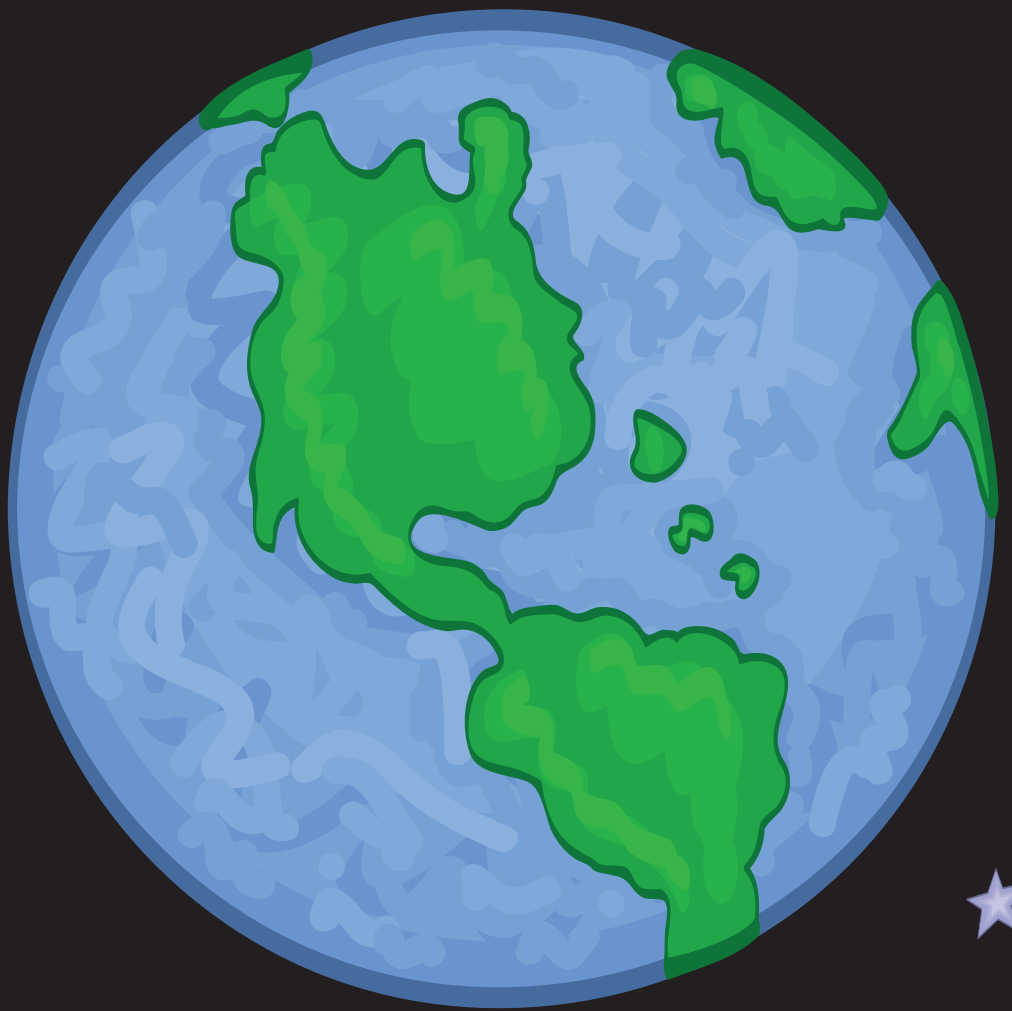
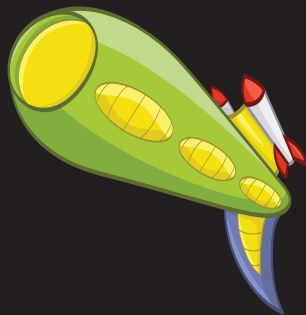
## PPS Student Care Centre (Jurong)

Adrian Sajjad bin Mohd, Aqasha Danish bin Muhd Al-Farouk, Mohd Rasydan Azim bin Mohd Rushdy Azhari, Nur Sakinah binte Abdullah, Zahirulhaq bin Mohd Hazimin, Hanis Syakirin binte Abdullah, Muhd Nur Zikry bin Muhd Zuhri, Syarmayne binte Shahril, Khalifah Al-Muhaimin bin Muhd Al-Farouk, Muhd Nur Fakhri' Asim bin Muhd Zainuddin, Nur Amirah binte Rahmat, Nur Puterinasha binte Abdul Rahman, Nurin Nadhirah binte Ibrahim, Putri Iryannie binte Mohd Kamil & Putri Maisarah binte Zohari

## Thye Hua Kwan FSC @ Tanjong Pagar

Anusha Sri d/o Sri Krishnamurthy, Cheong Cheng Jun, Dian Farzianna, Dian Nazrianna, Jane Kymberley, Mahiya Nazar, Mevinderjit Singh s/o Amar S, Mohd Alfian Bin Mohd Isa, Muhd Fahrurrazi, Nor Adeanty Binte Asmeef, Nur Suhaidah, Shahjud Ali, Sonalijit Singh d/o Amar S & Queenie Cheong





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Chanel Roberts, Chloe Roberts, Dolly Tan (TCTF  
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Godwin Ng, Jeethi Nair (TCTF Intern), Jacqueline Peeris,  
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