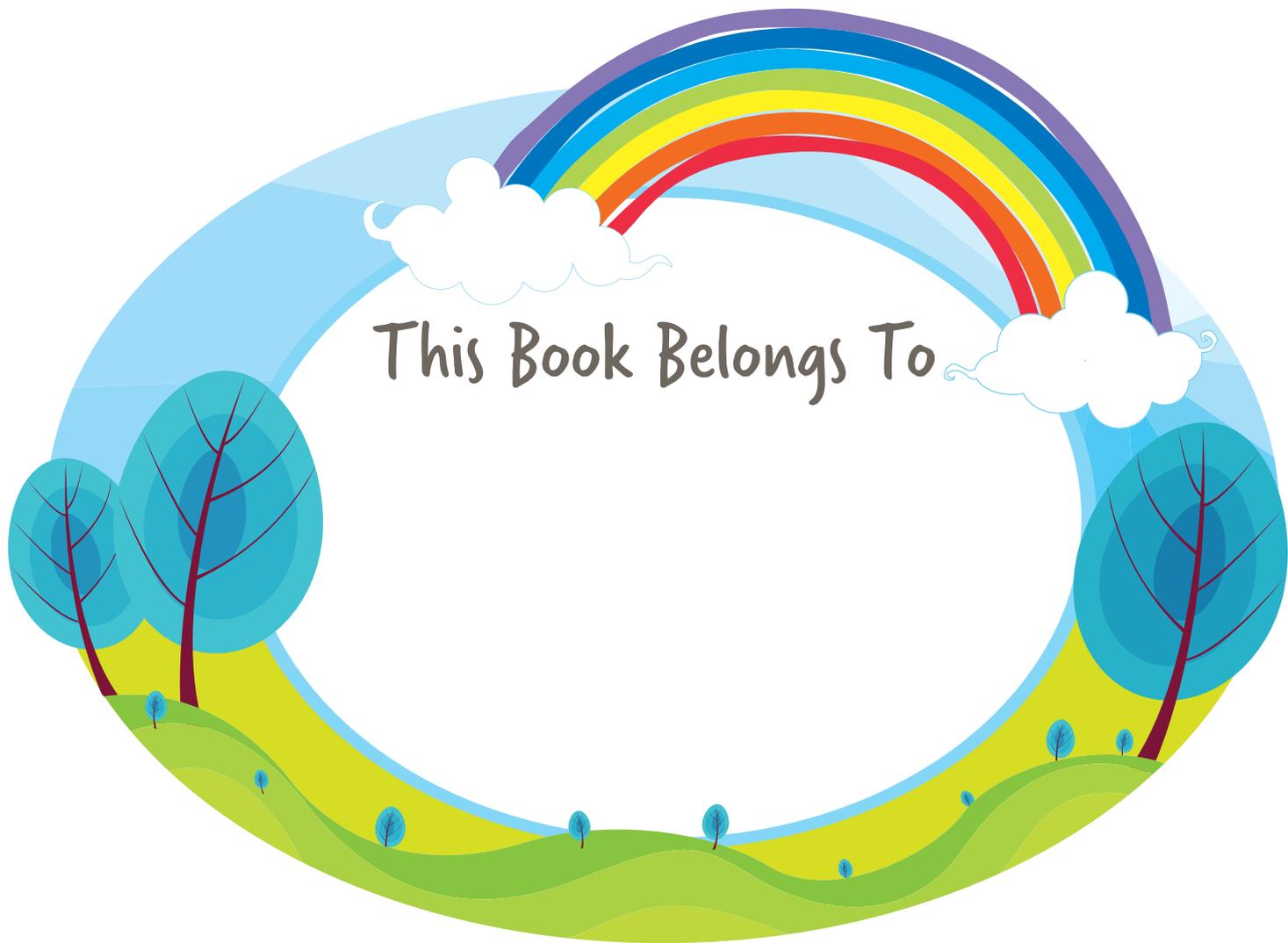


C.H.A.N.G.E.





This Book Belongs To



About Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) was set up in Singapore on 10 April 1976 by the late Tan Sri (Dr.) Tan Chin Tuan to help the 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.



In line with its focus on education and community development, TCTF initiated the "More Than Words" programme to provide opportunities for children to learn and communicate creatively.

About More Than Words

The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF) initiated "More Than Words" in 2013 to give children and teens assisted by charitable organisations greater exposure to reading, writing and the performance arts. The purpose was to enrich their learning journey through educational and enjoyable activities. Our beneficiaries were ferried to plays, musicals, animation workshops and museum tours. TCTF engaged arts specialists to train the children and teens in speech and drama, creative writing, music or dance. The entire project was wholly funded by the foundation.



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

Contents

- 4. Foreword
- 9. Our Learning Gallery
- 13. Community and Home
- 31. Aspirations for the Nation
- 41. Gaia and the Environment
- 60. Vocabulary Glossary
- 62. Acknowledgements

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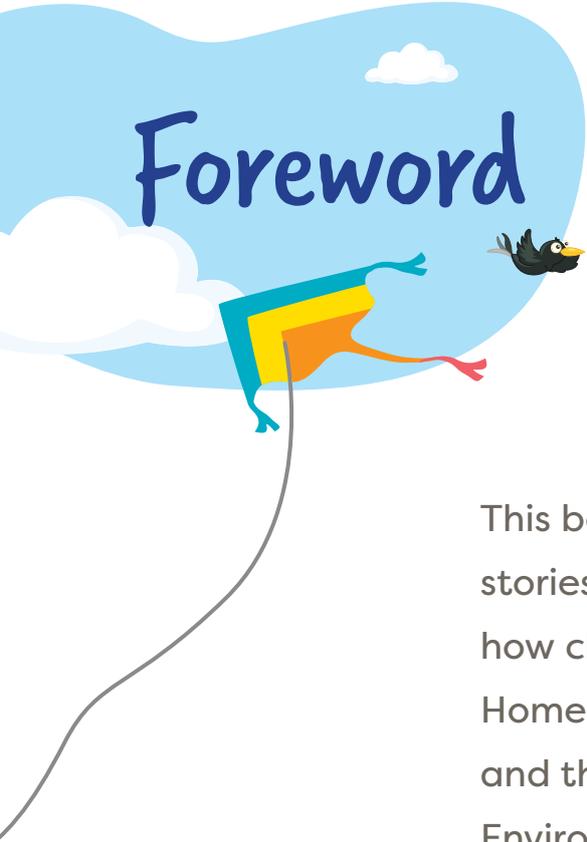
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Foreword



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

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

How wonderful and lasting a gift it would be if we created avenues for these children to blossom in self-confidence as they learned and grew through speech and drama, music, dance, creative writing workshops and educational excursions. With support from TCTF's Council and a dedicated TCTF team, More Than Words was borne. Over 2,000 people have participated since 2013.

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



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





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

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





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

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

Ms. Yap Su-Yin
(EO, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (TCTF))

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH NEW TOWN CAREHUT





MTW - Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum





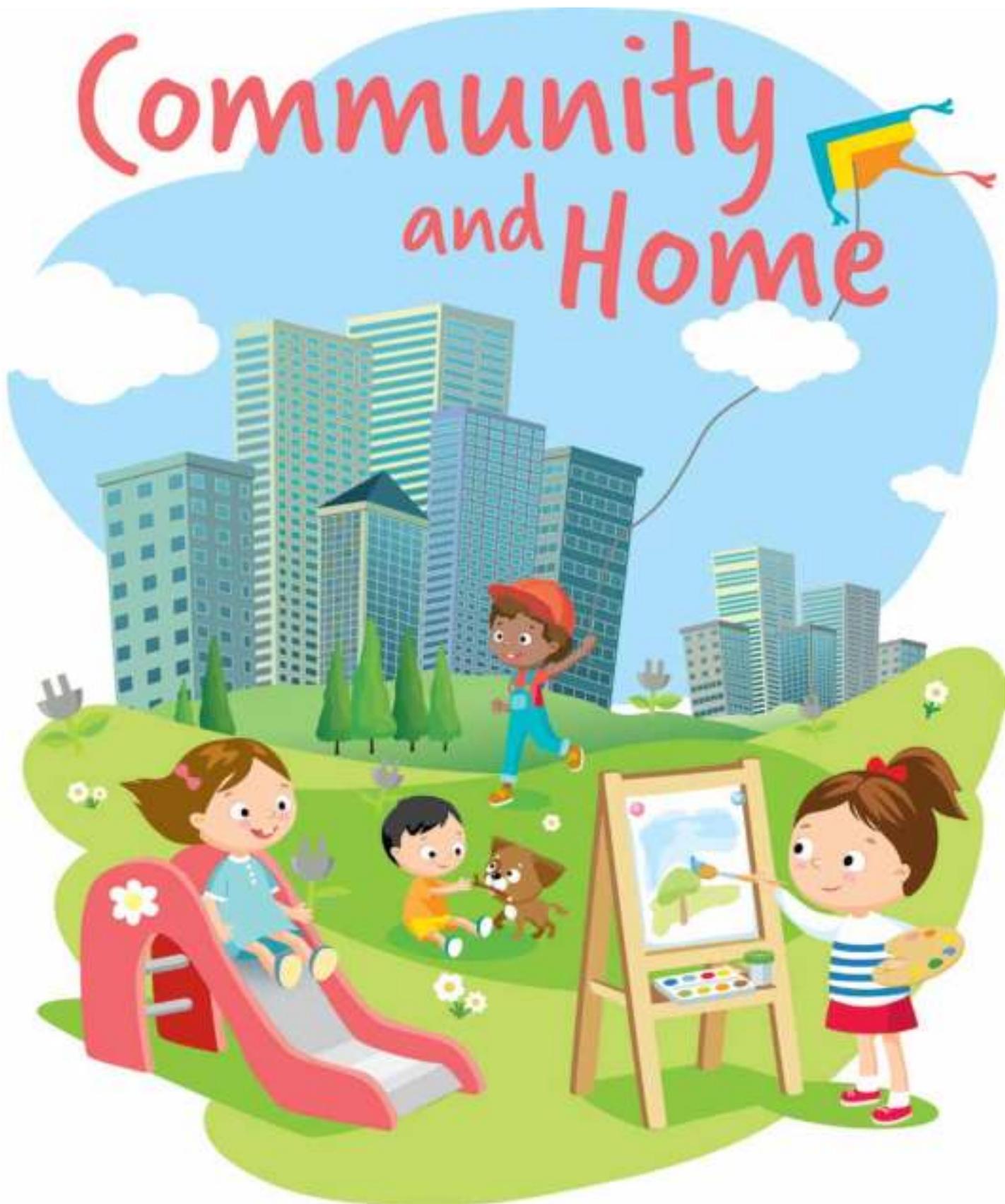
YARP - BROADCASTING WORKSHOP WITH RADIO PULZE



TÊTE-À-TÊTE @ TCTF AWARD RECIPIENTS TEA



Community and Home



Never Stop Learning Through the Ages!

Inspired by Nur Aleeya, Clervelle Teo and Nur Syafiqah



Special Elderly Academy

“Hurry up Grandpa! You are going to be late for school!”

“So will you, little boy!” replied Grandpa.

John and his Grandpa left the house together every morning for school. John headed to his primary school, while Grandpa attended the Special Elderly Academy. A grandpa going to school? That’s right! It was a school especially for the elderly.

Grandpa learnt a lot at school. During Information and Technology (IT) classes, he learnt how to use smartphones and tablets. These IT lessons helped the elderly stay updated with the latest developments in technology and the way people today communicated with one another. The other day, Grandpa was very pleased when he took a selfie with John for the first time! Grandpa was getting cooler by the day, John thought to himself.

I ♥ to Play

Illustration by Wen Si Ai

The school also paid special attention to the well-being of the elderly. In their golden age, the elderly may not be as nimble and healthy as youngsters, such as John. So Physical Education classes were incorporated into the timetable for them to get a good dose of simple exercises every day to keep them healthy. There was also a special canteen that only sells traditional food from Grandpa's time. The television at the canteen screened black-and-white movies by the late movie director, P. Ramlee. For the elderly, memories from their youth invoked a happy sense of **nostalgia**.



Illustration by Ayden Ong

The Golden Age of Learning

Teacher Mdm Aleeya regularly brought the elderly students to a park near the school. In bustling Singapore, it was a place reserved for the elderly. Not only were its gardens **tranquil** and beautiful, there were facilities inside the park that allowed the elderly to play sports. Even wheelchair-bound elderly could participate as they were moved

to a special hover-wheelchair when playing games. Every five minutes, bubbles **wafted** from a machine, like a dancing bubble fountain. The elderly loved watching the pretty bubbles glisten and float with the breeze.



The last lesson of the day was Grandpa's favourite – music lesson! Famous celebrities from the good old days teach the elderly folk how to play musical instruments such as the harmonica and **angklung**. Grandpa planned to perform for John and the family after he has perfected it. On some occasions, Grandpa would dress up in a nice suit to perform at the town park. Sometimes, his classmates would join him and the senior citizen band would perform a medley for the young and old to enjoy!



Illustration by wani

The Mighty Car

Inspired by Tan Wan Ting

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



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

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

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

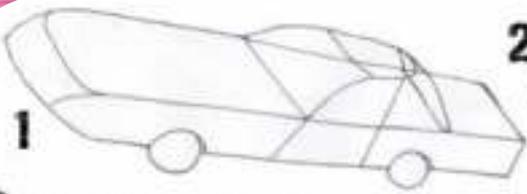
Don't worry when you are feeling down.
It knows how to erase your frown!

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

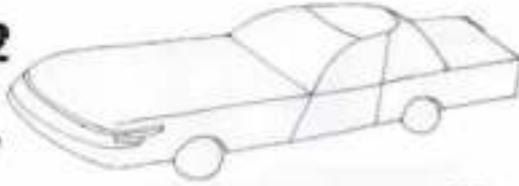
The mighty car will be affordable for everyone.
Even children can drive it and have fun!



Illustration by Mvhd Nur Zikry

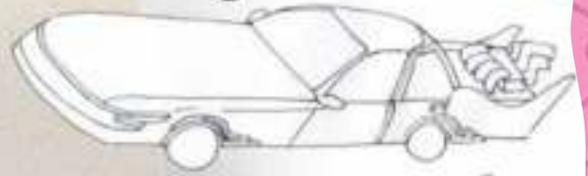


2



**DRAW YOUR VERY OWN
MIGHTY CAR**

3



4



5

Rowy and her Robot Friend

Inspired by Nur Zurroh Afifah, Vernice Chan and Rowena Oh

An Unexpected Guest

“Rowy! Wake up!”

“AHH! Who are you?!” Rowy opened her eyes in shock as a little robot zipped in front of her eyes. She turned to look at the clock and realised it was only 4 a.m. School was not until another three hours! She wanted so badly to return to her slumber... She had been dreaming of food, as she had only one meal a day due to serious food shortage on planet Earth. Why did this little robot wake Rowy up just when she was munching on a chicken wing in her dream?

The mini robot had wheels for legs and long metallic arms that shook Rowy’s shoulders. It rolled over onto Rowy’s tummy so that she could sit up and look at it. It introduced itself as A2-F4 and explained that it was created by the famous inventor, Afifah. Rowy’s world was facing the danger of pollution, deforestation and a **chronic** shortage of food and water. Afifah had chosen Rowy to be the heroine to save the world, and A2-F4 was assigned to be her assistant.



Illustration by wana

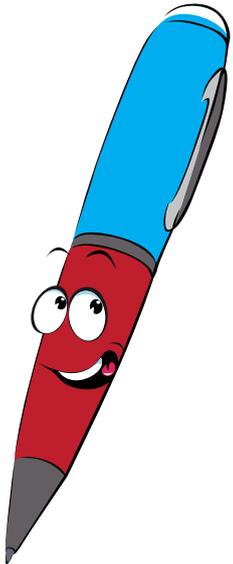
“This is crazy!” groaned Rowy, “I am just a little girl. I can’t save the world. I can’t even stop my hunger pangs!”

“Sure you can, with this!” A robot arm appeared from A2-F4’s head, and she was handed a futuristic-looking pen.

The Pen is Mightier than the Sword

Rowy was the best in class for drawing and she happily reached for the new pen. A2-F4 informed her that it was a super pen that could read her thoughts. Anything she drew would become a real object and work exactly the way she wanted it to! Now all Rowy had to do was to ponder what to draw.

Her stomach grumbled again from hunger. With the current situation of food shortage afflicting Earth, Rowy only had a bowl of plain soup the night before.



“Let me start with food!” She drew a whole orchard of trees, but not just any tree, the leaves were edible vegetables and fruits: there was broccoli, lettuce, apples and peaches. All the trees had branches that tasted just like potatoes. Everything she sketched became real. She reached out of her window to pluck a plump, juicy peach from a nearby tree, and grinned as the sweet burst of flavour filled her taste buds.



Illustration by wana

“Now I will make the whole place more beautiful!” She thought hard and drew many rain clouds. Out of these clouds poured clean water, which filled the parched rivers and washed the dusty streets. She drew gentle spiral strokes and these became a breeze that blew the dirty air away. The murky colour of the streets disappeared with the wind and rain to reveal **pristine** buildings, surrounded by colourful fruit trees and plants.

Looking out of her window, Rowy was extremely proud of her handiwork. She returned the magical pen to A2-F4. Imagine how surprised the people would be, chuckled Rowy, when they woke up to see the clean and green streets that Rowy created! Snuggled under her covers and excited for a new morning, Rowy dreamt of all the change she could bring, with a magical pen and her boundless creativity.





Activity Page



With Rowy 's super pen, what would
you draw to change the world?



Learning from the Birds

Inspired by Lui Wai Fung and Sasithran

When you look around, you will find that our city is sparkling and squeaky clean! This has been made possible by our feathered friends from the Singapore Bird Park. They have been trained to spot and recycle all rubbish and fallen leaves with a swift swoop.

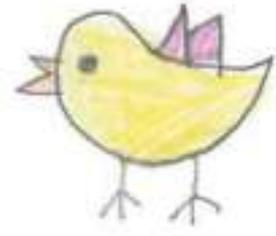


Illustration by Yuki Ng

Beginnings of a Bright Idea

Two optimistic and determined boys, Wai Fung and Sasi, saw the urgent need to keep Singapore clean and green. As they sat on a park bench and gazed at the **azure** sky, they saw two little green parrots, Jojo and Dodo. “**Eureka!**” The boys looked at each other and said in unison, “The birds roaming the skies could be the solution to our **conundrum!**”

The two boys poured all their efforts into caring and training the parrots, Jojo and Dodo. Their efforts paid off as the two parrots rose to become trainers, and the best in the cleaning crew. With special nutrition, they grew into huge birds that could carry Wai Fung and Sasi on their backs, to admire the green city they maintained daily.

After each long day of cleaning, the birds returned to their “nest” – a tree house that they shared with the boys. The tree house was lovingly assembled – stick by stick – by the birds to thank Wai Fung and Sasi for all their patience and kindness.



Illustration by Ng Sin Nan

Fighting a Losing Battle

One day, to their horror, they found their precious tree house wrecked. It lay broken at the foot of the tree. Wai Fung and Sasi were utterly **devastated**: Who could have done something so horrible?

As the two boys looked helplessly at the remains of their once beautiful tree house, Jojo hopped around desperately, wanting to tell the boys something. The two boys had previously created a gadget to translate the birds’ tweets into words that enabled the boys to understand them. Sasi placed the gadget on the birds and Jojo exclaimed, “The hunters did this! In their attempts to shoot a bird, they must have shot at the trees and destroyed our tree house!”



Illustration by Sasithran

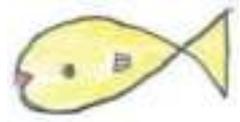
Dodo



True enough, news spread around the city, informing citizens that ruthless hunters were on the loose, with their **vile** intentions to kill the birds for their beautiful feathers and to grill them for their next meal. However, apart from Wai Fung and Sasi, no one took the initiative to stop the hunters and protect the birds. As a result, the birds were losing hopelessly in the fight against the hunters.

Wai Fung and Sasi had no choice but to tell the birds to remain at their new makeshift home, in order to hide from the hunters' bullets. Soon, the city's citizens felt – and smelt – the absence of the bird cleaners as unsightly piles of rubbish and rotten leaves marred the streets.

Illustration by
Yuki Ng

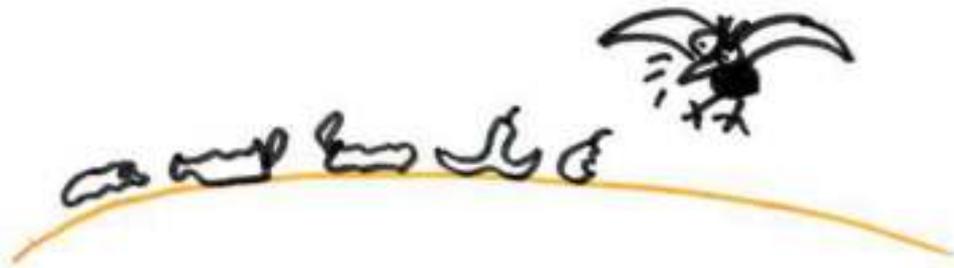


A Clever Invention

The innovative boys devised a huge magnetic net over their home, and placed similar magnets around the park. Now you might wonder, why magnets? The citizens and hunters wondered too. The hunters, unafraid of the nets and assuming that their bullets could go through the small holes of the net, tried to shoot at the boys and the birds' **haven**, only to realise that the magnetic nets repelled their bullets and sent them back at the hunters!



Illustration by
sasithran



The hunters escaped in fear and vowed never to go near the clever boys and their parrots again. The citizens saw how the magnets worked and began to do their part by placing more magnets all over the city. Some even created magnetic pendants for the birds to wear over their heads, a mobile protection as the birds, one by one, began to **muster** the courage to fly outside once more.

The city's citizens looked to the sky and at the parks around them, and cheers erupted as their cleaning heroes sprung back into action and transformed the dirty city into a clean one! Wai Fung and Sasi flew across the city's skyline on Jojo and Dodo, and gave each other a "high-five" for a job well-done.

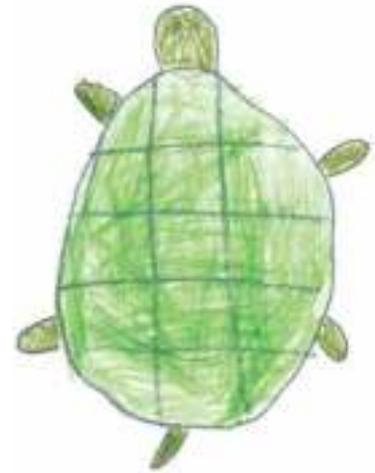


Illustration by
Muhd Nur Haqem
and Yuki Ng

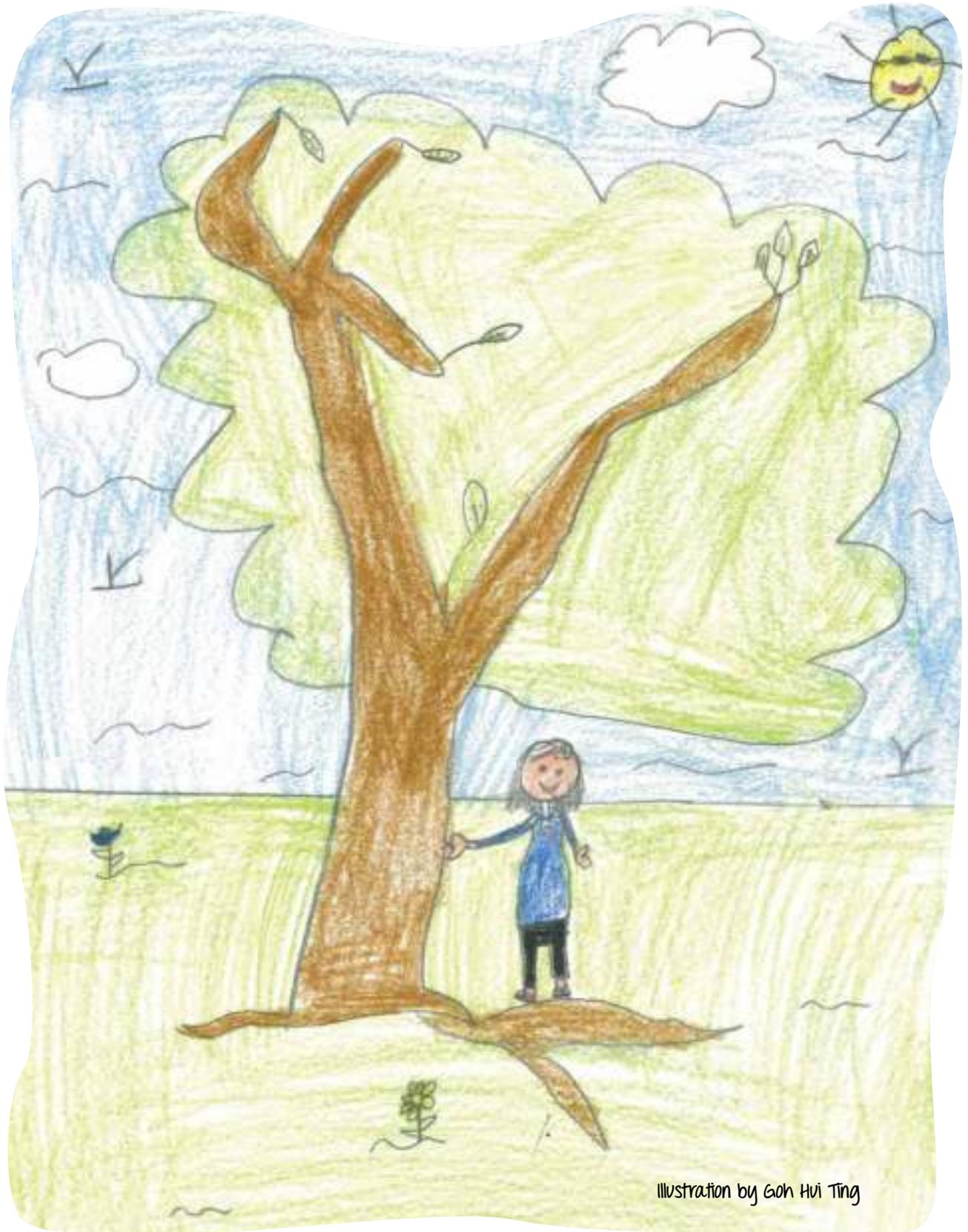


Illustration by Goh Hui Ting

Aspirations for the Nation



Nothing is Impossible

Nicole Yeong, MGS

I believe
that change can come from
any individual. The only obstacle that
hinders us from creating a change is our
mindsets. Each of us has an infinite amount of
latent potential, but that is useless if we do not put it
into action and if we dismiss change by saying
"it's impossible".

All of us has something that we care deeply about, be it
gender inequality or animal testing. We think it and we
complain about it but stop short of taking action. Why do we
believe things are impossible? Perhaps we are too caught up
in the rush of daily life to create solutions or we simply
do not believe change is possible. However,
no matter how cliché it sounds -
Nothing is impossible.

Some of us may feel that given our current position as a student, we are unable to contribute in helping others. However, I really believe that all of us can make a positive impact and be a blessing to others where we are - in school and in our community.

When I was in upper secondary, I was given many opportunities to serve the school and reach out to the community. Being able to lead really showed me the joy of giving, and I really enjoyed planning activities that would help the community. I believe that all of us are able to be a positive change in this world, and make a difference right where we are.

While it may be our natural instinct to pinpoint flaws in our capabilities, I think it is more important to focus on what we are able to accomplish. With what we've been blessed with, I believe that we can reach out to others and make a positive difference in their lives.

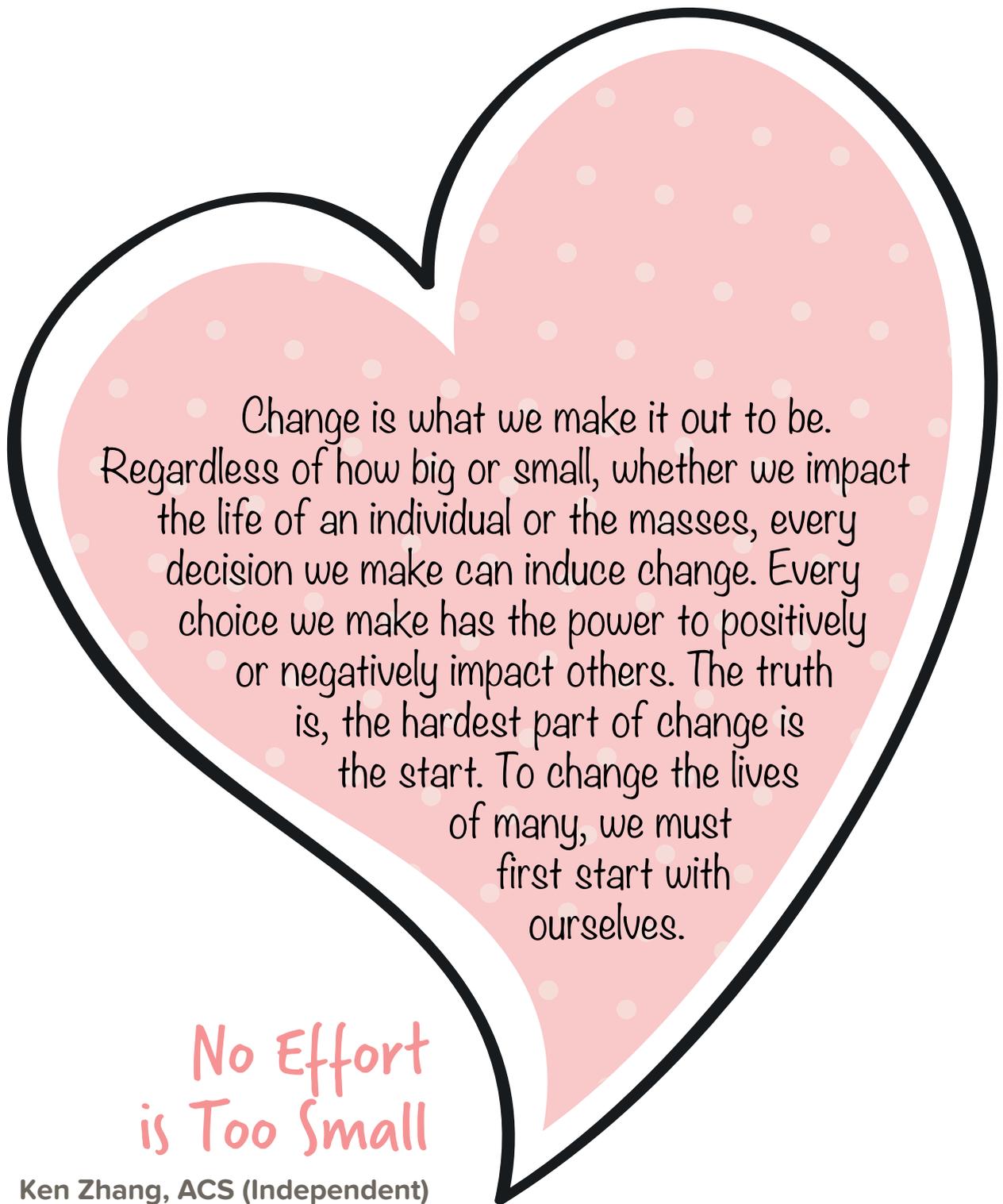
Staying Positive, Makes Differences

Natasha Oh, MGS

One Good Deed Begets Another

Ryan Pan, Hwa Chong Institution

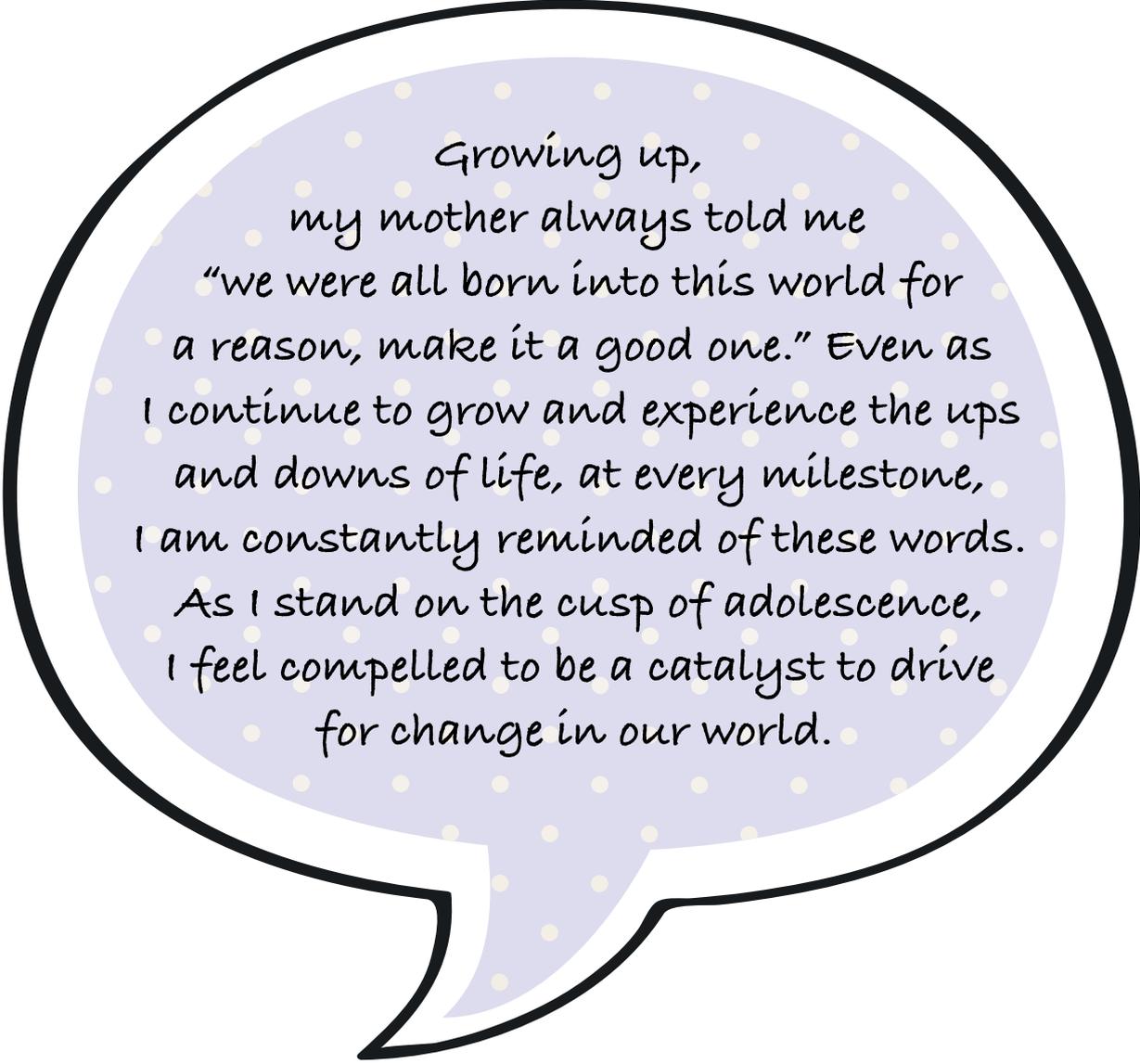
Our daily decisions determine if we are going to make a positive impact on someone's life. At some point in our lives, we would have received help from others and it is our duty as youths, to continue the chain of change to contribute back to society. As we savour our successes in our future pursuits, we can stop and lend a helping hand to those who are on the same route as us. For every help you render to an individual, that person would be giving another a helping hand in the future. So never be afraid of your change being insignificant. Make your mark!



Change is what we make it out to be. Regardless of how big or small, whether we impact the life of an individual or the masses, every decision we make can induce change. Every choice we make has the power to positively or negatively impact others. The truth is, the hardest part of change is the start. To change the lives of many, we must first start with ourselves.

**No Effort
is Too Small**

Ken Zhang, ACS (Independent)



Growing up,
my mother always told me
“we were all born into this world for
a reason, make it a good one.” Even as
I continue to grow and experience the ups
and downs of life, at every milestone,
I am constantly reminded of these words.
As I stand on the cusp of adolescence,
I feel compelled to be a catalyst to drive
for change in our world.

A Catalyst for Change

Ashiley Thenpandiyan, MGS

Seeds of Change

Seow Ling Ern,
Hwa Chong Institution

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

Golden Jubilee

Sharian Shariff,
Ngee Ann Polytechnic

When they say,
“Home is where our heart is”,
Do you stop, think and reminisce
All the things that’s been good to you
Maybe you’ve forgotten,
maybe you never knew
The blessings you’ve always had
They’re always there,
whether good times or bad
Now is the time to make that change
As we celebrate our Golden Jubilee,
Never forget; kindness is key.

My aspiration for our nation in the next few decades is to see more opportunities for personal growth arising for Singaporeans from all walks of life, and in such circumstances, to see their continued social and economical development. Additionally, as we continue to progress and advance, I hope that we will be able to maintain the traits and characteristics that make us integrally Singaporean.

Uniquely Singaporean

Shawn Wong, ACS (Independent)

Seeds of Future

Am Em F G Am

Grand Piano
We plant trees from all the seeds. We give hope for change. As seeds

Am Em F G C F C

grow. They transform into stronger trees. This is our life. Here's our home. For the

F C F C F C G

change that we can be. For our better future. We are so sad, we grow in to

C

trees



Composed and illustrated
by Tran Thanh Xuan

Gaia and the Environment



Mother Nature Fairy Lends a Helping Hand

Inspired by Shakir Zofayri, Nur Ain Madhiyah and Nurin Nadhirah

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

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

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

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

Illustration by
shakir zofayri





Illustration by Shakir Zofayri

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

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

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

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

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

Mother Nature Fairy was very impressed with this innovative solution.



Illustration by Shanice Ng

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

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

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

Colour this Page!



Illustration by Teo Xin Xin and Chloe Wong

The Orange Earth

Inspired by Nur Maria, Shalihin Shaid and Shalihan Shaid

Search for the Green Planet

Captain Safety sat in his space chair and peered impatiently out of the window of his spaceship every few seconds. He was very excited about his journey to Earth!

Safety was a space robot, and his mission was to keep Earth and its people safe. He visited Earth every space year (which is equivalent to 10 years on Earth) to check on Earth and ensure everyone's safety.

Planet Earth was one of Captain Safety's favourite places. He enjoyed strolling in its lush gardens to see exotic flowers. He loved admiring the lush forests of green trees. There was no greenery anywhere in

space, and Captain Safety remembered how fascinated he was when he first saw shades of greenery as well as vibrant blue oceans on



Illustration by
Lee Jiaji



Illustration by Shaienne Ang

Earth. Green instantly became his favourite colour.

But the trip was taking a bit too long this time, Captain Safety thought. Just then, the pilot informed Captain Safety that he could not find their destination. Captain Safety was very surprised. That's impossible!

“Look for a pretty blue and green planet,” said Captain Safety. “The blue is made up of its vast oceans, and the greens are its forests!”

Perplexed, the pilot continued to search the **interstellar** horizons for some sighting of Earth.

“There it is!” Captain Safety exclaimed when he located the coordinates for Planet Earth.

“But Captain,” the pilot questioned. “Are you sure? This planet has blue and green but it is mostly rust-coloured!”



Captain Safety took a closer look and realised that the pilot was right. Deeply puzzled, Captain Safety decided to land on this planet to investigate this mysterious **phenomenon**.

Water is the Solution

Both of them alighted from the spaceship and found themselves surrounded by droopy flowers and wilted grass. Captain Safety's favourite green had been overtaken by the harsh orange colour of the withered plants.

Captain Safety was very worried. He was supposed to protect Earth. How did Earth lose its beauty so rapidly and become so sick? He crumpled to the ground and sobbed beside a shrivelled up plant.

“Captain, look!”
the pilot said.



Illustration by Nur Maria

Captain Safety looked up and realised the flower had sprouted two tiny green leaves. Water! Captain Safety knew that if he could water the plants, he could restore the greenery on Earth! He searched high and low but could not find water.



Illustration by Tan Miao Yi

Just then, Captain Safety remembered that Neptune had lots of water! He sped over to Neptune and sucked up as much water as he could. Captain Safety returned to Earth and sprayed the water everywhere while his pilot helped to **detoxify** the polluted waters. Relieved cheers and hurrahs were heard as the people of Earth thanked Captain Safety for saving their home.

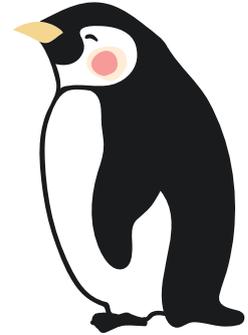
“Please keep Earth clean,” Captain Safety commanded them as he returned to his spaceship. “We will!” the people of Earth promised. Comforted with the knowledge that Earth was safe and green once more, Captain Safety waved goodbye with a big bright smile on his face.

Popee the Penguin Finds a New Home

Inspired by Nur Amira Quraisha and Nor Syafiq

Journey to the South

A little penguin, Popee waddled through the streets and gazed upon deserted igloos with a sigh. He used to play snowball fights with his brother, and fished with Papa Penguin on the frozen lakes. These days, however, he was all by himself. His family passed away from being



entrapped in rubbish that humans carelessly threw into the ocean. His friends migrated when the fish died from the increasingly polluted waters, which caused the penguins to run out of food.



Popee turned sadly away from his home and headed towards the North Pole. He heard that somewhere in the North there was a place exactly like the South Pole. His friends had promised an abundance of fish and land! Perhaps he could find a new home for himself at the North Pole! Determined, the little penguin swam across the Atlantic Ocean, embarking on his new journey.

Along the way, Popee had close encounters with trouble. He escaped from fishermen, sharks, and whales and almost fainted from the blistering heat. But the penguin braved on to find new hope in the North Pole.

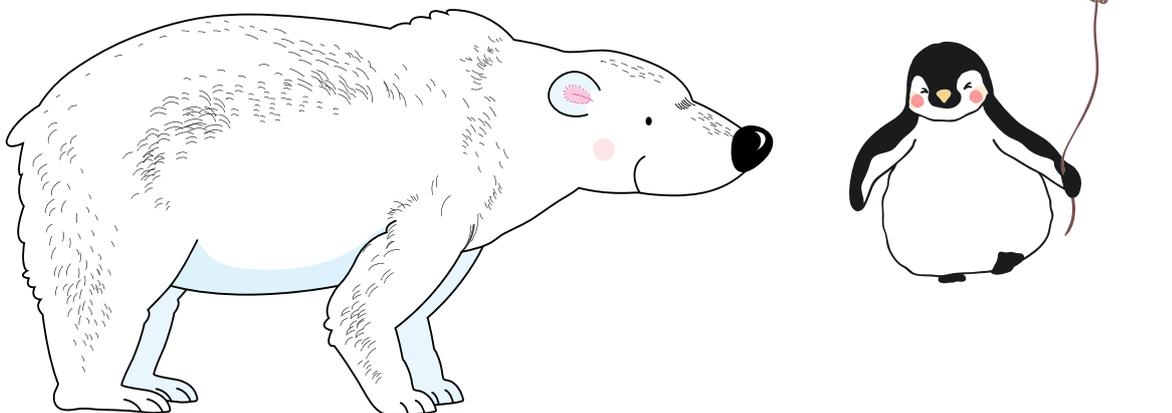
After swimming for what felt like an **eternity**, he finally saw a familiar sight of huge icebergs and snowy white land! The little penguin swam faster than before and leapt onto the land, filled with joy and comfort. But his happiness was short-lived as he suddenly heard a low, **ominous** growl.

Newfound Troubles in an Unfamiliar Land

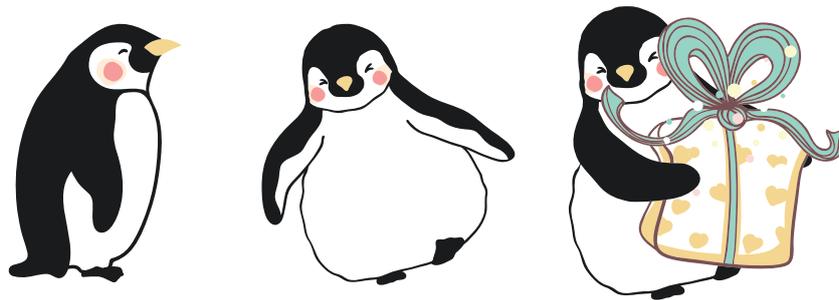
A pack of polar bears had gathered around the little penguin.

“Go away! We have no space for more residents,” snarled the leader of the polar bears.

“But there is so much land around! We could share!”
the brave little penguin retorted.



A kind polar bear stepped forward to explain. Antarctica, where they were now, was shrinking rapidly. Humans were using too much electricity and overheating the Earth with pollutants. All these actions caused global warming. As such, the icy lands in the North and South poles were melting away and the polar bears were afraid of losing their home too.



The little penguin was devastated. But he was not going to sit and wait for the land to melt. He had to do something!

“Let’s work together and arrange ice blocks to form a giant message for the humans. They might see it and help us!” Popee exclaimed.

Everyone agreed to this brilliant plan and got to work. The stronger polar bears nudged ice blocks together while the little penguin and his friends used their beaks to chip the ice into alphabets. With teamwork, they formed the message, “Please stop destroying our beloved home!”

A helicopter patrolling the skies flew past. The humans were so amazed to see what the animals had created and were ashamed of themselves. They decided to spread the message and soon all the humans became more aware of the dangers of global warming and its impact on animals, humans, and the Earth. They made efforts to be eco-friendly.

Penguins and polar bears alike now have a much better place to live in, thanks to a brave little penguin called Popee!



A Magical Starry Adventure

Inspired by Ainul Ikhsan, Nur Dini Rostam,
Syarmayne Shahril and Cahaya Mutiara Hanis



“Twinkle, twinkle little star...how I wonder what you are?”

11-year-old Yarp sighed, as he sang to the pitch-dark night sky. He knew what a star was. The problem was, WHERE were they? Were they hiding? The closest “stars” he had ever seen were on a Christmas tree.

Yarp sat restlessly on the playground bench, his eyes fixated on the blank sky with deep longing to see a star.

“Please, can I just see one shining star tonight before I head home?” Yarp pleaded, even when he knew it would not change anything.

Sighing, Yarp gave up. It was getting late, he had to go home.



Becoming Superhero Yarp



Then, he saw it. A bright, white light that shone through the black sky. Yarp blinked numerous times; he could not believe his eyes! Jumping from his seat, he ran towards the spot of light. All of a sudden, the little speck grew into a great beam of radiating brightness! A loud booming voice came from above.





“Hi Yarp,” it said.

“You don’t know who I am, but I know who you are.”

Yarp’s jaw dropped in surprise.

“Listen Yarp,” the voice continued. “I have heard your wish to see a sky full of stars, and I want to make this come true. But I can only do this if you help me. Are you willing to take on this mission?”

Yarp was stunned. “W...w...what do I have to do?”



The voice said, “It is simple. You need to clear the sky of air pollution that is blocking the stars. Do you know that because of air pollution, we cannot see the glimmering stars? You would even get your own special outfit. Star Fairies, come on over!”

Miniscule glowing balls of light floated towards Yarp. Squinting his eyes, he realised that they were tiny little Star Fairies. Together, they transformed YARP, donning him with a flowing red cape, shiny blue metal shoes and nine strands of golden hair affixed in his hair for a finishing touch.

“All done!” the Star Fairies squeaked.

“Now, what should we call you?”

Ah, how about...Superhero YARP?”

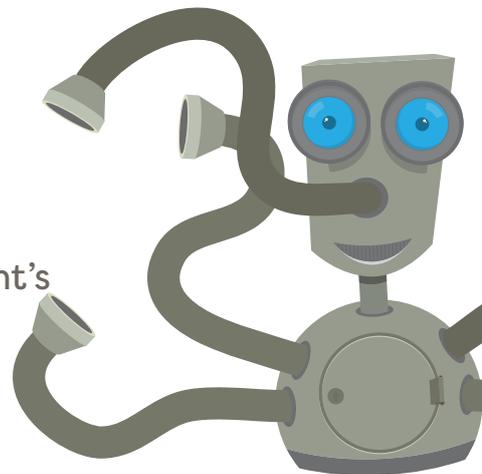
the voice said.



Yarp's heart skipped a beat. "Me...a superhero?"

"Yes, my boy. And, meet Silver Ray. He will be your partner to fight this battle," the voice boomed.

Yarp turned around to see a shiny silver robot. Silver Ray had a long curly tube for a nose, like an elephant's trunk. Yarp waved to this peculiar thing that was to be his companion, and Silver Ray **reciprocated**.

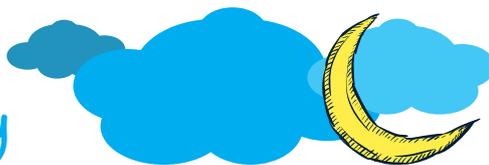


"Okay boys, now that you are both acquainted, take note, Superhero YARP, that the nine strands of hair on your head are external storage memory space for Silver Ray."

"That's so awesome!" Yarp cheered.

"Yes it is, however be warned that if Silver Ray runs out of memory storage space for the pollution, he will disappear. These nine strands should be sufficient to rid the air pollution from the sky."

Unveiling a Beautiful Night Sky

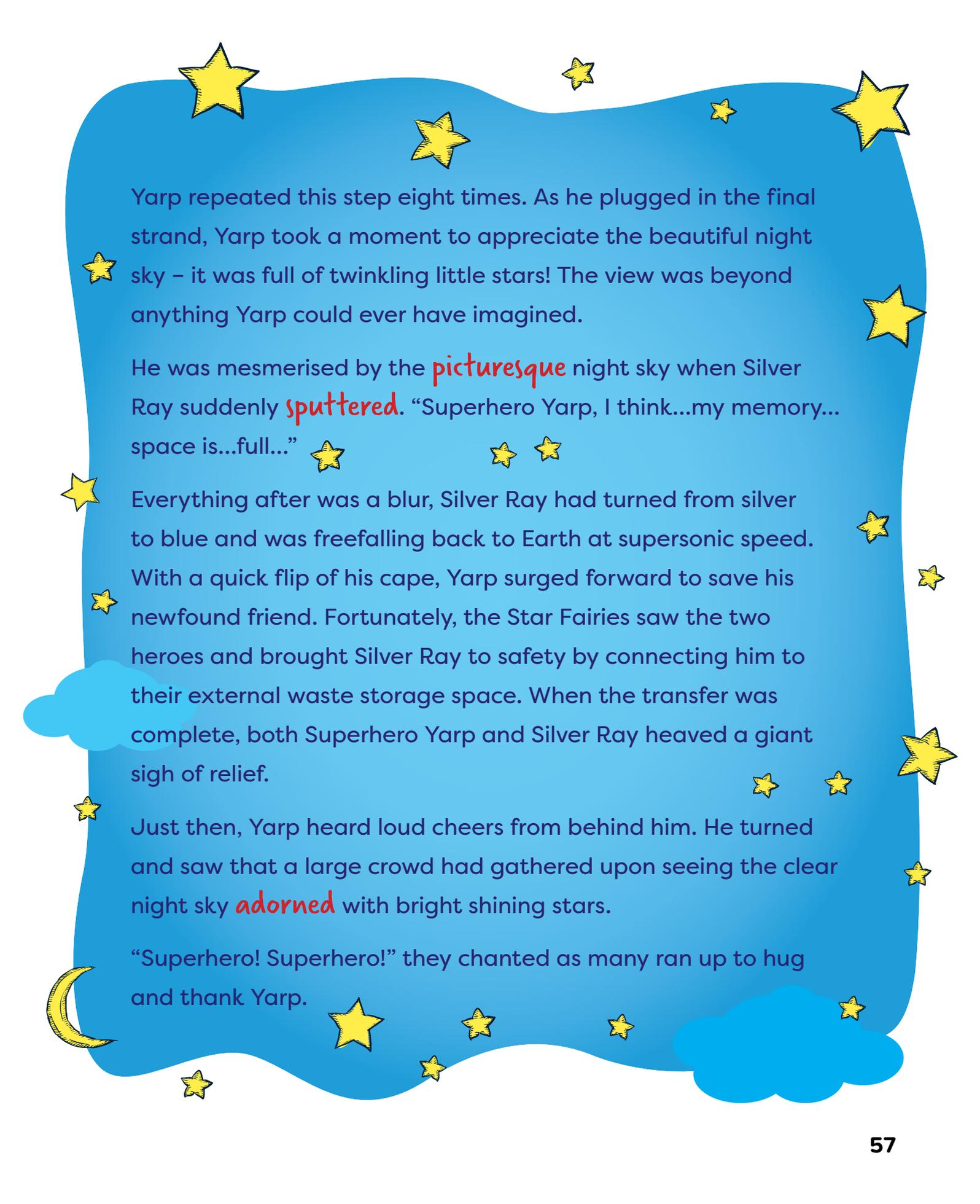


Yarp drew a deep breath, uncomfortably aware of the gravity of the task he was undertaking, and joined hands with Silver Ray. With a light flutter of his cape, they ascended towards the sky. "Let's do this, Silver Ray!" Yarp said to his mechanical friend.

Taking Silver Ray's tube, Yarp waved it through the air. Millions of dust particles were sucked into the tube, as the sky slowly cleared and the stars shyly emerged. Once in a while, Yarp would pluck a strand of hair and plug it into Silver Ray as his memory space became increasingly full.



Illustration by Shakir Zofayri



Yarp repeated this step eight times. As he plugged in the final strand, Yarp took a moment to appreciate the beautiful night sky – it was full of twinkling little stars! The view was beyond anything Yarp could ever have imagined.

He was mesmerised by the **picturesque** night sky when Silver Ray suddenly **sputtered**. “Superhero Yarp, I think...my memory... space is...full...”

Everything after was a blur, Silver Ray had turned from silver to blue and was freefalling back to Earth at supersonic speed. With a quick flip of his cape, Yarp surged forward to save his newfound friend. Fortunately, the Star Fairies saw the two heroes and brought Silver Ray to safety by connecting him to their external waste storage space. When the transfer was complete, both Superhero Yarp and Silver Ray heaved a giant sigh of relief.

Just then, Yarp heard loud cheers from behind him. He turned and saw that a large crowd had gathered upon seeing the clear night sky **adorned** with bright shining stars.

“Superhero! Superhero!” they chanted as many ran up to hug and thank Yarp.

! SAVE THE EARTH!
FOR
! A BETTER LIFE!



Illustration by Muhd Nur Haqeen

“Well done, young one.” Yarp heard the voice again. It dawned upon him that the voice was actually in his head! With a start, Yarp looked around and realised that Silver Ray and the Star Fairies were gone too. It was a mere dream, but now, Yarp knew exactly what he had to do to see the stars he longed to see.

Activity Page



Vocabulary Glossary

Never Stop Learning Through the Ages

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

Tranquil: Calm and peaceful

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

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

Rowy and her Robot Friend

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

Pristine: Clean and pure

The Mighty Car

Woes: Troubles that cause sadness

Learning from the Birds

Azure: A bright blue, as of clear sky.

Eureka: Used to express triumph upon finding or discovering something

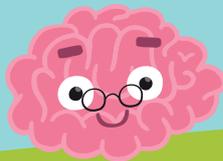
Conundrum: A confusing or difficult problem

Devastated: To be extremely sad

Haven: A safe and protected place

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

Vile: Evil



Mother Nature Fairy Lends a Helping Hand

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

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

Cinders: Ashes that are produced when objects are burnt

Foliage: A cluster of leaves

A Magical Starry Adventure

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

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

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

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

The orange Earth

Perplexed: To feel very confused

Interstellar: Located among the stars

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

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

Popee the Penguin Finds a New Home

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

Eternity: A period of time that seems endless

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



Acknowledgements

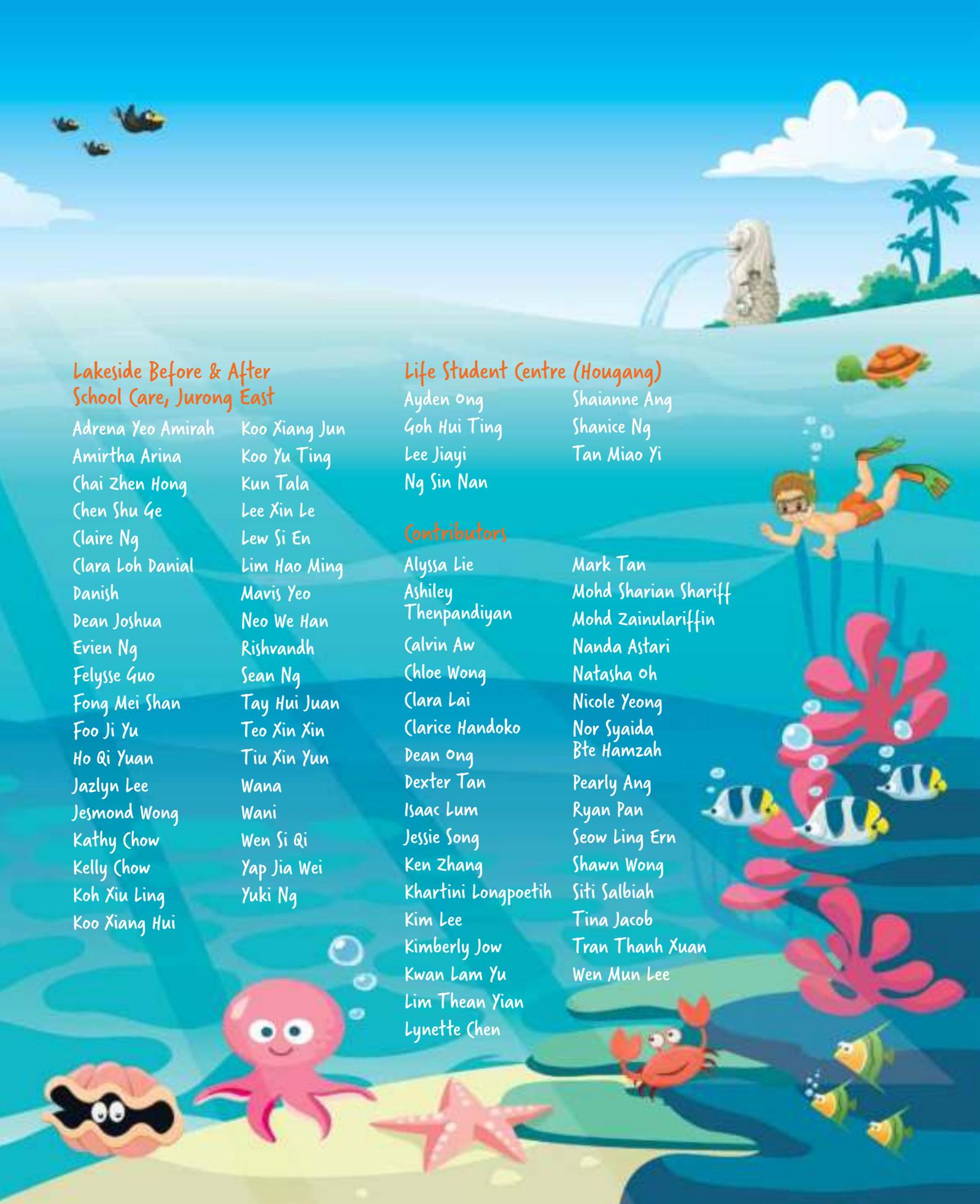
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