

Words, Pictures, Story!

by Choo Kah Ying

Writing My First Story: A Workshop on an Exciting New Writing Tool for Teaching Children aged 5 to 8

INTRODUCTION

Writing can be an extremely anxiety-provoking experience for many children. As with some adults, children are intimidated when they are confronted with a blank page. Parents and educators are often at a loss as to how to ease children into the writing process.

This highly interactive workshop ensures that participants will have the opportunity to explore the Words, Picture, Story! (WPS) writing templates and achieve a hands-on and active understanding of WPS.

WORKSHOP LEADER

Formerly an academic researcher in the U.S. for eight years, **CHOO KAH YING** is a writer/educator and a homeschooler of her 12-year-old autistic son. Since her return to Singapore in 2005, Ms. Choo has conducted workshops and individualised consultations for parents and teachers of various schools.

She is also the author of the following books: *All Because of the Hummingbird or the Horse* (self-published), *Raising Sebastien: Realising Your Autistic Child's Potential* (Marshall Cavendish, 2006) and *Five Little White Pills... And Then There Were None: A Journey from Manic Depression to Recovery* (Armour Publishing, 2008), along with articles published in the local media.

Through her homeschooling and educational endeavours, Ms. Choo has been developing innovative educational strategies and designing customised curricular materials. Her latest project is to create an educational workbook to initiate emerging readers into the world of writing.

COURSE OUTLINE

WPS consists of a colourful, fun and interactive writing template that incorporates the following components:

- Language prompts
- Clue words to highlight grammatical concepts.
- Pictorial prompts
- Variations: these delightful writing templates can then be used for other purposes such as creative arts and crafts projects; and even in other subjects such as Maths, Science or Geography.

By offering a guided writing experience that breaks the monotony of writing and provides openings for children to make choices, children are able to plunge into the experience of writing without their usual anxieties. The most important thing about these templates is that they offer a paced process that can gradually lead children to become independent writers.

Objectives of WPS

- To initiate young readers into the writing experience;
- To develop critical thinking skills used in writing stories; and
- To cultivate the passion and love for stories.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This workshop is designed to introduce teachers and parents of young children to a creative writing tool that is designed to overcome their fear and anxiety of writing.

DATE and TIME

7 March 2009 (Sat), 9.30am to 12.45pm

VENUE

Merpati Hall, Level 3,
Geylang East Community Library

Organised by



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COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Registration Fees

S\$85 per person includes light refreshment and course materials.

S\$70 for Early Birds who register by 7 February 2009.

Ways to register

1. Register online by visiting www.bookcouncil.sg
or
2. Complete the form below and fax it to **(65) 6742 9466**.

Cancellation & Substitution

Fees paid are non-refundable but transferable. Requests for cancellation must be made on/before 1 March 2009, after which a cancellation charge of 50% of the full course fee is applicable.

Payment

Payment is required before the workshop commences or within 30 days of receipt of invoice, whichever is earlier. Payment to be made in Singapore Dollars, by cash, cheque or bank draft, payable to "NBDCS" and mail the payment together with your form to us. Alternatively you may deliver your payment, with your name and contact details attached, immediately after you have faxed/emailed/submitted your online registration.

Mailing Address

National Book Development Council of Singapore
c/o Geylang East Community Library
50 Geylang East Avenue 1
Singapore 389777

Enquiries

Email : clap@bookcouncil.sg
Tel : (65) 6848 8290

ABOUT THE ORGANISER

NBDCS is a non-profit umbrella body inaugurated in 1969 to promote storytelling, reading, writing and publishing, with a current objective to establish and develop Singapore as the Asian centre for publishing and the literary arts. NBDCS brings Singapore book industry and literary community together through industry events, courses, seminars, conferences and author lectures. NBDCS has been organising the prestigious Singapore Literature Prize since 1990 and also manages the Centre for Literary Arts and Publishing and Singapore Writers Centre

Registration Form – Words, Pictures, Story!

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr _____

Organisation: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Note:

We will send you a confirmation via email upon receipt of your registration. If you do not receive any confirmation within 7 working days, please check if you have successfully submitted your registration to ensure your seat/participation in the workshop.