



Singapore Book Council

Building Our Imagine-nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HABA 2022 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT AFCC 2022



SINGAPORE, 9 May 2022—**Eight children's books** have been shortlisted for the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award (HABA), the prestigious biennial award recognising the best Singapore children's literature in English. For the first time since its inception in 2011, HABA will feature two prize categories: Picture Books and Middle Grade Books. The winners will be revealed at the awards ceremony, which will be held in-person during the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) and livestreamed on AFCC's social media on **27 May 2022**. The guest-of-honour will be Mr Ng Cher Pong, Chief Executive Officer of the National Library Board Singapore.

All the authors and illustrators are first time short-listees, whose books contain "strong imaginings... thought-provoking insights and observations, and portrayals of beauty," as described by the HABA 2022 judges. The short-listees include former secondary school principal J.H. Low; School of the Arts (SOTA) faculty Priscilla Tey; Singapore musician Adia Tay; former advertising executive Linda Locke; media licensing professional Daryl Kho; former financial journalist Vivian Teo, as well as AWARE founding member Margaret Thomas.

William Phuan, Executive Director of the Singapore Book Council (SBC), which organises HABA, says: "We are heartened by this year's submissions and the new crop of shortlisted



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writers and illustrators. It shows that the children's books scene is growing and maturing. Many of the creators come from diverse backgrounds, highlighting the appeal of children's books as a viable creative medium."

From loss and dementia to the environment, the shortlisted books showcase a range of themes that are both universal and relatable to children. They include *Mist-Bound: How to Glue Back Grandpa* which evocatively portrays loss and dementia, as well as *Mr Roll Finds New Life's* compelling theme of environmental sustainability.

Incidentally, AFCC 2022 will be also be tackling some of these current topics. Sessions include climate change, mental wellness and translation. Former Young People's Poet Laureate Margarita Engle will conduct a lecture on the importance of children's books as a remedy for grown-up troubles. Engle will also feature in festival session "How to Talk to Children About War", where the depiction of war and its consequences in children's books will be examined.

The HABA judging panel for both categories comprises National Institute of Education (NIE) lecturer Dr Donna Lim, who serves as the Chief Judge; Sydney Smith, an award-winning Canadian children's book illustrator and author; as well as bestselling Singapore author Adeline Foo.

Please refer to Annex A for the full shortlist of HABA and Annex B for information about the judges, and their comments about the shortlisted works. For more information about HABA, please visit: <https://afcc.com.sg/2022/page/hedwig-anuar-childrens-book-award>

Guess the HABA Winner

In the lead-up to the hybrid awards ceremony, SBC is launching an online contest, "Guess the HABA Winner". The contest will be promoted on AFCC's Facebook and Instagram and run on the AFCC website, where the public is invited to guess the shortlisted books that will win the awards in both categories. Three participants who guess the winners correctly will stand to win a S\$50 book voucher to AFCC's official bookstore, [Closetful of Books](#). The winning participants will be announced on 1 June 2022 on AFCC's socials.



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HABA 2022 Awards Ceremony

Date: 27 May 2022, 6pm SGT

Venue: Livestream on AFCC's [Facebook](#) Page.

In-person: The Pod, National Library (by invitation only).

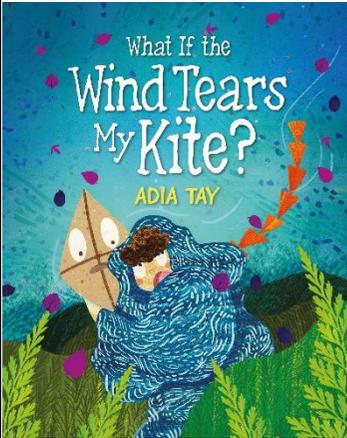
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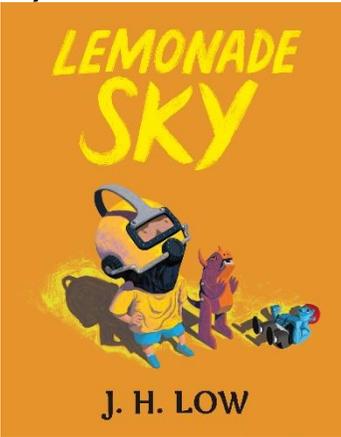
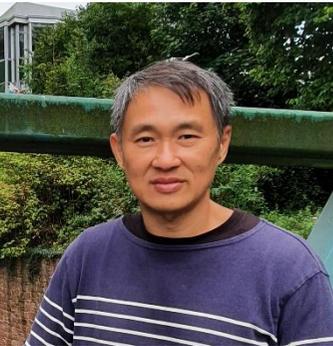
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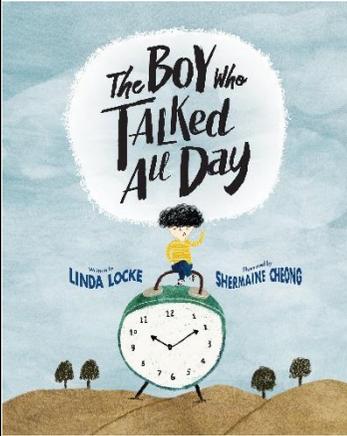
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Annex A: Shortlist for HABA 2022

i) Picture Book Category

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
1	<p><i>What If the Wind Tears My Kite?</i></p> 	<p>A lonely boy chances upon a kite and his life changes forever. A newly found kite fills a boy with wonder. Worried that the wind might blow his kite away, he keeps it close. But kites are meant to fly, so the boy flies his kite, only to have the wind carry it away... A beautifully illustrated book about the what-ifs in life.</p>	<p>Author and Illustrator: Adia Tay</p> 	<p>Adia Tay is a singer, songwriter, poet and author. She published her first music album, <i>Kintsugi</i>, and poetry collection, <i>Close Enough</i>, in 2019. And when she isn't noodling away on her guitar, doodling on paper or brooding over beautiful words, she writes stories for children. <i>What If the Wind Tears My Kite?</i> is her first picture book. She is presently working on her second book. Follow her illustrations on Instagram at @adiadoodledo.</p>

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
2	<p>Lemonade Sky</p>  <p>J. H. LOW</p>	<p>A powerful story that will move readers of all ages to think about what it means to truly be free. What is it like to fly in the sky? A boy and his faithful friends take a journey of self-discovery in this captivating crossover picture book full of arresting illustrations. In a society that has everything mapped out for him, the boy yearns for a place where he can be himself. Faced with gatekeepers and obstacles, can he succeed?</p>	<p>Author: J.H. Low</p> 	<p>J.H. Low is an art educator, artist and creator of children's picture books. He has a BA in Fine Art from the University of Leeds, a MA in Children's Book Illustration from the Anglia Ruskin University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Art. His book, <i>There is No Steak Buried Here</i>, was Highly Commended at the McMillan Prize 2009. His other book, <i>Night in the Garden</i>, featuring Singapore's very own Gardens by the Bay, was on the shortlist for the Asian Children's Book Award 2017.</p>

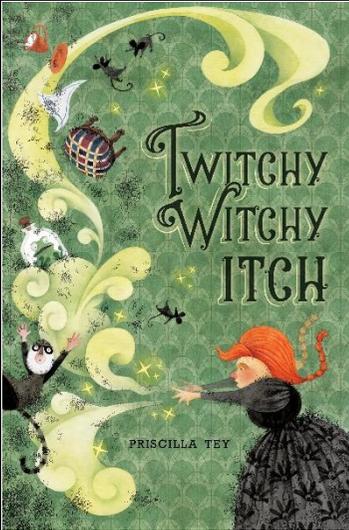
No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
3	<p><i>The Boy Who Talked All Day</i></p> 	<p>A memorable tale, in playful rhyme, of why we should always pay attention to our surroundings. There once was a boy who loved to talk. He talked so much that he couldn't even notice when danger was coming! <i>The Boy Who Talked All Day</i> recalls the classic nursery rhymes, and its whimsical illustrations are certain to delight and amuse children of all ages.</p>	<p>Author: Linda Locke</p>  <p>Illustrator: Shermaine Cheong</p>	<p>Linda Locke is the co-author of <i>Agnes and Her Amazing Orchid</i>, a picture book about the creator of the Vanda Miss Joaquim. Linda was previously chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, as well as the chairman and regional creative director of Leo Burnett Advertising. She has more than 300 creative awards to her name. She later started her own consultancy, Godmother Pte Ltd, and held several key positions at Club21.</p> <p>Shermaine Cheong (aka See You See Me) is currently on an illustration journey, which began</p>

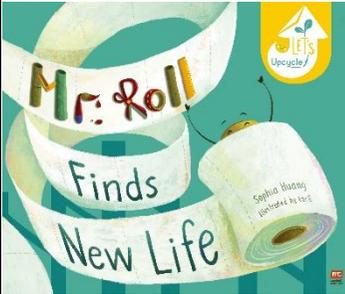


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				<p>while she was working in advertising and design. Her love for form, textures, and colours led her to explore how she could bring her ideas to life creatively. Using a blend of water-soluble colour pencils, pastels, and digital painting, Shermaine hopes to share stories and messages in her illustrations that can brighten one's day, or leave you with something unexpected—making you go “awww” at the simple joys of everyday life and common scenarios.</p>
4	<i>Twitchy Witchy Itch</i>	Tick, tock! Three cups. Tick, tock! Three saucers. With nine minutes left, everything was ready. Or	Author and Illustrator: Priscilla Tey	Priscilla Tey is an illustrator and picture book maker. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
	 <p>(Candlewick Press, 2021)</p>	<p>was it? Itch the witch is having company over for tea. As the clock counts down to tea o'clock, Itch's mind is in a tizzy: is her house too twitchy? Is her home too itchy? Zipping and zooming, dusting and brooming, Itch sweeps and bewitches the mess away (just in the nick of time). But as soon as her two guests walk in, Itch's housekeeping comes unraveled. How will Itch tame such an itchy, glitchy, fidgety mess? Visual hijinks abound as a nervous witch gets swept away with trying to tidy up before company comes—only to discover that being with friends is what really matters. In this book,</p>		<p>(RISD), she also maintains a healthy sheep obsession. Her first picture book <i>In-Between Things</i> (Candlewick Press, 2018) featured in <i>The Wall Street Journal</i>, and <i>Publishers Weekly</i> praised her "quirky, ingenious, and highly disciplined aesthetic" in a starred review. In June 2021, she released <i>Twitchy Witchy Itch</i> under Candlewick Press. Priscilla enjoys working with a variety of media from watercolour and gouache to digital illustration.</p>

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
		Priscilla Tey uses computer-aided design (and evokes familiar computer glitches) to present a delightfully meta, intricately illustrated story that dazzles as it amuses.		
5	<p>Mr Roll Finds New Life</p> 	Mr Roll is a regular toilet paper tube. He is hardworking and does his job well. But when the paper runs out, he is tossed aside and labelled as trash... Is this the end for Mr Roll? Come along with Mr Roll as he discovers that there is so much more that he can be.	<p>Author: Sophia Huang</p> 	Sophia Huang is passionate about upcycling materials into toys and art with her three children, a hobby she shares on her Facebook page, <i>Craftcycle for Kids</i> . Her work is regularly featured in the media, and she has also participated in a video campaign by the National Environment Agency aimed at lowering consumption and waste in Singapore.



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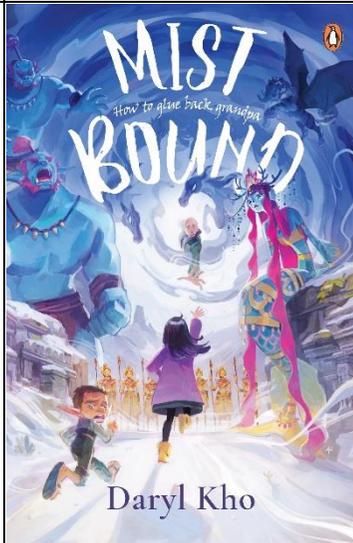
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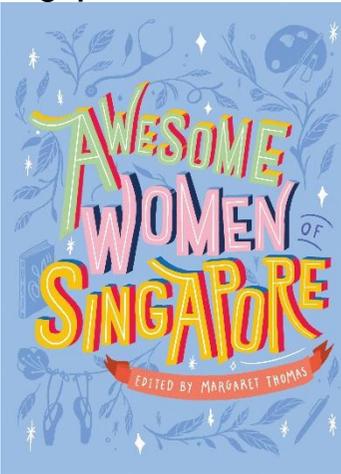
No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
			<p data-bbox="1039 810 1279 879">Illustrator: Evelyn Ghozalli @ EorG</p> 	<p data-bbox="1395 371 1760 735">A highly sought-after speaker, she enjoys introducing the concept of upcycling to preschool and primary school children through author visits and hands-on craft and storytelling workshops.</p> <p data-bbox="1395 831 1760 1358">Evelyn Ghozalli has illustrated more than 80 children's stories and written several under the pseudonym EorG, and has won several awards, including the Samsung KidsTime Award 2016, Best Illustrator Award at the Islamic Book Fair 2018 and the Indonesia Art Award 2018. She is also the founder of the</p>

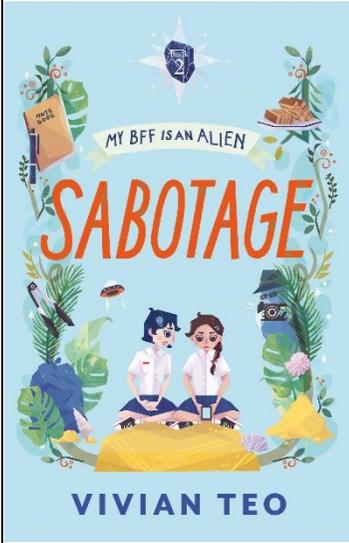
No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
				Indonesian Children's Book Illustrators Circle (KELIR).

ii) Middle Grade Book Category

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
1	<i>Mist-Bound: How to Glue Back Grandpa</i>	Meet Alexis. Her Grandpa's memories have been shattered. The only cure? Memory Glue. To brew it, she'll just need a few ingredients. Like, nose hair from a <i>baku</i> (dreameater), sweat from a <i>duyung</i> (sea siren) and...OK. Maybe some of the stuff can be tricky to find in supermarkets. To obtain them Alexis must journey to an enchanted land called Mist, where the fabled	Author: Daryl Kho 	Malaysia-born and Singapore-based, Daryl Kho is the author of <i>Mist-Bound: How to Glue Back Grandpa</i> , a fantasy novel for families published by Penguin Books SEA. Inspired by his family's experiences, the book aims to raise dementia awareness and appreciation for the elderly as well as for the power of stories. It aspires to stir interest in especially

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
		<p>creatures from Grandpa's folktales are alive in the flesh. Many of whom aren't strict vegetarians. Oh, and there's a deadline. The items must be gathered by Spring, else Grandpa's memories will be gone for good. At least she'll have company: the nasty <i>kenit</i> (forest imp) who'd cast the horrible spell on Grandpa, and her stern Grandma - who harbours a secret that will change Alexis' life forever...Piece of cake, right?</p>		<p>the tales that can be found in our own backyards and in the minds of our elders. More info on Daryl and his book can be found here: http://darylkho.com</p>

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
2	<p>Awesome Women of Singapore</p> 	<p>These are the empowering stories of Singapore women who broke the mould and continue to inspire today's generation. From philanthropists to paralympians, the stories of Singapore's awesome women have been collected in one must-have volume featuring the stunning, stylised work of ten female illustrators, including Ann Gee Neo, 8EyedSpud and PK Cheng. This book was produced in collaboration with the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO).</p>	<p>Editor: Margaret Thomas</p> 	<p>Margaret Thomas spent more than two decades as a journalist. She now works mainly on book projects and in various voluntary roles on the pursuit of gender equality. A founder member in 1985 of the feminist group Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), she has chaired the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame committee since 2013. Margaret has also been involved in civil society organisations and initiatives such as TWC2, the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, and the Singapore Advocacy Awards.</p>

No.	Book Title	Synopsis	Author/Illustrator	Bio
3	<p>My BFF is an Alien: Sabotage</p> 		<p>Author: Vivian Teo</p> 	<p>Vivian Teo worked as a financial journalist and editor for 14 years at major US and UK trade publications. She became a freelance writer to spend more time with her two daughters and write about things close to her heart. This led to <i>My BFF Is an Alien</i>, her first middle-grade novel. She now enjoys writing on parenting and education issues for parenting websites, including <i>Sassy Mama Singapore</i>, and blogging on her parenting and lifestyle website at www.vivianteo.com.</p>

Images of the shortlisted writers, illustrators, and their book covers can be downloaded [here](#).



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Annex B: HABA 2022 Judges

No.	Judge	Bio
1	Dr Donna Lim (Chief Judge) 	Dr Donna Lim is a lecturer with the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She specialises in primary English Language methodology. Her interest area is in developing literacy with a focus on teaching writing. She has considerable teaching experience with young learners and finds it fulfilling to work with fellow educators to enhance EL teaching and learning.
2	Adeline Foo 	An adjunct lecturer, Adeline Foo has 28 books published in Asia. 10 of her books were Singapore's best-selling children's titles in a ten-year-run. Currently, Adeline is an independent TV researcher-scriptwriter, with five original TV productions.
3	Sydney Smith  Photo credit: Steve Farmer	Sydney Smith is the award-winning author and illustrator of <i>Small in the City</i> as well as the illustrator of <i>I Talk Like a River</i> by Jordan Scott, <i>Town Is by the Sea</i> by Joanne Schwartz, <i>Sidewalk Flowers</i> by JonArno Lawson, <i>The White Cat and the Monk</i> by Jo Ellen Bogart, among others. Sydney has received multiple awards including four consecutive New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books Awards, two Kate Greenaway Awards and is nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Sydney was born in Nova Scotia, Canada. Picture books have always been his full-time passion but Sydney started his illustration journey collaborating with musicians.



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Annex C: What the Judges Said

"We continue to be so encouraged and very proud of the quality of work produced by local writers and illustrators. We count it a privilege to be given the opportunity to sit on this panel and be delightfully treated to strong imaginings, adept minds, thought-provoking insights and observations, and portrayals of beauty all captured within the confines of seemingly naive book covers. We are hopeful and look forward to an even richer and more enticing world of children's literature in the coming years ahead!"



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Annex D: About Singapore Book Council

The Singapore Book Council (SBC) is an independent charity with IPC status. Established in 1968 to support Singapore authors and literature, SBC aims to Build Our Imagine-nation by developing creativity, imagination, original thought and empathy. Our programmes focus on creative writing, reading, illustration, translation and storytelling. We are committed to developing a multicultural, diverse literary arts sector through our festivals, training workshops and courses, as well as book awards to recognise excellence.

Vision: International recognition for quality, diverse Singapore literature.

Mission: To develop, support and advocate a multicultural literary arts sector.

SBC is currently chaired by Ms Claire Chiang, co-founder of Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts.

The Book Council develops and advocates Singapore's books and literary arts scene by organising a variety of festivals, including the annual Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC); giving out prestigious awards such as the biennial national award Singapore Literature Prize; supporting community outreach through the #BuySingLit movement; and building professional capacity through our Academy programmes.

Because it all starts with a story.

SBC is supported by the National Arts Council of Singapore under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 2019 to 2021. For more information, please visit www.bookcouncil.sg.