



asia is the world's **largest continent** and is home to more than **4.4 billion people**, making it the most populous continent on Earth. With its **rich** and **diverse cultures**,

Asian-inspired stories educate, inspire, and **encourage** readers as they learn about their neighbors.

Carefully selected and compiled in this booklet are the **published works** of the **winners** and **finalists** from the **Scholastic Asian Book Award** and **Scholastic Picture Book Award**.

These **award-winning stories** are categorized by reading interests; **Adventure, Courage, Self-discovery**, through a selection of **Chapter books** and **Picture books**.

Great stories are very **powerful** in shaping our **identity, understanding** our **community** and the **world beyond**. It will **challenge** the **stereotypes**

and promote **respect** and **empathy** towards others of different **races, cultures** and **beliefs**.

These are stories that come with **surprising origins**--from the very **best of Asia**.



The **Scholastic Asian Book Award** and **Scholastic Picture Book Award** are the joint initiatives of the Singapore Book Council and Scholastic Asia. These awards recognize children's writers and illustrators of Asian origin to foster creation of Asian content and public awareness and interest in them. The awards also aim to promote the understanding of the Asian experience and its expression in innovative and creative forms.

Learn more about the awards at www.scholasticbookaward.asia



A dynamic initiative in support of published Scholastic award authors and illustrators. It is created to recognize, showcase, promote and inspire excellence in Asian content from the diverse creators in Asia.

Scholastic Asian Book Award

Dive into exhilarating adventures and compelling stories with every page-turn!

ADVENTURE



ISBN: 978-9-811-13174-5

**“ This treasure has been my life’s mission.
I would love to follow the path to the end. ”**

When a discovery that might be the key to deciphering the mysterious script of the Indus Valley Civilisation proves to be a puzzle in three languages, it’s a job for Codex, who’s a linguist, mathematician and all-round geek. But Codex soon discovers that this isn’t like anything she’s done before. As the sinister implications of the find become apparent, Codex must work with Agent Lila Raman to get to the bottom of a four-thousand-year-old mystery.

Aditi Krishnakumar has worked in the finance industry in India and Singapore, where she resides presently. Her first book, *A Whole Summer Long*, was published in 2012, while another of her manuscripts was shortlisted for the Scholastic Asian Book Award in 2014.

Learn more about her at www.facebook.com/aditi.krishnakumar



ADVENTURE



ISBN: 978-9-811-13177-6

“ *When Moonstone spread his arms, hundreds of shells tumbled gently down onto the rocks.* ”

Dragonflies, Jigsaws and a Rainbow is a collection of stories, featuring a variety of interesting characters, including a boy whose patience with a visiting mynah bird pays off; a colour-blind child who triumphs in art class; and a strange creature who touches a child's heart with a magical gift.

Varsha Seshan is a children's author with thirteen books to her credit. She was shortlisted for the 2016 Scholastic Asian Book Award. She enjoys working with children and facilitates workshops both independently and with the British Council. In addition, she conducts a Writers' Club for pre-teens in Pune. Learn more about her at www.varshaseshan.com



ISBN: 978-9-811-13178-3

“ *It is not good to frighten your spirit when there is no reason to be afraid.* ”

Nine-year-old Randau is afraid of new people and places because his mother is afraid. In a moment of bravado during his first visit to Singapore, he leaves the hotel then loses his way in the streets. He accidentally travels 100 years to the past and meets Kai, the traveller of islands. Kai talks about the traveller's rule and helps Randau return to modern-day Singapore to be reunited with his parents. After spending two days seeing the island through his father's eyes, Randau promises to grow up into a brave traveller.

Golda Mowe is a Malaysian author who writes primarily about the Iban of Sarawak. The traditional stories and life philosophies of this indigenous tribe are a major source of inspiration in her work. Her novels *Iban Dream* (2013), *Iban Journey* (2015) and *Iban Woman* (2018) are published by Monsoon Books. Learn more about her via her LinkedIn profile at Golda Mowe.



SELF-DISCOVERY

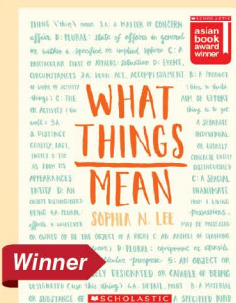


ISBN: 978-9-810-78786-8
Lexile level: 940L

“ The best sleeping pill — English ”

The narrator is a young girl who must leave her beloved grandmother in mainland China to join her parents and siblings in Hong Kong. As she tries to make sense of her new life, she slowly finds herself and discovers what she needs to be truly happy.

Ching Yeung Russell grew up in mainland China and Hong Kong. She began writing letters for her relatives at the age of eight and was inspired to become a writer by her desire to eat more *dan lai* (milk custard) — a special treat she was once rewarded for reciting classical Chinese poetry. Russell is the author of a series of middle grade novels including *First Apple*, winner of a Parents' Choice Award and the New York State Reading Association's Charlotte Award. Learn more about her at www.chingyeung.homestead.com.



ISBN: 978-9-810-94054-6
Lexile level: 910L

“ Maybe we all have to let go of things, and people, in order to keep our balance. ”

What does it mean to be different? Fourteen-year-old Olive is struggling to find out. Everything about her is so different from the rest of her family. She is big-haired, brown-skinned, and clumsy in a family of cream-coloured beauties who are all popular and 'good at sports'. It must be because she closely resembles her father, whom she has never known, and about whom her mother never speaks.

Sophia N. Lee grew up in the Philippines. She wanted to be many things growing up: doctor, teacher, ballerina, ninja, crime-fighting international spy, wizard, time traveler, journalist, and lawyer. She likes to think she can be all these things through writing. She loves words and the meanings behind them. Her favorite word is chance. *What Things Mean* is her first book.

Learn more about her at www.sophianlee.com.



SELF-DISCOVERY



ISBN: 978-9-810-94053-9
Lexile level: 830L

“ *There was a time when the word “friend” meant something deeper...* ”

Although her parents have shown her nothing but love and acceptance, fifteen-year-old Sula's dark complexion has always reminded her that she doesn't fit in with the rest of her family.

What's worse is she also feels that her parents are hiding something from her. After getting expelled from school, Sula reluctantly goes to stay with her mother's friends. There she unexpectedly finds herself on a journey of self-discovery — a journey that keeps drawing her to the sea.

Catherine Torres is a diplomat and writer from Manila, Philippines. Her work has taken her to postings in New Delhi, Singapore, and now, Berlin, where she lives with her husband, a Korean scholar and translator, and their son, Samuel. When foreign affairs, as well as domestic ones, permit, Catherine voyages around the world on boats made of words. Occasionally, as with *Sula's Voyage*, she even builds the boat herself. Learn more about her at www.voyagewithsula.com.



ISBN: 978-9-810-73011-6
Lexile level: 870L

“ *Even if a tree is artificial it doesn't mean it's not real.* ”

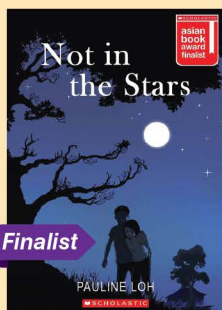
Ten-year-old Lizhi arrives in Singapore to meet her father's family after he dies in an accident. Aunt Mona, his sister is rude and strange and does little to make Lizhi feel at home. The young girl struggles to make sense of this world where in which her only friend is the young Indonesian maid, Bwe Bwe. Then one day she discovers a beautifully carved mudskipper in a house that is full of forgotten objects, neglected furniture and locked rooms. What other secrets will Lizhi uncover?

Ovidia Yu is one of Singapore's best known writers. She has published award-winning plays, short stories and the popular Auntie Lee series. Her awards include the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Singapore Foundation Culture Award (1996), the National Arts Council (NAC) Young Artist Award (1996) and the Singapore Youth Award (1997).

Learn more about her at www.ovidiayu.com.



COURAGE

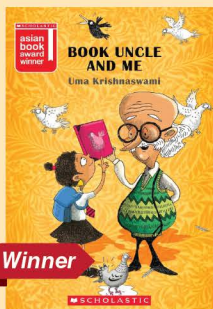


ISBN: 978-9-810-79241-1
Lexile level: 760L

“ Don't leave me, save me! ”

Mui and Justin share a past that Justin can no longer recall. An ordeal he experienced has left him plagued by nightmares and Mui believes she can help him recover from the trauma he experienced years ago. Will she succeed in giving him peace, and will she finally find the happiness she has long craved?

Pauline Loh is based in Singapore and was a winner in the First Time Writers and Illustrators Publishing Initiative in 2009. She has an Arts degree and worked as a reporter with The New Paper for four years before becoming the editor of a family magazine. Pauline is now a freelance writer who writes books for children and young adult in her spare time. She is married and has three children. Learn more about her at www.paulineloh.wordpress.com.



ISBN: 978-9-810-72821-2
Lexile level: 580L

“ Right book for the right person for the right day. That's my motto. ”

Yasmin loves a book from Book Uncle's free lending library but when her elderly friend faces pressure to move his books, Yasmin must interrupt her reading to help him stay! With the elections coming up, none of the grown-ups are busy with their own affairs, so Yasmin and her friends will have to manage on their own: Can they make a difference and will the eccentric Karate Samuel, who's running for mayor, help them?

Uma Krishnaswami is from India, and now lives in northwest New Mexico. She's the author of picture books, novels, early readers and short story collections. Her picture books include *Monsoon*, a Parents' Choice recommended book, and *The Happiest Tree*, a CCBC Choice. Uma teaches writing online and is on the faculty of the Vermont College MFA programme. Learn more about her at www.makrishnaswami.org.



ADVENTURE



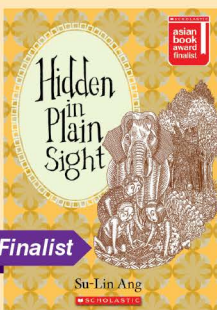
ISBN: 978-9-810-94055-3
Lexile level: 780L

“ One would think that a descendant of the dragon would be less afraid... ”

Xin Long is like any ordinary ten-year-old girl. She prefers Wushu to studying, likes hanging out with her friends, and loves listening to her Ah Ma's stories. But when these stories tell of an ancient mythical beast that threatens to destroy the world, Xin Long realises that she is the only one who can stop it. Can she destroy this evil?

Shi Min spent a good portion of her childhood in Singapore writing stories in old exercise books, complete with wacky pencil drawings. In her adult life, she still spends time writing stories, but on a laptop. It seems like the time she spent watching cartoons about the Monkey King and TV serials involving Chinese gods and immortals has paid off, somewhat. *Dragonhearted* is her first book. She is working on the sequel and a collection of short stories.

Learn more about her at www.dragonhearted.com.



ISBN: 978-9-810-78787-5
Lexile level: 920L

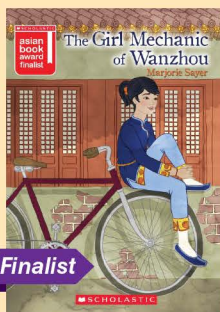
“ One day you will have to decide which world you want to belong to. ”

When ten-year-old Jen and her cousins accidentally dislodge a Chinese puzzle hidden in an old Chinese sofa, the cousins find themselves on a treasure hunt that takes them through 1960s Singapore, hunting down clues and breaking codes and ciphers. What will the puzzle finally reveal?

Su-Lin Ang was born in the tumultuous time in pre-independent Singapore. In writing *Hidden in Plain Sight* she wished to preserve a snapshot of the unique period in Singapore's history that she experienced as a child — the struggles, through, water rationing, floods, race riots, separation from Malaysia and becoming an independent nation that created a tough and resilient generation. Su-Lin is a lawyer and lives in Singapore. She is married to Dennis and they have two children, Ying and Neil, a son-in-law Johnny and a grandson, Joseph. *Hidden in Plain Sight* is her first novel.



ADVENTURE



ISBN: 978-9-810-72822-9
Lexile level: 620L

“ *To no one can I speak for,
who can understand me?* ”

The year is 1902 and twelve-year-old Zun lives in Wanzhou, China, the daughter of a bicycle designer. Zun is happiest when she's at the iron foundry and dreams of the day her father will build China's first bicycle factory. But, one night, something happens to destroy those dreams and change her life completely.

Marjorie Sayer was born in Hong Kong and educated in Canada and the United States. She studied maths and physics and won the D. G. Studer prize in Quantum Mechanics and a National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada fellowship in Mathematics. She has worked as a math consultant, technical author and teacher. She lives in California with her husband and two daughters. Learn more about her at www.marjoriesayer.com.



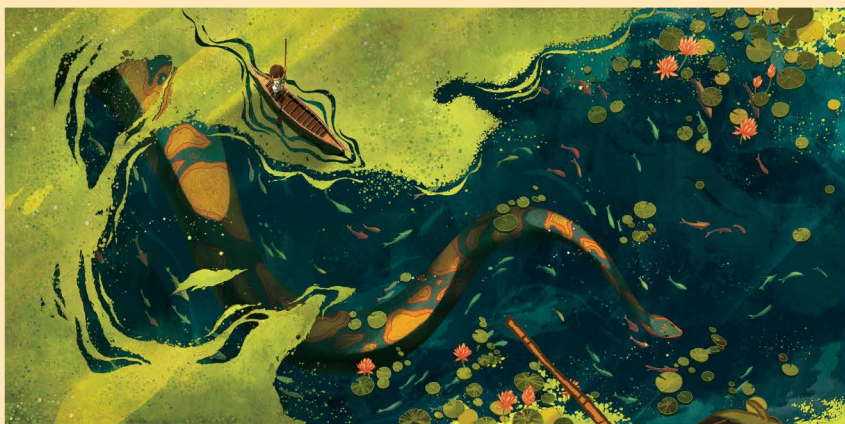


ISBN: 978-9-810-99273-6

Lexile level: AD500L

“ The deeper I go, the more afraid I am... ”

During the Mekong Delta's 'floating season,' when the great river overflows, An and others like him must brave the floods to attend school. The first time An sets out alone, he faces heavy rain and the mysteries of the dark Melaleuca swamp. But An takes comfort in knowing that his friends are waiting for him at the end of his journey.



Phung Nguyen Quang

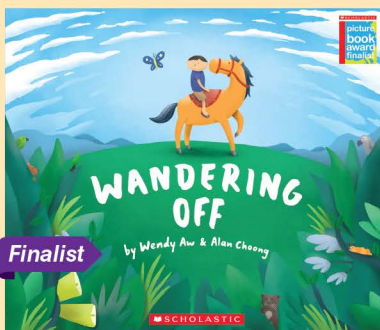
is a professional author and illustrator of children books, living and working in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



COURAGE

**Huynh Kim Lien**

lives in Ho Chi Minh City. A writer as well as an illustrator of children's books, Kim Lien participated as an illustrator in the Children's Books Publishing Programme by Room to Read in Vietnam.



ISBN: 978-9-810-99274-3

Lexile level: AD410L

“ Even though Mummy said not to...Lucas wandered off. ”

Lucas faces a long, boring wait when his Mum goes shopping at the wet market, but a new friend helps him turn a dull afternoon into an exciting, fun-filled one. This energetic and colourful story celebrates the power of the imagination and how it can transform the world into anything at all.



ADVENTURE

**Admen by a day, children by night**

As daydreamers who never really grew up, it's not hard to see why Wendy and Alan are drawn to the world of children's books. Besides spaceships and dinosaurs, they too share a love for reading. Together, the Singaporean duo has published posters, brochures and banners; but *Wandering Off* is their very first picture book.

SELF-DISCOVERY



ISBN: 978-981-09-9275-0
Lexile level: AD410L

“Just then, the crowd gasped. Wira’s Janggan had nose-dived, swirling in the wind.”

Set around the cultural festivities of Bali, Janggan Dragon Kite features the story of a young boy who discovers the value of friendship over winning a competition.

To celebrate the harvest festival, dragon kites, or Janggan, take to the skies. Wira is determined that his family’s Janggan will win the flying competition, until he sees his friend Yoga’s majestic kite. Does Wira’s Janggan still stand a chance?



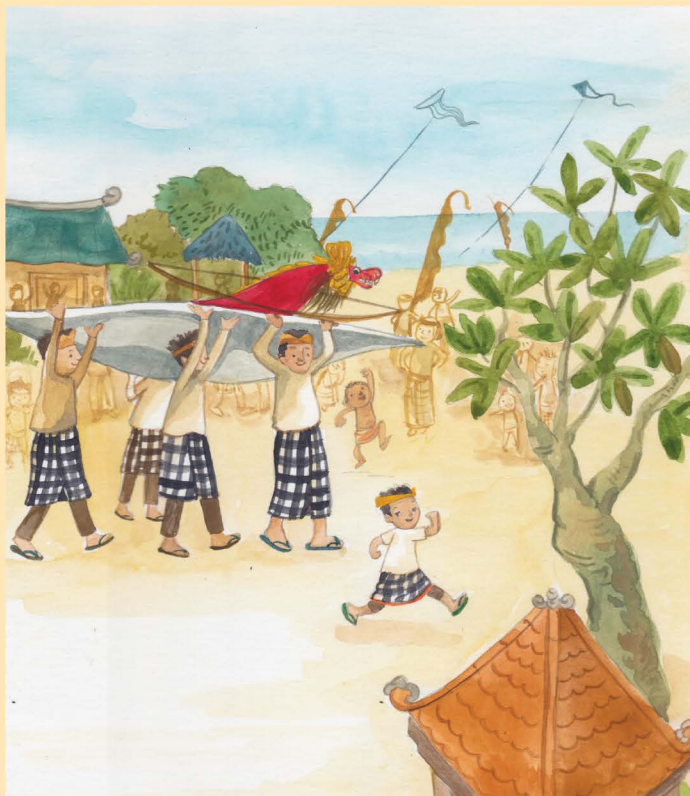
Eugenia Gina

Eugenia Gina is an illustrator and Graphic Designer with a BA degree in Visual Communication from the Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia. She has illustrated around 30 children books.

In 2012 she was chosen as the Indonesian delegate to take part in illustrating a project for Children Folktales in Southeast Asian Countries and Korea by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO).



FRIENDSHIP

**Shoba Dewey Chugani**

is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Shoba has loved books since she was a child. After graduating as an engineer, Shoba worked as a management consultant before starting a new career path in early childhood education, writing several articles and books as an educator. She then started writing children's stories and has never stopped since.



Scholastic Picture Book Award

Immerse yourself in culturally-rich, mesmerisingly-illustrated stories!



Finalist

ISBN: 9789814880299

Lexile level:

“As darkness falls, dreams are calling...
And so, our journey begins...”

As the night falls, adventure begins with a tale of a mother encouraging a child to face the darkness and what lies ahead.

A beautiful tale filled with whimsical illustrations for bedtime!

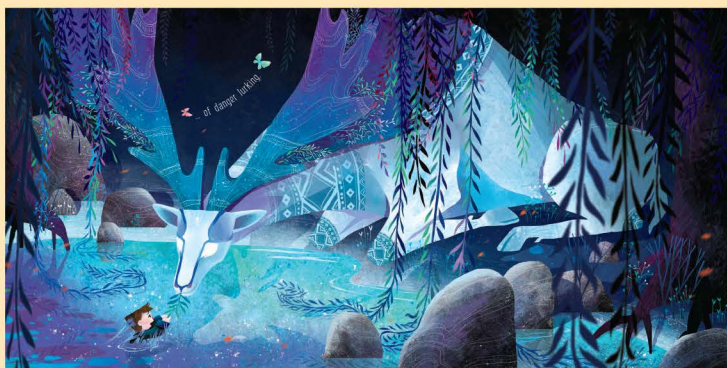


Trang Hoang

works for Room to Read Vietnam as a writer and editor with a focus on children's picture books. She is passionate about working with children and strongly committed to nurturing their dreams through the power of storytelling.



COURAGE

**Pham Quang Phuc**

works for Kim Dong Publishing House as an art editor and illustrator. Writing for children is a childhood dream come true and he now considers storytelling as a way to balance his life, and hopes young readers will gain interests and dreams from his stories.







Award-winning Stories

Recognizing the best literary talents in Asia!