

# BOOKS FROM Singapore

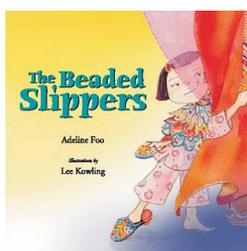
The books included in the top ten list for Singapore were chosen for inclusion because they are:

- Books that feature Singapore and/or its diverse culture
- Books with universal values such as friendship, love, family, etc.
- Of good quality in writing and illustrations (not didactic in the telling)
- Children's perennial favourites (e.g. Mooty)

Most of the books featured have received awards such as First Time Writers and Illustrators award, Hedwig Anuar award or in the case of Emily Lim's book, Independent Publisher's Book Award ("IPPY Awards") – Bronze medal in the Children's Picturebook category.

## 1 Adeline Foo • Lee Kowling, ill. **The beaded slippers**

Booksmith, 2008 • ISBN 9789810808044

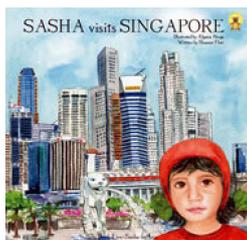


Puteh lives in a huge house with her grandmother, Mama, and their servant, Amah. There are 4 rooms in the house, one for each of them. But, the last room remains unoccupied. Not only that, it is always locked. Amah calls it the haunted room in the hope of scaring Puteh but that only triggers Puteh's curiosity even more. One day, she chances on the

room unlocked. As both Mama and Amah are busy, she sneaks into the room and discovers something special about the room. Follow Puteh and learn about the "Peranakan" world through the illustrations and facts in this book. With the inclusion of a glossary of Peranakan terms used for a better understanding, this will definitely be an informative read.

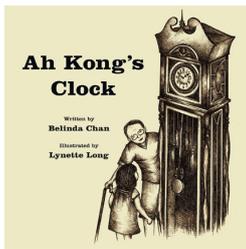
## 2 Shamini Flint • Alpana Ahuja, ill. **Sasha visits Singapore**

Sunbear Pub, 2006 • ISBN 9789810565404



Sasha is in Singapore, and she is in for a treat. Follow her through a bumboat ride, the MRT and even a zebra-striped train! As she explores vibrant Singapore, she meets the famous Merlion, the white tigers in the Singapore Zoo and even a Lion Dance.

Tag along with Sasha and you will get a chance to visit Singapore's famous attractions all in one day. The illustrations capture the essence of Singapore very well.



### 3 Belinda Chan • Lynette Long, ill. **Ah Kong's clock**

Straits Times Press Children, 2009 • ISBN 9789814266376

Ah Kong's clock has been with the family for many generations. It is a friend as well as a member of the family. Day after day, the clock ticks on faithfully, telling everyone the time and going through important occasions with the

family. But one day, the clock stops! Is it trying to tell us something?

This is a great book, and also suitable for parents to emphasize to their child on the importance of time.

### 4 Jin Pyn **The elephant and the tree**

Epigram Books, 2006 • ISBN 9789810561024



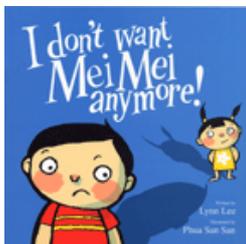
This story features a unique relationship between an elephant and a tree. They are the best of friends. The story begins with a young elephant who loves wandering free. Yet he will always go back to the same tree. He goes to the tree to scratch his itching body and to share stories. As the years go by, they lose their natural

playground to humans. The elephant is shot and the tree chopped down. With one chained and the other bound, they recount the happy memories of the time they were both free.

This heart-warming adventure tells of how the friendship between the elephant and the tree stands the test of time.

### 5 Lynn Lee • Phua San San, ill. **I don't want Mei Mei anymore!**

Straits Times Press, 2008 • ISBN 9789814266062

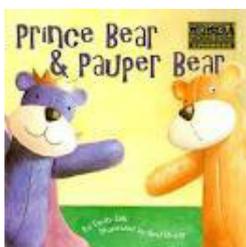


This book is about Mark and his baby sister whom he calls Mei Mei. One day, Mark gets very angry and declares that he does not want Mei Mei anymore. They sit in Mark's rocket and take off on an adventure. They land right in front of

a baby factory where Mark gets to exchange Mei Mei for another baby. Will he find the perfect baby? A simple yet beautiful story about sibling relationships.

### 6 By Emily Lim • Neal Sharp, ill. **Prince bear & pauper bear**

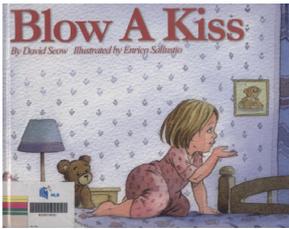
Mustard Seed Books, 2007 • ISBN 9789810590048



Prince Bear and Pauper Bear belong to the same toy store but they look very different. While Prince Bear has matching eyes and a mouth, an armour with his name on it and wears a crown and cape, Pauper Bear is plain with mismatched eyes and no mouth. Prince Bear is bought by a girl who loves him initially but neglects him

afterwards. Pauper Bear is given to a boy without much money. The grateful boy fixes his eyes and mouth and plays with him daily.

A story that highlights the values of empathy, compassion and friendship. It is accompanied by child-like illustrations with gentle and cheerful colours.

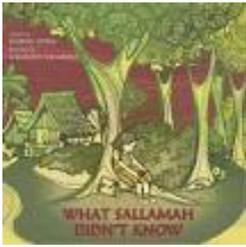


## 7 David Seow • Enrico Sallustio, ill. **Blow a kiss**

Bonnie Books, 2010 • ISBN 9789810824938

This heart-warming story starts with a simple thought: "Can you blow a kiss? Get ready, get set, blow! Now let's see where your little kiss will go." It then takes the reader's imagination across various countries and cultures, following the pathway of the blown kiss. With rhyming text, this story shows how

much joy a blown kiss can bring to others. The illustrations are charming; colourful with soft shades and full of expression! They enhance the vivid pictures that come to mind when reading the verses. The kiss finally lands in Singapore and it's the reader's turn to pass on the message of love and happiness - blow a kiss!

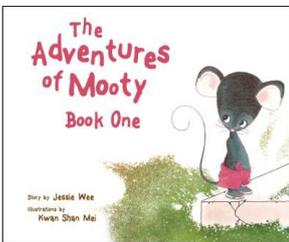


## 8 Sharon Ismail • Khairudin Saharom, ill. **What Sallamah didn't know**

Candid Kids, 2007 • ISBN 9789810589943

Set in early Singapore, this true story tells of a girl's journey in discovering and accepting that she is an adopted child. It all began with a Chinese baby girl who was given to a Malay family to raise as their own. The baby was named Sallamah and grew up happily amongst her many siblings in a close knit kampong (Malay for "village"). Her happiness finds an abrupt end

when she found out, by accident, that she was in fact adopted and of Chinese heritage. Soon, she learnt that some of her other siblings were also adopted as babies and were also of different races. This is a heartwarming story, beautifully written by the protagonist's daughter – of true love and kinship, regardless of the colour of one's skin.

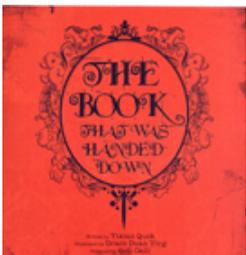


## 9 Jessie Wee • Kwan Shan Mei, ill. **The adventures of Mooty**

Marshall Cavendish Children, 2009 • ISBN 9789814276559

Mooty is a mouse who lives in Grandma's house but he is forced to move out when Grandma gets a cat. He finds a big hollow tree and calls it his new house. He then makes friends with other creatures – ants, lizards, birds and frogs. Mooty's adventures come in five books with ten stories.

The whole set is entertaining with Mooty getting married and having a baby at the end of the series. The illustrations are cute and children will especially get attracted to adorable Mooty in his sarong attire.



## 10 Yixian Quek • Grace Duan Ying, ill. **The Book that was Handed Down**

Straits Times Press, 2008 • ISBN 9789814266055

Ping is always getting hand-me-downs from her brother Ming, including this book. She does not like the book at all, that is until her brother shares the hidden wonders of stories. This is

a highly original picturebook, simple yet brilliantly put together to carry the story through its illustrations. It won the inaugural Hedwig Anuar Award in May 2011.