



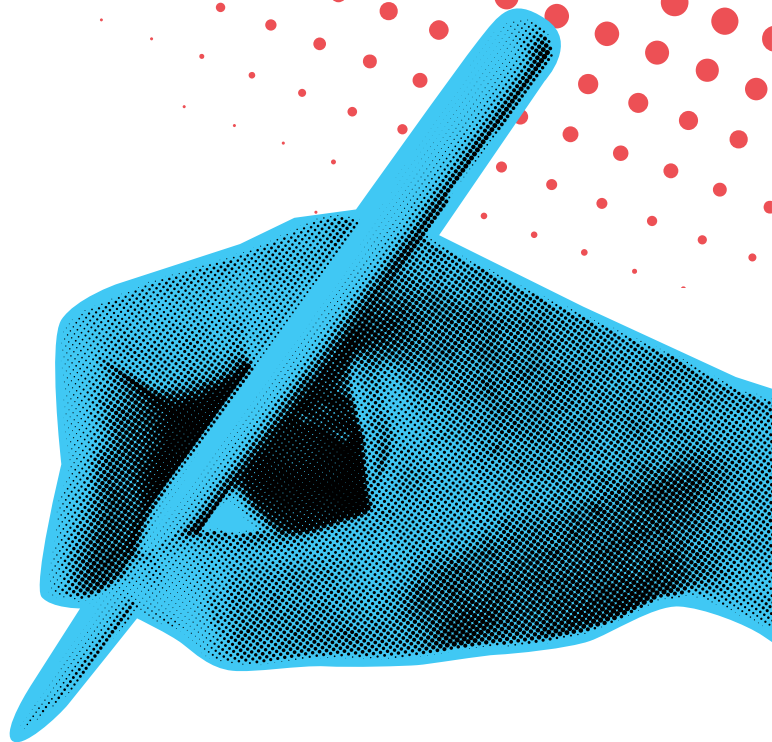
Hong Kong International
Literary Festival
香港國際文學節

YOUNG READERS FESTIVAL

青少年讀者節

2026

2-13 MARCH



ABOUT YRF



Each year, the Young Readers Festival (YRF) brings storytelling to life through a carefully curated programme of in-school talks and workshops with **both local and international authors**. Our YRF schools programme **motivates students** to engage with the written word, **promotes literacy and communication**, and nurtures a generation of outward-looking, globally engaged citizens. We provide authentic experiences that will complement the school curriculum and fit in with school schedules.



SPONSORED

BY:



SCOLAR

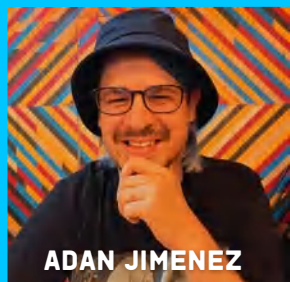
語 常 會

YOUNG READERS FESTIVAL 青少年讀者節

2026

2-6 MARCH
INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

9-13 MARCH
LOCAL SPEAKERS



ADAN JIMENEZ



FELICIA LOW-JIMENEZ



AJ LOW



ANN MORGAN



BEATRICE ALEGMAGNA



BEN CLANTON



CARIS AVENDAÑO CRUZ



DEAN STUART



HANNA ALKAF



JANET WONG



JOSHUA IP



KYLA ZHAO



LIANN ZHANG



RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE



BENNY LAU



THAO LAM



WESLEY KING



BONNIE PANG



CATHERINE CHOI



ERICA LYONS



SO YOUNG PARK



EMMA PEI YIN



LINUS LIU



MOMO LEUNG



RACHEL IP



ZANNI LOUISE



SHANA CHEUNG



RACHEL SMITH

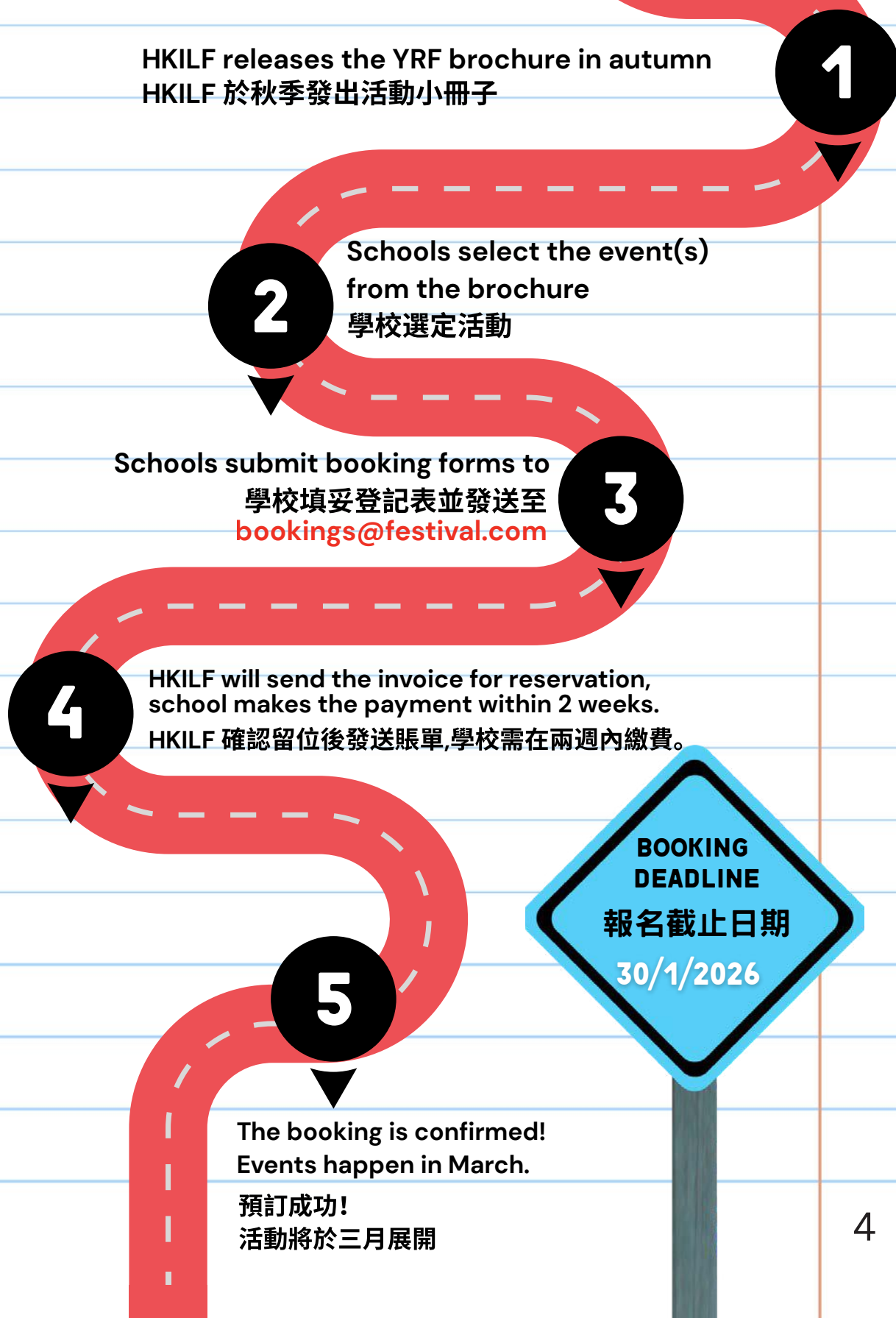


WONG YI

**SPEAKERS
LINEUP**

BOOK YRF EVENTS IN 4 STEPS

簡單4個steps，
預訂YRF節目。





TESTIMONIALS

Witnessing the passion these authors and illustrators have for their craft motivates our students to dive into books and unleash their creativity.

— Teacher commenting on YRF 2025

“ We have been bringing authors and illustrators to our campus through the YRF for many years and it always is a joy! The students love meeting the people who create the books they love! Thanks so much YRF!

— School Principal commenting on YRF 2025 ”

“ The YRF consistently provides exceptional support, making the process of booking guest speakers for our school incredibly easy. This is my second year utilizing their service, and once again, it has been a fantastic experience.

— Teacher commenting on YRF 2025 ”



HKILF 2026



Hong Kong International
Literary Festival
香港國際文學節

Student & Teacher Discount for Public Literary Events!

- ✓ Great for secondary & university students
- ✓ Classes or groups of 10 or more can contact bookings@festival.org.hk for additional discount
- ✓ Please have your student or staff ID ready to present at the event entrance.

40%
OFF

Eventbrite Code: [YRF2026]

Tickets will go on sale
on Eventbrite early 2026



Hong Kong International
Literary Festival
香港國際文學節

25
YEARS

Inspiring Generations

March 1-8 2026



Hong Kong International
Literary Festival
香港國際文學節



POETRY COMPETITION 詩歌創作比賽

Theme: Generations

Language: Chinese/ English

Division :

- Junior Group - Chinese
- Junior Group - English
- Public Group - Chinese
- Public Group - English

* Junior (below 16 years old) ,
Public (16 years old or above)

Prize: Bookazine voucher, Chance to
read your poem at HKILF 2026 event

Submission Deadline: 11-1-2026

Winners Announcement: 13-2-2026

主題: 幾代人

語言: 中文/英文

組別:

少年組-中文 / 少年組-英文
公開組-中文 / 公開組-英文

(少年組: 16歲以下參賽者,
公開組: 16歲或以上參賽
者)

獎品: Bookazine 書券, 得獎
者有機會於香港國際文學節
2026活動中朗讀作品

截止日期: 11-1-2026

獲獎公布日期: 13-2-2026

YOU ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR



SCHOOL AWARDS
大湾区教育卓越奖

12 March 2026, Hong Kong

2025 SCHOOL LIBRARY
AWARD WINNER



KOWLOON
JUNIOR SCHOOL

The GBA School Awards are the first ever opportunity for those involved in education in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) to celebrate education innovation. The awards are open to schools and education entities in the GBA and all applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of judges.



gbaschoolawards.org



21CL LIBRARY CONNECTION

11-12 MARCH 2026 | HONG KONG



Host School
Lycée Français International
French International School
Hong Kong

The 21CL Library Connection is an annual gathering for the library community.

Featuring a **School Library Tour on 11 March**, and the **Library Mini Conference on 12 March**, the 21CL Library Connection features a collection of speakers from library leaders, guest authors, and presentations from innovative teacher librarians. This is one professional learning event for **librarians, by librarians** that you shouldn't miss.



21clconf.org/21cl-library-connection-2026

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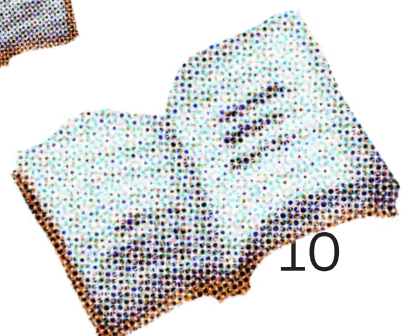
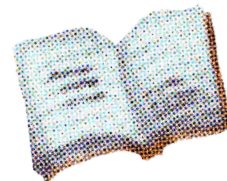
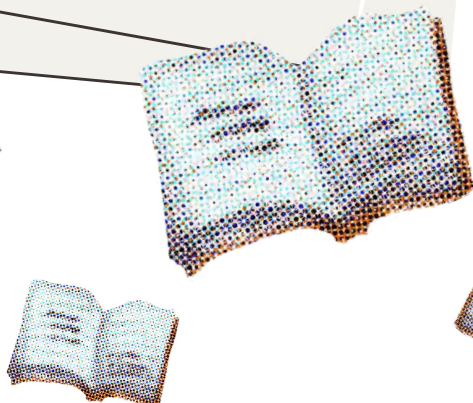
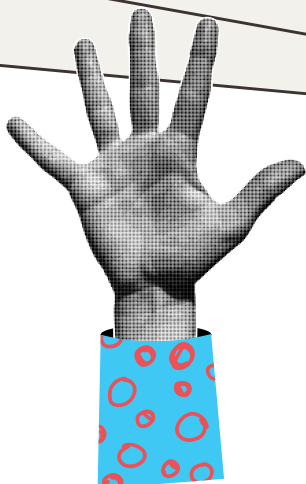
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KINDERGARTEN / PRIMARY

Ages 5 to 7 years old

**THE FOLLOWING PAGES HAVE
DETAILS ON EXCITING EVENTS FOR
OUR YOUNGEST PARTICIPANTS.**



KINDERGARTEN / PRIMARY 5-7



Ben Clanton

2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3	6/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

AVAILABILITY

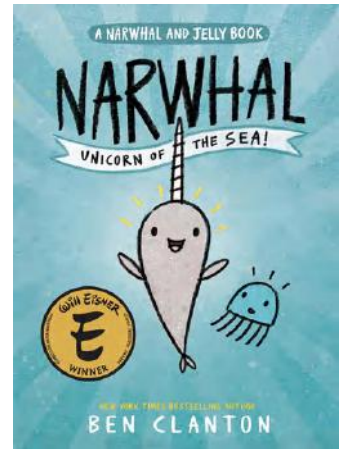
Where a Book Begins

TALK Ages: 5-10, or all ages

Language: English

Event Description: Let's explore the creative process with Ben! We'll start with a blank page and take a look at how we can fill it. Together we'll create a character and start to get to know them. Ben will share how two of his characters, Narwhal and Jelly, came to be and read from a forthcoming book. This presentation is all about fun, exploration, and creative solutions!

Materials Required: Easel and large paper to draw on, projector, microphone



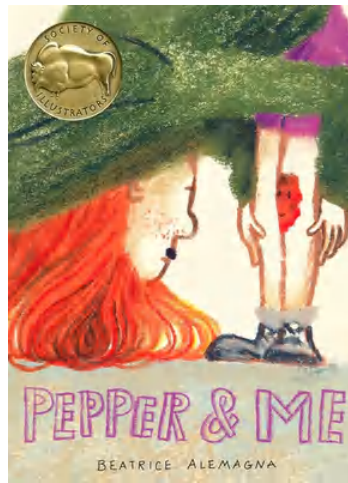
How a Book Comes to Life!

TALK Ages: 6-10

Languages: French/Italian/English (with translator)

Event Description: Internationally acclaimed author and illustrator Beatrice Alemagna will share the magical process of making a picture book, from the first idea to the final art. She will discuss the relatable themes and characters in her books, including *Best Thing Ever* and *Pepper and Me*, and lead a live drawing demonstration!

Materials Required: Projector, Screen, Visualizer with desk and chair for drawing at, large easel, paper.



Beatrice Alemagna

2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3	6/3
	✓	✓		

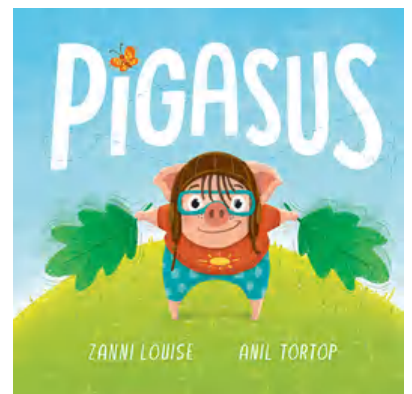
AVAILABILITY

Learning to Fly

TALK Ages: 4-9 **Language:** English

Event Description: Ready to fly? In this presentation, Zanni takes kids through the magic of storytelling and shows that with persistence, courage and imagination they can learn to fly like Pigasus, cartwheel down hills, go to the Olympics and write books... whatever it is that they dream!

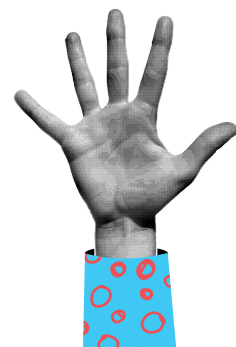
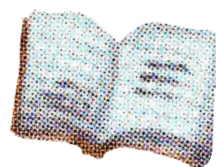
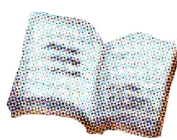
Materials Required: Projector with sound, whiteboard



Zanni Louise

2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3	6/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

AVAILABILITY



KINDERGARTEN / PRIMARY 5-7



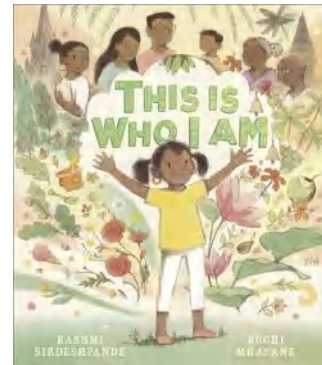
Rashmi Sirdeshpande

THIS IS WHO I AM - the magic of books and creativity

TALK Ages: 5-7 Language: English

Event Description: Participants will explore how books of all kinds shape them, where story ideas come from, and how to supercharge their creativity. They will discover how NO ONE can tell a story quite like they can in this uplifting interactive talk where Rashmi will share her lyrical picture book *THIS IS WHO I AM*, illustrated by Ruchi Mhasane, as well as the secret of drawing on the things they love to make writing a real joy.

Materials Required: Projector, microphone (depending on the audience size)



2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3	6/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

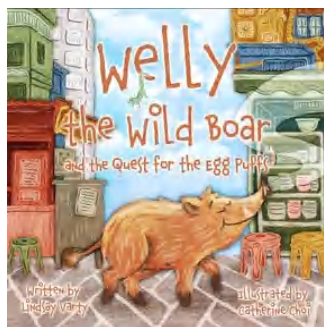
AVAILABILITY

Exploring Hong Kong's Flavours: A Journey with Welly the Wild Boar

TALK Ages: 5-7 Language: English

Event Description: Join Catherine as she reads her debut picture book, *Welly the Wild Boar and the Quest for the Egg Puffs*. Discover the diverse street foods of Hong Kong while learning about Catherine's journey and her creative process behind the book from an illustrator's perspective. Kids will also have the chance to share their favourite foods through a drawing activity, followed by a brief Q&A session.

Materials Required: projector, HDMI cable or laptop, microphone (only if speaking to a large group), pencils/pens for students (Catherine will design the activity sheet, which will be emailed prior to the talk to print at schools.)



Catherine Choi

9/3	10/3	11/3	12/3	13/3
✓		✓		✓

AVAILABILITY

My Unique Hat

WORKSHOP Ages: 5-10 Languages:

English, Cantonese

Event Description: Children are invited to join a silly and heartwarming party inspired by Bonnie's picture book *My Unique Friend!* In this session, students can create their own unique hat, developing their craft and creativity skills.

Materials Required: projector, microphone, simple art supplies (coloured pencils, coloured markers, tape and glue stick)

最獨特的帽子

工作坊 年齡: 5-10

語言: 廣東話, 英文

活動類型: 工作坊

活動簡介: 來跟 BONNIE 一起閱讀無字繪本《最獨特的朋友》，然後製作屬於自己的、獨一無二的帽子吧！盡情發揮你的創意和手藝！

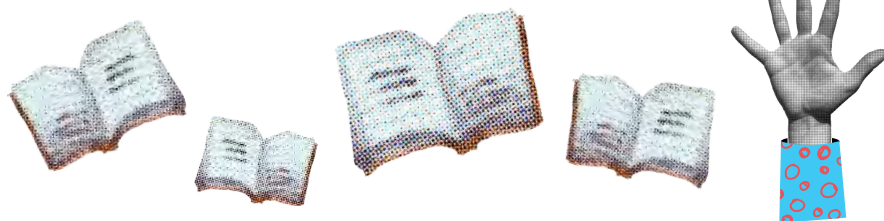
需要材料: 投影機, 麥克風, 顏色筆, 膠紙, 漿糊筆



Bonnie Pang

9/3	10/3	11/3	12/3	13/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

AVAILABILITY



KINDERGARTEN / PRIMARY 5-7



Thao Lam

Big Love for Bellies

WORKSHOP Ages: 3-7 Language: English

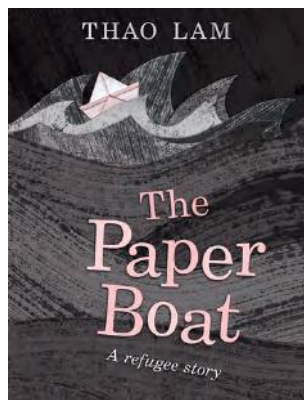
Event Description: Participants will join Thao for a read-aloud of her newest book, *Everybelly*. Afterwards, she will share the inspiration and creative process behind the story. This event is a joyful celebration of bellies in all their wonderful shapes—big, round, soft, or firm. Together, participants will practice kindness toward others and explore what bellies can do through playful movement. And since one cannot talk about bellies without food, the group will also dive into collage-making to build a positive relationship with eating.



Materials Required: textured and patterned scrap papers, colour construction paper, recycled materials like magazines or gift wrapping paper, white cardboard paper (size 8.5 inches x 11 inches), glue, scissors, colour pencils, and markers.

2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3	6/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

AVAILABILITY



The Journey of a Story

WORKSHOP Ages: 5-12 Language: English

Event Description: In *The Paper Boat*, Thao's signature collage art tells the wordless story of one family's escape from Vietnam - a journey intertwined with an ant colony's parallel narrative. Thao will introduce the art of wordless picture books through visual storytelling. Together, we'll examine a range of techniques illustrators use to tell a story without text, including body language, facial expressions, composition, pacing, the use of colours, motion lines and graphic symbols.

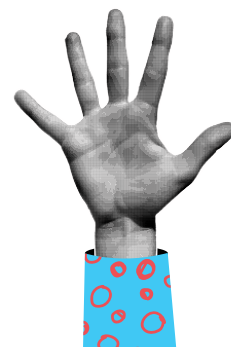
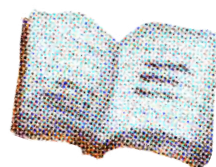
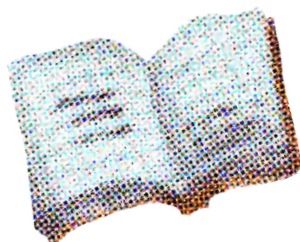
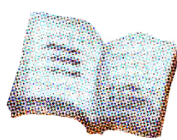
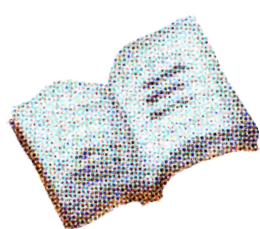
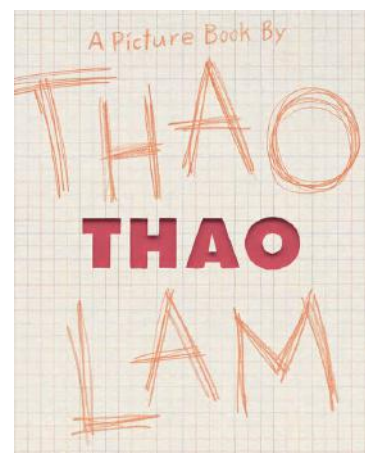
Materials: Pencils, erasers, ruler, colour pencils, blank paper (size 8.5 inches x 11 inches), blackboard or whiteboard with drawing tool.

What's In A Name?

WORKSHOP Ages: 5-8 Language: English

Event Description: Participants will share the stories behind their names and celebrate what makes each special. Using *THAO: A Picture Book* as a guide, they will explore why saying someone's name correctly is an important way of honouring who they are. For younger students, they will use collages to create self-portraits that draw inspiration from the class photos illustrated in the book's endpapers.

Materials Required: textured and patterned scrap papers, colour construction paper, recycled materials like magazines or gift wrapping paper, white cardstock paper (size 8.5 inches x 11 inches), glue, scissors, colour pencils, and markers.



KINDERGARTEN / PRIMARY 5-7



Erica Lyons

9/3	10/3	11/3	12/3	13/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	

AVAILABILITY

What Does Memory Smell (And Taste) Like?

TALK Ages: 6-10 Language: English

Event Description: There are so many picture books centred around food. Why is this? What does food reveal about characters and the worlds that they inhabit? In this talk, Erica will delve into the science that links smell and memory and discuss the connection between food and culture, sharing insights from her books *Lily's Hong Kong Honey Cake* and *Mixed-Up Mooncakes*.

Materials Required: projector



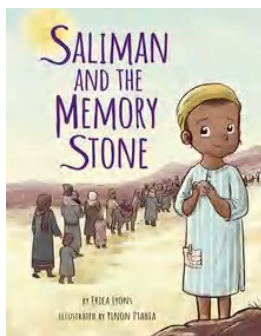
What Is Home?

TALK / WORKSHOP Ages: 6-10 Language: English

Event Description: Students will reflect on the meaning of "home" in Erica's interactive talk inspired by her books *Lily's Hong Kong Honey Cake* and *Saliman and the Memory Stone*. Participants will discuss if home is a physical place and how our sense of belonging can change over time.

This event can also be offered as a workshop. After discussing migration stories, students will fill a suitcase outline with images, drawings and words representing what they'd pack if they embarked on their own journey.

Materials Required: projector. **For the workshop:** projector, craft supplies, print-out, markers, crayons, pencils, scissors, paste.



How To Find And Create Stories In Your Own Toy Box

WORKSHOP Ages: 5-8 Languages: English / Cantonese / Putonghua

Event Description: Join author and illustrator Shana to discover how the stories hiding in your toy box can become wonderful picture books! Shana will share her journey—from the first sketch to a published book—and teach you the secrets of how words and pictures work together. Turn your creative playtime ideas into your very own new stories! **Shana will read her book aloud in Chinese or translate for English audiences.**

Materials Required: projector, microphone, visualizer, pointer, paper, markers for students.



Shana Cheung

9/3	10/3	11/3	12/3	13/3
✓		✓	✓	

AVAILABILITY

從玩具箱發掘你的故事世界

工作坊 年齡: 5-8 語言: 廣東話, 普通話, 英文

活動簡介: 兒童文學作家及插畫家 Shana 將分享她從最初構思到繪製成書的創作歷程。她將朗讀繪本作品, 並邀請學生參與互動藝術活動, 一同發掘身邊的物件, 並創作有趣、引人入勝的故事。

所需材料: 投影機、麥克風、實物投影機 (視像展示台)、指示筆、紙張、學生用馬克筆 (或彩色筆)。

Playing With Scallions

WORKSHOP Ages: 4-15 Languages: English, Cantonese, Putonghua

Event Description: The scallion – often considered as a simple garnish on a bowl of ramen – is also a food many children dislike. But viewed in a different way, it can be transformed into an artistic creation. In this workshop, Shana invites budding creatives to see daily objects through an artist's eyes, finding inspiration in the ordinary.

Materials Required: projector, microphone, A3 paper, adhesive paper, markers for students

玩轉蔥蔥——平凡之物中的非凡靈感

工作坊 年齡: 4-15 語言: 廣東話, 普通話, 英語

活動介紹: 蔥——通常被視為拉麵上簡單的點綴, 也是許多孩子不喜歡的食物。但換個視角來看, 它卻能變身成為一個充滿藝術感的創意作品。在本次工作坊中, Shana 將邀請小小創作者們用藝術家的眼光來看待日常用品, 從平凡之物中發掘靈感, 並透過遊戲與創作, 帶來全新的體驗與感受。

所需材料: 投影機、麥克風、A3 紙、貼紙、學生用馬克筆 (或彩色筆)。



KINDERGARTEN / PRIMARY 5-7



Rachel Ip

Wild Crossings: How Humans Impact Animal Habitats

TALK Ages: 5-12 **Language:** English

Event Description: In this talk, students will explore why animals migrate and the impact humans have on different habitats. Rachel will reveal how wildlife crossings are used to help animals cross man-made roads and railways all over the world: from canopy rope bridges for Hainan gibbons in China, to tiny tunnels for toads in South Africa. Rachel will share her notebooks and talk about how she researches and writes non-fiction followed by a Q&A session.

Materials Required: Projector for PowerPoint slides



9/3	10/3	11/3	12/3	13/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

AVAILABILITY



The Paper Piano: The Power Of Perseverance

TALK Ages: 5-12 **Language:** English

Event Description: This talk is about perseverance, community and the transformative power of music. Participants will learn fun facts, discover true stories of musicians and discuss unusual musical instruments – including the real paper piano which inspired Rachel's story. Rachel will read *The Paper Piano*, share her notebooks and talk about how Natelle Quek created the illustrations, followed by a Q&A session.

Materials Required: Projector for PowerPoint slides

My Book Of Fairies: Why Myths Are The Perfect Starting Point For Stories

TALK Ages: 5-12 **Language:** English

Event Description: Did you know trolls explode in sunlight? Or that gnomes can live for 400 years? In this talk, Rachel will read from *My Book of Fairies*, sharing tales of mythical fairy folk from around the world and encourage participants to create their own stories inspired by magical mischief makers! Participants can get a firsthand look at Rachel's notebooks and hear about the process behind Craig Shuttlewood's enchanting illustrations.

Materials Required: Projector for PowerPoint slides.



Janet Wong



Janet Wong's Poetry Suitcase

TALK Ages: 6+ **Language:** English

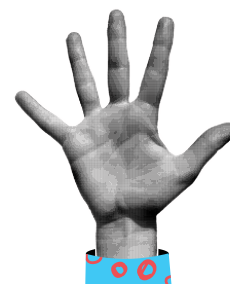
Event Description: Poetry – even very simple and very silly poems – can fill us with joy and inspire us to write our own poems and stories about our favourite sports, hobbies, foods, memories, and more. Janet Wong's Poetry Suitcase is an interactive program that will motivate students to find a place for creative writing in their own daily lives.

Materials Required: projector, two tables, easel with large chart paper



2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3	6/3
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

AVAILABILITY



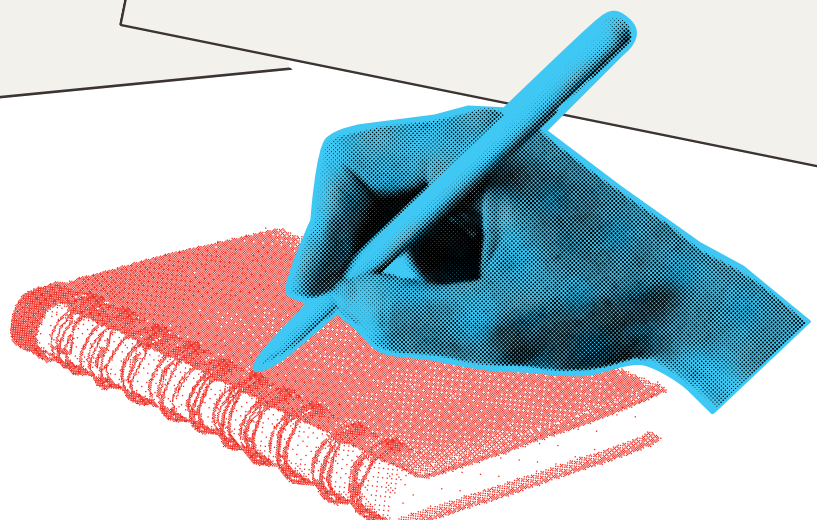
MIDDLE GRADE

Ages 8 to 12 years old

**THE FOLLOWING PAGES HAVE EVENT
DETAILS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TALKS AND
WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG MINDS EAGER TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORLD OF
STORYTELLING.**



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## MIDDLE GRADE 8-12



AJ Low

### Write What You Know... Sleuths and Suspects!

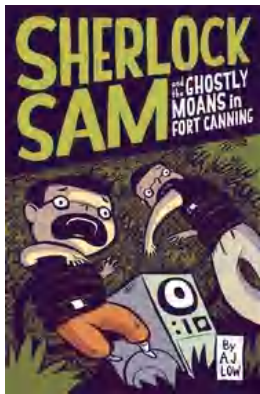
**WORKSHOP** Ages: 8-12 Language: English

**Event Description:** In this one-hour long writing workshop, the authors of the *Sherlock Sam* series of children's detective novels will help kids create their very own crime-solving sleuths and mysterious suspects! Children will learn the basics of creating intriguing characters to use in their very own stories.

**Materials Required:** laptop (speakers will bring their own), projector, HDMI cable, screen, two microphones, and writing tools for the participants

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

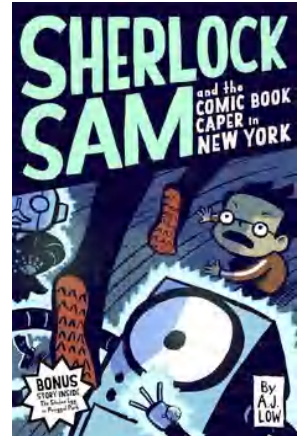


### Investigating a Good Story!

**TALK** Ages: 8-12 Language: English

**Event Description:** In this 30-to-45-minute session, the authors of the bestselling *Sherlock Sam* series of children's detective novels will discuss how they write their stories. They will also give pointers on how children can create their very own characters, settings, and plots!

**Materials Required:** laptop (speakers will bring their own), projector, HDMI cable, screen, and two microphones

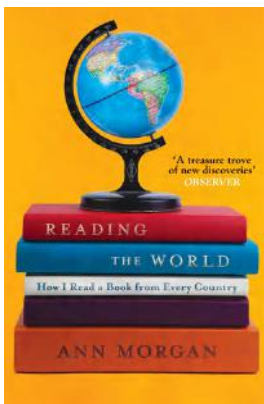


### Creating a Convincing Villain

**TALK** Ages: 8-12 Language: English

**Event Description:** Why do bad guys always seem more interesting than good guys? Why are characters like Maleficent, Professor James Moriarty, and Sasuke so memorable? Join the authors of *Sherlock Sam* as they explain the appeal of villains! This session is 45 minutes to one hour long.

**Materials Required:** laptop (speakers will bring their own), projector, HDMI cable, screen, and two microphones



### How I Read a Book from Every Country

**TALK** Ages: 10+ Language: English

**Event Description:** This talk tells the story of the author's quest to read a book from every country in 2012 and explores some of the big questions that came out of that quest. What is a country? How do stories travel? How does translation work? How can stories bring us together?

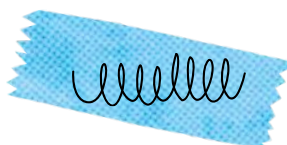
**Materials Required:** projector, microphone



Ann Morgan

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY



# MIDDLE GRADE 8-12

## How An Award Winning Book Comes to Life!

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 6-10

**Languages:** French/Italian/English (with translator)

**Event Description:** Internationally acclaimed author and illustrator Beatrice Alemagna will share the magical process of making a picture book, from the first idea to the final art. She will discuss the relatable themes and characters in her books, including *Best Thing Ever*, *The Muddy Majesty of Muck*, and *Pepper and Me*, and lead a live drawing demonstration!

**Materials Required:** Projector, Screen, Visualizer with desk and chair for drawing at, large easel, paper.



**Beatrice Alemagna**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | ✓   | ✓   |     |     |

AVAILABILITY

## Where a Book Begins

**TALK** Ages: 5-10, or all ages **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Let's explore the creative process with Ben! We'll start with a blank page and take a look at how we can fill it. Together we'll create a character and start to get to know them. Ben will share how two of his characters, Narwhal and Jelly, came to be and read from a forthcoming book. This presentation is all about fun, exploration, and creative solutions!

**Materials Required:** Easel and large paper to draw on, projector, microphone



**Ben Clanton**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

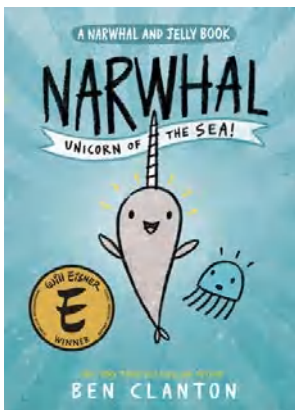
AVAILABILITY

## Creating Characters

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 7+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Together we'll explore ways of creating and getting to know a character. We'll start with a draw-along and move into a character drawing game. We will then interview our characters and discover things like where they live, who their friends and family are, and what sort of problems they might have.

**Materials Required:** Easel and large paper to draw on, paper and pens or pencils for the students



## Janet Wong



| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

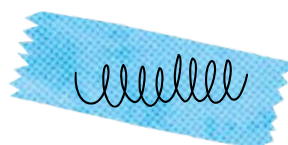
AVAILABILITY

## Janet Wong's Poetry Suitcase

**TALK** Ages: 6+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Poetry — even very simple and very silly poems — can fill us with joy and inspire us to write our own poems and stories about our favourite sports, hobbies, foods, memories, and more. Janet Wong's Poetry Suitcase is an interactive program that will motivate students to find a place for creative writing in their own daily lives.

**Materials Required:** projector, two tables, easel with large chart paper





## MIDDLE GRADE 8-12



**Kyla Zhao**

### Anyone Can Be a Storyteller

**TALK Ages:** 8-14 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Kyla takes students behind the scenes of her latest novel and the life of an author – from the initial idea to the published book. She doesn't just talk about the writing process, but also candidly shares what life as a published author is really like—the ups, downs, and everything in between. Her book explores themes of stereotypes, performance anxiety, and the pressure to succeed, giving students plenty to reflect on and relate to. Along the way, they'll pick up practical, fun storytelling tips to help them brainstorm, build characters, and shape their own stories.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone, paper and pen for students



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|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

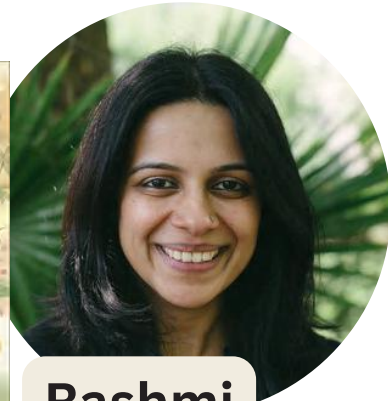
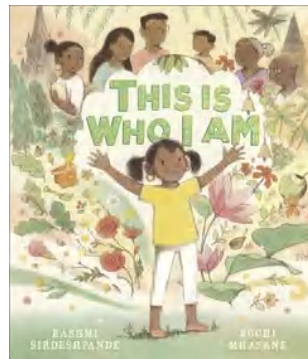
AVAILABILITY

### THIS IS WHO I AM - The Magic of Books and Creativity

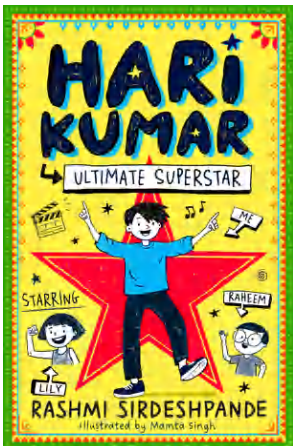
**TALK Ages:** 7-12 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Participants will explore how books of all kinds shape them, where story ideas come from, and how to supercharge their creativity. They will discover how NO ONE can tell a story quite like they can in this uplifting interactive talk where Rashmi will share her lyrical picture book *THIS IS WHO I AM*, illustrated by Ruchi Mhasane, as well as the secret of drawing on the things they love to make writing a real joy.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone (depending on the audience size)



**Rashmi Sirdeshpande**



### HARI KUMAR, ULTIMATE SUPERSTAR

**TALK Ages:** 7-12 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Participants will unlock their inner superstar in this fun talk about finding their voice, playing with words and ideas, and making writing pure JOY. They will hear about the making of Hari Kumar, Ultimate Superstar, illustrated by Mamta Singh, a funny diary-style book about a cheeky autistic ADHDer with some BIG feelings and even BIGGER Bollywood dreams. They will discover how to dream up stereotype-smashing characters and see if they have what it takes to be a Bollywood star!

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone (depending on the audience size)

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

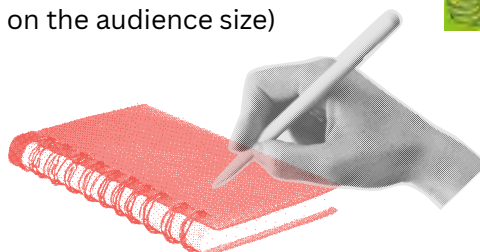
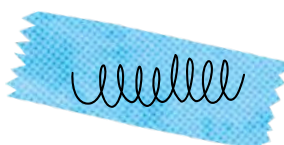
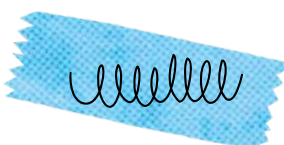
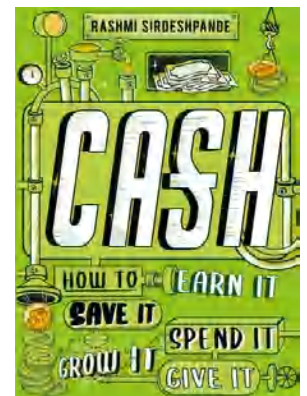
AVAILABILITY

### CASH – How to Earn it, Save it, Spend it, Grow it and GIVE it!

**TALK Ages:** 7-12 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Participants will join Rashmi in a whirlwind tour of all things CASH. They will discover how money isn't good or bad; it's what they do with it that counts. They will see how money can be a force for good in the world, from how they make it to how they spend it and how they give it away. Finally, they will explore how to come up with a business idea that makes a real difference to people around them.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone (depending on the audience size)





## MIDDLE GRADE 8-12



### Thao Lam

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

### The Journey of a Story

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 5-12 Language: English

**Event Description:** In *The Paper Boat*, Thao's signature collage art tells the wordless story of one family's escape from Vietnam—a journey intertwined with an ant colony's parallel narrative. Introducing a different medium of storytelling, Thao will present her animated short film *Boat People* and demonstrate how she transformed her wordless picture book, *The Paper Boat*, into film through the use of movement, lighting, sound, and added narrative.

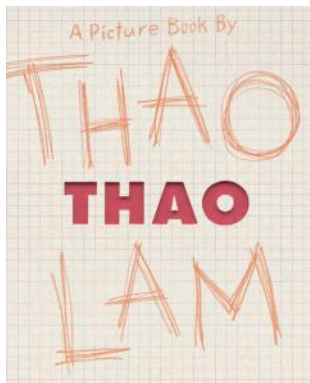
**Materials Required:** Pencils, erasers, ruler, colour pencils, blank paper (size 8.5 inches x 11 inches), blackboard or whiteboard with drawing tools.

### What's In A Name?

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 9-12 Language: English

**Event Description:** Participants will share the stories behind their names and celebrate what makes each special. Using *THAO: A Picture Book* as a guide, they will explore why saying someone's name correctly is an important way of honoring who they are. Students will create acrostic poems using the letters of their own names. Each letter can then be decorated with craft materials to visually reflect their personality, interests, and sense of identity.

**Materials Required:** textured and patterned scrap papers, colour construction paper, recycled materials like magazines or gift wrapping paper, white cardstock paper (size 8.5 inches x 11 inches), glue, scissors, colour pencils, and markers.

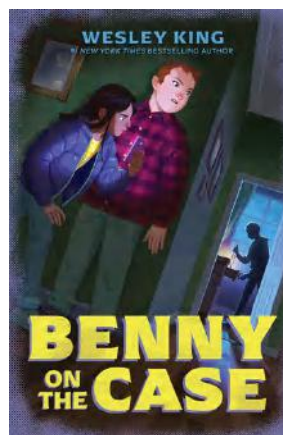


## Story Adventures

**TALK** Ages: 8+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Participants will join author Wesley King as he talks about his journey to becoming an author, explore some of his most well-known titles, play some interactive games, and have time for a question and answer period. Wesley will share a slide show of his literary adventures and the focus is on fun engagement and encouragement for reluctant readers and writers.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone



### Wesley King

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

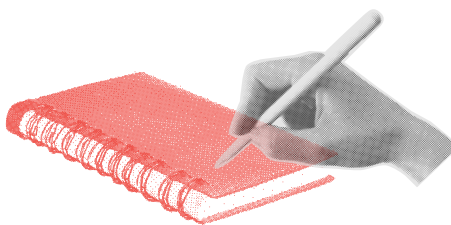
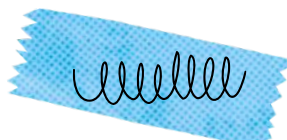
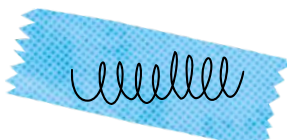
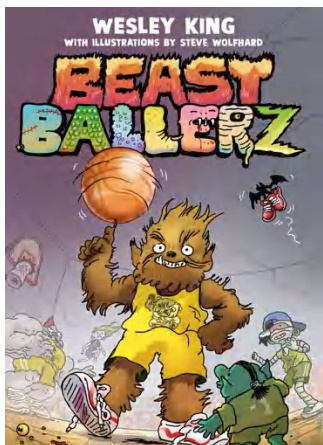
AVAILABILITY

### Creating Our Own Stories

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 8+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Participants will join author Wesley King as he shares more about the process of coming up with ideas and creating stories for readers. Participants will learn some of the basic tools Wesley uses, and have opportunity to draw characters, write short descriptions of ideas, and share if they feel comfortable. The goal is to encourage young writers to develop their own ideas and establish a safe, fun environment to share ideas.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone, pen and paper for students







## MIDDLE GRADE 8-12

### Getting Serious: Writing as Play

**TALK Ages:** 10-12 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** The ideal session for those who've ever thought about being an author when they grow up! Zanni gets serious about the playful side of her job as an author. Play games, write poetry and create characters in this vibrant session which harnesses participants' creativity and gives practical story tools to take back to the classroom, and into their life.

**Materials Required:** Projector with sound, whiteboard

### Story Magic

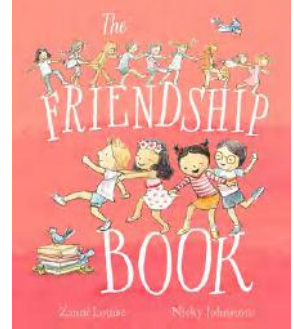
**WORKSHOP Ages:** 8-11 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Starting with character, building plot and delving into useful writing tips, participants will leave this workshop with a story they will be excited to share with the world.

**Materials Required:** Projector with sound, whiteboard

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY



### Writing Stories With Your Senses Wide Open

**TALK Ages:** 8+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** To spark wonder and creativity in our audience by tuning into the "little things" — small descriptions that make each sensory experience sharper, crisper, and clearer. This talk will include vibrant, interactive segments wherein we form pictures, smell fragrances, and hear sounds, through lush, imaginative descriptions.

**Materials Required:** projector for the presentation, microphone, pen and paper for the audience



Caris  
Avendaño Cruz

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY



Linus Liu

### 一本漫畫的製作過程

**講座 年齡:** 10+ **語言:** 廣東話 / 英文

**活動介紹:** Linus 將在講座中分享他的創作理念及完成一本漫畫的製作過程。他會細說作品背後的二三事，並讓學生了解漫畫作者是如何將腦海中的想象變為作品，並創造出引人入勝的故事。

**需要材料:** 投影機，麥克風



### The Making of a Comic Book

**TALK Ages:** 10+

**Language:** English / Cantonese

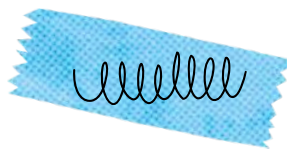
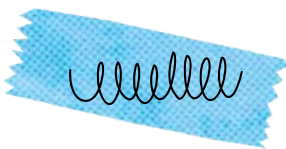
**Event Description:** Linus will offer an exclusive look into the creative concept and production process behind a comic book. Students will gain a concrete understanding of how a comic book author transforms imagination into a finished work and creates compelling, captivating stories.

**Technical Requirements:** Projector, Microphone



| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
|     |      |      |      | ✓    |

AVAILABILITY



# MIDDLE GRADE 8-12



Erica Lyons

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |      |

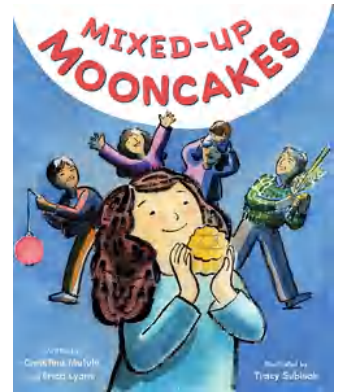
AVAILABILITY

## What Does Memory Smell (And Taste) Like?

**TALK** Ages: 6-10 Language: English

**Event Description:** There are so many picture books centred around food. Why is this? What does food reveal about characters and the worlds that they inhabit? In this talk, Erica will delve into the science that links smell and memory and discuss the connection between food and culture, sharing insights from her books *Lily's Hong Kong Honey Cake* and *Mixed-Up Mooncakes*.

**Materials Required:** projector



## What Is Home?

**TALK/WORKSHOP** Ages: 6-10 Language: English

**Event Description:** Students will reflect on the meaning of "home" in Erica's interactive talk inspired by her books *Lily's Hong Kong Honey Cake* and *Saliman and the Memory Stone*. Participants will discuss if home is a physical place and how our sense of belonging can change over time. This event can also be offered as a workshop. After discussing migration stories, students will fill a suitcase outline with images, drawings and words representing what they'd pack if they embarked on their own journey.

**Materials Required:** projector. **For the workshop:** projector, craft supplies, print-out, markers, crayons, pencils, scissors, paste.

## Create Your Most Unique Friend

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 6-12 Languages: English / Cantonese

**Event Description:** After reading *My Unique Friend* together, Bonnie will share the inspiration behind her story. Students will create their own creature, give it a special ability and introduce it to their classmates. Great practice for creativity, character design and storytelling skills!

**Materials Required:** projector, microphone, paper, pencils, colored pencils, markers



Bonnie Pang

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |

AVAILABILITY

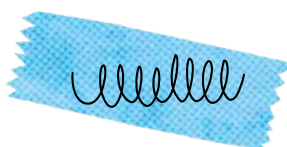
## 我的獨特朋友

**工作坊** 年齡: 6-12

**語言:** 廣東話, 英文

**活動簡介:** Bonnie 將和學生們一起閱讀無字繪本《最獨特的朋友》，並分享創作這故事背後的靈感，然後鼓勵學生創作屬於自己的奇幻生物朋友。學生需要設計繪畫角色，賦予他（她）們獨特的能力，然後與全班同學分享。本工作坊有助訓練學生想像力、角色設計能力和表達能力。

**需要材料:** 投影機, 麥克風, 紙張, 顏色筆





# MIDDLE GRADE 8-12



**Rachel Ip**

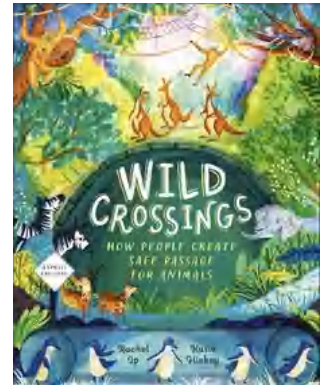
| 9/3          | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|
| ✓            | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |
| AVAILABILITY |      |      |      |      |

## Wild Crossings: How Humans Impact Animal Habitats

**TALK Ages:** 5-12 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** In this talk, students will explore why animals migrate and the impact humans have on different habitats. Rachel will reveal how wildlife crossings are used to help animals cross man-made roads and railways all over the world: from canopy rope bridges for Hainan gibbons in China, to tiny tunnels for toads in South Africa. Rachel will share her notebooks and talk about how she researches and writes non-fiction followed by a Q&A session.

**Materials Required:** Projector for PowerPoint slides



## The Paper Piano: The Power Of Perseverance

**TALK Ages:** 5-12 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** This talk is about perseverance, community and the transformative power of music. Participants will learn fun facts, discover true stories of musicians and discuss unusual musical instruments – including the real paper piano which inspired Rachel's story. Rachel will read *The Paper Piano*, share her notebooks and talk about how Natelle Quek created the illustrations, followed by a Q&A session.

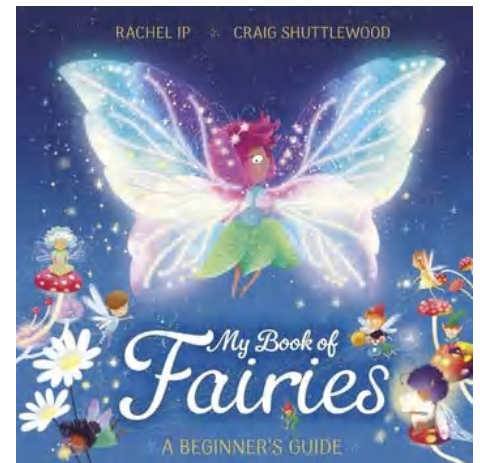
**Materials Required:** Projector for PowerPoint slides

## My Book Of Fairies: Why Myths Are The Perfect Starting Point For Stories

**TALK Ages:** 5-12 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Did you know trolls explode in sunlight? Or that gnomes can live for 400 years? In this talk, Rachel will read from *My Book of Fairies*, sharing tales of mythical fairy folk from around the world and encourage participants to create their own stories inspired by magical mischief makers! Participants can get a firsthand look at Rachel's notebooks and hear about the process behind Craig Shuttlewood's enchanting illustrations.

**Materials Required:** Projector for PowerPoint slides.



**Momo Leung**

| 9/3          | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|
| ✓            | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |
| AVAILABILITY |      |      |      |      |

## 校園插畫寫生工作坊

**工作坊** 年齡: 10+ **語言:** 普通話, 廣東話

**活動介紹:** Momo 將指導參與者的寫生和插畫技巧, 鼓勵他們跳出框框, 運用不同技巧創作獨具風格的寫生作品, 並在可使用的文件夾上進行繪畫。所有參與者都可以帶走自己的手繪文件夾成品。(由於活動包含寫生環節, 將在課室範圍外、校園範圍內進行 (地點待與學校及老師確認), 請安排一名老師全程跟隨, 負責帶領學生及確保活動期間的秩序。)

**需要材料:** 牛皮紙文件夾 (由 Momo 提供), 24 色或以上木顏色一盒 (自備)



# MIDDLE GRADE 8-12



**Shana Cheung**

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   |      | ✓    | ✓    |      |

AVAILABILITY



## How To Find And Create Stories In Your Own Toy Box

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 5-8 Languages: English / Cantonese / Putonghua

**Event Description:** Join author and illustrator Shana to discover how the stories hiding in your toy box can become wonderful picture books! Shana will share her journey—from the first sketch to a published book—and teach you the secrets of how words and pictures work together. Turn your creative playtime ideas into your very own new stories! **Shana will read her book aloud in Chinese or translate for English audiences.**

**Materials Required:** projector, microphone, visualizer, pointer, paper, markers for students.

## 從玩具箱發掘你的故事世界

**WORKSHOP** 年齡: 5-8 語言: 廣東話 / 普通話 / 英文

**活動簡介:** 兒童文學作家及插畫家 Shana 將分享她從最初構思到繪製成書的創作歷程。她將朗讀作品，並邀請學生參與互動藝術活動，一同發掘身邊的物件，創作有趣而引人入勝的故事。

**所需材料:** 投影機、麥克風、實物投影機（視像展示台）、指示筆、紙張、學生用馬克筆（或彩色筆）。

## Exploring Xi Xi's Playful Poems

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 8+

**Language:** English / Cantonese / Putonghua

**Event Description:** Xi Xi (1937-2022) was one of the most beloved Chinese-language writers in Hong Kong. Her multi-award-winning playful poetry, including *Not Written Words*, *Carnival of Animals* and *The Teddy Bear Chronicles*, is celebrated by readers young and old all over the world. In this workshop, students will learn to see the world through her tender, observant gaze, and write their own poems inspired by her playfulness with language and form.

**Material Required:** Projector, microphone, paper and pens for students.

## 西西的新詩遊樂場

**工作坊** 年齡: 8+ 語言: 廣東話, 普通話, 英文

**活動介紹:** 西西 (1937-2022) 是香港其中一位最受愛戴的華語作家，她的詩作富有實驗性，以溫柔、童真的眼光關注生活的細節與社會上被邊緣化的生命。在今次工作坊，我們將會學習西西看世界的獨特視覺，並利用新詩的形式和語言來玩創作遊戲。

**需要材料:** 投影機、麥克風、紙筆供學生寫作用。



**Wong Yi**

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   | ✓    | ✓    |      | ✓    |

AVAILABILITY

## Beast Quest: Curiosities, Cryptids and Confounding Creatures

**TALK** Ages: 8+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Most of us have heard of the Loch Ness Monster, Big Foot, unicorns and dragons. But have you seen a karaweik soaring through the sky? A tikbalang galloping by on hooved feet? Or Sang Kelembai, watching you from the deep green shadows of a tropical rainforest? In this session, we'll take a journey through the lands of Southeast Asia and talk about some of the wild and wonderful creatures that exist in our mythology, while exploring the creation of Hanna's anthology, *The Beasts Beneath the Winds*, and why it's important to tell the stories of one's own cultures.

**Materials Required:** projector, microphone



**Hanna Alkaf**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY



# YOUNG ADULT

## Ages 13 and older

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS FOR OUR  
OLDEST PARTICIPANTS.





**Ann Morgan**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

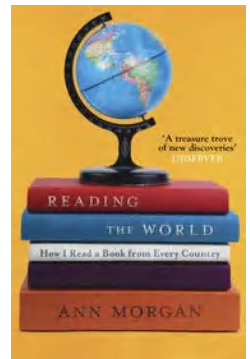
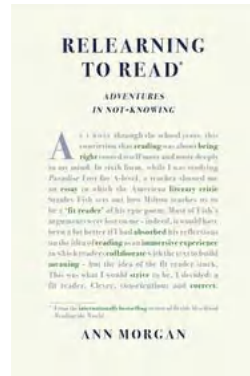
AVAILABILITY

## Relearning to Read: Incomprehension Workshop

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 14+ Language: English

**Event Description:** This workshop explores how playing with what you don't know can teach you to read more richly and deeply. It features extracts of texts from books around the world likely to be unfamiliar to students and invites them to sharpen their curiosity and use their intuition to better understand how they relate to books.

**Materials Required:** projector, microphone, paper and pens for students, printed handouts one per student to be emailed in advance



## How I Read a Book from Every Country

**TALK** Ages: 10+ Language: English

**Event Description:** This talk tells the story of the author's quest to read a book from every country in 2012 and explores some of the big questions that came out of that quest. What is a country? How do stories travel? How does translation work? How can stories bring us together?

**Materials Required:** projector, microphone

## Writing Stories With Your Senses Wide Open

**TALK** Ages: 8+ Language: English

**Event Description:** To spark wonder and creativity in our audience by tuning into the "little things" — small descriptions that make each sensory experience sharper, crisper, and clearer. This talk will include vibrant, interactive segments wherein we form pictures, smell fragrances, and hear sounds, through lush, imaginative descriptions.

**Materials Required:** projector for the presentation, microphone, pen and paper for the audience



**Caris Avendaño Cruz**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

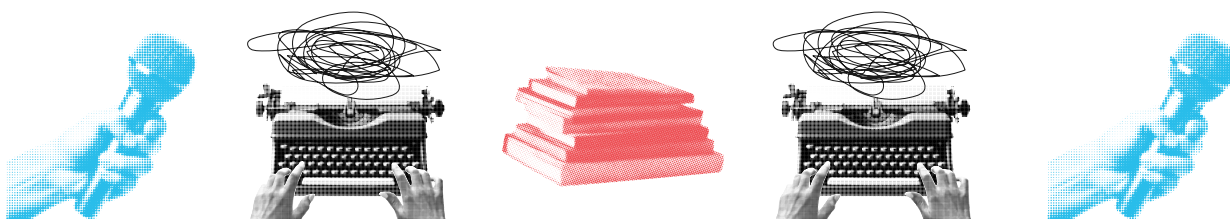
AVAILABILITY

## From Scribbles to Shelves: the Journey of a Story

**TALK** Ages: 13+ Language: English

**Event Description:** To encourage young readers to pursue creative writing and expression, to inspire them in their artistic journeys, and to offer tips in drafting, revising, and perfecting the craft to prepare them for a future publishing career.

**Materials Required:** projector for the presentation, microphone







**Adan Jimenez**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

## YOUNG ADULT 13+

### Editing Comics

**TALK** Ages: 14+ Language: English

**Event Description:** In this 45-to-60 minute talk, editor and author Adan Jimenez will share how comics are created and edited, from conceptualizing a project all the way to final art and beyond, while problem-solving every step of the way.

**Materials Required:** laptop (Adan will bring his own), projector, HDMI cable, screen, microphone



### Immersive Storytelling in Video Games

**TALK** Ages: 14+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Video games need to tell a story while allowing player agency, so how does storytelling work in video games? In this talk, Adan Jimenez, editor of *Free to Play: A Video Game Anthology* and localization editor for video games, will share how video games tell their stories and themes, from traditional ways to ways that only work in video games.

**Materials Required:** laptop (Adan will bring his own), projector, HDMI cable, screen, microphone

### Where a Book Begins

**TALK** Ages: All ages Language: English

**Event Description:** Let's explore the creative process with Ben! We'll start with a blank page and take a look at how we can fill it. Together we'll create a character and start to get to know them. Ben will share how two of his characters, Narwhal and Jelly, came to be and read from a forthcoming book. This presentation is all about fun, exploration, and creative solutions!

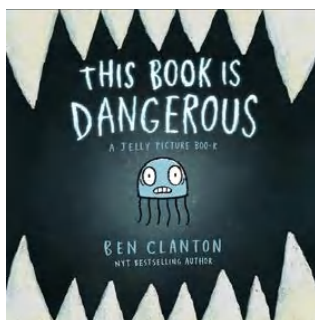
**Materials Required:** Easel and large paper to draw on, projector, microphone



**Ben Clanton**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY



### Creating Characters

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 7+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Together we'll explore ways of creating and getting to know a character. We'll start with a draw-along and move into a character drawing game. We will then interview our characters and discover things like where they live, who their friends and family are, and what sort of problems they might have.

**Materials Required:** easel and large paper to draw on, paper and pens or pencils for the students





## YOUNG ADULT 13+

### Dean Stuart

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

### Beyond Reality: Strong Story Foundations for Surreal Worlds

**TALK Ages:** 12+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Immerse yourself in imagination! Dean will talk about world building and creating scenes that get you excited about your story. From creating concept art and character designs to designing dynamic shots of our scenes. We will look at ways to pull the viewer in and believe in the world we are making.

**Materials Required:** TV with remote and/or projector

### A Deeper Look: Colouring Difficult Topics

**TALK Ages:** 12+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Dean will discuss his book, *Cassi and the House of Memories*, which explores a child's relationship with a grandparent with dementia. He'll share how choosing specific colours for scenes helped him convey the complex emotions and difficult subject matter. We'll see how using colour as a storytelling device and other artistic elements can help both writers and readers approach and share deeply felt experiences. Dean will demonstrate some quick ways to colour as well as advanced methods to save time.

**Materials Required:** TV with remote and/or projector

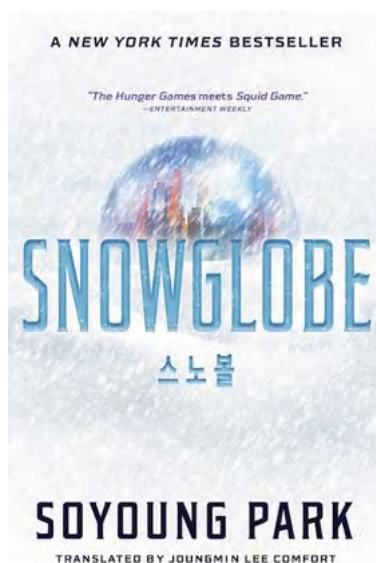


### Improvise Comic Creating

**WORKSHOP Ages:** 12+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** In this interactive workshop, we'll prove that creating comics doesn't have to be such a daunting task. We'll improvise characters and put them in a scene. Together we'll problem solve scenes, create dynamic shots, and create a story arch within a single page.

**Materials Required:** Either a TV with Airplay(for live streaming from ipad), a whiteboard, or overhead projector with acetate sheets. Paper and pens/pencils for students.



### Finding Your Own Story in the Age of Social Media

**TALK Ages:** 13+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Soyoung Park shares how she found her path by writing the story she truly wanted to tell. Students will explore how following others—whether in writing or on social media—may look safe but won't allow them to create something genuinely theirs. Instead, discovering one's own voice opens the door to a real world that belongs to them. Through the wild journey of the *Snowglobe* series, she encourages students to reflect on their identity and begin shaping their unique stories.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone, clicker, chair, connection for MacBook/USB with PPT file

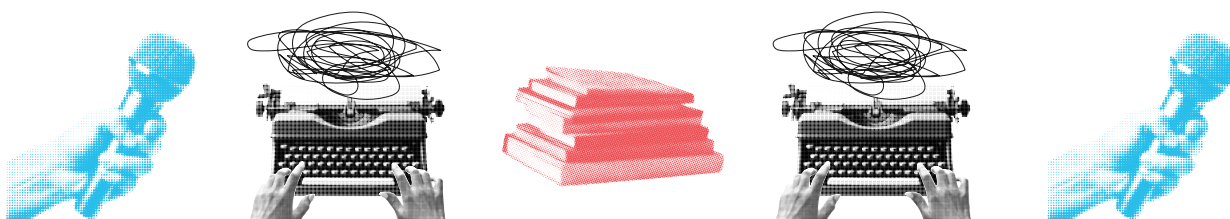
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS AUTHOR



### Soyoung Park

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY





# YOUNG ADULT 13+



**Felicia Low-Jimenez**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

## Building a Career in Stories

**TALK Age:** 14+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** In this 45-60 minute talk, author (*Sherlock Sam* and *Tiger Girls*) and comics publisher (Difference Engine) Felicia Low-Jimenez will share how she got started in the bookselling and publishing industry, why she loves writing stories with angry girls and women, challenges she has faced juggling a creative day-job with a writing career, and what to do if you're interested in building a career in stories!

**Materials Required:** laptop (Felicia will bring her own), projector, HDMI cable, screen, microphone



## Drawing on Anger - Let It Burn

**WORKSHOP Age:** 14+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** In this 1-1.5 hour workshop, Felicia Low-Jimenez, author of *Tiger Girls* and *Sherlock Sam*, will discuss how we can draw inspiration from myths, legends, and everyday life to tap into uncomfortable emotions and craft multifaceted and authentic characters that simmer with (girl)rage.

**Materials Required:** laptop (Felicia will bring her own), projector, HDMI cable, screen, microphone

## Writing Poetry in Form

**WORKSHOP Ages:** 12+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** This session is for anyone who feels they do not know what a poem should look like or who is unsure if their current work is a poem. The solution is to write in form! Poet Joshua Ip will walk them through a mixture of ancient and modern forms, including the haiku, liwuli, twin cinema, and sonnet — a perfect way to start their poetry journey.

**Materials Required:** paper and pen for students, projector, microphone, whiteboard



**Joshua Ip**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

## Sing Lit is Lit

**TALK Ages:** 12+ **Language(s):** English

**Event Description:** Poet Joshua Ip will discuss innovative literary movements in Singapore, focusing on new ways poets are bringing their work to the sidewalks, the MRT, and platforms like Facebook and Instagram. He'll share how his organisation, Sing Lit Station, is making poetry fresh, new, and engaging — even by mixing it with pro wrestling.

**Materials Required:** projector, microphone, white board



## Translating Tang Dynasty Into 2025

**TALK Ages:** 12+ **Language(s):** English

**Event Description:** Poet Joshua Ip will explore thought-provoking questions about ancient Song/Tang Dynasty: If Li Bai lived in 2025, would he be looking up at the moon or down at his phone? If Du Fu wrote in 2020, would he be writing about soldiers in armour or doctors in surgical masks? The session will detail creative translation approaches to bring Song/Tang Dynasty poems to life in the modern era.

**Materials Required:** paper and pen for students, projector, microphone, white board



# YOUNG ADULT 13+



Kyla Zhao

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

## Anyone Can Be a Storyteller

**TALK Ages:** 8-14 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Kyla takes students behind the scenes of her latest novel and the life of an author — from the initial idea to the published book. She doesn't just talk about the writing process, but also candidly shares what life as a published author is really like — the ups, downs, and everything in between. Her book explores themes of stereotypes, performance anxiety, and the pressure to succeed, giving students plenty to reflect on and relate to. Along the way, they'll pick up practical, fun storytelling tips to help them brainstorm, build characters, and shape their own stories.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone, paper and pen for students

## Writing the Story You Want to Tell

**TALK Ages:** 15+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Kyla Zhao shares how witnessing anti-Asian racism during the pandemic inspired her to begin writing while still an undergraduate at Stanford. She discusses her mission to portray authentic media representation for the Asian diaspora across her novels, highlighting the power of storytelling to reflect diverse experiences. Kyla also offers an honest look at the creative and non-writing sides of being a published author, reflecting, with openness and humor, on the realities writers-of-color face today and how stories can spark change.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone



**\*THIS BOOK CONTAINS MATURE CONTENT**

## Influencer to Novelist: The Success of Liann Zhang

**TALK Ages:** 16+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Join debut author Liann Zhang as she shares how the strange and surprising turns of her life — including a short stint as a skincare influencer and the early media she watched — eventually shaped her writing. This event will open a window into the creative process, exploring how lived experience becomes literature. Liann will detail her process for writing, querying, and eventually getting published shortly after university.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone



Liann Zhang

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

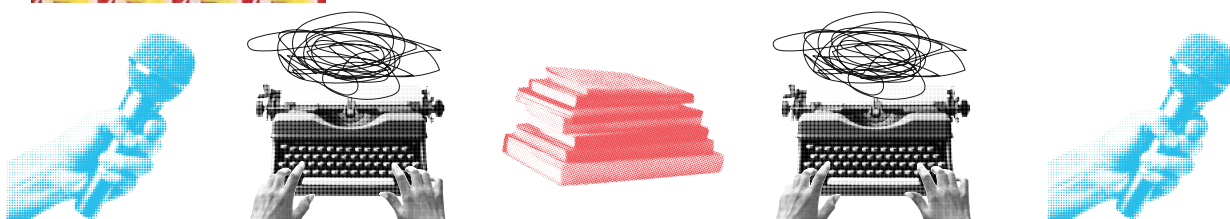
## Strange Plots and Juicy Stories: How to Create Wild Yet Believable Books

**TALK Ages:** 16+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** Author Liann Zhang will teach participants how to bring together intense and shocking story plots and give them enough plausibility to keep readers engaged and connected to soap opera worthy storylines. With a dash of horror and a little pinch of cult, she will share details and tips on how to write and plot a story that grips and readership and keeps them turning pages.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone, paper and pen for students

**\*THIS BOOK CONTAINS MATURE CONTENT**







**Hanna Alkaf**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

## YOUNG ADULT 13+

### That's Crazy Talk: Writing Mental Illness Into the Narrative

**TALK Ages:** 13+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** It can be hard to talk about how it feels when your brain doesn't seem to work the way everyone else does, or when nobody seems to understand how you're feeling. When you're at your lowest, it can be validating and empowering to see your experiences reflected in the pages of a book. In this session, Hanna talks about her journey with mental health, the techniques she uses to weave these experiences into her books, and why it's important that these narratives exist.

**Materials Required:** projector, microphone



### What Lies in the Shadows

**TALK Ages:** 14+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** We all know life isn't always bright; sometimes it feels like we're walking in the shadows. Instead of being told to look away, this session challenges writers to face the darkness head-on. Hanna uses her own novels, like *The Hysterical Girls of St. Bernadette's*, to explore the process of tackling heavy, difficult topics honestly and how to write about them with deep sensitivity and care. Students will discover why confronting the tough stuff isn't just about creating powerful stories, but about finding your way back toward the light. **\*\*Discussions and content about sexual assault, trauma and PTSD included in this talk\*\***

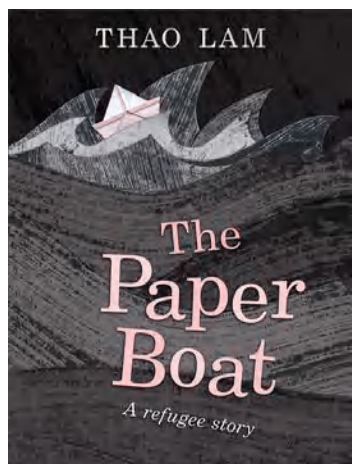
**Materials Required:** projector, microphone

### The Journey of a Story

**WORKSHOP Age:** 13-18 **Language:** English

**Event Description:** In *The Paper Boat*, Thao's signature collage art tells the wordless story of one family's escape from Vietnam - a journey intertwined with an ant colony's parallel narrative. Introducing a different medium of storytelling, Thao will present her animated short film *Boat People* and demonstrate how she transformed her wordless picture book, *The Paper Boat*, into film through the use of movement, lighting, sound, and added narrative.

**Materials Required:** Pencils, erasers, ruler, colour pencils, blank paper (size 8.5 inches x 11 inches), blackboard or whiteboard with drawing tools.



**Thao Lam**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

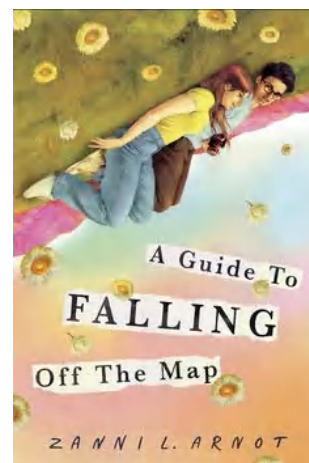
AVAILABILITY

### Writing in Place

**WORKSHOP Age:** 13+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** A road trip through Australian national parks helps two teens, Vinnie and Roo, find their way emotionally. *A GUIDE TO FALLING OFF THE MAP* was inspired directly by the landscape. This workshop will help writers connect with places that are important to them, and use the landscape to help shape the characters' journey.

**Materials Required:** White board, powerpoint projector; students to bring pen and paper



**Zanni Louise**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY

# YOUNG ADULT 13+

## Writing Underrepresented Stories: An In-Depth Look

**TALK** Ages: 13+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Designed for older ages, this presentation will see Wesley King talk about some of his more challenging novels that deal with mental health awareness, grief, and neurodiversity. Wesley will share his own journey dealing with mental health that led him to write *OCDaniel*, as well as his experience with intergenerational friendships and neurodiversity that led to the other featured titled, *Benny on the Case*. Questions are encouraged and participants will have the opportunity to engage in an extended Q&A.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone



**Wesley King**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

AVAILABILITY



### Creating Our Own Stories

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 8+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Participants will join author Wesley King as he shares more about the process of coming up with ideas and creating stories for readers. Participants will learn some of the basic tools Wesley uses, and have opportunity to draw characters, write short descriptions of ideas, and share if they feel comfortable. The goal is to encourage young writers to develop their own ideas and establish a safe, fun environment to share ideas.

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone, pen and paper for students



**Emma Pei Yin**

| 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/3 | 5/3 | 6/3 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

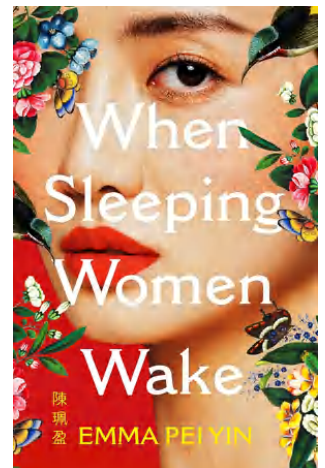
AVAILABILITY

### Voices from the Margins: Writing Our Own Histories

**WORKSHOP** Ages: 14+ Language: English

**Event Description:** Emma Pei Yin (born in the UK, raised in Hong Kong, now based in Australia) will discuss her historical fiction novel, *When Sleeping Women Wake*. Set in 1940's Hong Kong, this workshop asks, Whose History Gets Told? Through an exploration of family memory and its transformation into fiction, students will engage in a writing exercise to begin unlocking their own narratives. Students will discover how to turn history into compelling stories. **This workshop can be adapted into a talk for larger groups.**

**Materials Required:** Projector, microphone, pen & paper, (Optional) Student to bring one personal photograph or object that connects to their family's past—something small they can hold or describe in writing.



**\*THIS BOOK CONTAINS MATURE CONTENT**

### 跟著插畫家到意大利去!

**講座** 年齡: 15+ 語言: 廣東話

**活動介紹:** 擴闊眼界、有趣地了解生涯規劃! Bonnie 會與學生分享她近年兩次參加全球最大的兒童書展——意大利博洛尼亞兒童書展的見聞和趣事, 包括與外國出版社面試、與自己的經紀人八年來首次見面、行業運作模式等。亦分享自己如何與經紀公司簽約、讓繪畫作品遍佈歐美多國的經驗。

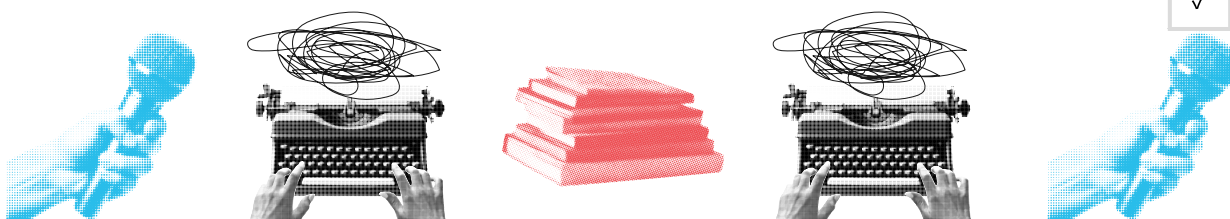
**需要材料:** 投影機, 麥克風



**Bonnie Pang**

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |

AVAILABILITY







**Benny Lau**

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
|     | ✓    |      | ✓    |      |

AVAILABILITY

## YOUNG ADULT 13+

### 繪本遊樂場

**工作坊** 年齡: 13+ 語言: 廣東話

**活動介紹:** 對 Benny 來說, 繪本不僅是說故事的工具, 它們更是設計師、插畫家和大小讀者的遊樂場。在這個工作坊, 參加者將與文字、圖畫以及紙張進行一場富有實驗性的遊戲。透過動手造放膽試, 參加者不僅可以即場創造出屬於自己的繪本, 還可學到如何運用設計思維來啟動我們的創意。

**需要材料:** 大桌子、空牆 (或大號白板)。Benny 將為學生準備繪畫工具及紙張。



### Picture Books as Literature: Exploring Playful Narratives

**WORKSHOP** Age : 13+ Language : English

**Event Description :** To Benny, picture books are more than just vessels for storytelling – they are playgrounds for designers, illustrators, and active readers. In this workshop, participants will engage in playful experimentation with words, drawings, and paper. Through hands-on creation, attendees will not only craft their own picture books, but also embark on a creative adventure designed to explore the power and precision of literary narratives in a visual and concise format.

**Material Required :** Big table, Empty wall (or a big white board). Benny will bring the drawing tools and papers.

### 一本漫畫的製作過程

**講座** 年齡: 10+

語言: 英文 / 廣東話

**活動介紹:** Linus 將在講座中分享他的創作理念及完成一本漫畫的製作過程。他會細說作品背後的二三事, 並讓學生了解漫畫作者是如何將腦海中的想象變為作品, 並創造出引人入勝的故事。

**需要材料:** 投影機, 麥克風



**Linus Liu**



### The Making of a Comic Book

**TALK** Ages: 10+

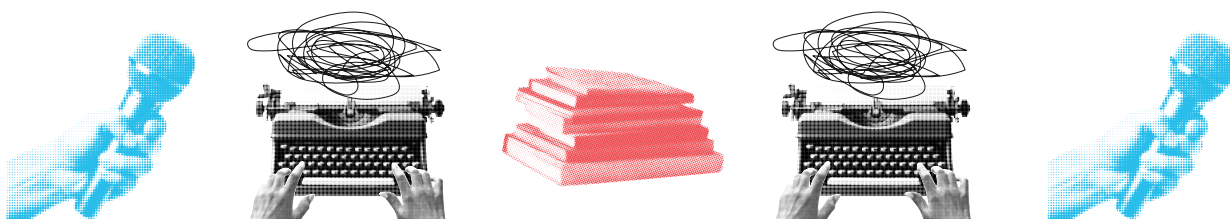
Language: English / Cantonese

**Event Description:** Linus will offer an exclusive look into the creative concept and production process behind a comic book. Students will gain a concrete understanding of how a comic book author transforms imagination into a finished work and creates compelling, captivating stories.

**Technical Requirements:** Projector, Microphone

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
|     |      |      |      | ✓    |

AVAILABILITY





Rachel Smith

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |

AVAILABILITY

## YOUNG ADULT 13+

### How To Make An Impression

**TALK Age:** 15+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** In this talk, Rachel will help students understand what a story is and how we can shape our stories to create true, lasting connections. Using interactive group games, tales from social media and examples from Hong Kong Stories speakers, Rachel will show students how they can develop their own stories. Audio files can be supplied for classes to listen to, if requested. Large groups are welcome.

**Material Required:** Projector (Rachel will bring an apple mac laptop with HDMI cable, and a flash drive with the presentation on). For groups larger than 15, a microphone is required.

Hong Kong Stories  
香港故事

### Develop Your Voice

**WORKSHOP Age:** 15+ **Language:** English

**Event Description:** With the rise of AI, knowing how to develop a unique voice when creating a story is more important than ever. In this workshop, students will be led through the process of crafting their story into a polished, impactful piece, focusing on what makes a story successful, the difference between long- and short-term connection and how to make a deep impression. Before the workshop, students should listen to one of the podcast stories that Rachel shares (link will be supplied).

**Max. 20 students**

**Material Required:** Whiteboard, markers.



### 繪本故事創作工作坊《烈日與星辰》

**工作坊 年齡:** 12+ **語言:** 普通話, 廣東話

**活動介紹:** Momo 將帶來一場有趣的創意思維課, 參與者將在指導下體驗繪本創作流程, 一步步創作屬於自己的 storyboard, 並向同學們分享自己的作品。

**需要材料:** 投影機, 麥克風, 印刷的工作紙 (Momo將提供檔案), 筆, 畫紙, 6B 鉛筆



### 校園插畫寫生工作坊

**工作坊 年齡:** 10+ **語言:** 普通話, 廣東話

**活動介紹:** Momo 將指導參與者的寫生和插畫技巧, 鼓勵他們跳出框框, 運用不同技巧創作獨具風格的寫生作品, 並在可使用的文件夾上進行繪畫。所有參與者都可以帶走自己的手繪文件夾成品。(由於活動包含寫生環節, 將在課室範圍外、校園範圍內進行 (地點待與學校及老師確認), 請安排一名老師全程跟隨, 負責帶領學生及確保活動期間的秩序。)

**需要材料:** 牛皮紙文件夾 (由 Momo 提供), 24 色或以上木顏色一盒 (自備)



Momo Leung



| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |

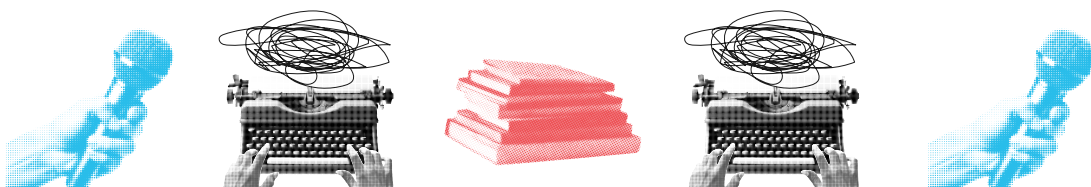
AVAILABILITY

### 如何成為插畫師, 並展開繪本創作?

**講座 年齡:** 12+ **語言:** 普通話 / 廣東話

**活動介紹:** Momo 將詳述於香港成為插畫師的心路歷程及繪本創作流程, 適合對插畫行業有興趣的所有人。

**需要材料:** 投影機, 麥克風





## Exploring Xi Xi's Playful Poems

**WORKSHOP Age:** 8+ **Language:** English / Cantonese / Putonghua

**Event Description:** Xi Xi (1937-2022) was one of the most beloved Chinese-language writers in Hong Kong. Her multi-award-winning playful poetry, including *Not Written Words*, *Carnival of Animals* and *The Teddy Bear Chronicles*, is celebrated by readers young and old all over the world. In this workshop, students will learn to see the world through her tender, observant gaze, and write their own poems inspired by her playfulness with language and form.

**Material Required:** Projector, microphone, paper and pens for students.

### 西西的新詩遊樂場

**工作坊 年齡:** 8+ **語言:** 廣東話 / 普通話 / 英文

**活動介紹:** 西西 (1937-2022) 是香港其中一位最受愛戴的華語作家，她的詩作富有實驗性，以溫柔、童真的眼光關注生活的細節與社會上被邊緣化的生命。在今次工作坊，我們將會學習西西看世界的獨特視覺，並利用新詩的形式和語言來玩創作遊戲。

**需要材料:** 投影機、麥克風、紙筆供學生寫作用。



Wong Yi

| 9/3 | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ✓   | ✓    | ✓    |      | ✓    |

AVAILABILITY



## Making The Familiar Unfamiliar Through Literature

**WORKSHOP Age:** 12+ **Language:** English / Cantonese / Putonghua

**Event Description:** As Virginia Woolf says, "Art is seeing things differently". In this workshop, Wong Yi will introduce students to the concept of defamiliarisation – a literary technique used to render the familiar unfamiliar, examine the world more closely, notice previously overlooked details, invent playful ways of description, and unlock new perspectives with creativity and curiosity. Participants will read examples of defamiliarisation in poetry and prose, and practise different writing strategies to make the everyday unfamiliar.

**Material Required:** Projector, microphone, paper and pens for students.

### 日常生活陌生化

**工作坊 年齡:** 12+ **語言:** 廣東話 / 普通話 / 英文

**活動介紹:** 吳爾芙說過，藝術就是從新的角度看事物。陌生化是一種刻意讓熟悉的事物顯得陌生的文學手法，讓我們可以看清楚日常生活中被忽略的細節，用全新的方法去描述世界。在今次工作坊，我們將會利用閱讀和創作遊戲認識陌生化這種創作方法。

**需要材料:** 投影機、麥克風、紙筆供學生寫作用。

## Writing Hong Kong: Taking Inspiration From Daily Life

**TALK Age:** 12+ **Language:** English / Cantonese / Putonghua

**Event Description:** Award-winning author Wong Yi started publishing short stories in Chinese inspired by life in Hong Kong when she was 17. Her writing takes inspiration from elements of nature in the city, the crowded space and busy lifestyle that characterises Hong Kong, and nuances in the Cantonese language. In this talk, she will share her creative journey and her tips for taking inspiration from daily life when writing about Hong Kong.

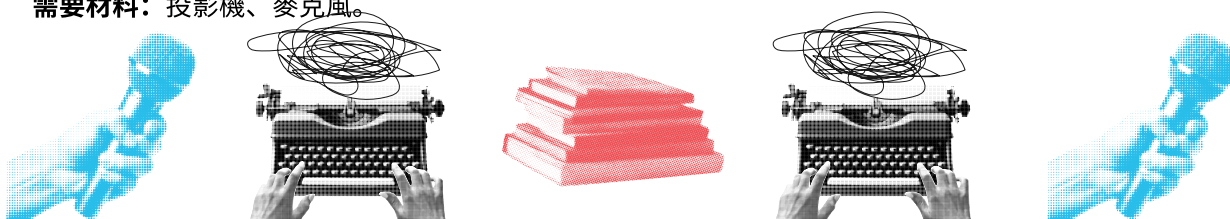
**Material Required:** Projector, microphone.

### 書寫香港：從日常生活到文學創作

**講座 年齡:** 12+ **語言:** 廣東話，普通話，英文

**活動介紹:** 香港作家黃怡自 17 歲起發表中文小說作品，她的創作取材自城市裡的大自然、香港生活的擠迫與繁忙、粵語中的幽默與文化等。在今次講座，她將分享她由中學創意寫作課而起的創作歷程，以及從日常生活中尋找創作靈感的方法。

**需要材料:** 投影機、麥克風。



# YOUNG ADULT 13+



**Catherine Choi**

| 9/3          | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|
| ✓            |      | ✓    |      | ✓    |
| AVAILABILITY |      |      |      |      |

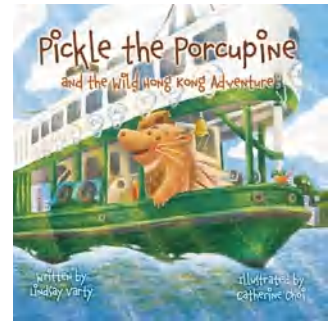
## Catherine's Illustration Journey (So Far!)

**TALK Ages:** 15+

**Language :** English

**Event Description :** In this talk, Catherine will discuss her journey in becoming a full-time designer for The Lion Rock Press while illustrating children's books on the side. Students will learn about the process of creating a children's picture book and how student life compares to university life and the professional world. Catherine will share key tips and takeaways from her experiences to inspire students to pursue their own passions, followed by a brief Q&A session.

**Material Required :** Projector, HDMI cable or school laptop that connects to projector (presentation will be saved on my MacBook Pro and USB, it can also be emailed as a back up), microphone (only if speaking to a large group), small/medium table to display work.



## How History Shapes Narrative

**TALK Ages :** 12+

**Language :** English

**Event Description :** In this talk, Erica dives into the history of Hong Kong and Shanghai that inspired her book, *Lily's Hong Kong Honey Cake*. Students will discover fascinating stories from World War II, how to craft a narrative using history and receive Erica's top tips on where to research historical topics.

**Material Required :** Projector.



**Erica Lyons**

| 9/3          | 10/3 | 11/3 | 12/3 | 13/3 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|
| ✓            | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    |      |
| AVAILABILITY |      |      |      |      |





# STUDENT STORY SLAM

Theme: CONNECTIONS 2026



**Hong Kong Stories** invites all secondary school students in Hong Kong to submit a true story from their life for the annual **Student Story Slam**.

All entries will receive feedback from a professional storyteller. Shortlisted students will compete live on stage.

**Submit by:** 29 March 2026

**Compete on:** 23 May 2026

Find out more on [hongkongstories.com](http://hongkongstories.com)



Hong Kong International  
Literary Festival  
香港國際文學節

Hong Kong Stories  
香港故事



# INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER BIOS



## ADAN JIMENEZ

IG: @aj\_low\_writers

FB: @SherlockSamSeries

Bluesky: @thecomicaztec.bsky.social

LinkedIn: Adan Jimenez

Adan Jimenez is a writer, translator, and prose, comics, and localization editor. He is best known as one half of AJ Low, the writing team behind the *Sherlock Sam* series of children's mystery books. He is the proud child of Mexican immigrant parents and became an immigrant himself when he moved to Singapore. He loves comics, LEGO, books, games (analog and video), science fiction, and food. He plays a lot of video games in his free time.

## FELICIA LOW-JIMENEZ

IG: @aj\_low\_writers

FB: @SherlockSamSeries

Bluesky: @felicialowj

LinkedIn: felicia-low-jimenez

Felicia Low-Jimenez is one half of the writing team behind the best-selling *Sherlock Sam* series of children's books and the writer of the young adult fantasy comic, *Tiger Girls*. She is also the publisher at Difference Engine, an independent comics publisher based in Singapore. She holds an MA in Literary Theory and Asian Studies, with a focus on anime and manga, and has worked in bookselling and publishing. She believes that stories have the power to change the world.



## AJ LOW

<https://aj-low.com>

AJ Low is the husband-and-wife team of Adan Jimenez and Felicia Low-Jimenez. They write the best-selling Singaporean middle-grade mystery series *Sherlock Sam* with 19 books published and translation rights sold to seven countries. *Sherlock Sam: The Musical* was staged in 2023 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the series.

## ANN MORGAN

IG: @ayearofreadingtheworld

FB: @ayearofreadingtheworld

X: @A\_B\_Morgan

LinkedIn: Ann Morgan

[www.ayearofreadingtheworld.com](http://www.ayearofreadingtheworld.com) / [annmorgan.me](http://annmorgan.me)

Ann Morgan is an author based in Folkestone, UK. In 2012, she read a book from every country in a year, recording her quest at [ayearofreadingtheworld.com](http://ayearofreadingtheworld.com). This led to her non-fiction book *Reading the World*. Ann continues to blog, write and speak about international literature. Her debut novel was the international bestseller *Beside Myself*. Her second is *Crossing Over*. Her next non-fiction book, *Relearning to Read: Adventures in Not-Knowing*, was published in October 2025.



## WESLEY KING

[www.wesleytking.com](http://www.wesleytking.com)

Wesley King has received over twenty literary awards and seen his books published worldwide, optioned for film and television, and translated into numerous languages. King is best known for his collaboration with Kobe Bryant on the #1 New York Times Bestselling Wizenard Series, as well as the Edgar Award-winning *OCDaniel*, which was also a Bank Street Best Book of the Year. His most recent novel, *Benny on the Case*, was a LG Gold Selection. He resides in Newfoundland, Canada.



# INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER BIOS

## EMMA PEI YIN



IG: [@emmapeiyin](#) LinkedIn: [Emma Pei Yin](#) [www.emmapeiyin.com](#)

Emma Pei Yin is an Australian-Chinese writer and editor. Her debut novel, *When Sleeping Women Wake*, has been published globally, translated into multiple languages and was longlisted for the ARA Historical Novel Prize (2025). She is also the founder of yinfluence editorial, an agency that works with PoC, queer and neurodivergent writers, connecting them with editors and mentors who understand the stakes of telling stories from the margins. She has been featured in The South China Morning Post, The Australian, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and The Canberra Times.

## BEATRICE ALEMAGNA

IG: [@beatricealemagna](#) FB: [@beatrice.alemagna](#) [beatricealemagna.com](#)

Beatrice Alemagna is an author and illustrator from Bologna who has published over 40 titles with leading publishers. She has received numerous international awards, including the Golden Medal of the Society of Illustrators in 2017 and 2024, while her books were selected by the New York Times and the New York City Library as one of the "10 Best Illustrated Children's Books" for the years 2017 and 2019.



## BEN CLANTON

[www.benclanton.com](#) IG: [@benclanton](#)



Ben Clanton is the bestselling author of the *Narwhal And Jelly* series. His other series include *Tater Tales* and *Ploof* (co-created with Andy Chou Musser). He also collaborated on the books *Papilio* (created with Andy Chou Musser and Corey Tabor) and *Aquamanatee* (artwork by Cassandra Federman). Ben makes books on a houseboat in Seattle, WA.

## CARIS AVENDAÑO CRUZ

Caris Avendaño Cruz is the author of *Marikit and the Ocean of Stars* and *The Boy, the Mountain, and the Serpent Who Ate the Moon*. She first wrote stories in spiral notebooks during class. Thankfully, none of her teachers caught her. She now works as a copywriter for internet brands and cool businesses, but in her spare time weaves tales steeped in magic, mischief, and Filipino folklore.



## SOYOUNG PARK

IG: [@soyoungparkwrites](#)



Soyoung Park is a New York Times bestselling author from Korea. Her debut novel, *Snowglobe*, is being published in 13 languages worldwide. With a background in media studies, she has long been fascinated by how the media shapes our values, which inspired *Snowglobe* and its vision of where we might be headed in the digital age. She listens to K-pop or plays her favorite American sitcoms in the background while writing.

# INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER BIOS



## DEAN STUART

IG: @deangus Bluesky: @deanstuart.bsky.social [www.deandraws.com](http://www.deandraws.com)

Dean Stuart is an author and illustrator from the San Francisco Bay Area in California. He grew up drawing creatures and writing scary stories, and eventually got interested in cartooning thanks to Nickelodeon and Calvin and Hobbs. Now, Dean makes cartoons, writes stories, and teaches others to do the same. Dean's work has been published by Dark Horse Comics, Boom! comics, and Penguin Random House. His most recent work is *Cassi and the House of Memories*, which came out in 2025.

## HANNA ALKAF

IG & Threads: @hanna.alkaf [www.hannaalkaf.com](http://www.hannaalkaf.com)

Hanna Alkaf is an internationally-bestselling, critically-acclaimed author of books for kids and teens, including *The Weight of Our Sky*, *The Girl and the Ghost*, *Queen of the Tiles*, *Hamra & the Jungle of Memories*, and *The Hysterical Girls of St. Bernadette's*. She is also editor of the Southeast Asian fantasy anthology, *The Beasts Beneath the Winds*. Hanna graduated from Northwestern University, and is a Freeman Award winner and a Kirkus Prize finalist. She lives in Kuala Lumpur with her family.



## JANET WONG

[www.janet-wong.com](http://www.janet-wong.com)



Janet Wong is a graduate of Yale Law School and a former lawyer whose books cover a wide range of topics, from yoga (TWIST: Yoga Poems) to chess (Alex and the Wednesday Chess Club) and much more. She is a winner of the NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children award, one of the highest honors a poet can receive. Born and raised in California, Janet lives near Seattle and speaks at schools and conferences all over the world.

## JOSHUA IP

IG: @joshuaipwriter FB: @joshuaipman

Joshua Ip has written some books, won some prizes, and co-founded one literary organization – Sing Lit Station. His latest collection is *ownself say ownself: new & selected poems* (Landmark Books, 2024). He still wants to be a writer when he grows up.

小葉子是一位偶爾的詩人。他是文學組織《新文站》(Sing Lit Station)的創始人，負責 SingPoWriMo, poetry.sg, Manuscript Bootcamp 等活動。他曾獲頒新加坡文學獎與金筆獎等獎項。他希望長大後，能夠繼續當一位偶爾的詩人。

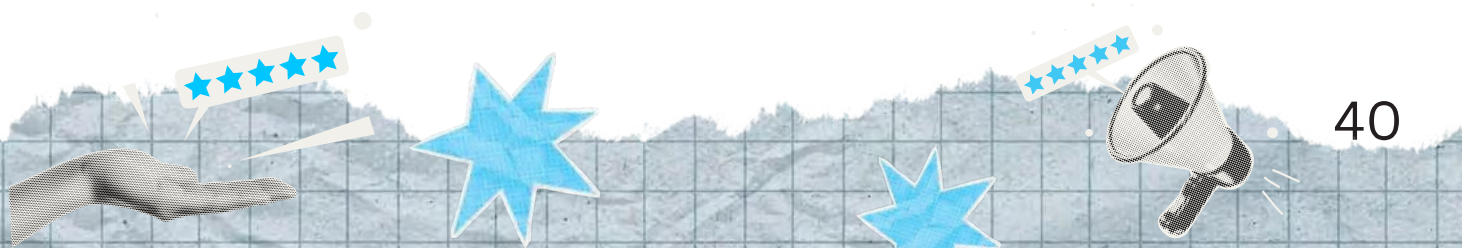


## ZANNI LOUISE

IG & X: @zannilouise [www.zannilouise.com](http://www.zannilouise.com)



Zanni Louise (Arnot) is a bestselling and highly acclaimed Australian picture book and fiction author of over 45 internationally published books. Zanni now lives and writes full-time in an artists' warehouse in Utrecht, The Netherlands with two teen girls and a very tall Dutchman. She loves visiting schools, running retreats for grown-ups, and running in forests.





# INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER BIOS

BATTLE OF  
THE BOOKS  
AUTHOR



**KYLA ZHAO**

IG: @kylajzhao    Newsletter: <https://kylazhao.substack.com/>    <https://kylazhao.com>

Kyla Zhao is an award-winning author whose novels spotlight women and girls of color as they navigate ambition, identity, and belonging. Her work has been featured by CBS, NBC, ABC, Vogue, Elle, South China Morning Post, and BuzzFeed. Named as a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree and a Tatler Leader of Tomorrow, Kyla has spoken on storytelling and media representation at Twitch, Pinterest, Oracle, and Tencent. She graduated from Stanford University with an MA in Communication and BA in Psychology.

**LIANN ZHANG**

[www.liannzhang.com](http://www.liannzhang.com)

IG: @theliannz

Liann Zhang is a second-generation Chinese Canadian. After a short stint as a skincare content creator, she graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in psychology and criminology. Her first novel, *Julie Chan Is Dead*, was an instant international bestseller.



**RASHMI SIRDESH PANDE**

IG & X: @rashmiwriting    [www.rashmisirdeshpande.com](http://www.rashmisirdeshpande.com)

Rashmi Sirdeshpande is an award-winning neurodivergent children's author who loves taking big ideas and making them accessible and exciting for young readers. She writes a mix of picture books, poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Her books have been published around the world and featured in a number of national and international newspapers.



**THAO LAM**

IG: @thaohlam

[www.thaolam.com](http://www.thaolam.com)

Thao Lam fled from Vietnam to Canada with her family as a child. Through picture books, she learned to understand the environment around her. Thao is the author and illustrator of nine critically acclaimed children's books, a Canadian Governor General's Award finalist in 2024 and a 2025 Kirkus Prize winner. Thao is also a creator of animated short films. Her award-winning animated documentary *Boat People*, was produced by the National Film Board of Canada in 2023.



# LOCAL SPEAKER BIOS

## BENNY LAU

IG: @bennylausiutsang

[www.bennylau.art](http://www.bennylau.art)

Benny is an illustrator, designer, and creative educator who works with both adults and children. While exploring creative education in early childhood, he discovered that picture books could bring almost all his previous knowledge to life in a beautiful way. Now, he is interested in exploring the potential of picture books as both an art form and a playful medium for creative education.



## BONNIE PANG

IG & FB: @bonniepangart



Bonnie is an award-winning Illustrator, comic artist and author from Hong Kong. With a master's degree in Fine Arts, Bonnie works with publishers all over the world and enjoys creating silly and heart warming stories. Her recent works include *Chronos Express* (graphic novel) and *My Unique Friend* (picture book).

香港插畫及漫畫家，擁有地理學士及藝術碩士學位，喜愛創作幽默窩心的故事，讀者遍佈世界各地。作品包括《時間列車》、《最獨特的朋友》等，入選本地及海外多個獎項。

## CATHERINE CHOI

IG: @cath\_choiii

<https://cathchoi.myportfolio.com>

Catherine Choi is a Hong Kong-based illustrator dedicated to inspiring children's curiosity through her art. She has illustrated two picture books: *Welly the Wild Boar and the Quest for the Egg Puffs* (2021) and *Pickle the Porcupine and the Wild Hong Kong Adventure* (2024). Catherine also works full-time as a designer for The Lion Rock Press, a company committed to celebrating the essence of Hong Kong through gifts and merchandise that reflect the city's rich culture and spirit.



## ERICA LYONS

<https://www.ericalyons.com>

IG & FB: @ericalyonswrites



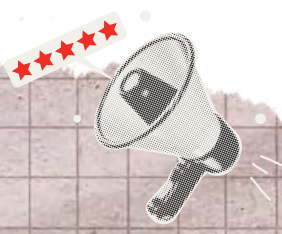
Erica Lyons is a Jewish Hong Kong-based children's book author with a preference for historical fiction, lesser-known histories, and folktales. Her 2022 debut picture book, *Alone Together on Dan Street*, was a National Jewish Book Awards Finalist. Other titles include: *Mixed-Up Mooncakes*, *On a Chariot of Fire*, and *Saliman and the Memory Stone*. *Lily's Hong Kong Honey Cake*, her most recent title, perfectly blends her role as chair of the Hong Kong Jewish Historical Society and her love of kidlit.

## WONG YI 黃怡

IG & FB: @wongyiwrites

Wong Yi is an award-winning Hong Kong writer and librettist. She is the author of four short story collections including *Ways To Love In A Crowded City* and *The Four Seasons of Lam Yip*. In 2020, she was named one of 20 Young Sinophone Fiction Writers to Watch by the Taiwanese literary magazine *Unitas*. She participated in the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in 2023.

香港作家、創意寫作導師，著有小說集《擠迫之城的戀愛方法》、《林葉的四季》等。曾獲香港藝術發展獎文學新秀獎，2020年入選台灣《聯合文學》「20位最受期待的青壯世代華文小說家」之一，2023年代表香港參加美國愛荷華大學國際寫作計劃秋季駐留。





# LOCAL SPEAKER BIOS

## RACHEL SMITH

IG: @hong\_kong\_stories / @senselessart

[www.hongkongstories.com](http://www.hongkongstories.com) / [www.senselessart.net](http://www.senselessart.net)

Rachel Smith is the producer of Hong Kong Stories, a locally based, community storytelling group. She travels the world with her stories, telling and hosting workshops wherever she goes. With Hong Kong Stories, she oversees the production of monthly storytelling shows in Hong Kong for over 10 years. Rachel is always keen to develop opportunities to hear and share stories and share her love of storytelling with the community. When not involved in storytelling, Rachel is a multi-disciplinary artist.



## LINUS LIU 廖光祖

IG: @linusliukc X: @LinusLiu10 FB: @linusliukc

Linus Liu is an independent comics artist in Hong Kong. His publications include *Cat Mask Boy*, *SHE Remembers*, *Timeless Encounter*, *Kim Hau-yee*, and *Trio*, and, *Cat Mask Boy's Summer Holiday*. In 2022, Linus won the Gold Award with *Cat Mask Boy* in the 1st HK Comics Support Programme sponsored by CreateHK. *Cat Mask Boy* has been licensed for publications overseas, and has been translated into three languages. In 2025, Linus received the Special Mention Award with *Trio* in the HK Comics Support Programme.

香港獨立漫畫人。出版作品包括：《貓面具少年》、《SHE REMEMBERS》畫集、《燈箱遇上貓》、《金巧兒》、《三腳鴉》及動畫短片《貓面具少年放暑假》。《貓面具少年》更於2022年榮獲香港特別行政區政府「創意香港」贊助的「港漫動力」漫畫支援計劃第一屆金獎。並已授權及推出外文版，包括烏克蘭、法文及英文。《三腳鴉》於2025年榮獲香港特別行政區政府「創意香港」贊助的「港漫動力」漫畫支援計劃特別嘉許獎。

## MOMO LEUNG

IG: @yellowwhitestone [www.yellowwhitestone.com](http://www.yellowwhitestone.com)

香港插畫師協會副會長，擅長奇幻細緻風格的全職自由插畫師。熱愛藝術創作及有豐富導師經驗。於ohmykids青少年及兒童繪本比賽奪得公開組冠軍，作品曾入選多個本地展覽。



## RACHEL IP

[www.rachelip.com](http://www.rachelip.com) IG & X: @rachelcip

Rachel Ip is an award-winning picture book author whose stories are often inspired by the wild world around us. She's always loved languages and literature and studied French, German and linguistics at Cambridge University. She writes a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books for young readers. Rachel was born in the UK. She has lived in France and Belgium and has spent the last 18 years here in Hong Kong, where she lives with her family.

## SHANA CHEUNG 張韻珊

IG: @shanacheung [www.shanacheung.com](http://www.shanacheung.com)

Shana Cheung is a picture book maker and art instructor. She has published five picture books and received international awards such as Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award and was shortlisted three times for the Bologna Children's Book Fair's Illustrations Exhibition. Shana loves to experiment with different materials and create art that captures the nuances of human emotions.

繪本創作者及藝術教育工作者。她已出版五本繪本作品並獲國際獎項之肯定，如豐子愷兒童圖書獎佳作獎，三度入選意大利波隆納世界插畫展等。她愛探索物料於創作上，善於捕捉人的情感。



# ABOUT US



Hong Kong International  
Literary Festival  
香港國際文學節

The Hong Kong International Literary Festival is a **registered charity non-profit organisation**. The festival brings together established and emerging writers, speakers and thinkers from Hong Kong and around the world. **We champion the power of words, foster cultural exchange, and encourage the exploration of diverse thinking.** Our dynamic year-round programme, annual festival (HKILF) and Young Readers Festival (YRF) offers dialogue, entertainment and perspective to the Hong Kong community, and to students, at both international and local schools. We offer panel discussions, book talks, readings, workshops, walks, school programmes, performances, and more.

HKILF is an acknowledged landmark in the city's cultural landscape and has brought a distinguished roster of guests to Hong Kong for over twenty years. Past speakers include **Margaret Atwood, Amy Tan, Shehan Karunatilaka, Irvine Welsh, Kevin Kwan, Jonathan Kaufman, Cheryl Strayed, David Sedaris, Jason Reynolds, Pico Iyer, Ian Rankin, Yann Martel, Julia Donaldson, Neil Gaiman, Michael Morpurgo, Emily St. John Mandel, and Dan Santat** among many others.

Follow us on social media and subscribe our e-newsletter to learn more:

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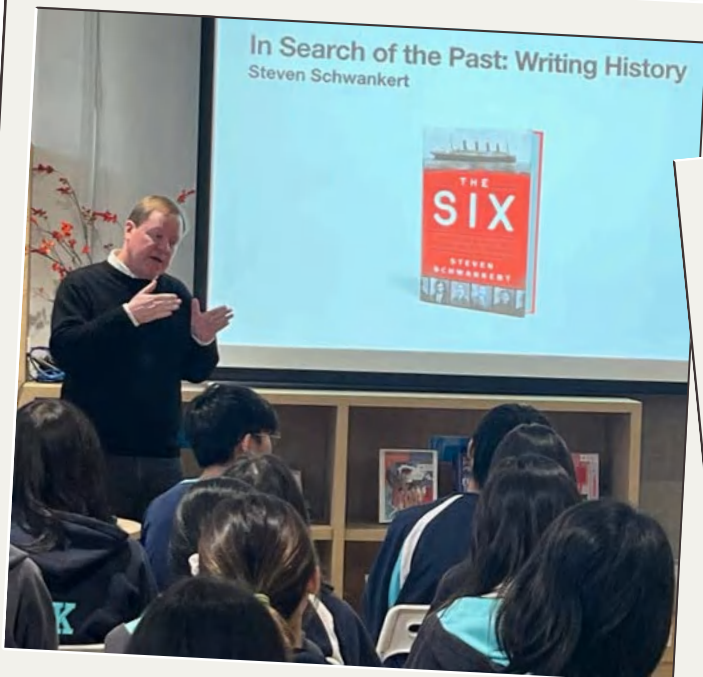


# PRICING & BOOKING FORM

A FILLABLE BOOKING FORM IS  
AVAILABLE **HERE**.

**\*If you have trouble with the link, find the form on our website:**

**<https://www.festival.org.hk/programme/2026-young-readers-festival/>**



**FLIP TO SEE  
THE FORM!**





## YRF 2026 TALK AND WORKSHOP PRICING

| Talks - <b>up to 1hr</b><br>Number of students | Price<br>(Minimum Charge 2,800HKD,Maximum Charge 8,500) |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <30                                            | 2,800 HKD (93pp)                                        |
| 31-70                                          | 4,000 HKD (57pp)                                        |
| 71-150                                         | 6,500 HKD (43pp)                                        |
| 151 +                                          | 8,500 HKD (28pp*)<br>*based on 300 students             |

| Workshops - <b>up to 1hr 30min</b><br>Number of students | Price<br>(Minimum charge: 3,200 HKD) |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Maximum 40                                               | 160 HKD pp                           |

| 7 years and under - Special Pricing<br>(for talks only)                                                                                                                   | Price<br>(See Talks pricing above,does not apply to workshops) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Talk must be with the same speaker/same talk/same school/back to back<br><br>Example: 70 students, 2 groups (30 min talk,10 min break, 30 min talk) 4,000 + 1000=5,000HKD | + 1000 HKD                                                     |

| Private Event (for member clubs) |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Talk <40pp/40+pp, up to 1 hr     | 5,000/9,000 HKD |
| Workshop Max 30pp, up to 1.5 hrs | 7000 HKD        |

| Discounts (only one discount will apply)                                                |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Returning school that had <b>2 or more</b> bookings (paid on same invoice for 2025 YRF) | -5%  |
| Public and Aided Schools                                                                | -10% |

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- A non-refundable cancellation fee of **20%** will be charged upon cancellation by the school 72 hours prior to the scheduled talk or workshop.
- A **class teacher or school representative must be present during all in school events** to help monitor and manage students.
- Q&A and book signing time is included within the time frame for talks and workshops.





## Booking Form (1/2)

Please send us the completed form via email to [bookings@festival.org.hk](mailto:bookings@festival.org.hk) You will receive confirmation of your booking within **5** working days

**Please note:**

- Please refer to the pricing list table for prices of talks and workshops.
- There is a **minimum charge of HK\$2,800** per session for talks, and a **minimum of HK\$3,200** per session for workshops.
- Talks are up to 1 hour long, and workshops are up to 1.5 hours long.
- The festival reserves the right to change the programme, including the sessions for which booking has been confirmed. Once your booking is confirmed, **payment should be received within 2 weeks** or your reserved seats may be released.
- Please submit your form **by 6pm Friday January 30, 2026** to secure a booking.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name and title of contact person:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Name of School:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>School type</b> (please tick all that apply):                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary School <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School <input type="checkbox"/> Primary School <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                  |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> EMI School <input type="checkbox"/> CMI School <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                                                                                                         |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> International <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Subsidy (DSS) <input type="checkbox"/> Aided School <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <b>School address:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Email:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Phone:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

(Please fill in the details of the events you wish to book in the sheet on the next page.)

**\*Please note that photos and videos of participants may be taken during the activities, which may be used by the organiser and the major sponsor for educational and promotional purposes in any way deemed appropriate, including dissemination through printed and online channels. Participation in the programme will constitute the participants' consent to the above arrangement.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and chop

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Booking Form (2/2)

[illegible]



Young Readers Festival 2026

## Returning School Discount & School Subsidy Application

All public and aided schools are eligible for the School Subsidy, which serves to encourage the participation of government and aided schools committed to promoting language development and nurturing a love of reading through our programmes. The Festival reserves the right of final decision for the amount of subsidy or discount given.

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| School / Organization name: | District: |
| Contact Person:             | Position: |
| Email:                      | Phone:    |

### 1. How did you hear about the HKILF and our YRF Programme?

☐ Festival website ☐ Word of mouth ☐ Instagram/Facebook ☐ LinkedIn ☐ X ☐ Newspapers ☐ E-newsletters ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Have you booked with YRF before? If so, why are you booking with us again?

☐ I haven't booked with YRF until now ☐ I'm booking again  
because \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. What is the most popular genre of books in your school?

\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Which event topics is your school most interested in?

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for showing interest in our Young Readers Festival!

Please send us the completed form via email at [bookings@festival.org.hk](mailto:bookings@festival.org.hk). The result of this application will be advised together with the booking status.