



# BRavo!

Welcome to the third edition of **BRavo!**, a publication by students for students. Over several months of meeting, our budding writers in the APEX-EL Programme had fun stretching their imagination and writing potential to put this newsletter together.

This issue comprises a collection of their creative and journalistic works.



**P2** The Primary 4 cohort visited Gardens by the Bay in early 2022 for their Young Photographers Learning Journey

**P4** The importance of self-care and how to make it a priority.

**P5** If there are changes in the school you can make, what would that be?

**P6** The school held a Recess Level Reading Challenge and here are some of the picks



**Bravo!** is produced by members of the APEX-EL Writing Programme, led by Teacher Ms. Esther Teo, and mentored by ex-Editor cum Instructor, Ms. Alison Koh. It aims to challenge the students to tackle a variety of writing styles and work collaboratively from the conception of an idea through drafting and editing their writing for publication.



**P10** The APEX-EL Programme has taught us so much!

**P11** Using the senses to write creatively

**P13** Stories of lost and found, surprise, accident and overcoming fear

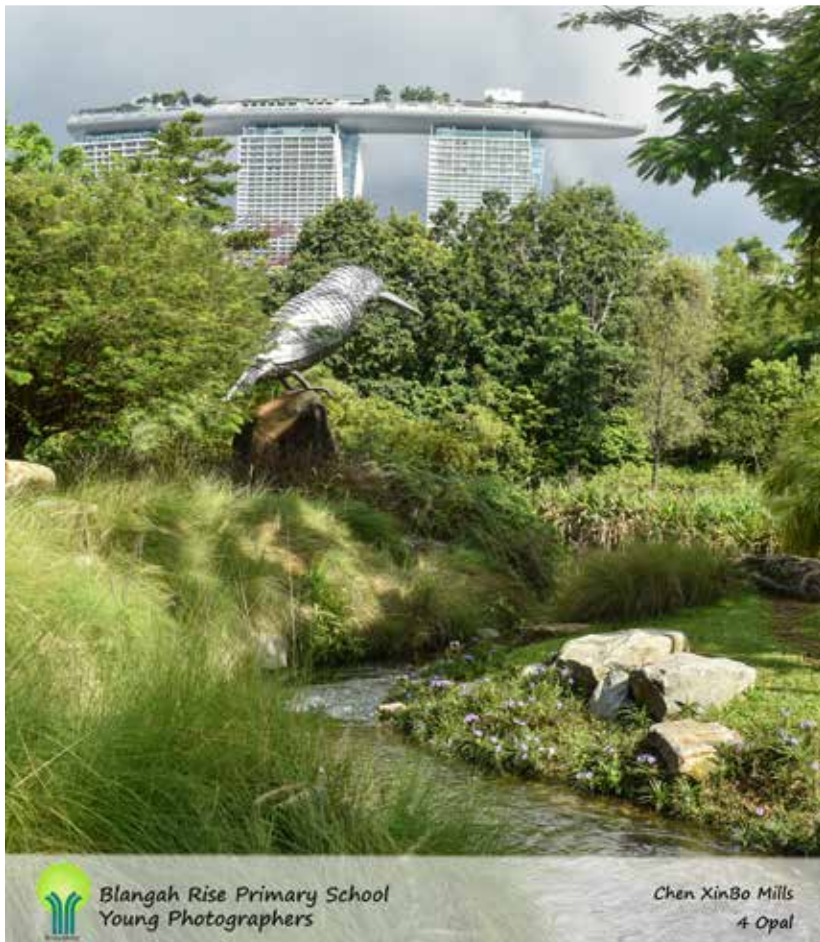


**P22** Two of the winning entries from BRPS-EL Writing Competition

**P23** Best Photo Stories

Classes indicated are of 2022.

# Young Photographers Learning Journey



My class went to Gardens by the Bay on 13 March in the early morning. When we arrived at the main big entrance, we walked in the sun to the Dragonfly Lake. We spotted some otters but the noise from the visitors frightened them and they swam quickly away. The pond was a very dark colour so we could not look into it. The place is actually very colourful and pretty! There are flowers everywhere and they are in vibrant colours and well-grown. The trees are so tall. The place is very big. We also passed by a huge statue of a baby. Overall, it is a great place to visit! We loved it! It was a really fun experience although it got pretty hot there. So if you do decide to visit, remember to bring along an umbrella or a hat!

**Daniah Qhaliessyah Binte Mohammad Ibrahim 4S**

Blangah Rise Primary School  
Young Photographers

Chen XinBo Mills  
4 Opal

The whole of the P4 level visited Gardens by the Bay in March on a Learning Journey. The beautiful gardens is a fantastic place to explore and learn about plants. One particular plant, the Monkey Puzzle Pine, is a sight to behold. Its leaves are particularly intricate, scalloping continuously until the end with a sharp and prickly texture. What is most fascinating about the Monkey Puzzle Pine is that they are considered living fossils, believed to have lifespans of over a thousand years.

**Muthukrishnan Ruvanthigaa 4S**



Gardens by the Bay is an amazing place to start off a morning. The whole P4 level headed there for our Young Photographers Programme. We went to the Dragonfly Lake and saw many plants such as the Secret Life of Trees, the Monkey Puzzle Pine and many more extraordinary plants. There is a huge art sculpture of a baby located at the entrance to The Meadow, a themed garden. It is definitely a beautiful place to be visited more than once!

**Kerine Wu Shu Ling 4S**

Blangah Rise Primary School  
Young Photographers

Wu Shu Ling Kerine  
4 Sapphire



Blangah Rise Primary School  
Young Photographers

Temperance Lee Yan Xi  
3 Sapphire

When we arrived at the Gardens by the Bay, we saw many plants and it felt cool, fun and sunny. Everyone was behaving well and taking many beautiful pictures while our teacher was teaching us what to do.

While walking to our destination, we could see the Flower Dome. It is Spring here the whole year round. We also saw the Supertree Observatory where one can catch a spectacular bird's eye view of the surroundings. There are two ways to get on the Supertree Observatory. You can either book online or go to the counter that is near the bridge to get the tickets.

We saw many interesting and colourful plants. People say wonder blooms at Gardens by the Bay! The place is large and very exciting to explore. It has great surroundings for sitting around to eat a packed lunch or have a picnic. The gardens is great for photography because it has fantastic scenery and many things to take pictures of and talk about. It is a great place to be at to make memories with family and friends.

**Temperance Lee Yan Xi 3S**



Blangah Rise Primary School  
Young Photographers

Xu BoTao  
4 Topaz

The P4 classes went to Gardens by the Bay on 29 April for a Photography Learning Journey. We had a lot of fun taking photos there because there were a lot of beautiful things. It is a very exciting place to go to. Gardens by the Bay is an amazing place filled with healthy and beautiful plants of all kinds. The water splashing out from the Waterfall was very clean. There is a Hawker Center beside a beautiful pond and the plants are very green. Looking afar from there, we could see a lot of tall buildings. It was a pretty sight.

**Xu BoTao 4T**

# Self Care

Why is self-care important? From a student's perspective, Ser Yen, Josephina and Ishaan share with you their views and recommendations on how to make taking care of yourself a priority.

Taking care of your body helps to calm it down. We can become sick physically because of stress! We can also become depressed, which affects our mental health and our daily lives, even our relationship with family and friends.

## 1. Get enough sleep or even a nap if necessary.

It boosts your energy, improves your memory, strengthens your heart and may even help you be more willing to do those things that you have been procrastinating on. Research<sup>1</sup> shows, taking short naps, on the average, 15-30 mins, benefits the body. Children aged 6-13 need 8-11 hours of sleep a day. This is because if we do not have enough sleep, we are likely to be in a bad mood. This is not good as our body will get tired easily, which causes us to not focus in class.

Keeping yourself healthy can make you feel better about yourself. Living a healthy lifestyle can make you feel more confident. Exercising regularly and eating a healthy diet can help control your stress and anxiety. When under too much stress, it can lead to depression, negative thoughts and you might even hurt yourself or even someone else. Exercising makes the body produce endorphins, which are known as the "feel-good" hormones. Endorphins enhance your mood and provide you with a sense of euphoria.

1. Exercise daily
2. Go outdoors daily
3. Learn new skills
4. Don't bottle up your feelings. If you bottle up your emotions, you can end up isolating yourself. Feelings of isolation are one of the leading causes of depression.

**Vo Josephina Tu 5T**

**2. Do something you like, but make sure it is not something that will get you so distracted that you end up not being able to do the things you are supposed to do<sup>2</sup>** So, if you are tired of doing homework, take a little time out to do something you like and it will help you be calm and happy.

**Phua Ser Yen 4O**

Source :

1:<https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/ss/slideshow-health-benefits-of-napping>

1:<https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/510/sleep>

2:<https://thrive.kaiserpermanente.org/thrive-together/live-well/health-benefits-of-doing-what-you-love>

Always stay hydrated. Drink a cup of water immediately after you wake up in the morning which gives you an energy boost. Poor hydration makes one feel tired and lethargic<sup>1</sup>, generally having a lack of energy. A dehydrated body can also lead to poor health. Dehydration will reduce your strength and stamina, and may give you a headache, the feeling of grumpiness, dizziness and sleepiness<sup>1</sup>. The recommended daily intake for 6-13 year olds is 6 to 8 cups.<sup>2</sup>

**Ishaan Chandran Arun 4T**

Source :

1Science Alert <https://www.sciencealert.com/here-s-what-happens-to-your-body-when-you-re-dehydrated>

2 <https://www.eatright.org/fitness/sports-and-performance/hydrate-right/water-go-with-the-flow>



# WISHLIST

If there are changes in the school you can make, what would that be? Three Blangahnites pen their wishes on what they would like to see in the school... are your wishes in this wishlist too?

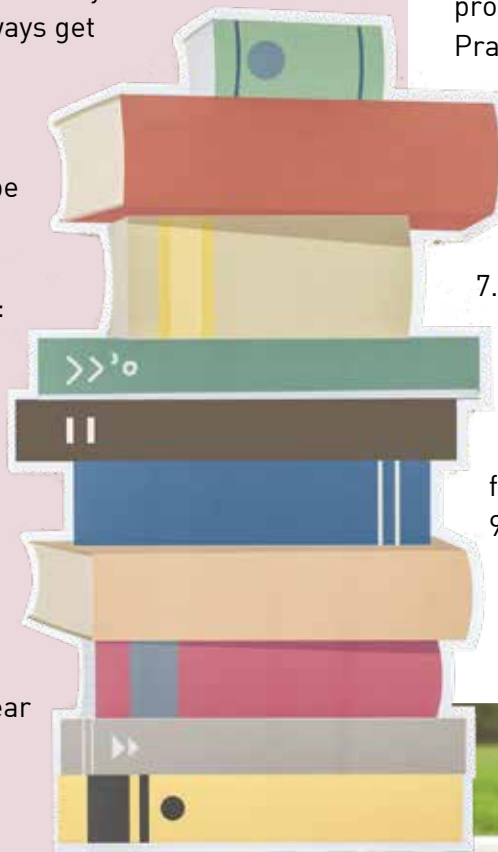
The first wish...air conditioning in the Indoor Sports Hall. Fans can be cool in classrooms but when you're doing sports you will get sweeter and hotter.

The second... the field. During P.E. lessons, I almost tripped thrice. Instead of real grass, I think that fake grass would be better. The mud that sticks on my shoes is annoying and when I try to carefully wash it off with water, my socks always get wet too.

The third... more books in the library. Allow three books to be borrowed each time and borrowing be allowed during recess. My recommendations: a full series of books by the same author, more joke books, comic books, graphic books or books with no words.

The fourth and last wish - a wider variety of CCAs to choose from as well as an option to change CCA every year to try something new or stay with the same.

**Rian Hong 5T**



I wish for...

1. a longer recess time; at least 45 minutes to 1 hour.
2. more CCAs, especially music-related ones.
3. shorter after-school programmes as it can be quite tiring after a full day of school.
4. no schedule overlaps of programmes, for example, House Practice and APEX-EL
5. some 30 minutes of exercise before lessons start, that would be great! Exercising is good for the body and I love PE.
6. sports day.
7. a specific day in the month when we have no lessons and no need to come to school in uniforms; just have plain FUN in school!
8. maintenance of the school facilities every 6 months.
9. one more Indoor Sports Hall and a bigger library.

**Phua Ser Yen 40**

I wish for... a bigger board in school for writing our school virtues (the gifts of character). More time for recess reading...

**Temperance Lee Yan Xi 3S**



## Book Reviews Fiction

Read a good book lately? Well, why not check out some of these picks by the Bravo! team.



### Lunch Lady and the Schoolwide Scuffle

By Jarrett Krosoczka

Reviewed by **Temperance Lee Yan Xi 3S**

The main character in the story, as in the title, is Lunch Lady, who is my favourite character. She has a partner whose name is Betty. They do not only serve lunch but justice too! They are lunch ladies and heroes! My favourite part is when the lunch ladies and students team up to defeat the villains and the leader, Dr. Van Grindheimer. She is very evil. The jaw-dropping battle between the villain leader and the Lunch Lady is really exciting and action-packed. Filled with lots of colourful pictures, I recommend this action book for readers 8 years old and younger. It can be found in the school library, in the graphic novels section.



### Seven Ghosts

By Chris Priestly

Reviewed by **Vo Josephina Tu 5T**

Jake and the other finalists in a story-writing competition have been invited to a mansion for a tour. As their guide leads them through grand rooms, they hear stories about seven ghosts who haunt the walls. What are those strange shapes and shadows? Why is everyone except the guide ignoring Jake? Why is the guide staring at Jake? Who is the seventh ghost? For me, this book is remarkably interesting. This book is in the horror genre. The ending is very unexpected and leaves the reader hanging. I would recommend this book to anyone age 9 and older, who likes horror books, short stories or ghost stories.

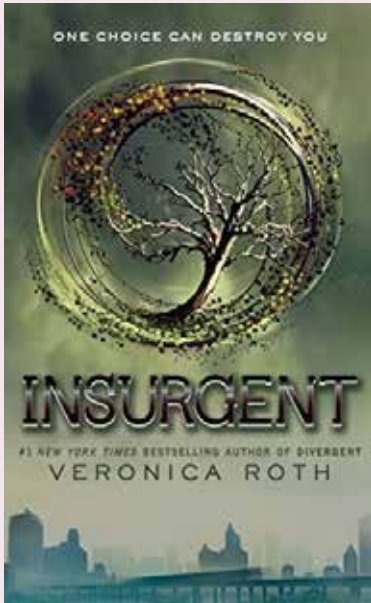


### Danger Dan Spooks the Peculiar Peranakan Pirate

By Lesley-Anne and Monica Lim

Reviewed by **Xu Batao 4T**

The story is about how brave Dan is and how he is able to overcome difficult challenges. In this book, one of the series by the same authors, Dan has to stop a hijacking pirate. I like the ending. The book is suitable for readers age 10 years old and below.

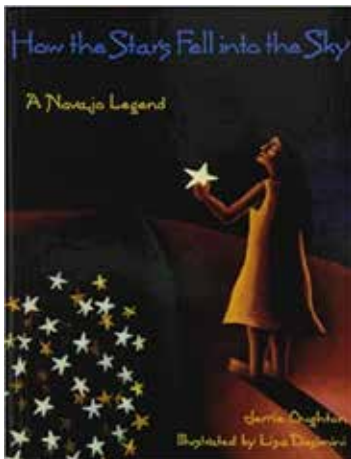


## Insurgent

By Veronica Roth

Reviewed by **Abigail Federico Umadac 3S**

My favorite character is the main character Beatrice or Tris, for short. This book comes after the first book 'Divergent'. The main character has an interesting backstory which is in the first book. The story focuses on a group of refugees from Dauntless joining their rival's safehouse. The plot is interesting and bizarre, with intriguing parts such as the place Tris and her group of friends were in and when Tobias gave Tris an ultimatum. It has parts that stretch your imagination and would be hard to imagine what it would be like if the events were real. Though the story is long, 525 pages to be exact, it is worth the read. I would recommend the book to the older age group, 9-18 not just because of the length but there are also inappropriate scenes (such as death) which might be disturbing to ages younger than 9.

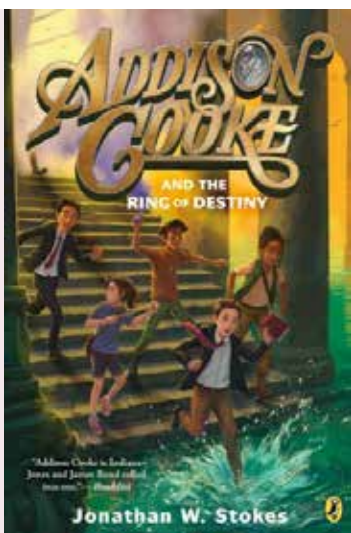


## How the Stars Fell in the Sky : A Navajo Legend

By Jerrie Oughton

Reviewed by **Vo Catherine Tu 4T**

The book is a retelling of a Navajo legend. It is about the first ever woman who was born and a Coyote. She wanted to write the laws so that everyone could see them. So, she decided to write them in the sky. Coyote came along and asked if he could help. But Coyote wasn't the best at being patient so you never know what problems he would make next. My favourite character is First Woman because she is hardworking and patient in doing her work. I would recommend this to children who need help being more patient and to parents who want to introduce the book to their children.



## Addison Cooke and the Ring Of Destiny

By Jonathan W. Stokes

Reviewed by **Ishaan Chandran Arun 4T**

If you like adventures and thrillers, this is THE book. Addison Cooke, his sister Molly, and their two friends Raj and Eddie from New York go on a very long adventure after a mysterious package arrives at Addison's doorstep. In fact they go on an adventure across 3 countries, London, Paris and Istanbul while being hunted down by a Russian organization called the COLLECTIVE. My favorite part is when Addison comes up with a spectacular idea to escape from the enemies and trouble. This book is suitable for 9-12 year old readers.

## Book Reviews **Non-Fiction**

Read a good book lately? Well, why not check out some of these picks by the Bravo! team.



### **Singapore in the 60s**

By James Suresh

Reviewed by **Abigail Federico Umadac 3S**

For those who like to know about the history of Singapore, this book is highly recommended. The writer describes how living in the 60s was like with interesting details of the jobs then. It is a delight to read about the stories from different perspectives. The house the writer lived in was one of the early HDB blocks in Singapore. He describes how people from different races would be invited to each other's homes to watch shows. It is suitable for 9-15 years old because there are many words that will not be familiar to the younger age group.

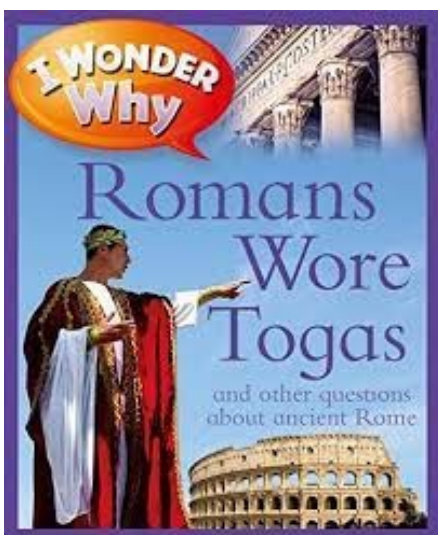


### **Dare To Be a Champion**

By Lee Chong Wei

Reviewed by **Xu Botao 4T**

This book is about Dutuk Lee Chong Wei, a Malaysian badminton player who never gave up. The book describes Lee Chong Wei's personal life, the place he met his wife, and the one requirement that his wife's father had for them in order to continue training together. It is a good read for young aspiring badminton players to help them understand his perseverance throughout the years. If you are a badminton enthusiast like me, grab the book to be inspired by the legend of badminton.



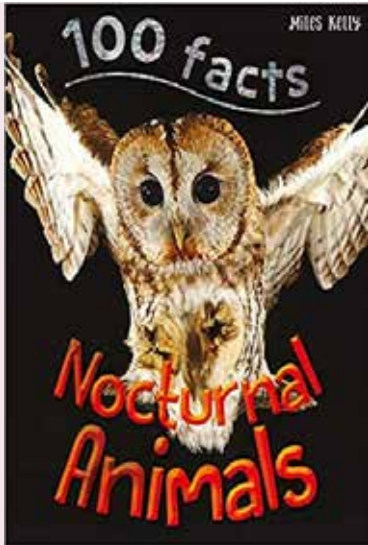
### **I Wonder Why Romans Wore Togas and Other Questions about Ancient Rome**

By Fiona Macdonald

Reviewed by **Ishaan Chandran Arun 4T**

I would recommend this book for readers 10 years and older who like history and to be exact, those who like Ancient Rome. It provides facts to many questions such as why Romans use olive oil instead of soap. It comes with interesting pictures. For example, images depicting how Roman soldiers fight. I like this book because it is interesting and the information is given in a very readable and fun way.



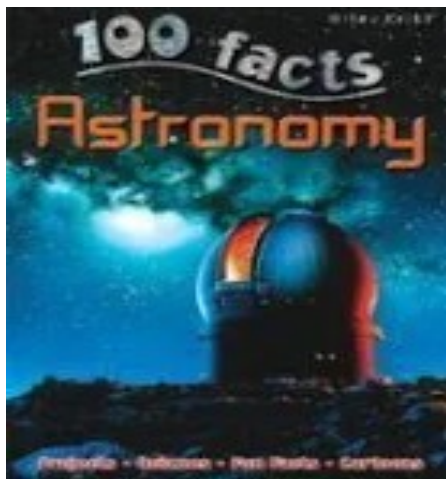


## 100 Facts about Nocturnal Animals

By Miles Kelly

Reviewed by **Naziha Binti Mohamad Nasir 4S**

Some animals prefer to live in the dark than in the light. The book has lots of cool and funny facts about nocturnal animals, such as bats, owls and many interesting creatures. It not only has facts but also quizzes and games to make learning about nocturnal animals fun. They hunt, choose and fade into the dark. This simple book has illustrations and nice photos that boys and girls, especially the very young would enjoy. This is a fascinating book.

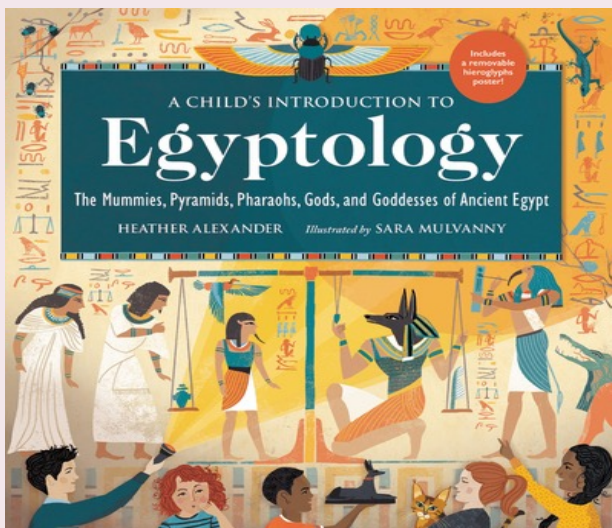


## 100 Facts Astronomy

By Sue Becklake

Reviewed by **Temperance Lee Yan Xi 3S**

Space really fascinates me. How about you? I love to read about astronomy, such as how stars are formed. This book has fun facts about our solar system, galaxies, planets and stars. I recommend this book for readers 9-12 years old, as the topics and words explained are not so easy to understand.



## A Child's Introduction to Egyptology

By Heather Alexander

Reviewed by **Vo Josephina Tu 5T**

Do you want to know about Egyptian gods and goddesses? How about Egyptian pharaohs, tombs and pyramids? Mummies and the afterlife? Maybe? Do you want to learn Egyptian hieroglyphs? This is the book you need. For me, this book is very interesting and straightforward. I would recommend this book to anyone, 8 years and older, who would like to know more about Egyptian culture.

# In APEX-EL Writing, I learnt...

...that Journalistic Writing is often found in newspapers, magazines and reports. The content aims to tell, explain or teach on how to do something. This year the P6s joined us for a few weeks, in the earlier part of the year. I could make new friends from different levels and classes. We got to meet face to face, unlike the past year when we had to meet on Zoom. I feel excited when I am writing as I can be creative when I write.

**Josephina 5T**

... that I really enjoy writing. I took up the opportunity to try something new. I would recommend joining it when you are given a chance. The feelings I had during the sessions were exciting. I loved how the trainer's style of teaching was very fun and enjoyable. I gained information about writing and what can be included to make my writing better. **Abigail 3S**

...new types of writing skills. I was then in Apex Scrabble but my teacher said APEX-EL Writing would be better for me. It turned out better than I thought! Our writing coach gave us consultation sessions and guided us on how to improve our writing... I feel I have improved but I still need to learn more to expand my knowledge. It was very enjoyable. **Temperance 3S**

... about different types of writing and how to write different types of book reviews. I had a lot of fun in APEX-EL because we had activities such as pop quizzes. I really like APEX. **Botao 4T**

... that APEX is an engaging way to learn about writing. APEX has taught me how to be better in my writing. I had a good time writing with my friends. I thought it was a really fun experience. Ms. Alison is a fun teacher to learn from, she is funny and kind. I looked forward and was excited going for lessons ... **Naziha 4S**



.... about creative writing where I can stretch my imagination, and journalistic writing, which is factual information that describes or explains and tells the reader more. We explored how to use sensory details and powerful verbs. The experience was a very fun way of learning. I was happy for the opportunity to do a lot of writing. Overall I enjoyed the experience and I learnt how to write better through it.

**Ishaan 4T**

... about techniques in writing in a fun and interesting way. Ms. Alison taught me how to do a proper write up and guided me along the way. I really enjoyed the fact that we can learn and have fun at the same time.

**Kerine 4S**

... how to write better stories using different techniques. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to attend APEX. I liked that I could learn how to write articles to explain or give my views, and could always ask for help from Ms. Alison and she would guide us. I truly enjoyed the experience and I hope that we can have more of these sessions. **Ser Yen 4O**

Ever stepped into the rubbish collection dump to look for something you have accidentally thrown away? Here's what these Bravo! writers imagined the experience would be like using sensory details to show rather than tell....

Even from miles away, I could smell the icky, rotten meat and banana peels. Mud splashes were all over the floor. Pipes leaked from up above. Although my mask was on, breathing through my mouth didn't help at all. The only hope was to hold my breath.

I took one step forward, filled with worry. Rats squeaked and scurried away. My belly crunched together. I had already lost my appetite for lunch.

I took another step forward. Flies zoomed on top of the dump. Somebody sprayed the cockroaches with cockroach poison. They just lay there, some were not moving anymore and some were still twitching. I made a face and took two more steps forward.

I now stood in front of the dump, and unwillingly, with both hands, slowly lifted each individual trash one by one. I formed a new pile, tossing the trash behind...

**Vo Catherine Tu 4T**

Mustering every ounce of my courage, I approached the dreaded pile before me. The pungent odour was nauseating, making me feel choked.

**Kwok Wai Yin 6S**

All around me now was slime and liquid and disgusting smells like rotten fish, spoiled uncooked cabbage, a box that smelled particularly like dog poop. I was running out of air, and I was sweating all over. I took a deep breath, and only managed to inhale a huge amount of musty, foul, and putrid smell. I yelled at the top of my lungs.

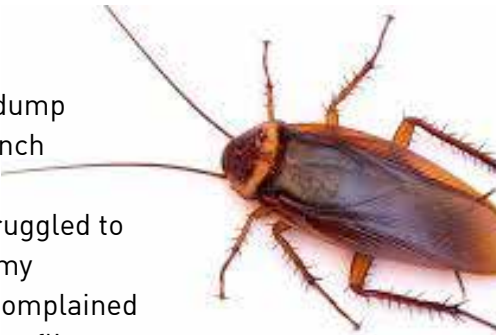
**Lee Ning 6S**

I approached the dump hesitantly, the stench of rotting food hit my nose first. I struggled to keep my lunch in my stomach while it complained and continued doing flips.

**Michael Ratemo Onyiego 6S**

I gagged at the stench and pinched my nose. It smelled of rotten eggs. Cockroaches were scurrying around everywhere. I barely avoided the cockroaches. I spotted a dead rat lying down on the floor from a distance and immediately backed away from it.

**Jayden Tan 6S**



“Oh shoot!” I whispered under my breath. “Ew! Why is this so smelly!”

Moving around the dump, I could not walk properly as it was way too slippery. I felt a slimy and goey liquid touching my palm. I looked down in horror to see that a white liquid was oozing out of a trash bag! Almost immediately, I stood up and instinctively smeared the liquid on my shirt, face cringing at the mess I made on myself...

My eyes brightened as I saw the edge of my light purple wallet. I immediately reached for it.

“Thud!”

I slipped and fell face forward into my thrown plastic lunch box that had mayonnaise smeared all over!

I stood up, with my face covered with mayonnaise. I snatched my wallet from under the pile of rubbish and left the dump covered in liquid that was mixed with my sweat, mayonnaise, and some greenish, clear, milky white liquid!

Never will I ever do this again!

**Lee Han Byul 6S**

## More vivid descriptions with sensory details...

As I was walking by, I could see glee on the children’s faces. They were jumping up and down, laughing and giggling, full of energy and enthusiasm.

**Muthukrishnan Ruvanthigaa 4S**



The children were having a whale of a time. Giggles and laughter echoed across the playground and you can even hear them miles away. Some were playing at the slides, running to and fro and sliding down joyfully. The ones at the swings were taking turns pushing each other higher and higher...

**Phua Ser Yen 40**

The moment I walked out of school, the first thing I saw was the fiery sun blazing at me. I could feel the first little droplets drizzling down my forehead. Taking another step forward, I couldn’t see where I was going. My eyes could not even open, I was almost blinded. I had to hold up my hand to shield my eyes from the darting rays.

**Kerine Wu Shu Ling 4S**

I saw embers flying around. The fiery ascent began, swallowing everything in its way. The flames darted everywhere at the speed of light.

**Ishaan Chandran Arun 4T**





## The Amazing Find

By Kerine Wu Shu Ling 4S



“RING!!” The school bell rang. I dashed out of the door to head to the park to relax. I was walking and wandering around the park when I saw a poster about an owner looking for her lost cat named Fluffy. It had grey spots on its body and white fur. The owner offered a reward of one thousand dollars. I could certainly help my family with that sum of money, I thought to myself...

First I looked around the park. No sign of Fluffy. There were other cats there but they looked nothing like Fluffy. Next, I went to a nearby neighbourhood. There were no cats in sight. The third place that came to mind was “Cat Kingdom”. The name came about because a lot of cats lived there but actually it was just an abandoned neighbourhood. So I took the bus there.

When I arrived, the first thing I saw was Fluffy! How lucky I thought to myself. Fluffy allowed me to stroke her gently and she wore a collar that had her name on it. I took out the contact number that I had written down and immediately made a call to the owner.

The owner was overjoyed to see her cat when she arrived. She explained that Fluffy was a rare breed and was a gift from her grandma when she passed away. It meant so much to her.

I was so pleased I could help her and she handed me the reward on the spot. I could not believe that I had landed up with such good fortune! My family would be in for a wonderful surprise that day!



## A Surprise By Muthikrishnan Ruvanthigaa 4S

The kitchen was littered with egg shells. Katie started to whip the strawberry muffin batter. The deadline was half past five. That would be when her mother would come back home. If she could not finish baking the strawberry muffin it would no longer be a surprise.

Katie spooned the mixture onto the trays. She opened the oven. Then, she laid down the trays carefully into the oven. After that, she went to wash up the dishes. It was already half past four. She waited for the muffins to bake.



“Peep! Peep” the oven sounded. Katie wore her baking gloves and took the strawberry muffins out to cool. Not taking the muffins out immediately would keep them in perfect shape, she remembered.

At that moment, Katie heard the sound of keys and a voice calling out from behind the door, “Kate, I’m home!” It was her mother. With excitement, Katie carried the muffins carefully towards her mother who was resting on the bench. She could not wait to see her mother’s expression.

“Did you do it by yourself?” her mother was astonished.

“Yes, I did!” Katie answered with a big smile on her face.

They eagerly took some bites of the strawberry muffins. Only then did she realise she had forgotten to add sugar to the batter.

Disappointedly, she sat on the couch and grumbled about her careless mistake.

“It’s alright even though it is not that sweet. You did not forget to add the strawberry so it is still a bit sweet. Not bad at all for a first timer!” her mother consoled her with a smile. Katie felt better upon hearing those words. Her mother further complimented her on how pretty the strawberry muffins were and that it was indeed a wonderful surprise.

“Next time keep track of your recipe,” her mother laughed. Katie nodded with a grin.

## The Incident that Changed Me By Phua Ser Yen 40



I was a person who loved to look at others and my surroundings. I loved to be quiet. When it came to communicating with others, I became an invisible person and no one would notice me. I have changed though, because of one incident that changed my life.

One early and glorious morning, I was strolling briskly along the pavement near my block of flats. I was admiring the beauty of the greenery and the colours of the scenery that surrounded my neighbourhood. The sound of chirping birds and the scent of roses felt so good! While strolling, I saw the market and remembered that Mother had asked me to run an errand for her. I tried to recall the items that Mother needed and looked at my watch. It was 8.30 in the morning. So, rushing to the market, I looped and squeezed through the crowd. It was tough, because of what I lacked; ‘communication skill’. People were shouting at the top of their lungs, “Do you know how to say ‘excuse me’?”, to me. Well, it was not that I did not know how to say ‘excuse me’. It was because I did not dare to speak out.

I ignored the people and continued running to the market. When I reached the market, I heard aunties and uncles arguing with the store owners about the price of the items. I also heard store owners using the loudhailer and shouting things such as ‘Buy one get one free!’, ‘50 percent discount!’. I headed to the vegetable seller first and bought some vegetables. Then I went to the other stalls to buy the things Mother asked me to buy.



On my way home, I saw an old man walking frailly with his walking stick in his hand. He was carrying bags of groceries and looked like he was about to fall anytime. I quickly rushed over and helped him carry his bags of groceries. He was very happy and grateful to me for helping him. I walked him back to his block of flats. There was also a group of people gathering on the void deck. The old man said, “Excuse me, may I walk through?” Upon hearing the simple words, ‘excuse me’, I felt very embarrassed and thought, ‘Why can I not say these simple words “Excuse me”?’

From that incident onwards, I started to practice my speaking skills and was no longer afraid of communicating with others.

Our budding writers take their readers into the realm of fantasy and mystery, to stories of lost and found, surprise, accident, overcoming fear....

### By Anika Layka 6S

There would always be one abandoned, spooky building that no one would dare to enter and explore...

"I think we should go in, and unravel the truth that ghosts are fake!" Clay suggested. Clay, Nick and George were sitting around a circular table, with a flickering candle placed in the middle of the table. Everyone exchanged looks.

"Clay's right," Nick nodded. He turned his head and looked at George, raising his eyebrow.

George put his hand on his chin. "It's midnight, I wouldn't want to get possessed," George said expressionless. Clay and Nick frowned.

"It will be fun!" Clay said.

"Please George," Nick pleaded. It took awhile for George to decide.

"Fine, if something goes wrong I am blaming both of you," George scoffed and got up. He looked at Clay.

"Let's go!" George jumped up and grabbed a flashlight. Nick and Clay were exuberant.

"Scared?" Clay turned behind to see Nick and George holding each other's hand because they were terrified.

"Why did I even agree to this?" Nick shivered, as the wind whipped through the trees, creaking and groaning like an old rocking chair.

"Anyone got a spare jacket for Nick?" George asked. Clay tossed a spare jacket to Nick. He immediately wore it.

"We are here," Clay looked at the abandoned house. George glanced at the building. There were broken planks nailed on the windows. The piercing wind, brushing through their hair, made everyone shiver.

"So cold..." Nick said in a quavering voice.



Cobwebs hung on the walls, cockroaches were moving swiftly out of the house and on the walls. The sight triggered goosebumps that scurried up their arms and crawled along their necks.

"Shall we go in?" Clay led the two of them through the unlocked door. Nick glanced at his surroundings, his palms sweaty, beads of perspiration cascading ceaselessly from his forehead. Despite the freezing dark weather, he was still perspiring. George, walking at the back, was trembling. Clay was relaxed and calm since he had the flashlight. As they were exchanging looks, a creaking noise was heard. Everyone was paralysed with fear.

"S-Surely... that wasn't us, right?" George said in a trembling voice. He glanced at Clay, who was vigorously shaking his head. They all stood rooted to the ground, terrified. There was an empty room, George glimpsed at it. He then looked at it again. His eyes widened.

"Guys, I-I saw something," he stammered. A tall shadowy figure was standing behind Clay, two dark crimson eyes staring intensely at George, sending shivers down his spine.

"George?" Clay stared at George in confusion. George's heart was palpating widely against his ribcage.

"Ghost!" He yelled. Clay turned behind but there was nothing. It had vanished into thin air.

By Melody Tan Shuan Lee 6S



I woke up to the pungent smell of hospital disinfectant invading my nostrils. The room was silent apart from my heavy breathing and the beeping machines. I slowly opened my eyes, squinting in an attempt to sharpen the blurry images before me. I glanced around and took in the deserted, blue and white colour schemed hospital bedroom. How long have I been here?

Out of impulse, my hand travelled to my face, pressing the throbbing area on my right temple. I felt a scar and flinched at the pain. I tried to get up. Stepping on the cold, white tiles, I instantly fell back on to the bed. My body, engulfed in pain, seemed to be objecting to my decision to stand up. I lay there pathetically, waiting for the pain to wash away, staring at the ceiling, illuminated by a white fluorescent light. I shut my eyes, trying to remember what had exactly happened. Then it all hit me with a bang. The memory of it all started to occupy my thoughts.

We were going on a school field trip to the zoo! I held Matilda's hand tightly as I jumped up and down. The traffic lights turned green. As we crossed, we could hear the honking of cars. She looked at me with a smile on her face. We were heading to the gates. Everyone, including the boys, squealed with excitement.

"Oh, no! My wallet dropped! Where is it?" I exclaimed, as I looked around. It was on the other side of the road! I told Matilda to make sure that the teacher would not come to me, as I sneakily pressed the button on the traffic lights controller. The cars zoomed past and I could feel the breeze caressing my face. The class was about to enter the gates. I tapped my foot rapidly on the ground as the traffic light was still red. I had made my decision. I looked left and right. No cars. I dashed across the road as I tried to retrieve my wallet.

"Jenny! Look out!" a voice shouted. I looked back at Matilda, and then to my right. A car zoomed at full speed towards me, and I stood rooted to the ground in the middle of the road. My heart palpitated wildly against my ribcage, and fear was stretched thin across my face. I knew that doom was awaiting me. It spun uncontrollably and before I knew it, the sound of the screeching brakes and tires skidding shattered into immense silence. I plummeted onto the gravel. Excruciating pain jolted throughout my whole body. People started rushing to the



scene and surrounded me.

"Hang on! You'll be fine! The paramedics are coming!" I could faintly hear a man's reassuring voice. Matilda was sitting beside me, holding my hand. That was the last thing I remembered. And then I was in impenetrable darkness.

When I next opened my eyes, a series of questions flooded my head, as I stared at the unfamiliar scene before me. Who brought me here? Where am I? How long have I been here?

"Jenny! Are you alright?" a voice interrupted my deep thoughts. A tall, skinny woman in a yellow dress approached me. She had long, thick black hair and was wearing glasses. It was my mother. I got up and fell into the loving embrace as my mind cleared.

"Mum! I am so sorry," I cried as tears rolled down my cheeks.

"It's okay now. I know that sometimes you can be a little careless..." she wept through her tear-soaked eyes.

As I walked out of the hospital doors, relief brought a broad smile to my face. That incident just a week ago would be etched in my memory for as long as I live. What about my wallet, you ask? Well, Matilda returned it to me at school.





By Vo Josephina Tu 5T

It was a dark and gloomy night. Not a single cloud was in sight and the full moon glowed brightly. There was a howling wolf somewhere in the forest. There was a flash of lightning and it started to rain cats and dogs. The leafless trees swayed with the wind. Crows screeched in every direction. Owls all around stared straight into your soul. Thousands of tombstones lay down on the ground with dark, rotten flowers on them. Cobwebs were everywhere and you could see the shadows of children laughing. But when you turned, they disappeared. There was a ginormous castle with blood stains and cobwebs everywhere on the walls.

Alice was on the bus with her class on an expedition. Alice, Lila, Ash and Alex were in a

group. They were chatting about the field trip. Lila asked, "Do you know where we are going?" Everyone else shook their heads. Lila then raised her hand and asked the teacher where they were going.

"We are going to the forest to go on a confidence building camp," Ash told them and added, "they say that there is this witch that lives in that forest, waiting for children to come to replace her. She is the 'Witch of Chaos'." There was a sudden halt. They had arrived. "Everyone settle down. Listen up. Group 1 is going to Cabin Unicorn. Group 2 is going to Cabin Narwhale... and Group 5 is going to Cabin Dragon," the instructor said. The instructor started to talk about the rules. After that, they went to their cabins to rest.

The next day, Alice and her group woke up with a start. There was a loud ringing through the speakers. The day had started. After breakfast, they took a stroll. Ash suddenly froze.

“Did you see that?” Ash asked.

Lila and Alex looked around and replied, “No, I don’t see anything.” Ash trembled.

“But I swear tha-that I just saw something bla-black g-go past us,” Ash stammered, “is the witch here?” They took to their heels and ran to the dining room. When they finally got into the dining room, they were so relieved. It was so much cooler there. They had to eat quickly as class was about to start. By the time they got to the classrooms, their legs were aching from all that running. They were learning about the forest’s myths and legends.

It was time for outdoor activities. This meant the confidence hike. They had to go around the woods to collect stamps. The whole team would get a reward if they had collected all of them. There would be a trail to follow.

“Pheeee!” the whistle blew. Everyone strolled through the path. After about five minutes, a “vampire” walked by. Some students screamed while running away, leaving their team behind while some of the others were in shock. Alex noticed who he was almost immediately.

“Hey! It is our math teacher!” she exclaimed. The math teacher gave those who did not run off a stamp on their cards and made way for them to pass. After a while there was yet another creature. A “ghost” walked by and about four students ran away yelling, “Run for your lives!” leaving only Alice’s group and another two others. The rest of the students continued to roam about until the path came to an end. There stood a big mansion with red splotches on the wall. “Danger!” Alice read out from a nearby sign. When they turned, they realized that they were the only group who reached this point. There was a thick fog gathering and no one could see



anything. As they walked through, they had to hold hands so that they would not separate. They cautiously walked until they saw a figure of a person. In front of them stood a woman with an evil grin and wide eyes.

“Well, hello there. If you may, can you come with me please,” she said, like an insult. She made them follow her to the house with red stains. Inside there was a long staircase leading to the second level, covered in a scarlet carpet. There were also some skulls hanging on the walls.

“Okay then, stay there,” the woman clapped her hands two times and women dressed in black came out with their heads down.

“Oh no! I recognize them now, we have to get out,” Ash told them.

“Oh no you won’t!” she somehow bound them together. She then clapped her hands a third time and the women’s heads popped up, revealing faces with eyes and an evil grin. They had veins appearing from the neck to their faces. She gave Alice a bracelet.

“Listen up. I am the Witch of Chaos as that boy already knows,” the witch pointed to Ash. “And I will be making this girl the new witch.” The witch then pointed to Alice. She chanted some words and left a book on a nearby table. Alice closed her eyes and wished that this was just a nightmare.

When she opened her eyes again, she found herself in her bedroom in her bed. “Phew! That was just a bad dream!” Alice was relieved. But when she turned to get off her bed, she froze. There on her side table stood the bracelet that the witch gave her. She stared at the bracelet carefully. It was the exact same thing. The same dark blue and purple bead. The same silver chain. The same Moon charm...

## Be My Doll By Lee Ning 6S



“Just one more! Just one more to get the whole collection of Leishas!” whined Willow. She glanced contentedly at her shelf full of dolls she collected since she was six. “I need to convince Aunt Marge to get me Cove, and my 12th collection will be completed.”

“Aunt Marge, will you get me Cove, the doll from Leisha?” pleaded Willow at dinner time, the only time her Aunt was home as she worked at her toy factory all day.

“Sure!” Aunt Marge replied.

Aunt Marge was a factory owner, selling toys such as dolls. Willow had been staying with her aunt for 6 years out of 11 years of her whole life, and had grown up with dolls, after her father and mother mysteriously disappeared 6 years ago. The next day, Aunt Marge came home from work with Cove, the only doll missing from Willow's collection of Leisha. "OMG! Thanks so much, Auntie Marge!" squealed Willow.

"Willy, dear, I will be hiring a babysitter for tomorrow night, because I will be staying overnight in a hotel for investments in my factory. Be a good girl, Ok?" asked Aunt Marge.

"Ok!" replied Willow obediently, still admiring her new doll. Willow put Cove onto her shelf, and gazed at her complete collection. Suddenly, Willow's eyes widened in disbelief. Could it be? She was sure Cove had just blinked at her. Willow dismissed it, however, and thought "One sees many things, but not all may be the truth." and nodded wisely before going to sleep.

The next evening, the babysitter arrived at Willow's house. She looks uncannily like a doll, thought Willow, scanning her from head to toe. Her face was like a cake made of foundation and lipstick, and had two visible pink patches on her cheek. There was an air of creepiness about her. The moment she saw Willow's dolls on display, she smiled. "Hello, sweetie! You are interested in dolls?" "H-h-hi..... Yes, I like dolls..... Aunt Marge said that you would be my b-b-babysitter."

"Indeed I am! Listen dear, listen carefully. I will go and save those people in your Aunt's factory. You will—" and at this point she brought out a gun, "save yourself on this end. It will be happening tonight. Do you understand me?"



Whatever happens, kill her. Kill her."

The babysitter stopped. "Be brave." And with that, the babysitter left before Willow could say another word.

That night, Willow clutched the strange object that the strange person had given her, curled up in a ball, still shaken by the incident. After the babysitter left, Willow had crawled slowly back to her room, clasping her dolls. She clasped her fav, Avery, and lay still in her bed, unable to sleep. Suddenly, at exactly midnight, the doll in her hand began to move. Willow could feel it twitching and gurgling, and writhing in her hand. Instantly, the room felt like it was sucking the air out of her. With a sudden movement, Willow flung the doll across the room, and stumbled out to the living room, gasping for air.

At the corner of her eye, Avery could be seen walking towards her, slowly but surely, coming closer and closer with each passing second.

"Leave me alone!" whimpered Willow. She ran for her life away from the house and right into a forest, with Avery following closely behind. Finally, when her doll was just inches behind her, Willow tripped on the roots of a tree,

and shrieked out in pain and fright "Help! Help! Someone! Anyone!" Willow screamed at the top of her lungs as she ran from her doll. "I can help you..." began the doll in a silvery voice, while walking stiffly after Willow. "Once a mother, always a mother. I can help you... Just join me. I love you, and I still do"

Those words confused Willow, so in spite of being afraid of her doll, she asked bravely, "Mother? Love? W-w-what are you talking about?"

"I am your mother. I loved you with so much obsession, so I asked your Old Margie to help me live forever, and she turned me into a doll. Since then, she changed from making boring old wooden toys to developing a company for people who wanted to live forever. But the night when she successfully transformed me into a doll, I realized how big of a mistake I had made. She trapped me in that glass container, inspecting my every move.

While that was happening, she started making other dolls, I was NUMBER 1, and your father was NUMBER 2. Sadly, he did not make it out there alive.

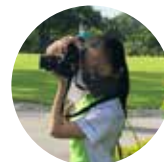
She killed him when he tried to escape from our jailed glass room. Luckily, I escaped unscathed, and have been watching over you for the past 6 years. Become one of us, I have mustered a way to turn you into a doll like me, I can grant you painless death, and we can take revenge on those who underestimated us."

"W-w-what?" Willow stammered.

The doll began to advance towards Willow, and Willow let out an ear-piercing shriek of terror. "Don't- please don't-" Adeline, the chief editor of the Vision Eye Writing company, jolted out of her reverie as she stared at her pen, thinking deeply about the vision she had just witnessed.



## Something that Was Lost By Choo Zhi Lin 6S



Three days had passed since I last saw my owner. I would patrol the streets each day, feeling the warmth of determination within me, only to return to the dark alley alone, feeling defeated. Every attempt made to search for my owner was unsuccessful and I lost even more hope as the days flew by.

I could still recall speeding down the streets unleashed, thinking that my owner was following close behind. Ever since I lost her, the dark alley was like my new home. I sought shelter from the rain under rags of cloth, ransacked the garbage bins for food, and slept in filthy cardboard boxes that had probably lain untouched for years. My owner was long gone and I began to get used to the life of a stray cat. Until one day...

"Mommy, look a cat!" I jumped out of my sleep as I heard a high-pitched squeal of a little girl in pink,

clutching her mother's hand tightly. I grew even more paranoid as they approached closer and closer with every step.

"Hiss!" I flashed my fangs at her and scurried out of the alley until the sobs of the little girl were inaudible. Just as I was about to flee, I caught a glimpse of a flyer fluttering in the breeze on a streetlamp. Before I knew it, the flyer broke free from the lamp and was carried away by the wind.

"Missing cat?" I thought to myself as the flyer drifted off into the distance.

"Could that be... me?" My curiosity was piqued and every muscle and sinew in my body ached to find out for myself. Common sense told me to chase after the flyer before it was too late. I bolted as fast as my little furry legs could carry me until I could run no more, but the flyer was just inches

away. I took a leap of faith and clasped the thin sheet of paper between my fangs. My heart was racing as a million thoughts flooded my mind.

“Will the missing cat be me? Is it my owner who is looking for me?” I hurriedly turned the paper over and took a deep breath.

The cat... It was me! I felt a bolt of energy shoot up my body and I began hopping around in delight. My tail was shaking violently as the world around me disappeared. I was in seventh heaven!

Just then, a thought struck me out of nowhere. I thought to myself, “I never saw this flyer until today. This means... My owner must be close by!” I came back to my senses and began scurrying around every corner of the street, feeling a gleam of determination once again.

Searching high and low, I could not find my owner

anywhere. But this time, I did not lose any hope. Deep inside, I knew that if I could find her, I would no longer have to live like a lost stray and have a proper place to stay. Most importantly, I would be able to feel loved and cared for again! Just then, I stopped in my tracks as a pair of shoes emerged from behind a wall.

“Snowy! I have been looking for you everywhere!” My heart almost skipped a beat. That voice sounded so... familiar! I felt a warm pair of arms embrace my small, fragile body as I felt my legs leave the ground. I lifted my chin and saw... my owner! I clung onto her the whole journey back to our humble abode, which was what used to be my home, my favourite place to be. Ever since I was lost, I felt that my owner had forgotten about me. Now I know, my owner had always loved me dearly and would never abandon me.

## Evelyn Hen By Nguyen Minh Dat 6S

It was the fifth Parliament debate on the motion of eggs being a currency. For the past four rounds, the judges were not able to choose a winning side. Hopefully, today’s debate will be the last round of the citizen’s re-appeal.

Everything started off when a woman called Evelyn Hen rushed up the stage. She donned an old-fashioned dress sewn together with milky-white chicken feathers and a strawberry coloured beanie. It was really challenging for the audience to identify whether she was the emcee or a hen.

“Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, I’m the emcee for today’s debate,” she introduced. “The judges will see which side builds a better case for the motion to pick a winner, which they were not able to do for the past four rounds,” she mocked. “Let us now welcome the speakers!” Evelyn spoke into the microphone with a high-pitched voice belying her excitement. “Mr Rooster, a chicken farmer in Chick Town, will speak. Next, Mrs Hen, a housewife, will also weigh in. We shall now begin



the unusual Parliament debate”, the emcee announced.



An old man lumbered up stage and presented himself in overalls. “I strongly agree with this motion,” he started in a croaky voice. “One day before the announcement of the new currency, people from the city dashed to my farm, wanting to buy a hundred chickens for fifty billion dollars! I quickly accepted without hesitation. That night, I sold five hundred chickens and earned fifteen billion dollars. I am even richer than Bill Gates. The money was enough to fill the area that kept those five hundred chickens! To my dismay, after the announcement, it turned out that one hundred chickens is worth one hundred billion dollars!!”

Finally, a chunky woman sure-footed up the lengthy stair to reach the stage. “I strongly disagree with the new rule of money, as my

housewife life has become tougher!” Mrs Hen remarked in a booming voice. “Supermarkets stopped selling chicken eggs, causing my family to have no eggs as a food source. The menu for the family could no longer include chicken and I could no longer cook chicken rice! My little purse became many egg trays carrying “money” stacking up on one another. Even ATMs with money became ETMs to store eggs and egg yolk became the cash!

HOW RIDICULOUS!!!”

Mrs Hen grumbled uncompromisingly, she was like a screaming banshee. “We need time to discuss and make the decision!” The judges vocalised. After five minutes, the judges had made up their mind. “Our decision is... to wait for the next debate round!!!” They notified the House like it was a joke. And that’s how we ended up with the sixth Parliament debate.

## EL Writing Competition

Blangah Rise Primary School (BRPS) launched a school-wide Writing Competition to provide every budding writer an opportunity to share their original poems and stories with their peers, teachers, and family. This competition aims to celebrate young talents and provide a platform for students to express their creativity. The theme for the competition in 2022 is “Our Incredible Garden”. Here are two samples of the winning entries from the competition!



Snails By Eng Wei Xuan Soren 10



Summer By Choo Zhi Lin 6S

# Best Photo Stories



**By G. Aarya, 2 Ruby**

This photo was taken during sunset at the Raffles Marina Lighthouse. I wanted to capture the beautiful sunset with Raffles Marina Lighthouse, Tuas Second Link and Johor Bahru in the front. I used the Rule of Thirds for the lighthouse and Johor Bahru. This also shows the vastness of the sky and the close relationship between Singapore and Malaysia.



**By Teo Kai Xiang, 3 Topaz**

Most flowers grow in gardens but a small yellow flower can grow not only in gardens but also along roadsides, gaps in walls, cracks in pathways and even beside drains. I found this flower. It is resilient because it is growing strongly on its own as compared to other flowering plants. We should learn to persevere through difficult conditions just like this flower. I used the composition technique of Rule of Thirds to take this photograph.



**By Lee Jun Him, 4 Topaz**

I used the composition technique of Rule of Thirds to take this photograph. This is a scene containing flowing water from a “shishi-odoshi”, which is a Japanese water fountain. Water gives life to the plant.



**By Lim Ghim Suan, 5 Sapphire**

When you look at yourself in the mirror, what do you see? Do you think about your past, your present or your future? The turtle is curious about what lies ahead of it. Sometimes, in our fast-paced society, we neglect our environment. Hence, we should slow down our pace to reflect on what can be done to protect Mother Nature. I used the composition techniques of Contrast and Rule of Thirds when taking this photograph.



**By Muhammad Nurfidyan  
Bin Muhammad Fairuz,  
6 Topaz**

I took a photograph of this sunset as it is a one-time chance not to miss it. Unlike most sunsets, this is pink, which is very rare.