



Hong Kong International
Literary Festival
香港國際文學節

**YOUNG READERS
FESTIVAL
SCHOOL PROGRAMME**

MARCH 6-10 2023

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Hong Kong International Literary Festival 香港國際文學節

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PLEASE SHARE THIS
BROCHURE WITH YOUR
EDUCATOR FRIENDS. IT WOULD
BE A GREAT HELP TO US!**

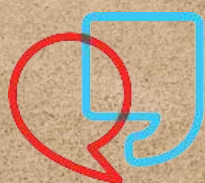
ABOUT HKILF

HKILF is a not-for-profit charitable organisation registered in Hong Kong that advances education and the diffusion of knowledge through literature, and generates enthusiasm for reading and creative writing. HKILF is a well-established and much-loved institution, which has impacted tens of thousands of young people and adults in the last twenty-one years. HKILF was founded in 2001 to celebrate reading and literature in the community and is widely acknowledged as one of Asia and the world's most notable literary gatherings. Our 21 years of literary programming with schools and prominent venues have helped develop Hong Kong's position as an international and regionally leading centre for the literary arts.

The festival is an acknowledged landmark in the city's cultural landscape and has brought a distinguished roster of guests to Hong Kong. Past speakers include Margaret Atwood, Seamus Heaney, Amy Tan, Amitav Ghosh, Kevin Kwan, Jhumpa Lahiri, Amor Towles, Damon Galgut, Kai-fu Lee, Adam Grant, Cheryl Strayed, David Sedaris, Junot Diaz, Pico Iyer, Ken Hom, Carol Ann Duffy, Kiran Desai, Ian Rankin, Yann Martel, Hanya Yanagahira and Dinaw Mengestu, among many others.

The annual festival features established and emerging writers from around the world in a programme that includes panel discussions, book talks, literary lunches and dinners, readings, workshops, and performance. HKILF continues to inspire and illuminate Hong Kong readers with innovative programming.

Events for adults and families will run from March 6-12 2023. Visit our website and follow us on social media to keep up to date.



Hong Kong International
Literary Festival
香港國際文學節



ABOUT YRF

WHO WE ARE:

A world renowned festival that promotes the importance of reading and literacy in our community and schools.

WHAT WE DO:

Connect schools to local and international kidlit stars and experts. Offer in-person workshops, presentations, as well as online events for students.

WHY WE DO IT:

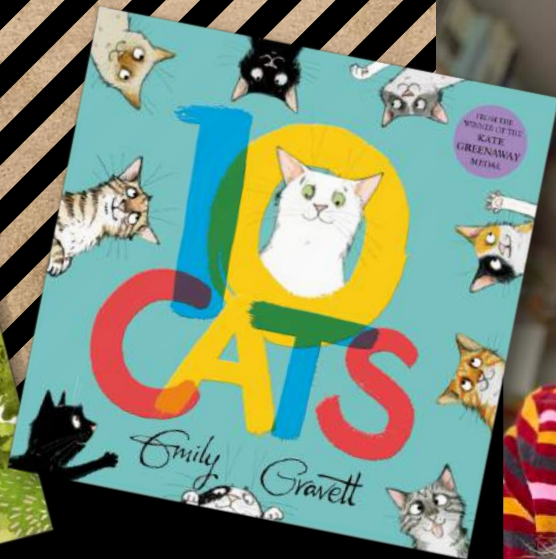
To nurture literacy in our schools and community. To give students authentic experiences that are inspiring, relevant, culturally rewarding, and joyful.

JOIN OUR SCHOOL MAILING LIST FOR SCHOOLS
[HTTPS://WWW.FESTIVAL.ORG.HK/YRF-MAILING-LIST/](https://www.festival.org.hk/yrf-mailing-list/)



Hong Kong International
Literary Festival
香港國際文學節





EMILY GRAVETT

INSTAGRAM
@ EMILY_GRAVETT

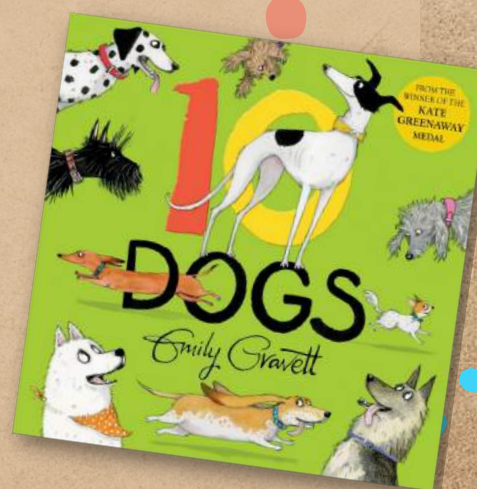
EMILY GRAVETT's career as a successful illustrator began before she even finished studying illustration at Brighton School of Art. In her final year, she entered two of her projects for the Macmillan Prize for Children's Illustration, winning first prize with 'Wolves', a publishing contract for 'Orange Pear Apple Bear', and a third contract for an unnamed book, which became 'Meerkat Mail'. 'Wolves' went on to win the Kate Greenaway Medal, the Boston Globe Horn Book Honor Award for Illustration and was also a runner up for the Smarties prize. Three years later, 'Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears' won her the Kate Greenaway Medal for a second time.

Emily Gravett has now published more than 20 picture books in more than 20 languages including 'Meerkat Mail', 'Orange Pear Apple Bear' (a Quills Award finalist, a Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist title, a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, and a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year), 'Tidy' (Macmillan) and 'Cyril and Pat' (also Macmillan), which won the first ever BookTrust StoryTime Prize in 2019. She is one of a small world-class team of illustration talent chosen to create colour illustrated editions of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and Hogwarts Library books. 'Quiddich Through the Ages' (Bloomsbury) published in autumn 2020. Emily Gravett has also collaborated with some of the most creative writers working today including Julia Donaldson on 'Cave Baby' and with A F Harold on 'The Imaginary' (Bloomsbury).

Workshop : Design a Dog - Reading and Craft, Age: 3-6

This event is aimed at and is suitable for 3-6 year olds in groups of under 20 in bookshops, libraries and classrooms. Emily will read '10 Dogs', and then using templates for the kids to draw around, they can design their own dog on paper using felt tips/coloured pencils etc. Emily will round off with a reading of '10 Cats'.

Tech requirements : Paper for the children to draw on & clipboards if no tables. For larger groups, powerpoint and screen Flipchart for demonstrating drawing. Felt tip pens & pencils for the children.



Talk : Emily Gravett Loves Drawing, Age: 5-11

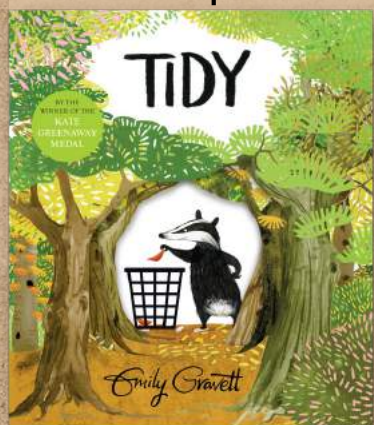
Emily will tell the children (images on my powerpoint) about her childhood, and why she loves drawing (interactive). Emily will talk about observational drawing, and will demonstrate. After reading '10 Dogs', she will show the children how to design and draw their own dog to make a big howling barking 'pack.' She will then read either 'Tidy' or 'Too Much Stuff' and finish with a Q&A depending on time/ages of children

Tech requirements : powerpoint wireless mic (depending on size of audience), flipchart paper, a pencil & clipboard for each child. Water.

Talk : Emily Gravett on Illustration, Age: Adults

Emily will talk about how she grew up, got into illustration, what inspires her, and a bit about her working methods. Q&A/discussion.

Tech requirements : Powerpoint, flipchart



Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



PETRHORACEK.CO.UK

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TWITTER @PHORACEK



PETR HORÁČEK

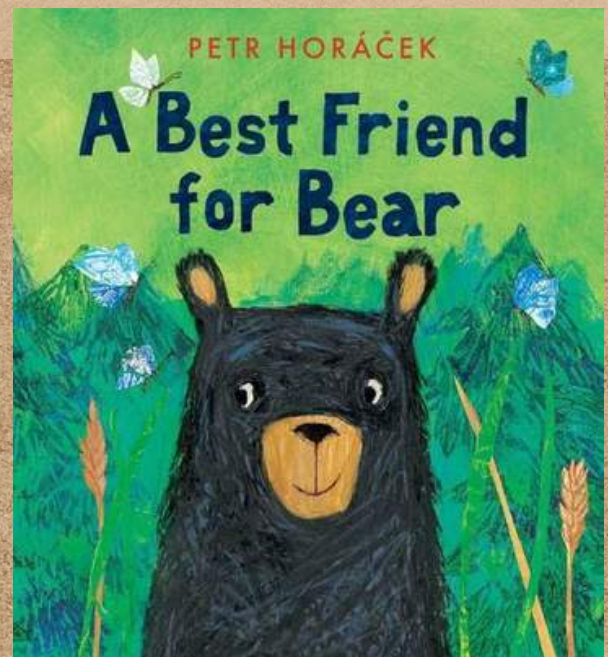
PETR HORÁČEK was born on June 30th 1967 in Czechoslovakia. He grew up on the outskirts of Prague. From the age of 15-19, Petr studied at the High School of Art in Prague. The school specialised mainly in design. From age 19, Peter worked in a state design studio for two years. He studied painting at the Academy of Fine Art in Prague from 1988. Petr graduated with a Master of Fine Art in 1994. As a student, Petr met his English wife Claire and in 1995 they moved to England. He started to write and illustrate books soon after his first child was born. The first books 'Strawberries are Red' and 'What is Black and White?' were published in 2001 and he received the Books For Children Newcomer Award in the same year. Since then Petr has written and illustrated many books for children. In the UK, he is mainly published by Walker Books and his books are translated into many languages. Petr has won awards for his books in Britain, USA and Holland. He lives in Worcester, England.

TALK: A BEST PRESENT FOR BEAR, AGE GROUP : 3-11

Petr will do a talk, read a some of his books including 'The Perfect Present' and 'A Best Friend for Bear'. During the talk, he always shows lots of images from his books to make the talk as visually entertaining as possible. He also does lots of drawing which he will give to the school and will teach children how to draw favourite characters from his books.

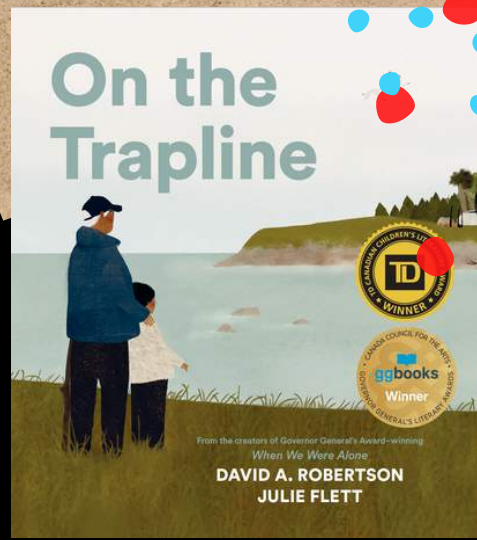
Tech Requirements:

Computer connected to screen; flip chart or a visualiser to draw on. If the 'drawing along' option is requested, then materials needed for the children's drawings: pencils, white paper A4, drawing boards or clipboards.



Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



DAVID A. ROBERTSON

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@ DAVIDROBERTSONWRITER

TWITTER & FACEBOOK

@ DAVID A. ROBERTSON



DAVID A. ROBERTSON (he, him, his) was the 2021 recipient of the Writers' Union of Canada Freedom to Read Award as well as the Globe and Mail Children's Storyteller of the Year. He is the author of numerous books for young readers including 'When We Were Alone', which won the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award. 'The Barren Grounds, Book 1' of the middle-grade 'The Misewa Saga' series, was shortlisted for the Ontario Library Association's Silver Birch Award, and was a finalist for the 2020 Governor General's Literary Award. His memoir, 'Black Water: Family, Legacy, and Blood Memory', was a Globe and Mail and Quill & Quire book of the year in 2020, and won the Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award for Non-Fiction as well as the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award at the 2020 Manitoba Book Awards. 'On The Trapline', illustrated by Julie Flett, won David's second Governor General's Literary Award, as well as the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award. Dave is the writer and host of the podcast Kíwew (Key-Way-Oh), winner of the 2021 RTDNA Praire Region Award for Best Podcast. His first adult fiction novel, 'The Theory of Crows', was published in 2022 and is a national bestseller. He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and currently lives in Winnipeg.

Talk: On the Trapline, Age: 5-9

A presentation that discusses how a picture book is made, from the initial idea to the development process to publication. This presentation will look at the manuscript, the initial art, and the finished product. It will include a reading, and a Q&A session with the kids.

Talk: The Misewa Saga, Age: 10-14

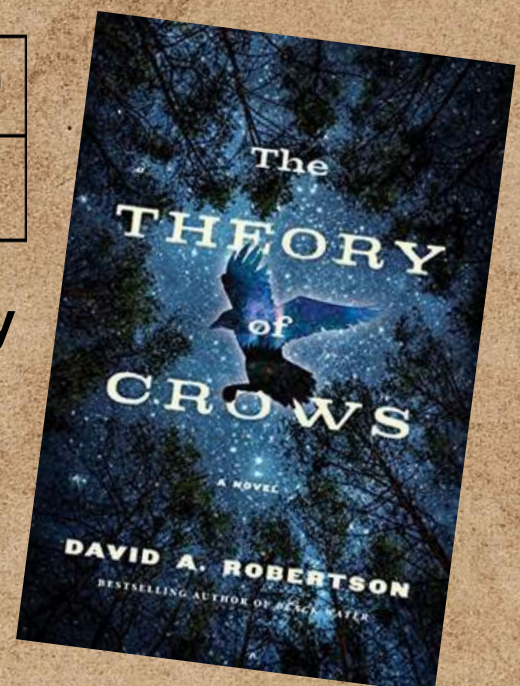
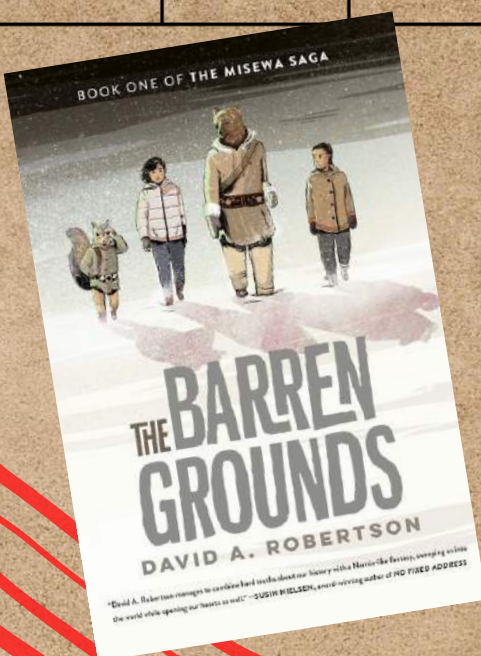
A presentation that discusses how 'The Misewa Saga' came to be. Dive into the world of fantasy. How do you create a new world with exciting characters? Where do you find the ideas and how do they develop into a story? How do you plot out a series, not just one book? Everything you want to know about writing fantasy, including a reading, and a Q&A with kids.

Talk: The Theory of Crows, Age: Secondary to Adult

An hour with the author, where Dave will discuss how this work of adult literary fiction came to be. He'll talk about where the idea came from, how he developed it into a story, and will connect this book to experiences in his own life. He'll discuss his writing journey into being a published author. Dave will do a reading, and take audience questions.

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Availability



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS AUTHOR

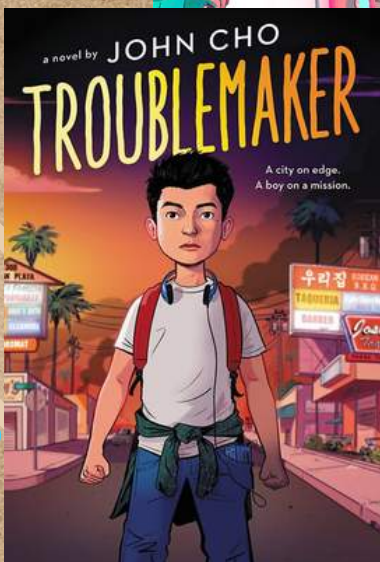


SARAH SUK

SARAH SUK.COM

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INSTAGRAM @_SARAH SUK



SARAH SUK (pronounced like soup with a K) lives in Vancouver, Canada, where she writes stories and admires mountains. She is the author of young adult novels 'Made in Korea' and 'The Space Between Here & Now', as well as the co-writer of John Cho's middle grade novel 'Troublemaker.' When she's not writing, you can find her hanging out by the water, taking film photos, or eating a bowl of bingsu.

TALK: ONCE UPON A TIME

AGE: 9-12 OR 13-18

Follow along on Sarah Suk's journey from teen fan fiction writer to published author. She'll share about her love of stories from a young age, the many ups and downs in her road to publication, and the importance of supporting diverse books. The presentation will include a time of Q&A.

Tech requirements:

Mic if speaking to a large group. Powerpoint projector connectable to Macbook OR a school laptop she can use (she will bring a USB for her ppt if this is the case).



TALK: DISCOVERING YOUR CHARACTER'S VOICE

AGE: 10-18

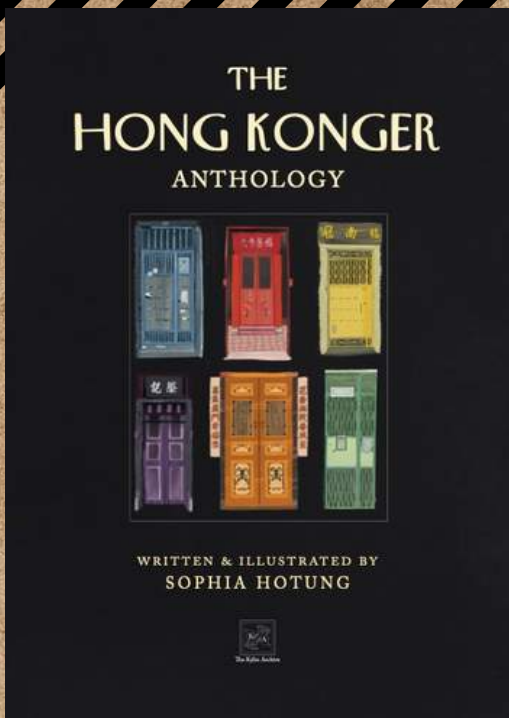
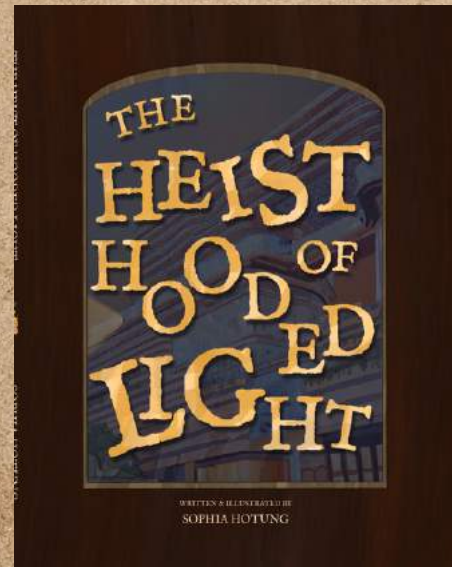
When you think of your favourite character in a book, TV show, or movie, chances are you can hear their voice in your head right away. Every great character has a strong voice that's unique to them. Through writing exercises, games, and concrete examples, this workshop will explore the process of discovering your character's voice, creating great dialogue, and using actions to speak louder than words.

Tech requirements:

Powerpoint projector with appropriate wires to connect to Macbook OR powerpoint projector with school laptop she can use (she will bring a USB for her ppt if this is the case). Blank paper. Ensure that every student has a pencil/pen and something to write on (notebook, etc).

AVAILABILITY

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



SOPHIA HOTUNG

SOPHIA HOTUNG is a Eurasian writer and illustrator from Hong Kong. Best known for creating The Hong Kong art collection, she is also the author of 'The Hong Konger Anthology' and 'The Heist of Hooded Light'. As a digital artist, Hotung's work has also been exhibited at the Affordable Art Fair, Digital Art Fair, and Sotheby's. As a chronic illness patient, Hotung advocates for disability and women's issues, specifically in relation to education and work.

SOPHIAHOTUNG.COM

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[LINKEDIN.COM/IN/SHOTUNG](https://www.linkedin.com/in/SHOTUNG)

WORKSHOP : EMPOWERING YOUNG HONG KONGERS TO HANDLE FAILURE, FEEL SEEN, AND EXPLORE CREATIVE CAREERS(AGE GROUP : 8-18)

In her “Representing Hong Kong” workshop, students learn the tools and techniques to turn their identities and experiences as Hong Kongers, third culture kids, and the like into literary or artistic narratives. It gives them a blueprint for what representative literature looks like and serves as a jumping-offpoint for future independent creations.

In her “Handling Failure” workshop, students and Sophia talk about rethinking failure, and how the traditional roadmap to “success” is far more diverse than we think.

In her “Creative Careers” Workshop, students and Sophia work on real commission case studies, and she breaks down exactly how she makes money (and how much!) so that students are able to make well-informed career decisions.

Tech Requirements:

Projector or MacBook laptop hookup or AirPlay, markers/writing tools, paper, desks/seats/clipboards -- anything children can use to write on.

**ONLINE
ONLY**

AVAILABILITY

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



ZENO SWORDER

ZENOSWORDER.COM

INSTAGRAM @ZENOSWORDER



ZENO SWORDER is an award winning writer, illustrator and picture book maker who is passionate about literacy, creativity and diversity. He was born into a mixed (Chinese and English) multicultural family in Australia and has worked as a window washer, a dish washer, a journalist, a teacher, a volunteer for Lifeline, a senior visa officer at the Australian Consulate General in Shanghai and a tribunal advocate for migrants and refugees. But he has always felt most himself sitting at a table drawing pictures and making up stories. Zeno is a Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) winner, Australia Book Designers Award (ABDA) winner and his book, 'This Small Blue Dot', was featured as part of the Bologna Ragazzi Amazing Bookshelf of International Children's Books. Zeno's lively presentations are interactive and fun.

TALK: LITTLE HEROES ON BIG ADVENTURES, AGE: 5-8

Join Zeno on a creative odyssey as he shares the inner workings of his imagination and the magical process of how books are made. From his beginnings as a (naughty) child who suffered from asthma and eczema to his adult years traveling the world marveling at different natural environments and their tiniest insect inhabitants, Zeno will demonstrate how creative ideas can come from absolutely anywhere. The award-winning picture book maker will share his latest books, 'This Small Blue Dot' and 'My Strange Shrinking Parents' before collaborating with the group to make a new and wild story based around the insect world.

Tech Requirements:

- * Screen or projector with a standard HDMI input. Zeno will connect this to his own laptop to display images and short videos.
- * Pencils and paper for the students to be passed out for a group activity based around story telling.

WORKSHOP: MY STRANGE FAMILY, AGE: 9-12

"We all believe our parents to be strange. Mine were unusual for a different reason than most." So begins an exploration of drawing meaning and creativity from our own strange and diverse backgrounds. Starting from his own childhood as the son of immigrant parents, Zeno's session is a celebration of creativity as a way to express yourself and make sense of the world around you.

It is about creativity as a positive and magical force that connects us to other hearts and other imaginations across time and space. Building upon his latest book, 'My Strange Shrinking Parents', this is an engaging session about embracing the things that make us who we are and will set participants off on their own creative adventures in drawing and story telling.

Tech Requirements: Same as above.



TALK: WHO HAS A STORY TO TELL?, AGE: 13-18

There are few things more valuable than a good story. Stories help us understand others and crucially they help us understand ourselves. They provide a door into new perspectives and experiences that enrich and enlarge our lives. Everyone has a story to tell. In this session, Zeno will take participants on a journey through different creative fields from comic books to picture books to film to explore how stories are made in different mediums and the different creative processes and skill sets behind them. He will also pull back the curtain on his most recent book 'My Strange Shrinking Parents' to show how it was made; from the messy idea stage to the refinement of the 32nd and final draft. This is a session that embraces the passion that young people have to share their own experiences and provides them with guidance and encouragement to pursue their own creative journeys.

Tech Requirements: Screen or projector with a standard HDMI input. He will connect this to his own laptop to display images and short videos.

AVAILABILITY

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

OLIVER PHOMMAVANH

OLIVER PHOMMAVANH loves to make people laugh, whether it's on the page, writing humour for kids, or on stage as a stand-up comedian. He also shares his passion for writing with kids, using his experience as a primary school teacher. Oliver has performed at various comedy and writers festivals around Australia and Asia. Oliver's recent books include 'What About Thao', 'Don't Follow Vee' and 'Natural Born Loser', and he is best known for 'Thai-riffic!', 'Con-nerd' and 'The Other Christy'.



OLIVERWRITER.COM

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YOUTUBE @VIRTUALOLIVERP



WORKSHOP: WRITING HUMOUR: IT'S NOT THAT HA HA HARD

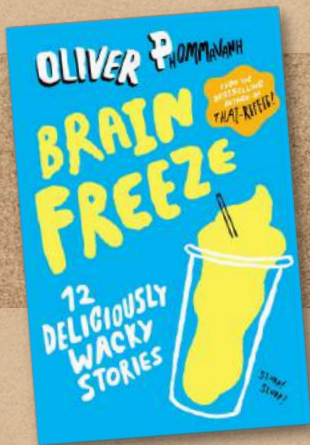
AGE: 10-14

Everyone has a sense of humour but does your humour make any sense? Oliver will go through some techniques of how to come up with some ideas for jokes, weird characters and wacky story lines. There is a little bit of drawing from your own experiences, actual drawing of characters and more. Discover how easy it is to inject some laughs into your writing.

Tech Requirement : For the workshops, Oliver will need a whiteboard and whiteboard markers. The kids will need their own pens/pencil and paper/workbooks preferred over laptops/tablets.

WORKSHOP: FIRE UP YOUR WRITING: BRAINSTORMING IDEAS FOR STORIES, AGE: 10-14

Want to write great stories but don't know where to start? Oliver will take you through some brainstorming methods of how to gather ideas for characters and plots, using personal experiences. There will be 4-5 writing exercises that will help students plan their stories whilst overcoming their own pitfalls to creative writing. Ideal for reluctant writers.

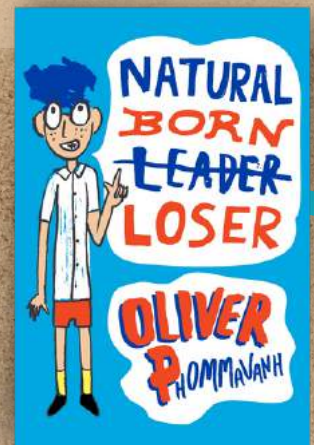


TALK: WHAT ABOUT OLIVER P? OR WHAT ABOUT THAO? AGE: 10-14

Oliver Phommavanh has always stood out living in Australia, and it's not because of his spiky hair. His latest book, 'What About Thao' explores not only what it means to be the only Asian kid living in a small rural town, but also how you can find your place and sense of belonging in your own world. How does Oliver combine his skills as a writer, comedian and teacher to write funny stories? Discover where Oliver gets his ideas, from his love of travel, burgers and sneakers, and way more!

Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



CHARMIAN WOODHOUSE

INSTAGRAM:
LANTAU_LIFE



CHARMIAN WOODHOUSE is a keen nature photographer and writer. She loves trail running and open water swimming and is inspired by the incredible biodiversity and beauty of Lantau Island, Hong Kong. She is the author of 'Lantau Coast - A coasteering journey around Lantau Island' and 'Lantau Life, A year on Lantau Island'.

**TALK: LANTAU COAST - A COASTEERING JOURNEY AROUND
AGE: 5-12 OR TEEN/ADULT**

The coast of Lantau is a coast of stories. The stories of pirates and smugglers, of volcanoes and ancient rivers and the stories of the incredible creatures that live in the in-between magical world of the inter-tidal zone, a place that is ruled by the cosmic forces of the sun and moon. Coasteering is the sport of travelling along the shoreline by climbing, swimming, wading and scrambling without the aid of a board or boat. Learn about the exciting adventures that Charmian and Cathy had as they went on a journey of discovery around the largest island in Hong Kong.

Tech Requirement : Handheld mic, AV equipment - laptop and screen



NATURE OF LANTAU, ALL AGES

Hong Kong has an astounding variety of wonderful animals and insects. Charmian has spent years exploring the beautiful island of Lantau, day and night, photographing many of the unique creatures that call Hong Kong home. She has found snakes, butterflies, dragonflies, spiders, crabs and more on her nature expeditions. Learn about macro photography, the wonderful biodiversity of Hong Kong and the incredible adventures you can have on Lantau Island in Hong Kong.

Tech Requirements:

Hand held mic, AV equipment - laptop, screen, table

THE WONDERFUL ISLAND OF LANTAU, ALL AGES

Lantau is the largest island in Hong Kong. It is an island of mountains and valleys, rivers and waterfalls, mangroves, beaches, mudflats and meadows. Charmian has spent years exploring this beautiful island, photographing the incredible wildlife and beautiful scenery. She has explored the trails and circumnavigated the coast, going where few people have gone before. Join Charmian in a photographic tour around Lantau Island and learn about the incredible biodiversity of Hong Kong.

Tech Requirements:

Hand held mic, AV equipment - laptop, screen

AVAILABILITY

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS AUTHOR



VIVIAN TRUONG is a British-born Chinese artist who is the illustrator behind the best-selling series, 'City of Dragons: The Awakening Storm', and 'I Am Fun Size and So Are You!' Over her career, she has created content for Riot Games, Mihoyo, and 2000 AD. She's currently working on the sequel to 'City of Dragons', the 'Cooking with Monsters' graphic novel series, and an untitled cook book.

VIVIAN TRUONG

VIVIANTRUONG.COM

TWITTER SUPERRISU

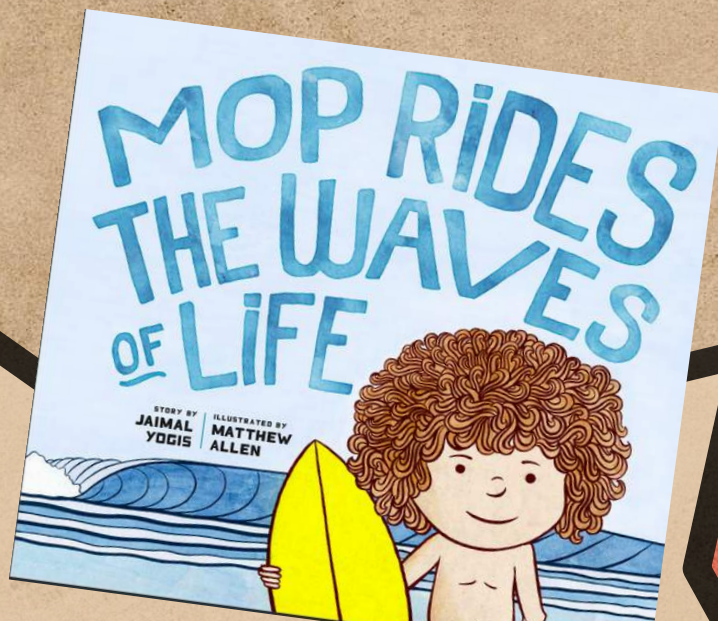
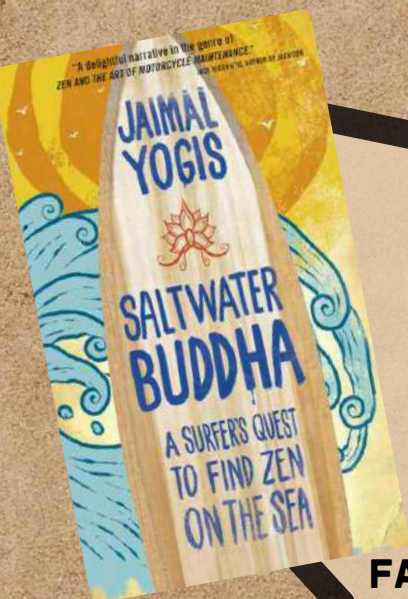
INSTAGRAM SUPERRISU



AVAILABILITY

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS AUTHOR



JAIMAL YOGIS

INSTAGRAM: JAIMALYOGIS
FACEBOOK: JAIMALYOGISAUTHOR



JAIMAL YOGIS is an award-winning writer of numerous books including 'Saltwater Buddha', 'The Fear Project', and 'All Our Waves Are Water', which have been internationally praised and translated into numerous languages. More recently he has been writing children's books like 'Mop Rides the Waves of Life' and 'Mop Rides the Waves of Change' - named a 2020 Favorite by the Children's Book Review and one of the best sports books for all ages by Book Riot. Jaimal's middle-grade graphic novel series, 'City of Dragons' - a collaboration with Vivian Truong - was released from Scholastic in 2021 and became an instant national bestseller. Jaimal's award-winning journalism has appeared in publications like The Washington Post, ESPN Magazine, The Atlantic, and many others. He lives near San Francisco's Ocean Beach with his wife Amy and their three boys.

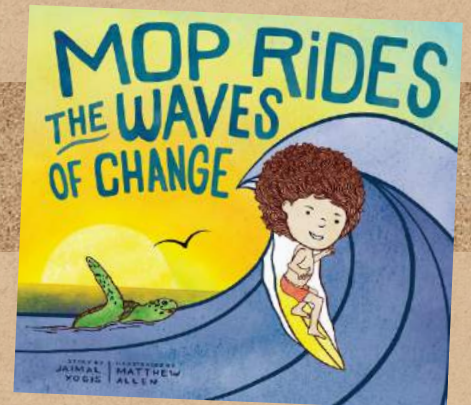
TALK: CITY OF DRAGONS: THE AWAKENING STORM,

AGE: 6-11

Author Jaimal Yogis and Vivian Truong embark on a journey through the history of global dragon mythology while also exploring the first volume of their graphic bestselling graphic novel series, 'City of Dragons: The Awakening Storm'. Students will also learn the basics for how a graphic novel is put together when working as an author / illustrator team and finish with an interactive dragon drawing exercise.

Tech Requirements:

Microphone, smart board or projector that can hook up to a MacBook and tablet. Whiteboard and marker to do a drawing demonstration, pen, pencil and paper for everyone to draw along. Big screen to share our presentations.



TALK: WAVES OF MINDFULNESS AND

EMOTIONS AGE: 5 - 8

Author Jaimal Yogis and his sidekick Finny (a stuffed orca whale with an Australian accent) read the picture book 'Mop Rides the Waves of Life' in an interactive and funny way that also teaches kids the basics of mindful breathing and emotional regulation. Jaimal then leads students in an interactive wave drawing exercise that also teaches them about recognizing their big emotional waves.

Tech requirements:

Microphone, table and chair, large drawing board (either a large art pad that goes on an easel or a big white board. Smartboard or projector that can plug into a Mac powerbook.

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



AXIE OH

AXIEOH.COM

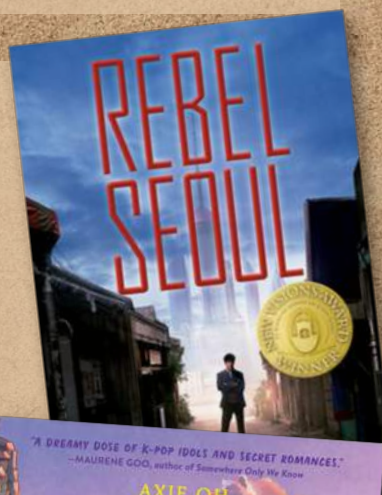
INSTAGRAM:
@AXIEOH

AXIE OH is the New York Times bestselling author of 'The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea', 'XOXO', and the 'Rebel Seoul' series. Born in New York City and raised in New Jersey, she studied Korean history and creative writing as an undergrad at the University of California San Diego and holds an MFA in Writing for Young People from Lesley University. Her passions include K-pop, anime, stationery supplies, and milk tea, and she currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada, with her dogs, Leila and Toro (named after Totoro). Her fifth novel, 'The Floating World', releases in 2024.

TALK: JOURNEY OF A REBEL S(E)OUL

AGE: 12-14, 15-18

What do giant robots, K-pop idols, and spirit realms have in common? Axie Oh has written about them all in her novels for young adults. Join her as she talks about the unique trajectory of her career, as well as how she creates her novels from the first spark of an idea to published novel. Tech Requirements: handheld mic, water, chair, hookup for MacBook and/or ability to use a flash drive for a PowerPoint presentation



AVAILABILITY:

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

CANDY GOURLAY

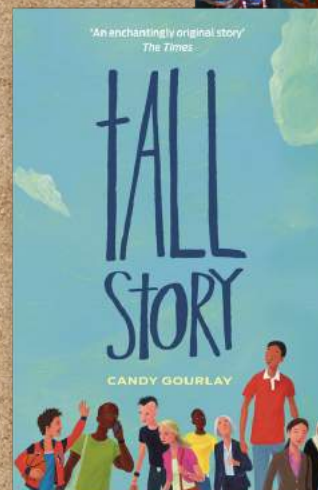
CANDY GOURLAY was born in the Philippines, grew up under a dictatorship and met her British husband during a revolution. Her books - all set in the Philippines - have enjoyed international acclaim. Middle grade novel 'Tall Story', won the Crystal Kite Prize for Europe and the National Children's Book Award of the Philippines. In it, she lightly explores the impact of the migration phenomenon that has pushed many Filipino mothers to leave their families. 'Shine', a ghost story for teens, was nominated for the Guardian Prize.

Her picture book, 'Is It a Mermaid', lushly illustrated by Francesca Chessa, plays with the story that European sailors encountering bulbous sea cows in the shallows of Southeast Asian islands mistook them for mermaids. It was nominated for a Kate Greenaway Medal. 'Bone Talk', set in the moment when headhunting tribes in the Philippines came face to face with the American invasion of 1899, was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, is a White Ravens book and is endorsed by Amnesty International. The much anticipated sequel, 'Wild Song', transports its characters to the 1904 World Fair in St Louis, Missouri. Candy lives in London.



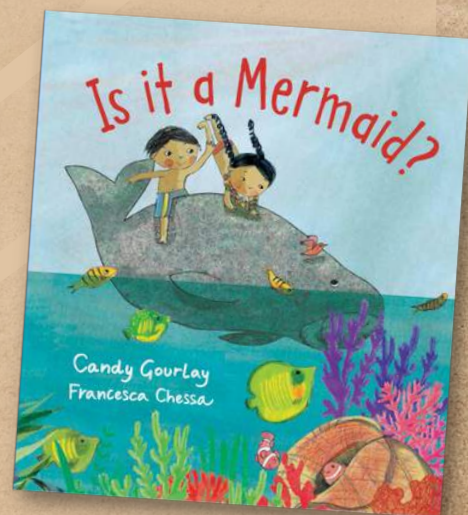
WWW.CANDYGOURLAY.CO.UK

INSTAGRAM & TWITTER:
@CANDYGOURLAY



TALK: IS IT A MERMAID? AGE: 5-8

Candy was looking for a story to tell when she stumbled upon a creature that long ago sailors described as a mermaid. But ... but ... isn't that a dugong? Join Candy as she tells the hilarious tale of how she became an author. There will be STORYTELLING, there will be DRAWING, and there will be a MAGIC FISH BAG!



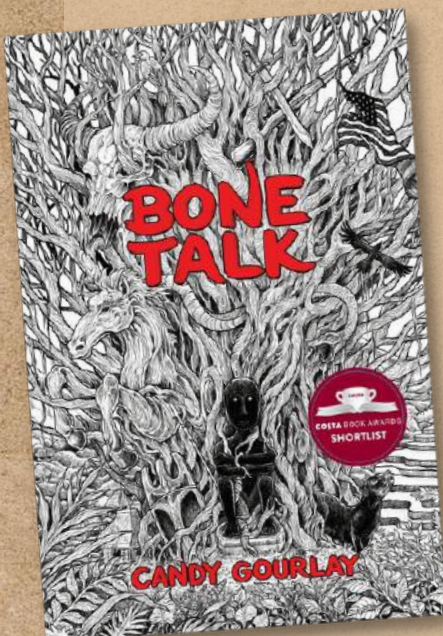
Tech requirements: Flipchart, markers, small chair, wireless mic (if necessary), Powerpoint projector with sound, clicker

TALK: FORGOTTEN VOICES: BONE TALK & WILD SONG

AGE: 12 UP, ADULT

Candy Gourlay stumbled upon a strange photograph from 1904 that she thought might lead to a good story. She ended up writing two novels over ten years that led her to a forgotten invasion and the hidden scandals of a much celebrated historical moment. What was it like for a proud indigenous people when U.S. forces marched into their homelands? How did they react when Americans demanded that they change the way they dressed, the way they spoke and what they believed? And when they were shipped to the United States to be displayed like a human zoo, what did they feel? Join Candy on a journey of discovery. Experience the extraordinary sights of the 1904 World Fair in Saint Louis, Missouri. And hear the voices of characters whose stories have been virtually erased from the history books.

Tech requirements: Powerpoint projector, screen, mic (handheld is okay), clicker.



TALK: AGE OF EXPLORATION, AGE OF EXPLOITATION

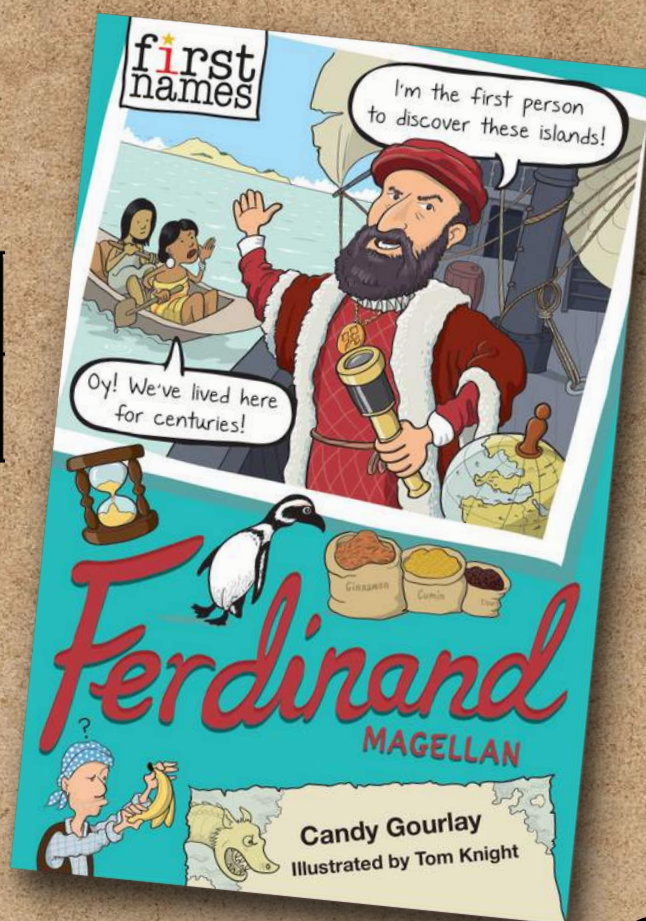
AGE: 9 TO TEENS

Candy Gourlay recounts the thrilling story of how the explorer Ferdinand Magellan volunteered to travel to the other side of the world, hated by his own men, with few supplies and without a map. It's an incredible adventure, with espionage, mutiny, extraordinary discoveries, shipwreck - all in aid of reaching the Spice Islands (now part of Indonesia). Children will be amazed to learn that Magellan grew up in a Europe where there were no tomatoes, no potatoes, no spices, no coffee, no sugar and **NO CHOCOLATE**. It was only because of explorers like Magellan that these things found their way into European cuisine. Candy grew up in the Philippines and was taught that Magellan's "discovery" of the Philippines was the beginning of her history. She also learned that he was the first man to circumnavigate the world. But was he?

Tech requirements: Powerpoint projector, mic, clicker

AVAILABILITY

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓





CHRISTINA MATULA

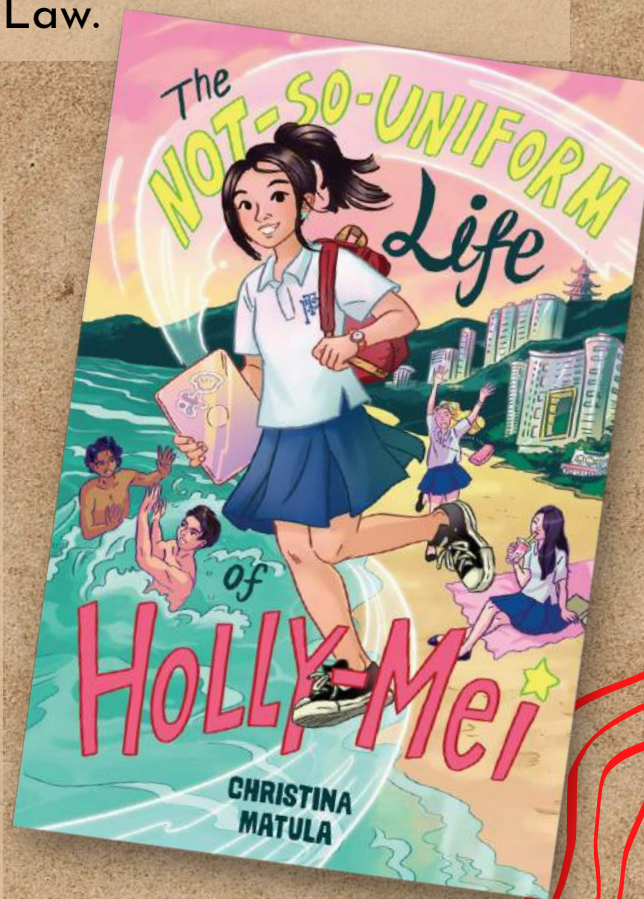
CHRISTINAMATULA.COM

INSTAGRAM @CHRISTINAMATULA

TWITTER @MATULACHRISTINA

CHRISTINA MATULA is the author of 'The Not-So-Uniform Life of Holly-Mei' and the forthcoming 'The Not-So-Perfect Plan', middle-grade novels inspired by her years living in Hong Kong. She is also the author of the picture book 'The Shadow in the Moon' about the Mid-Autumn Festival, illustrated by Hong Kong artist Pearl Law.

Christina is Canadian of Taiwanese-Hungarian heritage. Being a child of immigrant parents, she has always been curious about other cultures and far-off places. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Hong Kong and now lives in Helsinki, Finland with her family. When she's not writing or reading, she loves eating dumplings, playing field hockey, and going on long walks with her dog. Christina is super excited to be back in Hong Kong for the Young Readers Festival!



TALK : PLANTING THE SEED, AGE: 8-12

Join Christina as she shares her journey to becoming an author, her writing and revising process, and tips for planting and sowing the seeds of a book.

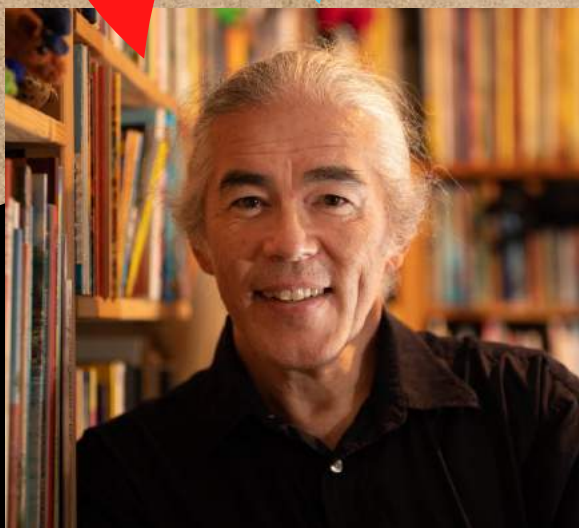
Tech Requirements:

Screen, projector that can hook up to a MacBook Air with a thunderbolt port (or AirPlay capabilities), and a mic (either handheld or wireless) for large groups.



Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



CHRISTOPHER CHENG

CHRISCHENG.COM

FACEBOOK @CHRISTOPHERCHENGAUTHOR

INSTAGRAM @CHRISTOPHERCHENG_AUTHOR

CHRISTOPHER CHENG is the author of the critically acclaimed and multi published picture book 'Bear and Rat' (published in the USA as 'Will We Always Hold Hands?'), a loving tribute to his wife that Kirkus Reviews says is simultaneously quietly soothing yet deeply empowering—a friendship tale for the ages.

Other picture books include 'One Tree', 'New Year Surprise!', 'Old Fellow' and the award winning titles 'One child', and 'Sounds Spooky'. Soon to be released titles include 'Powerful like a Dragon', 'Quolls' and 'Dragon Folding'.

He also wrote the historical fiction titles 'New Gold Mountain and the Melting Pot' and the non fiction titles '30 Amazing Australian Animals' and 'Australia's Greatest Inventions and Innovations' and he compiled the ever popular 'Classic Australian Poems'. In addition to his books, Christopher writes articles for magazines, ezines and blogs and he wrote the libretto for a children's musical.

He is co-chair of the International Advisory Council for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), an ambassador for Australia's National Centre of Children's Literature (NCACL) and a recipient of the Lady Cutler Award for Children's Literature. An experienced presenter in all media forms he speaks to students, teachers and parents in schools, conferences and festivals worldwide. He also established the international peer voted SCBWI Crystal Kite Awards.

An infants/primary teacher by profession, Christopher was also Zoo Education officer at Taronga Zoo Sydney for 8 years developing Australia's first Zoomobile. He dwells in an inner-city Sydney terrace and is often heard to say that he has the best job in the world!

TALK: HISTORY'S NOT DEAD AGE: 7-14, FAMILY ACTIVITY

History lives! A talk on the processes that Chris went through to write his historical fiction novels ... again can be adapted for writing ANY story.

This session will be tied in with writing about one's history/culture/heritage; with writing about one's family story. this could be a workshop for kids & parents to write together - students would ask questions of their parents as part of the writing process.

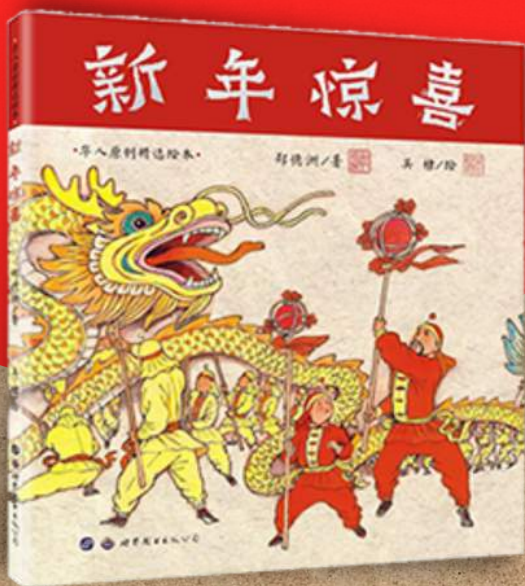
Tech requirements: mic whiteboard, markers Adaptors for his iPad (he does carry his own but...). In all presentations/workshops for all talks and presentations, Chris will have material prepared in Keynote format on his iPad so will need connection to projection facilities.

TALK: CREATING A PICTURE BOOK AGE: 7-14

This talk for adults and/or kids is an explanation of the ideas for the creation of picture books and discusses the processes that are involved in creating Chris' picture books.

This can also be a workshop where participants (adults or kids) can bring an idea and Chris works with them creating the story and discussing the art for the book, how to structure the text; how to paginate the text, what is needed in the picture book (discussion of story arc etc)

Tech requirements: mic, whiteboard markers. Adaptors for his iPad (he carries his own but...). In all presentations/workshops for all talks and presentation, Chris will have material prepared in Keynote format on his iPad so will need connection to projection facilities.



TALK: NEW YEAR SURPRISE!

AGE: 8-14

This title, published in English in Australia and in Chinese in China is the first in a series of titles about the main Chinese festivals. How did Chris come to writing about this festival? How does a half Chinese author write about it when he lives in Australia? How did he work with the illustrator? Why is it important to create these books? This talk will use New Year Surprise as a spring board to talk about revisiting family/cultural festivals and all those lovely themes of celebrating one's culture, and perhaps how to do this when you don't actually live in your inherited culture. These questions and many more will be answered and discussed in this session.

And if for adults this would also be in terms of how to pass down cultures to their children who are a generation removed from that original culture. And further to this, this is generally very much Chris and he can speak from experience with his upbringing, especially being half Chinese and half of European descent.

Tech requirements: mic, whiteboard markers. Adaptors for his iPad (he does carry his own but...). In all presentations/workshops for all talks and presentations Chris will have material prepared in Keynote format on his iPad so will need connection to projection facilities.

TALK : BEAR AND RAT, AGE: 8 TO 14

The tale behind the story and how it came to be. This picture book is published (so far) in ten different countries around the world. In this session Chris will read the story (you may need tissues) and discuss how it came to be created, and what has happened as it has been republished in the various countries, and how it has assisted this author to process his personal grief.

TALK : THE WRITER'S LIFE OR WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR IDEAS FROM?, AGE: 6-14

It's the one everyone wants to know about... where do you get your ideas from? To answer this, Chris will discuss the inspiration behind many of his titles, fiction and non-fiction, and his working career as an educator in both schools and at Sydney's Taronga Zoo (working with animals both human and non-human) in Sydney and how life experiences coupled with imagination have helped to create his many works.

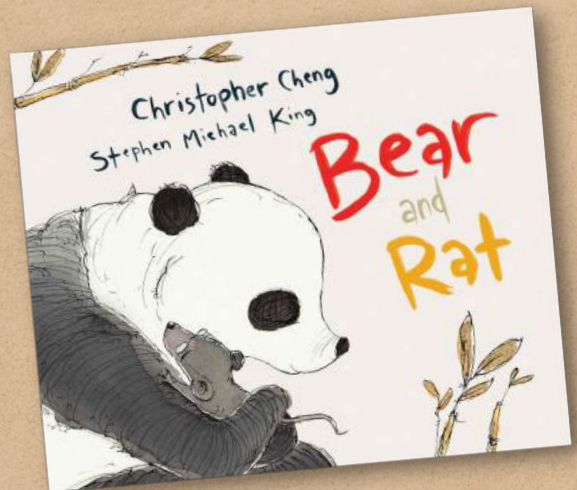
WORKSHOP : LET'S WRITE OR INSPIRATION IS ALL AROUND YOU, AGE: 8-14

An interactive workshop with Chris using the local environment both natural and classroom as stimulus for stories and creative works. Chris will discuss the various stimulus within the environment and the questions he ponders when writing. Using objects found in the classroom, a clock, pencils, desks etc, students will journey on an adventure with Chris to create written works of varying genres; from descriptive works about the objects and what they are, to the fanciful creations about the objects and what they could be.

TALK: WHAT? ME READ TOO? OR READING TO YOUR CHILDREN.

AGE: ADULTS / PARENTS

Do I really need to read too?
Is this book the right age group for my child?
How do I know if this book is right for my child?
How do I read to my child?
But my child doesn't like what I give them to read... what do I do?



In this evening session, Chris will discuss with parents and caregivers, the common questions he often receives about reading to children. Using his titles, and some of those commonly available now in Hong Kong bookstores, he will also demonstrate a reading practice. There will be time for questions and adults will be encouraged to have a go!



Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



RITU HEMNANI

WWW.RITUHEMNANI.COM

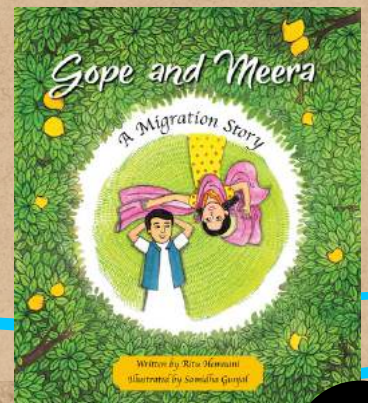
INSTAGRAM @AUTHORRITUHEMNANI

RITU HEMNANI is a journalist, teacher, and storyteller, who hopes for every child to see themselves in the pages of a book and know that their stories matter. She is also a voice actor and motivational speaker. Ritu recognizes herself as ethnically Indian, a British national, and calls Hong Kong her home, where she lives with her husband and three children. Ritu's debut historical Middle-Grade Novel-in-Verse, 'Three Colors of Hope,' is set for publication by Harper Collins/Balzer and Bray in the Spring of 2024.

Ritu is passionate about promoting diversity and nurturing inclusivity and empathy through writing stories that center marginalized communities and encompass universal truths; spotlighting human interest articles with heart, and collaborating with local literary and charity organizations to promote literacy. She shares the seeds of her writing journey and the inspiration behind her deep dive into her own family history in her 2019 TEDx Talk, An Inheritance Worth Sharing:

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-GelCkt-t4>)

When not writing or teaching, Ritu delights in family game nights, strumming the strings of her guitar, and paddling through Hong Kong waters on her carrot-colored kayak.



Talk: Representation: Human Migration is a response to Challenges and Opportunities Age: 8-12

With the use of a Key Note presentation, Ritu will engage students in a lively discussion about the types of migration we see in the world today and the main themes of loss, resilience, and hope in my book, 'Gope and Meera - A Migration Story'. Students will also explore the push/pull factors, challenges, risks, and opportunities of human migration and journey back in time to learn about the 1947 Partition of India.

Workshop: Interactive Storytelling Age: 7-12

Why is storytelling important and how can we become more effective storytellers? With the use of movement and props, Ritu will engage with students and share tips and insights in a lively session of interactive storytelling. Her interactive storytelling strategies require willing participants, a sense of humour and a large dose of empathy.

Workshop: On Becoming a Writer Age: 2-18

Why do we write? What can we write and how? Students will learn about the power of writing as Ritu shares her own journey as a writer and storyteller as we take a whistle-stop writing workshop voyage into the fascinating world of poetry, description, dialogue, and story prompts for students to discover their own strengths with the mighty pen.

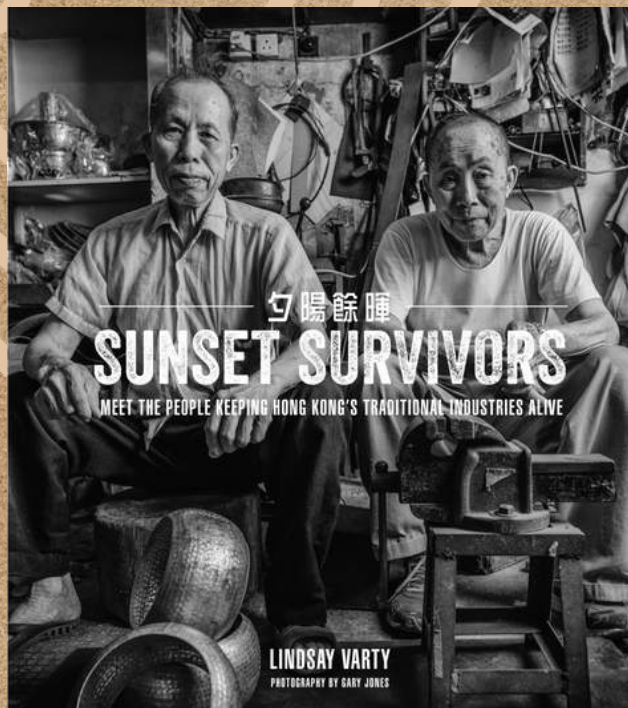
Workshop: The power of words in building connections and bridging worlds Age: 13-18

This session is popular for school assemblies and opening events. How can words make a difference in today's world and why should we write? Ritu will share about her relationship with words from the little girl who scribbled down winning poems, the university DJ who scripted her weekly shows, the teacher who scripted plays for her students, the author who wrote a book for her community, the TEDx presenter who crafted a message for future generations and the SCMP journalist who shares human interest articles that build connections, one article at a time.

Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

LINDSAY VARTY



WWW.SUNSETSURVIVORS.COM

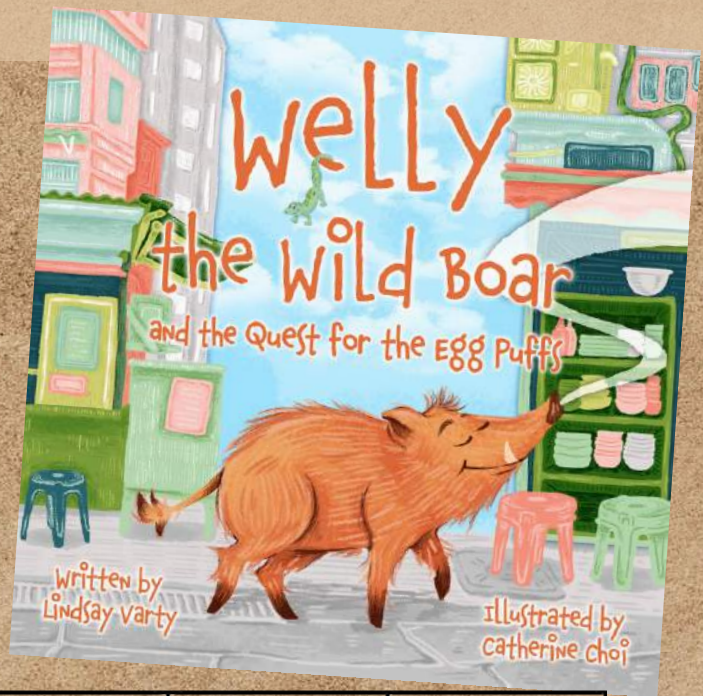
@SUNSETSURVIVORS @LINDSVHK

LINDSAY VARTY is a local author, journalist and public speaker, whose work focuses on Hong Kong culture and history. Having grown up in Hong Kong, she fell in love with the city's unique character and is fascinated by local heritage and tradition. As a young girl, her parents would take her to eat congee in Sham Shui Po, order snacks from dai pai dong, and buy fish from the wet market. Her parents wanted their children to discover the real Hong Kong and to know its people. Lindsay's books are a celebration of Hong Kong culture and a tribute to her home. She now gives talks to schools and societies and runs walking tours which focus on Hong Kong's fading industries. Her work has been featured on TEDx, CNN, The Guardian, CCTV, and more locally in SCMP, Localiiz and Sassy. She hopes that her work can encourage adults and children alike to take a deeper interest in local heritage and community and help support Hong Kong's unique cultural identity.

**WORKSHOP: WRITE YOUR OWN CHILDREN'S BOOK:
A GUIDED TOUR WITH AUTHOR LINDSAY VARTY AGE: 5-18**

Lindsay will lead students through the basic structure and components of a successful children's picture book, and help the class create their own collective book. There will be a focus on plot and a choice of elements.

Tech Requirements: projector (I will have a laptop with powerpoint presentation), clicker to change slides, paper, pens



AVAILABILITY

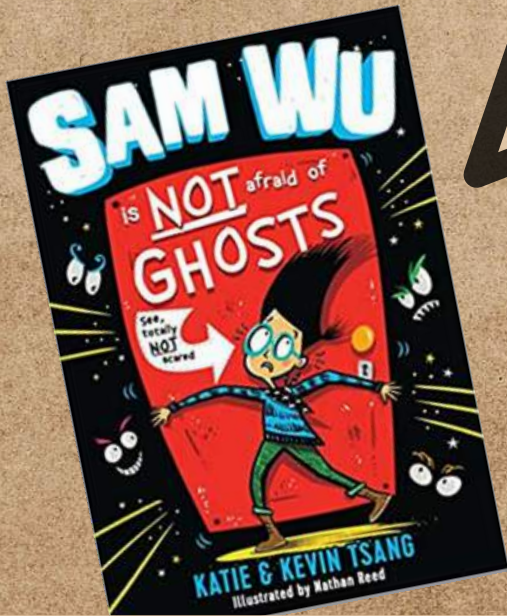
Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**BATTLE OF THE
BOOKS AUTHOR**

KATIE & KEVIN TSANG

KATIEANDKEVINTSANG.COM

INSTA @KWEBBERWANDERS



KATIE and KEVIN TSANG are bestselling and award winning children's authors. They met in 2008 while studying at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Since then they have lived on three different continents and travelled to over 40 countries together. Together they write the bestselling DRAGON REALM series, and are also the co-authors of the young fiction series SAM WU IS NOT AFRAID and SPACE BLASTERS. Katie also writes YA as Katherine Webber. Katie and Kevin currently live in London with their two young daughters. They love to spend their time playing with their children, making up stories, and thinking about what to have for dinner.

WORKSHOP: FACE YOUR FEARS WITH SAM WU! AGE: 7-10

A fun and engaging interactive workshop introducing the SAM WU books and coming up with story ideas based on common childhood fears. The presentation will include a reading, background on the series, as well as a workshop element where we come up with a story together.

Tech Requirements: Projector for Power Point presentation/ white board or paper

WORKSHOP: DREAMING UP DRAGONS WITH KATIE AND KEVIN

TSANG, AGE: 8-12

An exciting workshop where Katie and Kevin introduce the DRAGON REALM series and then provide prompts to the students to help them come up with their own dragons and story starters. A fun and interactive writing session followed by a Q&A.

Tech Requirements: Powerpoint, students will need pen and paper

AVAILABILITY

Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9
✓	✓	✓



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS AUTHOR



WENG WAI CHAN

TWITTER [@WENGWAICHAN1](https://twitter.com/WENGWAICHAN1)

INSTAGRAM [@WENGWAICHAN1](https://www.instagram.com/WENGWAICHAN1)

FACEBOOK [@WENGWAI.CHAN.75](https://www.facebook.com/WENGWAI.CHAN.75)

WENG WAI CHAN was born in Singapore and moved to New Zealand with her family at the age of eight. Her debut novel 'Lizard's Tale' won the Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Award, a Storylines Notable Book Award, was shortlisted for a Panda Book Award and was on the Kirkus Review Best of 2020 Favourite Middle-Grade Books. The Wall Street Journal called 'Lizard's Tale' 'a sparkling story of child spies and international intrigue in the war-shadowed British colony of Singapore.' Weng Wai is on the board of the Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust of New Zealand.

TALK: WRITING LIZARD'S TALE, AGE: 8-12

Weng Wai Chan shares the inspiration behind her award-winning middle-grade novel 'Lizard's Tale'. Hear about her childhood, her favourite books, her father's experience of growing up during the Japanese occupation of Singapore and about the real life spies and gadgets of World War II. Her sessions have been known to include pictures of pet dogs, cute kids, cartoon lizards, Chinatown shophouses, a WWII spy handbook and the evolution of 'Lizard's Tale' from handwritten pages to a manuscript with editor's notes and ultimately to a finished book. The session will include a PowerPoint presentation, a reading and a Q and A.

Tech requirements: for PowerPoint presentation- a screen, a microphone and sound system, USB connection, computer, lectern

WORKSHOP: HOW DO YOU WRITE A STORY SOMEBODY WANTS TO READ? AGE: 9-13

In this interactive workshop, students will explore how to take an idea and make it into a compelling story, with reference to story structure and focusing on how character and plot are intertwined. Weng Wai is particularly excited about helping the students to write like authors. She will use a PowerPoint presentation and will be using 'Lizard's Tale' as a reference throughout. The students will be doing some story writing so will need to bring pen and paper or a device to write on.

Tech requirements: For PowerPoint presentation- a screen, USB connection, computer. The students will need to bring pen and paper or a device to write on

AVAILABILITY

Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓

MAUREEN TAI

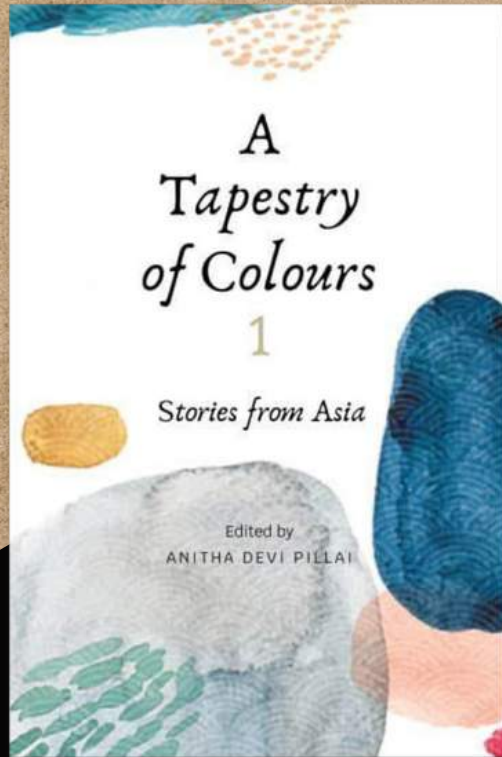
WWW.MAURENTAI.COM



MAUREEN TAI is an award-winning writer of fiction for children and teens, who dreams of a world where every child can see themselves in a book. Born and bred in Malaysia but currently based in Hong Kong, Maureen has lived, worked, and travelled extensively in both the East and West, and is fluent in four languages.

She spent over two decades in the corporate world before swapping her legal career to write (her published works can be found at www.maurentai.com) and to read (especially with her children).

Maureen is passionate about promoting diversity in children's literature and strives to do so by writing authentic Asian stories that embody universal truths, working with local literacy organizations, and reviewing children's books on her family blog and YouTube channel. She is also an unabashed fan of durian (the world's most pungent fruit), glass dip pens and cute stationery.



TALK: WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR PHONE - MAKE GOOD ART, AGE: 12-18

This talk will introduce students to ways of using their smartphones to make good art - art that is personal to them - with Maureen's published creative works as real-life examples. Students will (1) learn to create from sight and sound using their phones (2) gain insights into the writing process and (3) be encouraged to choose to put their phones aside and live their lives fully so they can create from their hearts/memory.

Tech requirements: In addition to a projector and screen/sound for PPT slides and a standup microphone, students should have paper, pens/pencils and their smartphones.

Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8
✓	✓	✓



SACHIKO KASHIWABA & TRANSLATOR AVERY FISCHER UDAGAWA

AVERYFISCHERUDAGAWA.COM
TWITTER: AVERYUDAGAWA
FACEBOOK:
AVERY.FISCHERUDAGAWA

SACHIKO KASHIWABA is a prolific writer of children's and young adult fantasy whose career spans more than four decades. Her works have garnered the prestigious Sankei, Shogakukan, and Noma children's literature awards, and her novel 'The Mysterious Village Veiled in Mist' influenced Hayao Miyazaki's film *Spirited Away*. Her works have recently been animated as the films *The Wonderland* and *The House of the Lost on the Cape*, and her novel 'Temple Alley Summer', illustrated by Miho Satake and translated by Avery Fischer Udagawa, won the American Library Association's 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award. She lives in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture, Japan.

AVERY FISCHER UDAGAWA's translations of children's literature from Japanese include the 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award-winning novel 'Temple Alley Summer' by Sachiko Kashiwaba, illustrated by Miho Satake, and the historical novel 'J-Boys: Kazuo's World', 'Tokyo, 1965' by Shogo Oketani. Her short story translations have appeared in *Kyoto Journal*, *Words Without Borders*, *Tomo: Friendship Through Fiction—An Anthology of Japan Teen Stories*, *The Best Asian Short Stories 2018*, and *A Tapestry of Colours 1: Stories from Asia*. She serves as Translator Coordinator in the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She lives near Bangkok, Thailand.

TALK: MEET THE AUTHOR AND TRANSLATOR OF TEMPLE ALLEY SUMMER AGES: 8-14

The Mildred L. Batchelder Award-winning novel 'Temple Alley Summer' features an outer story set in Japan and an inner story set in a fantasy realm. Its themes include friendship, community, and living life so as not to have any regrets. Q & A with the author and translator, readings of corresponding passages in Japanese and English, and slides of the illustrations—prepared in distinct styles for the outer and inner stories—heighten young readers' engagement with this work. The presentation includes a preview of *The House of the Lost on the Cape*, due out in 2023 from the same author and translator, and basis of the animated film.

Tech Requirements: Two wireless or handheld mics, water, chairs, projector setup for slideshow from laptop

LANGUAGE: JAPANESE OR ENGLISH



Mar 10
✓

TALK: WHY EVERYONE SHOULD READ WORLD CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: A CONVERSATION WITH SACHIKO KASHIWABA AND AVERY UDAGAWA, AGE: 12 TO ADULT

Sachiko Kashiwaba is a respected and prolific children's author in her native Japan, but only recently have her works been translated into English. Together with her translator, Avery Fischer Udagawa, Kashiwaba will talk about her fantasy novel *Temple Alley Summer* which recently won the Batchelder Award and explain why everyone - adults included - should read world children's literature. Kashiwaba and Udagawa will also describe how writers work with translators, and the complicated process of translation.

Tech Requirements: Two wireless or handheld mics, water, chairs; projector setup for slideshow from laptop (optional).

LANGUAGE: JAPANESE OR ENGLISH

TALK: ON TRANSLATING #WORLDKIDLIT AGE: 12 TO ADULT

How do children's books from around the world get translated into English? What is it like to work as a translator? How can people who are interested in reading world children's literature learn more? Avery Fischer Udagawa offers a talk geared to fellow bibliophiles curious about the nuts and bolts and MAGIC of translation. Expect to come away with resources and book recommendations—not to mention a few hashtags, such as #NameTheTranslator and #WorldKidLit!

Tech Requirements: Wireless or handheld mic, water, chair, projector setup for slideshow from laptop

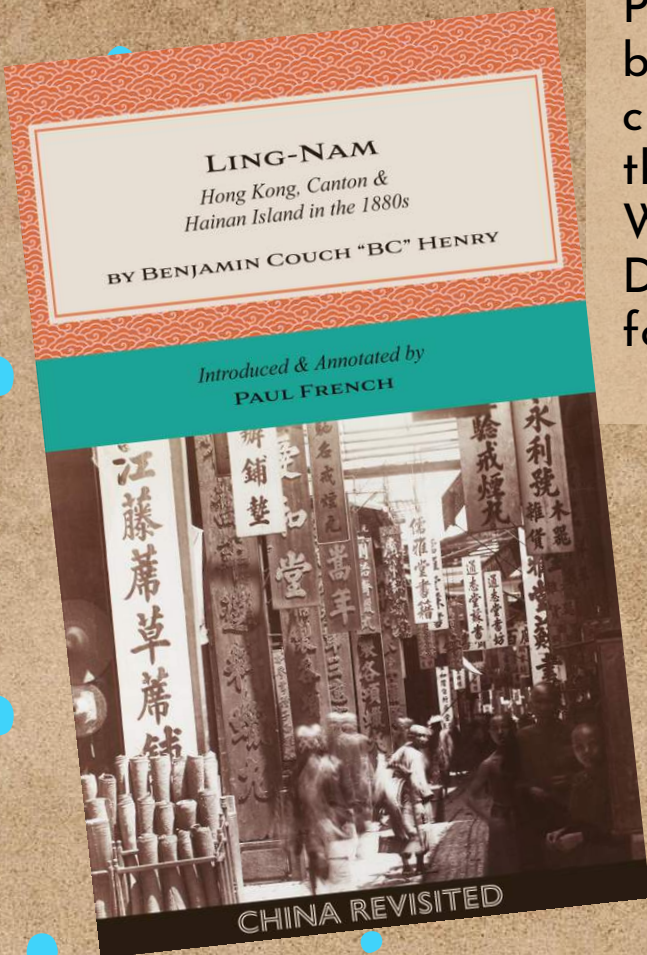
LANGUAGE: JAPANESE OR ENGLISH



PAUL FRENCH

Born in London PAUL FRENCH lived and worked in Shanghai for many years. His book 'Midnight in Peking' was a New York Times Bestseller. His most recent book 'City of Devils: A Shanghai Noir' has received much praise with The Economist writing, '... in Mr French the city has its champion storyteller.' Both 'Midnight in Peking' and 'City of Devils' are currently being developed as movies. He is a regular contributor of long-reads to the South China Morning Post weekend magazine and broadcasts often on RTHK3. He is currently working on a biography of the inspirational year (1924/1925) Wallis Warfield Spencer, later the Duchess of Windsor, spent in China for publication in 2024.

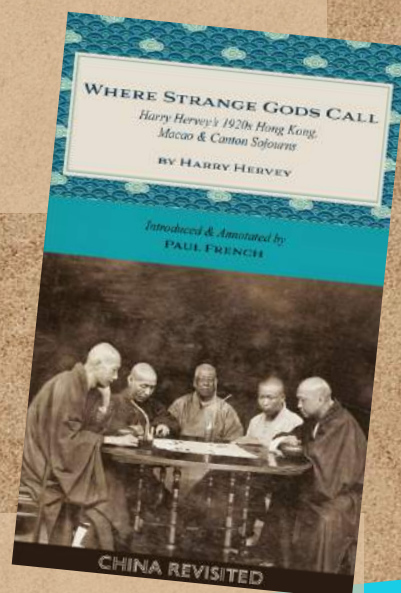
CHINARHYMING.COM
INSTAGRAM:
OLDSHANGHAIPAUL



TALK: UNCOVERING OLD CHINA - FUN AND GAMES IN THE ARCHIVES, AGE 15+

The growth and popularity of family history means more people than ever are looking to use archives that reveal stories from China in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Self publishing, podcasts, blogs and websites mean so many more unique and valuable histories are appearing. But how to go about finding the illusive details of trips, sojourns and lives in China? Paul French, who has successfully recreated any number of old China stories from Beijing true crime to Shanghai high society to lost artist lives and hidden gangster underworlds reveals some of the tricks to tracking down those seemingly lost to history.

Tech Requirements: AV equipment to show powerpoint slides



TALK: HOW TO SOLVE A 90 YEAR OLD MURDER?

AGE 15+

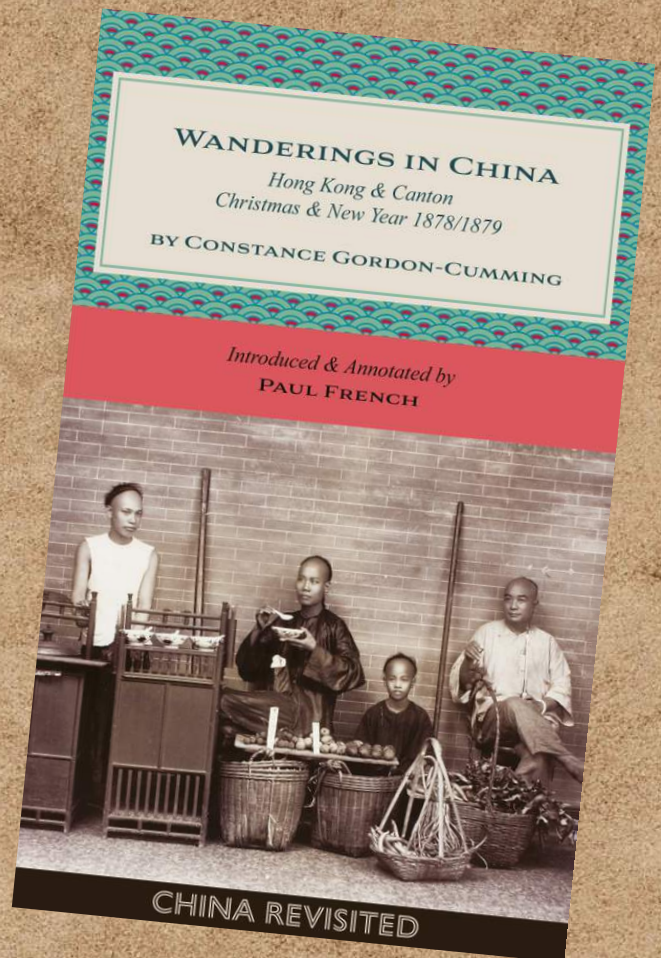
Paul French chanced upon an unsolved murder of an English schoolgirl in 1937 Beijing and decided to try and solve it. He wrote up his finding in his New York Times bestselling book 'Midnight in Peking'. How did he do it? What new information did he find after nearly a century? and was he right? The author looks through some of the techniques he used and that anyone can use to dig back into history and then try to make it come alive for readers

Tech Requirements: AV equipment to show powerpoint slides.

TALK: HOW TO WRITE FOR MAGAZINES (AND DO BETTER SCHOOL ESSAYS TOO!) AGE 14- 18 TO ADULT

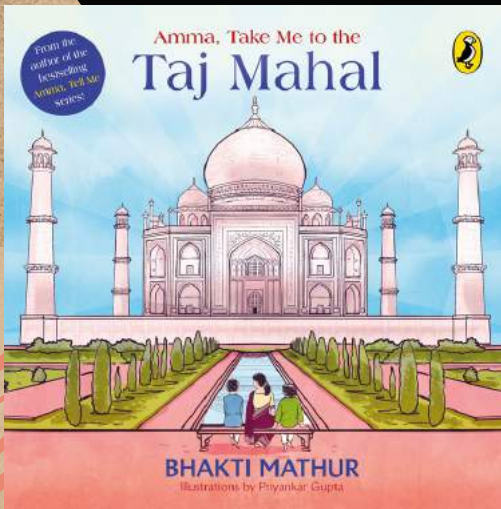
New York Times bestselling author Paul French writes many of the "long read" stories that feature in the South China Morning Post weekend magazine every Sunday. Covering history, art, books and China he shows how he finds subjects editors love, crafts a story of between 2,000-3,000 words, finds accompanying illustrations and works with editors and designers to make the whole story come alive and grab readers attention. Super useful for anyone producing a school magazine or writing longer essays.

Tech Requirements: AV equipment to show powerpoint



Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



BHAKTI MATHUR



BHAKTI MATHUR is a children's book author with 18 published titles to date. Bhakti took to writing in 2010 when she created the popular 'Amma Tell Me' series of children's picture books about Hindu festivals and mythology. Her 'Amma Take Me' series, published by Penguin Random House, India, explores monuments of faith and history. Bhakti had conducted workshops on storytelling, reading and writing at schools in Hong Kong, Singapore and India and has spoken at several literary festivals such as the Hindu Lit for Life Festival (Chennai), Bookaroo Festival of Children's Literature (Delhi), the Jaipur Literary Festival and literary festivals in Hong Kong, Singapore. She freelances as a feature writer for the South China Morning Post, writing on health and fitness, with over 80 published articles. Before becoming a full-time writer, Bhakti was a private banker for more than twenty years and worked for ING, Bank of Singapore and J. Safra Sarasin. She now juggles her time between her writing and her family. She lives in Hong Kong with her husband, their two children and two dogs. When not writing or running after her young boys, Bhakti is happiest curled up with a book in one hand and a hot cup of chai in the other. Bhakti holds a master's degree in finance from Delhi University, India; was a CFA Charterholder (2005 to 2017) and has a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from the University of Hong Kong. She is an ICF credentialed career coach (www.reflectwithbhakti.com), a bibliotherapist and is training to become an Iyengar yoga teacher.

TALK: STORYTELLING, AGE: 3-8

Come celebrate the Festivals of India

Hear Amma narrate the fascinating stories behind the most popular festivals celebrated in India - the festival of colors (Holi), the festival of lights (Diwali) and the biggest outdoor festival in the world (Durga Puja). Covers three titles - Amma Tell Me About Holi, Amma Tell Me About Diwali, Amma Tell Me About Durga Puja.

Tales of the naughty monkey God, Hanuman

Let Amma take you on a journey with stories of Hanuman. Hear about the tricks that mischievous Hanuman played as a child, hear how he flew across the ocean and about his adventures in the island of Lanka. Covers three titles - Amma Tell Me About Hanuman, Amma Tell Me How Hanuman Crossed The Ocean, Amma Tell Me About Hanuman's Adventures In Lanka.

Stories of enigmatic Krishna

Hear Amma narrate stories of Krishna, the naughty God, who stole butter, lied to his mother and played pranks on his friends. Hear tales of how he fought several demons and destroyed an evil king who wanted to kill him. Covers three titles - Amma Tell Me About Krishna, Amma Tell Me How Krishna Fought The Demons, Amma Tell Me How Krishna Defeated Kansa.

Tech Requirements:

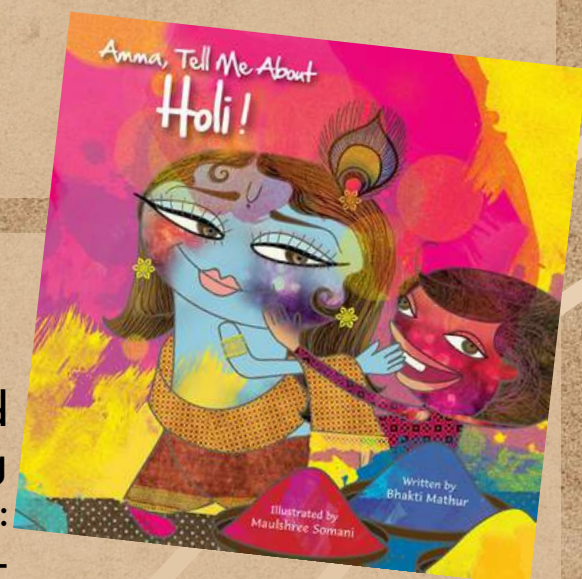
Projection equipment, screen, clicker.

TALK: AN AUTHOR'S JOURNEY, AGE 9+

The writing process, self-publishing and marketing. Exploring self-publishing versus traditional publishing. Note: Based on my experience in self-publishing the 'Amma Tell Me' Series.

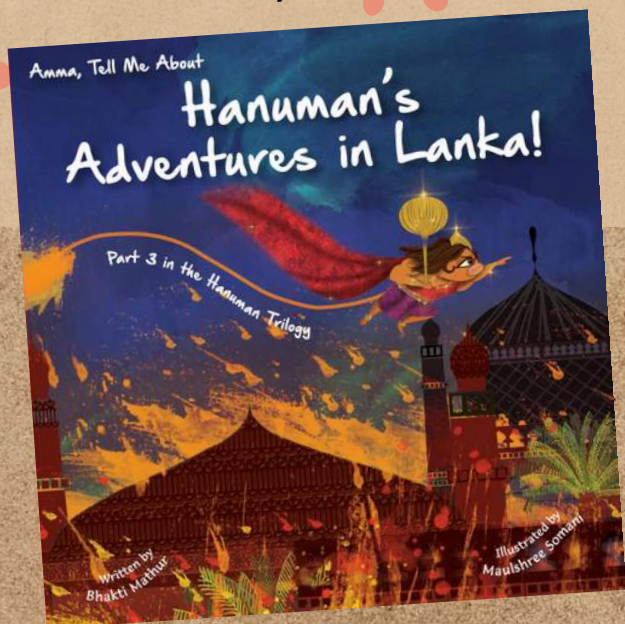
Tech Requirements:

Projection equipment, screen, clicker.



TALK: WRITING FOR MIDDLE GRADE, AGE 9+

The writing process and how to write an effective story.

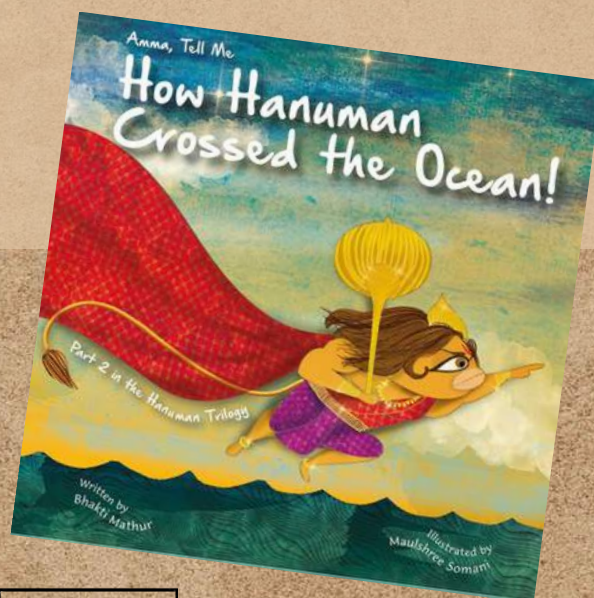


Tech Requirements: Projection equipment, screen, clicker.

TALK: BIBLIOTHERAPY AGE, 14 TO ADULT

What is bibliotherapy, its evolution, the role of bibliotherapy in mental health, bibliotherapy and young adults.

Tech Requirements: Projection equipment, screen, clicker.

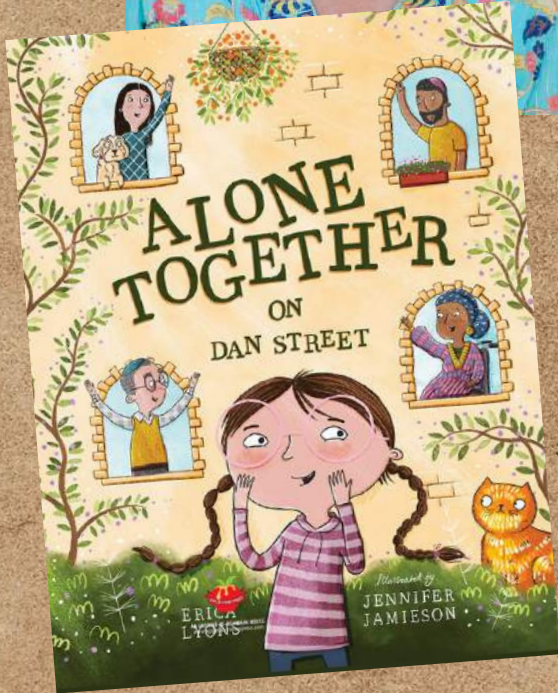


AVAILABILITY

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

ERICA LYONS

WWW.ERICA-LYONS.COM



ERICA LYONS is Hong Kong-based children's book author focusing on picture books and middle grade novels with a preference for historical fiction. She is the chair of the Hong Kong Jewish Historical Society, the Hong Kong Delegate to World Jewish Congress, and the founder and director of PJ Library Hong Kong. She's an active member of the Hong Kong's Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Erica's debut picture book 'Alone Together on Dan Street' was published by Apples & Honey Press in March 2022. She has several other titles under contract with publication dates throughout 2023 and 2024.

TALK: HOW WE TALK ABOUT THE PANDEMIC, AGE: 6-9

In this presentation Erica will read her book, ALONE TOGETHER ON DAN STREET, and look at other picture books that focus on the pandemic to see what we can learn. A lesson on empathy, creating community, and searching for a silver lining.

Tech Requirements: Projector for slide presentation

Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



RACHEL IP

WWW.RACHELIP.COM



RACHEL IP is an award-winning picture book author. She writes a mix of fiction and non-fiction stories, inspired by the world around her. Her most recent book, 'The Forgettery', won the 2022 English Association Picture Book Awards: Fiction 4-7 years. She's an author ambassador for Bring Me A Book Hong Kong, the leading family literacy charity in Hong Kong. Rachel has spent the last 15 years in Hong Kong, where she lives with her family.

TALK : THE FORGETTERY, AGE: 5-9

Rachel will share her writer's notebooks, talk about where she finds her story ideas, planning, research, drafting, and revision processes. She will read 'The Forgettery' and talk about the inspiration behind the story. She will also share sneak peeks and insights into Laura's sketch books and illustration process. Rachel's talk includes memory games and fun facts about how our brilliant brains make memories. She will also share craft ideas and activity sheets based on 'The Forgettery', including a "Class memory jar" activity. Includes a 10 minute Q&A session.

Tech Requirements: Rachel will share PPT slides which include photos and short video clips, so a slide sharing mechanism with audio is required. A small table/area for props is also helpful.

TALK: THE LAST GARDEN, EXPLORING CONFLICT AND MIGRATION, AGE: 7-11

Rachel will read 'The Last Garden' and talk about some of the historical and contemporary war gardens that inspired the story. Rachel can tailor the talk to include some or all of these subjects: • Why people migrate • Migrants and refugees • Refugee camps Rachel will also share her writer's notebooks and talk about where she finds her story ideas. She will also share sneak peeks and insights into Anneli's illustration process. • Includes a 10 minute Q&A session.

Tech Requirements: Rachel will share PPT slides which include photos and short video clips, so a slide sharing mechanism with audio is required. A small table/area for props is also helpful.



Availability

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



MICHELLE FUNG

WWW.MICHELLEKSFUNG.COM

INSTAGRAM: @MICHELLEKSFUNG

FACEBOOK: @MICHELLEKSFUNG

Hong Kong Canadian interdisciplinary artist MICHELLE FUNG's lifelong oeuvre revolves around a grand dystopian world-building narrative in year 2084, presenting a fictional geopolitical map of a bizarre future in the Anthropocene. She had a recent solo exhibition at the municipal museum Art Gallery Boris Georgiev, Varna, Bulgaria as the invited guest artist of the Quarantine Film Festival (2022) and has held recent solo exhibitions at leading artist-run galleries in Australia (2019) and California (2018), as well as the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (2019.) Fung has been awarded with multiple grants with Canada Arts Council, Pure Art Foundation (Hong Kong), Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau and Hong Kong Arts Development Council. Her works have garnered awards including Film that Matters, the Animaze Animation Film Festival, Canada (2019), 50 Best Books for Secondary Students, Hong Kong Professional Teacher's Union (2018), winner of Young Writer's Debut Competition, Hong Kong (2017), the Grotto Award, Hong Kong Baptist University (2015) and Award of Excellence, Fourth Greater China Illustration Awards (2012 and 2016.) Her short films have been selected at many international film festivals and she has participated in prestigious international residencies including Banff Centre, Canada (2010), Art Omi, NY, USA (2016) and The Arctic Circle, International Territory of Svalbard (2022.) She holds a BFA, The University of British Columbia, Canada and MVA, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong.

TALK: HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN WORLD, AGE: 10+

Have you ever wondered how authors, filmmakers and artists spin an entire universe with its own unique climate, geography, inhabitants, system and technology (or magic)? How do you eat real-life encounters, historical research and current events, digest and regurgitate them into your own style, voice and story? In this session, Interdisciplinary artist and author Michelle Fung shares working processes behind her lifelong worldbuilding project "The World of 2084." Wordplay, absurd humour, speculative fiction, and anthropomorphic animals are her go-to weapons. Try saying no to flying elephants, chocolate-covered pens and rainbow-coloured dung and...wait for it...a mountain-sized ice-cream maker. One afternoon dream in 2015 turned into a lifelong project to spin a fantastical futuristic world out of pigments, words and images. 2084 revolves around building a grand ecotopian/dystopian world in the corresponding year. There are five imaginary countries (G5, the Great Five Industrial Nations) in total: Contradictoria, Northlandia, Dreamland, the Aristocratic Union and the Republic of Strata. These five micro-narratives will eventually weave together a grand narrative of year 2084, portraying her imagined futuristic geopolitical world in a way that teases out the nuances in our understanding of the Anthropocene. Each imaginary country will take about ten years of research and production, often overlapping with each other. She looks forward to having a 2084 retrospective exhibition in 2084.

Tech Requirement: Audio, internet, projection presentation (prefers if she can connect her Macbook directly via HDMI)

Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



TALK: STORYTELLING IN DIFFERENT FORMS, AGE 10+

There is definitely more than one way to tell the same story! In this session, interdisciplinary artist and author Michelle Fung shares how she presents the same narrative from her lifelong project "The World of 2084" in different forms, such as an illustrated book, drawing and painting, animation, printmaking, improv performance and community art projects. This grand narrative is presented and translates fluidly between media and among different bodies of works, autonomous yet often alluding to each other. Michelle chooses each art form based on conceptual, historical and experiential grounds and finds herself in constant need to master new media. Across all media, the highly-detailed figurative works are surreal, allegoric and anthropomorphic.

Tech Requirements: audio, internet, projection presentation (prefers if she can connect her Macbook directly via HDMI)

WORKSHOP: HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN WORLD IN WOODCUT

AGE: 8+ (MAX 25 STUDENTS, ART SUPPLIES INCLUDED)

Have you ever wondered how authors, filmmakers and artists spin an entire universe with its own unique climate, geography, inhabitants, system and technology (or magic)? How do you eat real-life encounters, historical research and current events, digest and regurgitate them into your own style, voice and story? Get your hands on creating your own world in this woodcut workshop. Alongside sharing working processes behind her lifelong world building project "The World of 2084", interdisciplinary artist and author Michelle Fung will also share some basic carving techniques. You will go home with a beautiful piece of original carved art. A popular workshop with secondary art students.

Tech Requirements: audio, internet, projection presentation (prefers if she can connect her Macbook directly via HDMI), large tables, she will bring all the art supplies.