

# EMBARK ON THE FIRST EVER MULTI-SENSORY READING ADVENTURE WITH READ! FEST 2021'S INAUGURAL LITERARY TRAILS AT THE PARKS AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING

30 July 2021




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## **Overview of the Read! Fest 2021 Literary Trails**

Created by the National Library Board, the main character of “The Curious Adventure of the Salaryman”, named Gerry, is a typical Salaryman who requires a change in his life. Gerry lives a monotonous life with frequent changes and constant pressure from The Boss. Suitable for all ages, participants will need to collect three tokens along the self-guided trails to help them change their outlook on life and face life's challenges with a positive mindset.

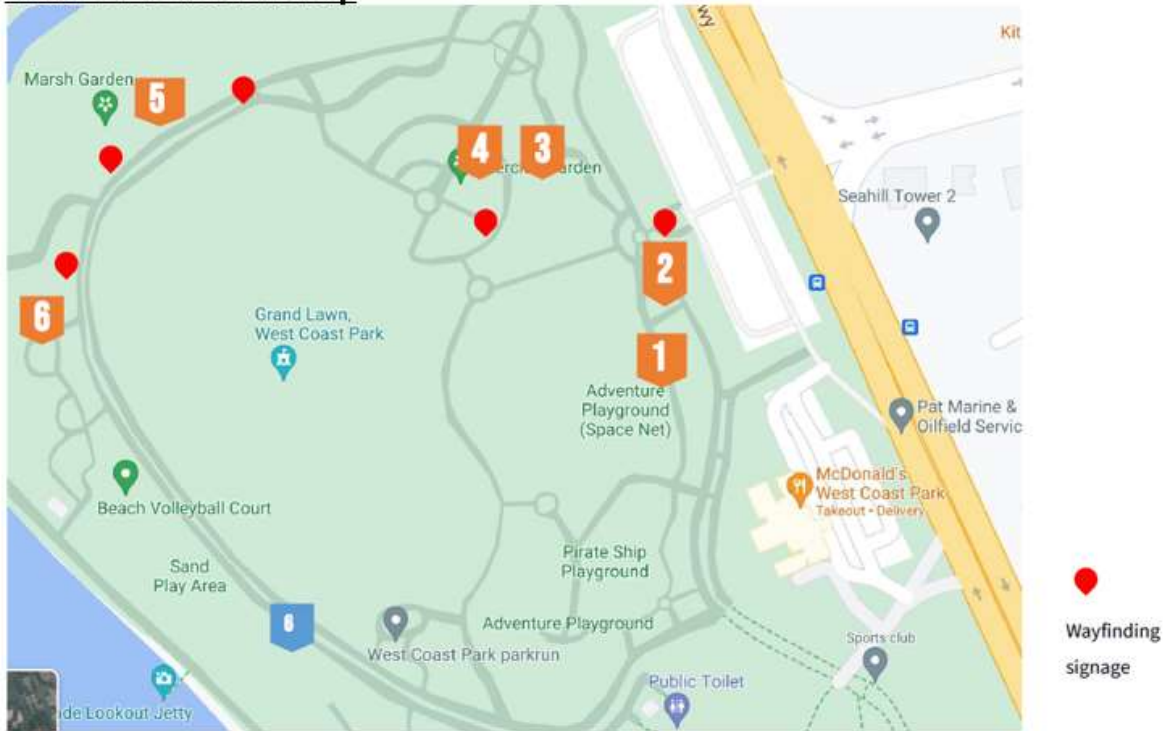
Participants will need an internet-enabled device for example a smartphone or a tablet with camera to scan the QR quotes at the six unique art installations to activate the storyline and sensory elements of the trail.

See below for the interesting features and challenges at each of the six stations. Be sure to go through all six stations in chronological order to follow the plot of the trail. There will be wayfinding signages onsite to guide participants.

STATION	ACTIVITY
<p data-bbox="217 188 331 219">Station 1</p> 	<p data-bbox="689 188 1378 336">Participants are introduced to Gerry the Salaryman and learn of his predicament at this station. Begin the trail by scanning the QR code on the installation, which will launch a chatbot to chat with Gerry.</p> <p data-bbox="689 376 1378 488">Participants can check out the quotes and excerpt pop-ups within the chatbot, and bookmark them to review after the trail.</p>
<p data-bbox="217 539 331 571">Station 2</p> 	<p data-bbox="689 539 1378 723">Gerry needs to contact the Big Boss Man, but the signal on his phone is terrible. Participants will find clues at Station 2 on how they can help Gerry disrupt his tiresome routine, and kick start the adventure with him.</p>
<p data-bbox="217 891 331 922">Station 3</p> 	<p data-bbox="689 891 1378 1039">Retrieve the first token at Station 3, which looks like a seemingly normal MRT trail ride in a colourful and quirky world. Look out for the Chill Tortoise and an augmented reality feature during the ride.</p>

STATION	ACTIVITY
<p>Station 4</p> 	<p>Gerry sends the participants an audio clip of his terrible inner voice that discourages him every time the going gets tough.</p> <p>Rearrange the words at Station 4 to unlock some positivity for Gerry and retrieve the second token.</p>
<p>Station 5</p> 	<p>The final challenge takes place in a lopsided house, where Gerry is able to channel his learnings from the trail into unlocking the final token.</p>
<p>Station 6</p> 	<p>Participants can check out the 'rebooted' Gerry at the final station and enjoy the scenery while they are at it.</p> <p>At the end of the trail, participants can download an exclusive Telegram Sticker Pack and review their bookmarked excerpts from the Provision Shop section in the landing page.</p>

**West Coast Park Trail Map**



## East Coast Park Trail Map



### **National Library Building Trail**

Stations 1 – 2 are located in the National Library Building's ground floor plaza

Stations 3 – 6 are located within the Level B1, Central Public Library

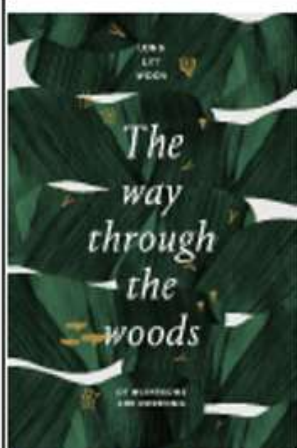
## 12 Key Titles of Read! Fest 2021

12 English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil books are featured as this year's Read! Fest recommended reads. These books present new perspectives on living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century especially during these uncertain times. There will be a selection of quotes from the four English books featured in the literary trails below.

The English books are available in both physical and eBooks formats; while the Chinese, Malay and Tamil books are available as physical books in our public libraries. Availability of these books can be checked through the NLB mobile app. (<https://mobileapp.nlb.gov.sg/>) We hope these books can provide creative and alternative approaches to life as everyone adapts and embraces change.

No	Information on the books and authors
1	<div data-bbox="284 741 544 1010" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="564 741 1377 1081" data-label="Text"> <p><b>Keep Going: 10 Ways to Stay Creative in Good Times and Bad</b>  <b>by Austin Kleon</b>            Whether you are just starting out or starting over, how do you stay the course in a crazy world? Packed with tips, sketches and quotes, bestselling American author Austin Kleon outlines simple ways to get into a daily routine to disconnect with the world and connect with what truly matters. Timeless and practical, this guide is for anyone seeking a more productive and meaningful life.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="284 1126 544 1514" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="564 1126 1377 1536" data-label="Text"> <p><b>Austin Kleon</b> is a writer, artist, speaker, and New York Times bestselling author. His work has been featured on NPR's Morning Edition, PBS Newshour, TIME, The Atlantic, Forbes, and The Wall Street Journal. His books include <i>Steal Like An Artist</i> and <i>Show Your Work!</i> as well as <i>Newspaper Blackout</i>, a collection of poems made by redacting the newspaper with a permanent marker. His art has been called "brilliant" by New York Magazine, and The New Yorker said his poems "resurrect the newspaper when everyone else is declaring it dead." Austin speaks on creativity, visual thinking, and being an artist online.</p> </div>

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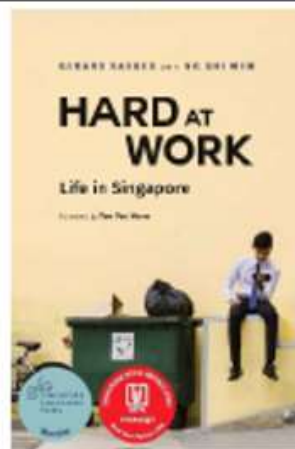
**The Way Through the Woods: Of Mushrooms and Mourning**  
by Long Litt Woon

If anyone had told me that mushrooms would be my lifeline, the thing that would help me get back onto life's track, I would have rolled my eyes. What had mushrooms to do with mourning? After 32 years of blissful marriage, Norwegian anthropologist Long Litt Woon is wrecked by grief at her soulmate's sudden passing. In two parallel journeys, Long traverses an inner landscape of mourning and an outer exploration of the fascinating world of mushrooms to survive her grief and rekindle her zest for life.



**Long Litt Woon**, born 1958 in Malaysia, is an anthropologist and Norwegian Mycological Association-certified mushroom professional. She first visited Norway as a young exchange student. There she met and married Norwegian Eiof Olsen. Her book *The Way Through the Woods. Of Mushrooms and Mourning* has been sold to 16 countries. Currently, she lives in Oslo, Norway.

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**Hard at Work: Life In Singapore**  
by Gerard Sasges and Ng Shi Wen

A bus captain, a funeral director, a farmer, and even a Thai disco singer—these are just a few of the diverse people at work in Singapore. What are their jobs like, why did they choose them, and what do they dream of? Through the stories of more than sixty working people, historian Gerard Sasges, photographer-educator Ng Shi Wen and contributors to the Hard at Work project offer a raw, unfiltered look into what work and life are really like in Singapore.



**Gerard Sasges** is a historian, educator, and chronicler of everyday life. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. His work explores the history of capitalism and its relationship to technological, social, cultural, and environmental change in Asia.



**Ng Shi Wen** is a photographer, educator, and entrepreneur. She is the founder of Photo Rikiki and has taught at the National University of Singapore and at Singapore's School of the Arts. Using words and light, she seeks to transcribe stories of people finding their way in a constantly changing city.

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#### **Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World by Cal Newport**

Modern digital life can be addictive and exhausting. So how can you reboot your relationship with all things online? Drawing on real-life examples from Amish farmers and Silicon Valley programmers, American writer and professor Cal Newport shows how digital minimalism can help you rethink your relationship with social media, rediscover the pleasures of the offline world, and reconnect with your inner self.



**Cal Newport** is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Georgetown University and the author of seven books, including the New York Times bestseller, *Digital Minimalism*, *The Time-Block Planner*, *Deep Work* and *So Good They Can't Ignore You*.