

Annex A

Books recommended by 30 Singaporean personalities available at Nodes

Location and Theme	Books recommended by featured personalities
Shaw House Theme: Entertainment	Daryl Qilin Yam  Daryl Qilin Yam is a Singaporean writer, editor and arts organiser, whose work has been shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize and nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award. He is the co-founder of the literary charity Sing Lit Station, where he currently serves as managing editor of its publishing arm, AFTERIMAGE. 1. Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse Hermann Hesse's classic novel <i>Siddhartha</i> follows the journey of a wealthy Indian Brahmin who abandons his privileged life in search of spiritual enlightenment. Blending Eastern religious thought, Jungian psychology, and Western individualism, Hesse presents a timeless exploration of one man's quest for meaning and inner peace. 2. Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather In 19th century New Mexico, French priests Jean Marie Latour and Joseph Vaillant embark on a mission to establish the Catholic Church in a region marked by cultural diversity and spiritual challenges. 3. After the Quake by Haruki Murakami In the aftermath of Japan's 1995 Kobe earthquake, Haruki Murakami's <i>After the Quake</i> delves into the subtle, often surreal ways trauma reshapes lives.

Anthony Chen



Anthony Chen is an award-winning film director, screenwriter, and film producer, known for his films *Ilo Ilo* and *Wet Season*. The first Singaporean to be awarded at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, his upcoming film, *We Are All Strangers*, is the concluding part to his *Singapore Growing Up* trilogy.

1. Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke

In ten profound letters written to a young aspiring poet, Rilke offers timeless wisdom about art, love, solitude, and the creative spirit.

2. 十年一觉电影梦 by 张靓蓓 (A decade-long movie dream by Zhang Liangbei)

In first-person narrative, this book tells the story of Ang Lee's journey pursuing his filmmaking dreams during the first decade of his career.

3. Ponti by Sharlene Teo

Set against Singapore's urban landscape across three decades, this haunting story weaves together the lives of three women: Szu, an awkward teenage outcast; her mother Amisa, a former horror movie actress from the 1970s; and Circe, Szu's once-best friend.

Haryani Othman



Haryani Othman is an entrepreneur, writer and actor who has worked in the industry for more than a decade. A business development consultant, she also owns MakBesar, an events and marketing company. Quite the reader, she loves the smell of physical books!

1. P. Ramlee: seniman agung dunia Melayu: kumpulan kertas kerja Simposium Karya Seni Seniman Agung by P. Ramlee (P. Ramlee:

	Great Artist of the Malay World: A Collection of Working Papers for the Symposium on the Artistic Works of the Great Artist by P. Ramlee) Through a collection of academic papers, this work examines P. Ramlee's towering influence as one of the greatest Malay entertainers and icon. 2. Beloved by Toni Morrison In post-Civil War Ohio, a former enslaved woman confronts both the literal and figurative ghosts of her past when her dead daughter's spirit returns to haunt her home. 3. My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult is a powerful, emotionally charged novel about Anna, a thirteen year old girl who sues her parents for control over her own body after a lifetime of medical procedures to help her older sister, Kate, fight leukemia.
ION Orchard, Basement 4 Theme: Inspiration	Meihan Boey  Meihan Boey is the author of the <i>Miss Cassidy</i> series, which includes <i>The Formidable Miss Cassidy</i>, <i>The Enigmatic Madam Ingram</i>, and <i>The Mystical Mister Kay</i>. Her accolades include the Epigram Books Fiction Prize (2021, 2025), and the Singapore Book Awards' Best Literary Work (2023). 1. Son of Singapore by Tan Kok Seng Through the eyes of a <i>kampong</i> boy turned street vendor, rickshaw puller, and eventually a butler to expatriates, this candid memoir captures Singapore's transformation from the 1940s through the 1960s. 2. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë A revolutionary tale of female empowerment and moral integrity, this classic Gothic novel follows an orphan's transformation into a woman who dares to define love and freedom on her own terms. 3. Or Else, the Lightning God & Other Stories by Catherine Lim <i>Or Else, the Lightning God & Other Stories</i> by Catherine Lim is a collection of short stories that vividly captures the complexities of

	Singaporean Chinese society, exploring themes of superstition, generational conflict, and the clash between tradition and modernity. Saravanan Ayyavoo  Saravanan Ayyavoo is an award-winning TV host, having earned 8 Best Host awards at Pradhana Vizha and the title of All-Time Favourite Artiste. He later expanded his reach as a radio DJ on Oli968 and, remarkably, pursued his childhood dream of becoming a commercial pilot. A passionate soccer enthusiast, Saravanan continues to thrive as a multifaceted entertainer and aviator. 1. Conversations with Friends by Sally Rooney A contemporary novel about two college students and best friends navigating complex relationships, love, and identity. 2. An Artist of the Floating World by Kazuo Ishiguro In <i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>, artist Masuji Ono reflects on his past support of Japan's imperialist war effort, confronting guilt, shifting values, and the memories of a once-vibrant nightlife culture as postwar society judges his legacy. 3. Without Remorse by Tom Clancy In Tom Clancy's <i>Without Remorse</i>, former Navy SEAL John Kelly seeks revenge against those who harmed a young woman he cared for, while being drawn into a high-stakes military mission to rescue prisoners of war in Vietnam.
The Paper Bunny, Ngee Ann City, #B2-2 Theme: Wellness	Cyril Wong  Cyril Wong is a writer and poet, and a two-time recipient of the Singapore Literature Prize (2006, 2016) as well as the National Arts Council (NAC)'s Young Artist Award for Literature (2005). His recent work

includes *Beachlight*, and his writings have been featured in anthologies by W. W. Norton and Everyman's Library.

1. Take Arms Against a Sea of Troubles: The Power of the Reader's Mind Over a Universe of Death by Harold Bloom

An exploration of how readers engage with and find meaning in literature, it examines the power of the reader's imagination to confront mortality, suffering, and existential questions through the act of reading.

2. Dearest Intimate by Suchen Christine Lim

When opera star Chan Kam Foong dies, she leaves a secret journal to her granddaughter, Xiu Yin, revealing a lost love and a search for Dearest Intimate in pre-war Singapore. Inspired by her grandmother's story, Xiu Yin leaves her abusive husband and reconnects with her first love, Meng.

3. Little Book of Chanel by Emma Baxter-Wright

The book traces the life, legacy and lasting influence of one of fashion's most influential designers Coco Chanel and her iconic fashion house, from its early days to its modern evolution.

Nurul Suhaila



Nurul Suhaila is a national Pencak Silat athlete who has been competing for 13 years now. While she dedicates most of her time to training, she finds joy in reading, relaxing by the beach, and spending quality time with her loved ones.

1. The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown

Brown explores the psychology of releasing our definitions of an "imperfect" life and embracing living life authentically.

2. The Mountain Is You: Transforming Self-Sabotage into Self-Mastery by Brianna Wiest

Brianna Wiest explores the concept of self-sabotage, portraying it as an internal "mountain" that individuals construct to protect themselves from perceived threats.

3. The Courage to Be Disliked: The Japanese Phenomenon That Shows You How to Change Your Life and Achieve Real Happiness by Ichiro Kishimi and Fumitake Koga

Through a conversation between a philosopher and a young man, this book explores how to let go of past burdens and take control of one's own happiness by living true to yourself — even if it means being disliked.

Chloe Chua



Chloe Chua is an award-winning violinist with accolades from several international competitions. She was Artist-In-Residence for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra—the youngest ever to be appointed to this role. Chloe likes to hang out with her friends and is an animal-lover who hopes to own a pet someday.

1. The Fallen by David Baldacci

In this fast-paced thriller by David Baldacci, detective Amos Decker and journalist Alex Jamison visit a struggling Pennsylvania town, where Decker stumbles upon two mysterious deaths. As they dig deeper, they uncover a web of secrets threatening the entire community.

2. The Sorrows of Young Werther by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The Sorrows of Young Werther tells the story of Werther, a sensitive young man who falls deeply and tragically in love with Charlotte, a woman engaged to another.

3. Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way To Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones by James Clear

A global bestseller, this book reveals how small, incremental changes, or "atomic habits," can lead to remarkable results over time.

Outside
Mandarin
Gallery

Theme: Food

Michael Chiang



Michael Chiang is a lifelong reader turned publisher, playwright and media creative who has spent over 40 years telling stories — on stage, on screen, and at mega-scale immersive exhibitions. From *Army Daze* to The Bicentennial Experience, he has made Singaporeans laugh, reflect, and remember. He is still writing, still dreaming, and ready for the next chapter.

1. **The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

A poetic and philosophical tale about a young prince who travels from planet to planet, meeting various inhabitants and learning life's essential truths.

2. **Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury**

A nostalgic coming-of-age novel set in a small Midwestern town during the summer of 1928. It follows 12-year-old Douglas Spaulding as he experiences the joys, mysteries, and bittersweet moments of childhood.

3. **The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy**

This charming fable follows a boy and his three animal companions on a journey filled with thoughtful chats and important life lessons. Their conversations touch on fear, friendship, and the courage to be kind.

Azhagunila



Azhagunila is a writer of fiction, non-fiction, and children's literature. A two-time recipient of the Singapore Literature Prize, she won the Singapore Book Council's Beyond Words competition, and was selected for the NAC's Sangam House Residency. 10 of her children's songs have

been animated with the support of the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism.

1. Stories of the True by Jeyamohan, Translated by Priyamvada Ramkumar

This collection of twelve short stories delves into the lives of real individuals, portraying their struggles with caste, identity, and morality in contemporary India.

2. பேய்ச்சி by ம.நவீன் (Peichi by M Navin)

A social novel that presents the socio-economic status of Malaysian Tamils and their cultural interactions. The sorrow of enduring tragic historical events — each capable of deeply affecting the lives of individuals — in a new land is powerfully depicted in the novel.

3. அம்பரம் by ரமா சுரேஷ் (Ambaram by Rama Suresh)

A novel about the life of a young man named Yusuf and his spiritual quest. Spanning three countries—Burma, India, and Singapore—the story follows Yusuf's life journey as he endures numerous hardships, including earthquakes, war, and violence. It is a tale that reflects the deep psychology of an individual and the losses experienced in life.

Kok Heng Leun



Kok Heng Leun is a theatre practitioner known for engaging the community on various issues through the arts and championing civic discourse across segments of society. He was a Nominated Member of Parliament representing the arts sector from 2016 to 2018. He has received the Young Artist Award, Cultural Fellowship, and Cultural Medallion.

1. Wanderlust: A History of Walking by Rebecca Solnit

This engaging blend of history, memoir, and cultural criticism explores walking as a political and cultural activity.

2. Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire, Translated by Myra Bergman Ramos

	A foundational work in critical pedagogy that challenges traditional education models, Freire argues for an empowering approach where learners and teachers co-create knowledge. 3. The Scent of Time: A Philosophical Essay on the Art of Lingeri by Byung-Chul Han In this book, philosopher Byung-Chul Han examines how modern life's emphasis on productivity and acceleration has eroded our capacity for reflection and contemplation.
	Khiri Johari  Khiri Johari is a researcher of maritime Southeast Asian history and heritage. He bridges scholarship with a passion for food cultures, which culminated in his book, <i>The Food of Singapore Malays: Gastronomic Travels Through the Archipelago</i>. It was named Singapore's Book of the Year, won the NUS History Prize and top honour at the 28th Gourmand World Food Culture Awards. 1. The Food Revolution: How Your Diet Can Save Your Life and Our World by John Robbins In this groundbreaking novel, Robbins reveals the far-reaching consequences of our dietary choices, connecting the dots between personal health, environmental sustainability, and ethical food production. 2. Singapore in the Malay World: Building and Breaching Regional Bridges by Lily Zubaidah Rahim This scholarly work examines the complex relationship between Singapore and its Malay neighbours, including Malaysia, shaped by historical animosities, economic pressures and "regional outsider" complex. 3. The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini Against the backdrop of Afghanistan's tumultuous modern history, this powerful story follows the haunting relationship between two boys - privileged Amir and Hassan, his father's servant's son.

Norlin Samat



Norlin Samat is the author of the *Ally's Adventures* bilingual series and a children's book publisher. She's on a mission to bring stories from around the world to children in Singapore, and to share Singapore tales with young readers everywhere. Big hearts, curious minds, and joyful books — that's her vibe!

1. **Max and Bird by Ed Vere**

A charming picture book about an unlikely friendship between Max, a kitten who loves chasing birds, and Bird, who wants to learn how to fly.

2. **Khai dan Kupu-kupunya (Khai and His Butterflies) by Melissa Candrasa-putra and Atikah Kamsani**

A young boy's enchanting discovery of butterflies in his garden becomes a gateway to both natural wonder and language learning. This beautifully illustrated bilingual tale captures a child's fascination with nature while seamlessly blending Malay and English storytelling.

3. **Just a Little Mynah by Evelyn Sue Wong, Illustrated by Dhanendra Poedjono**

A seemingly ordinary mynah bird discovers her own special worth when she helps her friend, a magnificent heron, out of trouble. This beautifully crafted story weaves together themes of self-discovery, friendship, and environmental awareness, while introducing young readers to Singapore's rich linguistic heritage.

Annil Ravin



Annil Ravin is a chef and business owner who expresses his creativity in the kitchen and finds his peace in books. He started reading cookbooks, and over time, grew a passion for reading that has become as essential

to him as cooking — feeding his soul in a different, but equally fulfilling way.

1. Agak Agak: Everyday Recipes from Singapore by Shu Han Lee

A charming cookbook that celebrates the flavours of Singapore through approachable, everyday recipes, blending tradition with personal twists. Shu Han Lee shares dishes made with instinct — or *agak agak*, meaning “to estimate” — capturing the heart of home-style cooking.

2. Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking by Samin Nosrat

Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking is a transformative cookbook that shifts the focus from memorising recipes to understanding the fundamental principles of cooking.

3. Indian-ish: Recipes and Antics from a Modern American Family by Priya Krishna

Indian-ish: Recipes and Antics from a Modern American Family is a delightful cookbook that blends traditional Indian flavours with the practicality of modern American kitchens.

Violet Oon



Violet Oon is a chef, restaurateur and founder-owner of the Violet Oon Singapore restaurants. She was an arts, music and food journalist, as well as a western classical singer. Dubbed Singapore’s Food Ambassador, Violet was awarded the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Tourism by the Singapore Tourism Board.

1. Soul of Ink: Lim Tze Peng at 100 by Woon Tai Ho

Soul of Ink: Lim Tze Peng at 100 celebrates the remarkable artistic journey and renaissance of Lim Tze Peng, a Singaporean artist who blossomed late in life, gaining widespread recognition after age 80.

2. My Favourite Recipes by Ellice Handy

This classic cookbook offers a collection of practical and straightforward recipes that have been cherished for generations. The recipes reflect a blend of traditional home cooking and influences from various cultures, making them accessible and comforting.

	3. Inspector Cadaver by Georges Simenon In this gripping detective story, Inspector Cadaver investigates a complex case filled with unexpected twists and dark secrets. Through sharp intuition and methodical detective work, he uncovers hidden truths beneath the surface of seemingly ordinary lives.
	Shahdan Sulaiman  Shahdan Sulaiman is a professional footballer for Singapore and Hougang United Football Club. While bedridden after his first major injury in 2014, he was gifted a signed autobiography of former footballer Cantona and started enjoying reading again. 1. The Champion's Mind: How Great Athletes Think, Train, and Thrive by Jim Afremow Jim Afremow's <i>The Champion's Mind</i> explores the mental habits and strategies elite athletes use to perform at their best, offering practical tips on focus, confidence, resilience, and goal-setting to help readers thrive in sport and life. 2. Cantona: The Rebel Who Would Be King by Philippe Auclair A deep dive into the life and legacy of Eric Cantona, capturing his brilliance, controversies, and enduring impact on football and culture. 3. Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way To Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones by James Clear A global bestseller, this book reveals how small, incremental changes, or "atomic habits," can lead to remarkable results over time.
TRIFECTA Theme: Travel	Gwee Li Sui 

Gwee Li Sui is a poet, graphic artist, translator and literary critic. He has written and illustrated various kinds of books, including seven volumes of poetry, with *This Floating World* being his latest, and bestselling non-fiction titles such as *FEAR NO POETRY!*. In 1993, he wrote *Myth of the Stone*, Singapore's first long-form English graphic novel. More recently, he has been bringing joy to many by translating world classics into Singlish.

1. Journey to the West by Wu Cheng'en

First published in 1592, *Journey to the West* is one of the most beloved Chinese classics. It tells the mythical story of the monk Xuanzang's 16-year pilgrimage to India, accompanied by four animal disciples, in search of sacred Buddhist scriptures.

2. The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin

The book follows a lone human envoy sent to Winter, a planet inhabited by genderless beings who can choose and change their gender. His mission to integrate Winter into an intergalactic community challenges him to overcome profound cultural differences.

3. The Shrimp People by Rex Shelley

Set in the 1950s and 1960s, *The Shrimp People* follows Bertha Rodrigues, the youngest child of a Portuguese Eurasian family in Singapore. Bertha is a talented hockey player whose life revolves around family gatherings, Sunday Masses, and community events. However, political unrest and racial tensions threaten the stability of her community.

Beatrice Chia-Richmond



Beatrice Chia-Richmond is an actress, theatre and TV director and creative director. Some of her happiest projects include directing *Bent*, the musical *Cabaret* and the 2012 staging of *Army Daze*. She served as creative director for the National Day Parade (2011, 2016), the Singapore Bicentennial Experience and the Singapore Pavilion, World Expo 2025.

1. Knowing the Score: My Family and Our Tennis Story by Judy Murray

Judy Murray's memoir, *Knowing the Score: My Family and Our Tennis Story*, offers an insightful and candid account of her journey as a mother

to tennis champions Jamie and Andy Murray, coach, and advocate for tennis.

2. One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez

One Hundred Years of Solitude tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family in the fictional town of Macondo. Blending magical realism with history and myth, the book explores themes of fate, solitude, love, and the cyclical nature of time, capturing the rise and fall of both a family and a community in a richly imaginative narrative.

3. One Day by David Nicholls

One Day follows the lives of Emma and Dexter, who meet on the day of their graduation and then reconnect on the same date every year for twenty years. Through these annual snapshots, the novel explores their evolving friendship, love, and the twists and turns of life.

Paul Lim



Paul Lim is a national Jiu-Jitsu athlete with a background in accounting and passion for investing. His curiosity drives him to learn constantly, be it through analysing markets, reading the latest finance books, or exploring self-help and sports literature. He enjoys connecting ideas across disciplines to grow personally and professionally.

1. The Millionaire Fastlane: Crack the Code to Wealth and Live Rich for a Lifetime by M J DeMarco

The Millionaire Fastlane challenges traditional ideas about wealth-building, urging readers to reject slow, conventional paths like steady jobs and retirement plans.

2. How to Win Friends and Influence People: Updated for the Next Generation of Leaders by Dale Carnegie

This updated edition builds on Dale Carnegie's classic principles of effective communication, leadership, and relationship-building, tailored for today's fast-paced, digital world.

	Noah Lim  Noah Lim is a national Jiu-Jitsu athlete and third-year medical student. He believes in the importance of consistency, approaching life with an open mind, and being humble. In his free time, he enjoys reading, taking naps and playing video games. 1. “Surely You're Joking Mr Feynman!”: Adventures of a Curious Character by Richard Phillips Feynman This entertaining memoir captures the curious and playful spirit of Nobel-winning physicist Richard Feynman. Through a series of anecdotes, Feynman shares stories from his life—from his work on the Manhattan Project to his love of safecracking and learning new things. 2. The River of Consciousness by Oliver Sacks This posthumous collection of essays explores the mysteries of the human mind, blending science, history, and personal reflection.
The Cathay Theme: Singapore Heritage	Rachel Heng  Rachel Heng is the author of two critically acclaimed novels, most recently <i>The Great Reclamation</i>, which won the New American Voices Award, was longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal of Excellence, and named a New York Times Editors’ Choice as well as a Best Book of 2023 by The New Yorker and TIME. 1. The Diving Pool by Yōko Ogawa <i>The Diving Pool</i> is a haunting collection of three novellas that explore themes of isolation, desire, and psychological tension. Yōko Ogawa delves into the complexities of human relationships and the darker undercurrents lurking beneath everyday life.

2. My Friends by Hisham Matar

My Friends is a poignant collection of essays by Hisham Matar, exploring themes of friendship, memory, exile, and loss. Drawing from personal experiences, Matar delves into the bonds that shape our lives and the ways friendships endure despite distance and time.

3. By The Sea by Abdulrazak Gurnah

By the Sea follows Saleh Omar, a refugee from Zanzibar who arrives in England seeking asylum. Through his story, the novel explores themes of displacement, identity, and the lingering impacts of colonialism.

Rebekah Dorai



Rebekah Dorai is a multi-hyphenate actor, singer, and voiceover artist. Her practice is deeply connected to constant curiosity, and she credits books for giving her a love for language, speech and writing. Reading often leads her down multiple rabbit holes, and one of her favourite words is "lascivious".

1. I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings by Maya Angelou

This powerful memoir chronicles Maya Angelou's early life, capturing her experiences of trauma, racism, and identity as a Black girl growing up in the segregated American South.

2. The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

The Prophet is a poetic and philosophical book in which a wise man named Almustafa shares profound reflections on life's fundamental themes—love, freedom, work, joy, sorrow, and death—before departing his city.

3. This Is What Inequality Looks Like by Teo You Yenn

In *This Is What Inequality Looks Like* by Teo You Yenn offers a clear and compelling examination of social and economic inequality in Singapore. Through vivid storytelling and insightful analysis, the book highlights the everyday realities faced by marginalised communities, shedding light on the systemic factors that perpetuate disparity.

Xiaohan



Xiaohan is a lyricist, columnist and author, besides holding a PhD in Virology. A four-time Best-Lyricist nominee at Taiwan's Golden Melody Awards, she has received over 30 awards for her work. She has also written eight Chinese books, and is the co-founder of Funkie Monkeys, a pop music school.

1. 曾经 by 林夕 [Once by Lin Xi (Albert Leung)]

This collection of essays written by the author serves as a faithful record of his "young Werther" period. It presents readers with the most authentic version of Lin Xi from those years.

2. 走路, 也是一种哲学 by 葛霍, 斐德利克 (A Philosophy of Walking by Gros, Frederic)

Kyoto has its Philosopher's Path; Heidelberg has its Philosophers' Walk – why do philosophers love walking so much? From wandering to pilgrimage, from nature to civilisation, from drifting to enlightened journeying, the book contains 25 intellectual essays that tell the mysteries and pleasures of walking.

3. 我星国我街道 by 本地作者合集 (My Singapore, My Street by Compilation of Local Authors)

32 writers, seven creative professionals and one photographer draw inspiration from Singapore's streets to write, narrate, and capture their stories of these thoroughfares. These street stories add intriguing narratives to this ever-busy city. For a city to be remembered, it must first be captured in words.

Ebi Shankara



	Ebi Shankara is an English and Tamil-speaking actor, host, singer, teacher and performance artist. Some of his acting credits include <i>Cinderel-LAH!</i>, <i>Oi! Sleeping Beauty</i>, <i>The Full Monty</i>, <i>Army Daze</i>, and <i>Brown Boys Don't Tell Jokes</i>. He also featured in a restaging of <i>Off Centre</i> and hit TV series <i>KIN</i>. 1. The Empusium: A Health Resort Horror Story by Olga Tokarczuk Olga Tokarczuk's <i>The Empusium: A Health Resort Horror Story</i> is a gothic, philosophical horror novel set in 1913 at a remote health resort in what is now Poland. The book follows Mieczysław Wojnicz, a tuberculosis patient who arrives at a secluded sanatorium only to uncover a world of eerie rituals, lurking dangers, and unsettling secrets. 2. Anxious People by Fredrik Backman In <i>Anxious People</i>, a failed bank robbery leads a desperate woman to take a group of strangers hostage during an apartment viewing. As the situation unfolds, the hostages—including a retired couple, a pregnant couple, a banker, and an elderly woman—reveal their personal struggles and connections to a past tragedy involving suicide. 3. What We Inherit: Growing Up Indian by Shailey Hingorani This collection shares powerful, personal stories from Indian women (and some men) in Singapore, exploring themes of identity, family, tradition, and resilience. Through moments of struggle, grief, and joy, the contributors reveal the complexities of heritage and community.
SOTA Theme: Arts	Myle Yan Tay  Myle Yan Tay is a playwright and author who won Best Literary Work and Book of the Year at the Singapore Book Awards 2024. He credits libraries and its comic books, scripts and novels for getting his writing started, and hopes his writing can add to the collection in some little way. 1. Animal Man: 30th Anniversary Deluxe Edition (Book One) by Grant Morrison <i>Animal Man: 30th Anniversary Deluxe Edition (Book One)</i> reimagines the once-obscur DC Comics hero, Buddy Baker, into a complex, postmodern character. The narrative delves into themes such as the ethics of scientific experimentation, as Buddy investigates a break-in at S.T.A.R. Labs related to an AIDS vaccine, uncovering inhumane practices.

2. White Tears by Hari Kunzru

White Tears is a novel that explores themes of race, history, and music through the story of two young white men who accidentally uncover a mysterious and haunting blues recording. Their curiosity leads them into a supernatural and unsettling journey connected to the painful legacy of African American history.

3. The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable by Amitav Ghosh

In *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*, Amitav Ghosh examines the profound cultural and intellectual challenges posed by climate change.

Lim Shi-An



Shi-An is an actress and graphic designer. She seeks out acting projects that challenge her artistically, and just finished production on two feature films: *Tropical Rain* and *Death-Scented Kiss*, directed by Charlotte Hong, as well as *Amoeba*, a feature film directed by Tan Siyou. She also loves to read in her free time.

1. Running in the Family by Michael Ondaatje

In the late 1970s, the author returns to Sri Lanka, immersing himself in its vivid landscapes and rich scents while retracing the complex, colourful history of his Dutch-Ceylonese family. The result is a captivating blend of travel narrative and family memoir, weaving mythology and memory with lyrical storytelling.

2. Inheritance by Balli Kaur Jaswal

When teenage Amrit mysteriously disappears and returns transformed, her traditional Punjabi Sikh family faces deep challenges amid Singapore's evolving political and cultural landscape. Spanning two decades, this story explores how families confront their legacies, navigate change, and seek belonging.

	Shabir Sulthan  Shabir Sulthan is an award-winning composer, singer-songwriter, and actor. He is the only Singaporean to score over 10 films in India's competitive film industry. Known for his song <i>Yaayum</i> and his National Day anthem performance, Shabir bridges cultures through his bold, genre-defying South Asian music. 1. We are Singaporeans: Volume 1 by Melanie Lee, Illustrated by Lee Xin Li <i>We Are Singaporeans: Volume 1</i> is a compelling collection of interviews that highlights the journeys of ten individuals who have chosen unconventional career paths in Singapore. 2. Rumi's Secret: The Life of the Sufi Poet of Love by Brad Gooch This captivating biography delves into the life of Rumi, the 13th-century Sufi mystic and poet whose teachings on love and spirituality have inspired millions. 1. Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi Flow explores the state of deep focus and immersion where people experience total engagement and fulfilment in activities. Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi reveals how achieving this "flow" leads to greater creativity, happiness, and meaning in life by balancing challenge and skill.
Bynd Artisan, Raffles City, #03-24 Theme: Craftsmanship	Pooja Nansi 

Pooja Nansi is an award-winning poet and performer who directed the Singapore Writers Festival (2019–2023). She was awarded the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in 2024, one of France’s highest cultural honours.

1. The Creative Act: A Way of Being by Rick Rubin

This book explores creativity not just as a skill but as a mindset and way of life. Drawing from his experience as a legendary music producer, Rubin shares insights on how embracing openness, presence, and curiosity can unlock artistic expression and deepen our connection to the world.

2. Letters to a Writer of Colour: Essays on Craft, Race and Culture Edited by Deepa Anappara and Taymour Soomro

Through a series of candid essays and letters, this collection delves into the challenges and complexities faced by writers of colour. It addresses issues of identity, representation, and cultural heritage, offering guidance and encouragement for navigating the literary world while staying true to one’s voice.

3. Song of Draupadi by Ira Mukhoty

In *Song of Draupadi*, Ira Mukhoty offers a feminist retelling of the Mahabharata, centering on the lives and voices of its women. While Draupadi is the focal character, the narrative also delves into the experiences of other significant women like Satyawati, Gandhari, Kunti, and Ganga.

Gemma Rose Foo



Gemma Rose Foo is a Paralympic equestrienne. At 16, she joined the first Asian Para Equestrian team at the 2012 London Paralympic Games. She went on to represent Singapore at the Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and most recently, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. She loves reading and writing in her spare time.

1. Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Carrie Soto, a legendary tennis champion, comes out of retirement at 37 to defend her record as the greatest player of all time. Fierce, unapologetic, and relentless, she battles a new generation of talent, public.

2. The Fox Wife by Yangsze Choo

Set in 1908 Manchuria, *The Fox Wife* by Yangsze Choo follows Bao, a detective drawn into the mysterious death of a courtesan amid whispers of fox spirits. As he investigates, a vengeful woman named Snow pursues her own dark quest for justice.

3. The City of Stardust by Georgia Summers

Violet Everly races to break a centuries-old family curse after her mother's disappearance. To survive, she must navigate a dangerous magical underworld of vengeful gods, ruthless scholars, and ancient secrets to uncover the truth behind the Everly legacy.

Tan Kheng Hua



Tan Kheng Hua is an actor and producer. She is best known as Margaret in Singapore's longest running hit sitcom, *Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd*, and internationally for her roles in Warner Bros' *Crazy Rich Asians*, Netflix's *Marco Polo* and 3 seasons of Max's *Kung Fu*.

1. Stand Alone by Simon Tay

Stand Alone is a compelling collection of short stories that delves into the complexities of modern Singaporean life. Through 12 well-crafted narratives, Simon Tay explores themes such as identity, emigration, education, cultural differences, class divisions, heritage, and individualism.

2. Spider Boys by Ming Cher

Set in 1950s Singapore, *Spider Boys* follows Kwang, a street-smart youth who raises fighting spiders for underground matches. The novel delves into the world of petty crime, gang rivalries, and the quest for respect and power.

3. After Dark by Haruki Murakami

Set over the course of a single night in Tokyo, *After Dark* follows several interconnected characters, including Mari, a quiet student, and her sister Eri, who lies in a mysterious, unbroken sleep. As Mari drifts through diners, love hotels, and encounters with strangers, surreal and unsettling events unfold.