

Annex A

Recommended books by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at the Presidential Pop-up Library

S/N	Titles and synopses
1	<p>Beyond Storms and Stars – A Memoir by Noeleen Heyzer</p> <p>In <i>Beyond Storms and Stars</i>, Noeleen Heyzer chronicles her remarkable journey from a challenging childhood in post-war Singapore to becoming a trailblazer in global women's leadership at the United Nations. The memoir delves into her early life, marked by poverty and adversity, and her academic pursuits at the University of Singapore and the University of Cambridge.</p>
2	<p>The Last Gold – James Wong: An Odyssey Through Sports and Cancer by Kenneth Khoo</p> <p>This biography chronicles the remarkable journey of James Wong, Singapore's legendary discus champion, from his sporting glory days to his battle with cancer. Through intimate interviews and detailed research, Khoo weaves together Wong's achievements as a nine-time SEA Games gold medallist with his later fight against illness, revealing how the same determination that drove his athletic success helped him face life's toughest challenge.</p>
3	<p>The Food of Singapore Malays: Gastronomic Travels Through the Archipelago by Khir Johari</p> <p>This book explores the rich and diverse culinary heritage of the Malay community in Singapore and the surrounding archipelago. It delves into traditional recipes, cooking methods, and cultural stories behind iconic Malay dishes, highlighting how food reflects identity, history, and community.</p>
4	<p>Sembawang – A Novel by Kamaladevi Aravindan, Translated by Anitha Devi Pillai</p> <p>Set against the backdrop of 1960s Sembawang Naval Base, this sweeping saga weaves together the lives of its diverse residents - from domineering matriarchs to star-crossed lovers, from pining bachelors to separated mothers. When violence disrupts their peaceful village life, these interconnected stories reveal how a community transcends cultural boundaries in times of crisis, capturing a pivotal moment in Singapore's social history.</p>
5	<p>Confrontation – A Novel by Mohamed Latiff Mohamed, Translated by Shafiq Selamat</p> <p>In this powerful coming-of-age story, translated from Malay for the first time, a young boy's carefree <i>kampung</i> life - filled with ancient trees, village healers, and ten-cent movies - collides with Singapore's turbulent path toward merger with Malaya. Through Adi's eyes, award-winning author Mohamed Latiff Mohamed crafts an intimate portrait of a village community facing unprecedented change, as political upheaval, racial tensions, and the Konfrontasi transform their world forever.</p>
6	<p>Being Human – Stories from Family Medicine Edited by Cheong Pak Yean and Ong Chooi Peng</p> <p>This collection brings together authentic stories from family physicians in Singapore, revealing the human side of medicine beyond clinical diagnoses.</p>

	Through personal narratives of patient encounters, triumphs, and challenges, these healthcare professionals share intimate glimpses into the doctor-patient relationship, showing how family medicine goes beyond treating illnesses to touch lives and build lasting connections with communities.
7	<p>Living with Civilisations: Reflections on Southeast Asia's Local and National Cultures by Wang Gungwu</p> <p>Through a series of thoughtful essays, this book examines how Southeast Asian societies navigate between local traditions and national identities in an increasingly globalised world. The author explores the complex interplay between ancient civilisations, colonial influences, and modern nation-building efforts, revealing how cultural practices and traditions continue to shape contemporary Southeast Asian life.</p>
8	<p>Archipelago of Islands: Natural and Other Histories of Singapore Edited by Jeslynn Teo, Maimon Hussin, Kathy Poh, Swee Cheng Lim, Martyn E. Y. Low and Danwei Huang</p> <p>This book unravels Singapore's complex identity as both a city and an archipelago, exploring the lesser-known stories of its smaller islands and their role in shaping the nation. Through environmental, social, and historical lenses, it examines how Singapore's transformation from a network of islands into a modern city-state has influenced its ecology, communities, and development.</p>

Recommended books by Madam Halimah Yacob at the Presidential Pop-up Library

S/N	Titles and synopses
1	<p>Awesome Women of Singapore Edited by Margaret Thomas</p> <p>This illustrated anthology honours remarkable women from Singapore's past and present who broke barriers in their fields - from business and sports to science and public service. Featuring stories from the Women's Hall of Fame and artwork by local female artists, it shows how diverse pioneers like Hajjah Fatimah, Laurentia Tan, and Hedwig Anuar shaped the nation while inspiring future generations to pursue their dreams despite challenges.</p>
2	<p>Why Not? Thinking about Singapore's Tomorrow Edited by Margaret Thomas and Kanwaljit Soin</p> <p>This thought-provoking collection brings together diverse voices to envision an ideal Singapore where true gender equality exists. Through personal essays, contributors explore how society can evolve to ensure every person can live authentically, challenging readers to question existing norms and imagine new possibilities.</p>
3	<p>50 Years of ASEAN and Singapore Edited by Tommy Koh, Sharon Seah Li-Lian and Chang Li Lin</p> <p>Marking ASEAN's 50th anniversary, this collection features 50 insider perspectives from Singaporeans who helped shape ASEAN-Singapore relations. Through essays by diplomats, academics, and officials, it reveals how ASEAN evolved from five founding nations in 1967 to become a vital force for regional peace and prosperity.</p>
4	<p>The Common Good by Robert B. Reich</p> <p>Former United States of America Labour Secretary Robert Reich examines how America has shifted from a "we" to a "me" society, arguing that the pursuit of</p>

	individual success has undermined the common good. Through historical analysis and contemporary examples, he shows how the erosion of collective responsibility has led to increasing inequality, weakened public institutions, and fragmented communities.
5	<p>Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela</p> <p><i>Long Walk to Freedom</i> is the autobiography of Nelson Mandela, chronicling his life from childhood to becoming South Africa's first Black president. The book details his early years, his growing political awareness, and his fight against a system of racial segregation and oppression. He left a lasting legacy for those who believe in the importance of freedom in building a fair and equal society.</p>
6	<p>Social Context, Policies, and Changes in Singapore: Beyond the First 50 Years Edited by Intan Azura Mokhtar and Yaacob Ibrahim</p> <p>This book is a collection of essays by Singapore's thought leaders, policymakers, and academics who have played key roles in shaping the country's social policies. Covering a wide range of topics—from government and education to healthcare, urban planning, and technology—the essays aim to spark discussion, encourage debate, and deepen understanding of the social challenges and trade-offs involved in building a stronger social compact.</p>
7	<p>Duka Tuan Bertakhta (Sadly You Rule) – A Novel by Isa Kamari</p> <p>In 1819, the same year Stamford Raffles arrived in Singapore, Muslim saint (wali) Habib Nuh also came to the island from Penang. <i>Duka Tuan Bertakhta</i> is a riveting story weaved around complex events and the relationships between key historical figures, such as Raffles, Farquhar, Sultan Hussein, and Habib Nuh. It reimagines the colonial narrative through the eyes of the local Malay community.</p>
8	<p>In This Together: Singapore's Covid-19 Story by the Straits Times Covid-19 team, Edited by Sumiko Tan</p> <p><i>In This Together: Singapore's Covid-19 Story</i> is a firsthand account of Singapore's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, told by the Straits Times journalists. Based on over 300 interviews, it captures the nation's struggles, resilience, and unity during the first two years of the pandemic. This book is a good reference material and is essential reading for future generations of Singaporeans.</p>

Recommended books by Dr Tony Tan at the Presidential Pop-up Library

S/N	Titles and synopses
1	<p>"Surely You're Joking Mr Feynman!": Adventures of a Curious Character by Richard Phillips Feynman</p> <p>This entertaining memoir captures the curious and playful spirit of Nobel prize 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.</p>
2	<p>From Third World to First: The Singapore Story: 1965-2000 by Lee Kuan Yew</p> <p>This candid memoir chronicles Singapore's transformation from a fragile newly independent state to a global powerhouse through the eyes of Singapore's founding father, Lee Kuan Yew. In the book, he details the practical challenges, controversial decisions, and strategic relationships that shaped the nation's rise,</p>

	offering an intimate look at both the public policies and personal convictions that shaped Singapore's progress from third world to first.
3	<p>A Mathematician's Apology by G.H. Hardy</p> <p>In this profound essay, renowned mathematician G.H. Hardy explores the intrinsic beauty of pure mathematics, comparing its aesthetic value to that of art and poetry. Writing as both mathematician and philosopher, Hardy defends the pursuit of mathematics for its own sake, arguing that its true value lies not in practical applications but in its abstract beauty.</p>
4	<p>The Essential Calvin and Hobbes: A Calvin and Hobbes Treasury by Bill Watterson (Foreword by Charles M. Schulz)</p> <p>A beloved collection featuring Calvin, an adventurous 6-year-old, and his wise-cracking tiger companion Hobbes. Through their daily escapades and thoughtful conversations, this comic strip masterfully blends childhood wonder with philosophical wit, creating a world where imagination reigns and stuffed tigers offer surprisingly deep insights into life's mysteries.</p>
5	<p>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams</p> <p>In this beloved sci-fi comedy, Arthur Dent's day goes from bad to worse when his planet is destroyed to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Armed with only a towel and <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>, he embarks on an impossibly funny adventure through space, encountering absurd characters and even more absurd answers to life's biggest questions.</p>