

Annex A

Worlds Within

S/N	Pods	Pod showcases quotes from the following featured books
1	Touch Pod	<p>1. The Great Reclamation by Rachel Heng Set against a changing Singapore, <i>The Great Reclamation</i> follows Ah Boon, a <i>kampong</i> boy whose discovery of magical, shifting islands changes his fate. As Singapore undergoes war, independence, and rapid transformation, Ah Boon must choose between personal loyalty and national ambition, in a poignant tale of love, loss, and the human cost of progress.</p> <p>2. Sourdough by Robin Sloan An overworked software engineer in San Francisco finds unexpected purpose when she inherits a quirky sourdough starter from two brothers. As she learns to care for it and bake, the experience draws her out of her tech-driven isolation and into a vibrant underground food community, leading her to rediscover connection, creativity, and joy beyond the digital world.</p> <p>3. The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V.E. Schwab In 1714 France, a young woman makes a desperate deal for immortality — but is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. For centuries, Addie LaRue lives unseen, leaving faint traces of her existence through art and stories, until one day, in a quiet bookstore, she meets a man who remembers her name.</p> <p>4. The Wandering Earth by Cixin Liu This collection of ten visionary sci-fi stories by Cixin Liu explores humanity's resilience in the face of cosmic catastrophe. From moving planets to the end of time, the tales imagine bold futures while reflecting on human nature, survival, and our place in an unforgiving universe.</p>
2	Scent Pod	<p>1. The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern A mysterious, nocturnal circus becomes the stage for a magical duel between two young illusionists, bound by a lifelong competition neither fully understands. As their rivalry deepens, so does an impossible love that threatens the fate of the circus and all within it. A lush, atmospheric tale of enchantment, rivalry, and forbidden romance.</p> <p>2. A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles Confined to a grand hotel in 1922 Moscow, Count Alexander Rostov navigates a world in upheaval from behind its doors. As Soviet Russia changes outside, he builds unexpected friendships, uncovers quiet joys, and redefines purpose within the walls of his gilded prison — a graceful, reflective story of resilience and reinvention.</p> <p>3. Perfume: The Story of a Murderer by Patrick Süskind In Patrick Süskind's chilling masterpiece, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille is born in 18th century Paris with an extraordinary gift—a superhuman sense of</p>

		<p>smell. As he hones his talent under a master perfumer, his obsession with capturing scents grows increasingly dark, culminating in a murderous quest to create the perfect perfume from the essence of young virgins.</p> <p>4. Regrettable Things That Happened Yesterday by Jennani Durai Through ten interconnected stories, this book reveals how newspaper snippets—from obituaries to horoscopes—dramatically alter lives, weaving tales of family secrets, moral dilemmas, and unexpected revelations in Singapore and beyond.</p> <p>5. Land of Milk and Honey by C Pam Zhang In a world where crops are vanishing and smog chokes cities, a disillusioned chef finds refuge in an elite mountaintop colony where rare ingredients still flourish. But as she rediscovers the sensual pleasures of food and her own desires, she is drawn into a seductive and dangerous plot to reshape humanity's future.</p> <p>6. A Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers In a world where robots mysteriously vanished into legend centuries ago, a tea monk's quiet life is disrupted by an unexpected visitor—a robot honouring an ancient promise to return. Together, they embark on a journey to answer a deceptively simple question: "What do people need?"</p>
3	Sight Pod	<p>1. Orbital by Samantha Harvey From their perch on the International Space Station, astronauts witness Earth's stunning beauty while grappling with news from home—deaths, storms, and life's fragility. As they orbit above, their unique perspective reveals both the planet's magnificence and humanity's deep connection to our only home.</p> <p>2. Overstory by Richard Powers Through interconnected stories spanning centuries, nine lives converge as they discover the hidden world of trees, transforming from casual observers into passionate defenders of Earth's vanishing forests in this sweeping environmental epic.</p> <p>3. Shantih Shantih Shantih by Daryl Qilin Yam In a surreal moment when snow falls over Singapore for four minutes and 26 seconds, a dozen lonely souls' lives intersect in unexpected ways.</p> <p>4. Sweet Bean Paste by Durian Sukegawa In a small Tokyo confectionery shop, Sentaro—a failed writer with a criminal past—finds unexpected redemption through Tokue, an elderly woman whose perfect sweet bean paste transforms his dorayaki business.</p> <p>5. A Strangeness in My Mind by Orhan Pamuk Over four decades, boza seller Mevlut walks Istanbul's streets at night, witnessing his city's dramatic transformation while harbouring his own peculiar mystery—the strangeness in his mind that sets him apart, and the truth about the woman he wooed through misdirected love letters.</p>

		Through his story, we see a changing Turkey, where tradition and modernity collide.
4	Sound Pod	<p>1. Nine Yards Saree: a Short Story Cycle by Prasanthi Ram</p> <p>Through eleven interlinked stories spanning seven decades, "Nine Yard Sarees" follows three generations of Tamil Brahmin women across continents—from a matriarch in an Indian ashram to her Singapore-raised granddaughter preparing for marriage.</p> <p>2. The Formidable Miss Cassidy by Meihan Boey</p> <p>In a supernatural tale set in 1890s Singapore, the enigmatic Miss Cassidy—more than just a simple paid companion—finds herself battling dark forces for two prominent families. While helping the Bendemeers face down a terrifying pontianak, she becomes entangled with Mr Kay Wing Tong's mysterious household, where ancient omens threaten those she has grown to cherish.</p> <p>3. Neverness by Fairoz Ahmad</p> <p>As Singapore's Malay villages fade in 1979, fifteen-year-old Alia's mysterious disappearance from Geylang Serai shatters the lives of three friends, their personal struggles echoing the larger cultural upheaval of a community caught between tradition and change.</p> <p>4. catskull by Myle Yan Tay</p> <p>When neglected teenager Ram dons a mask to scare his best friend's abusive father, a fatal mistake transforms him into a troubled vigilante, forcing him to confront the true cost of justice in an unforgiving city.</p> <p>5. Impractical Uses of Cake by Yeoh Jo-Ann</p> <p>A solitary 35 year old teacher's carefully ordered life of books and collectibles is upended when a chance encounter with a homeless person in Chinatown stirs up the past. Through their unexpected connection and shared love of cake, both discover new meanings of love and sacrifice.</p> <p>6. The Fried Chicken by Jennifer Champion, from Food Republic: A Singapore Literary Banquet edited by Daryl Lim, Ann Ang and Tse Hao Guang</p> <p>This anthology of over 100 literary works serves up Singapore's food culture through poetry, fiction, and essays—moving beyond mere debates about the best <i>nasi lemak</i> to reveal how food writing often unveils deeper stories about identity, memory, and culture.</p>
5	Taste Pod	<p>1. The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak</p> <p>Through the enduring presence of a single fig tree—from war-torn Cyprus to present-day London—a daughter unravels her parents' forbidden love story across ethnic divides, discovering her own place in a legacy of loss, love, and renewal.</p> <p>2. The Kamogawa Food Detectives by Hisashi Kashiwai</p> <p>In an unassuming Kyoto diner, a father-daughter team does more than serve meals—they are also "food detectives" who recreate cherished dishes from their customers' memories. From a widow's beloved noodles</p>

	<p>to a long-lost beef stew, each culinary mystery they solve helps heal hearts and reconnect people with their precious past.</p> <p>3. Food Republic: A Singapore Literary Banquet, edited by Daryl Lim, Ann Ang and Tse Hao Guang</p> <p>This anthology of over 100 literary works serves up Singapore's food culture through poetry, fiction, and essays—moving beyond mere debates about the best <i>nasi lemak</i> to reveal how food writing often unveils deeper stories about identity, memory, and culture.</p> <p>4. Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner</p> <p>Through Korean food and family meals, indie musician Michelle Zauner navigates her complex identity as the only Asian kid in Oregon, her difficult relationship with her mother, and ultimately, the devastating loss that forces her to reclaim her heritage.</p> <p>5. The Way of Kueh by Christopher Tan</p> <p>Through recipes, stories and history, Christopher Tan explores the rich world of Singapore's <i>kueh</i>, showing how these traditional sweets connect families and keep our food heritage alive.</p>
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