

Artwork



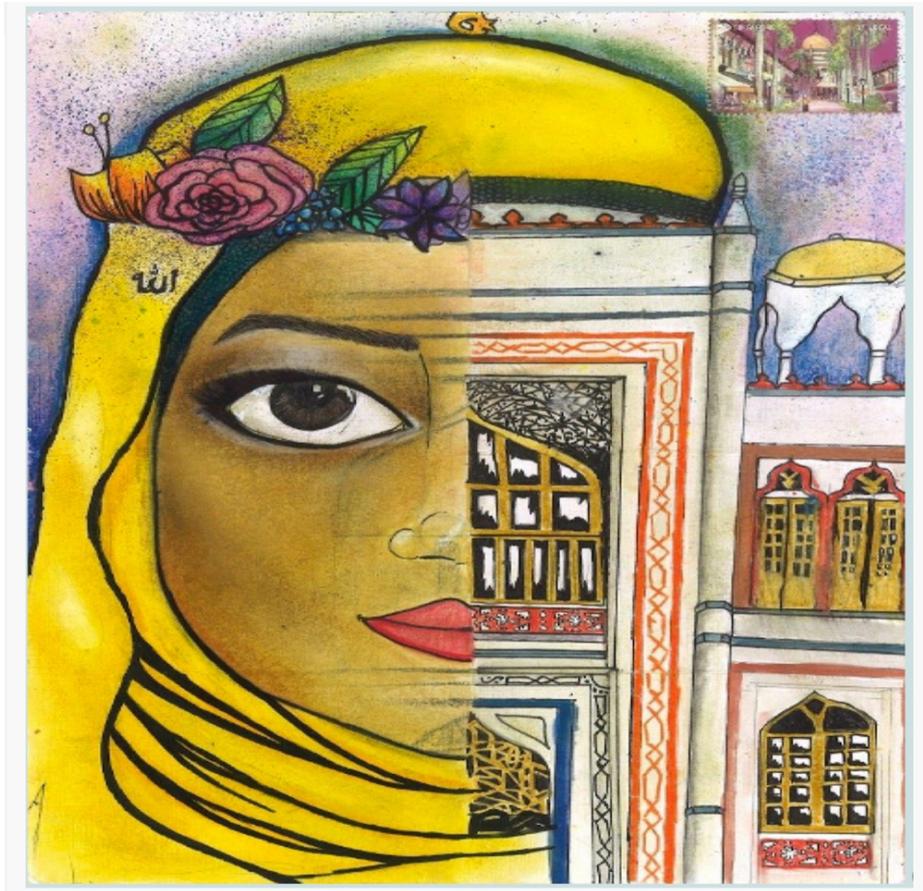
Adara Tan Xin Xuan

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“A Word of the Past”: My artwork depicts an enormous typewriter; its elegant structure provides shelter to a middle-aged woman and her grandchild (my grandma and I). Vibrant little lumps of tang-yuan bob up and down the warm sesame soup in the typewriter pan, an age-old delicacy fondly recalled by many. Those familiar red-capped plastic jars stand atop the typewriter ledge, along with various household boxes that were commonly seen lying around the average Singaporean kitchen long ago. With this art piece, I wanted to bring to light my grandma’s experience as a talented translator (hence the typewriter), as well as an avid creator of wonderful Singaporean tid-bits such as tang yuan, in the 1900s. This highlights Singapore’s history as a bilingual nation with authentic local snacks.

I had the honour of speaking to my grandma who had years of valuable experience in Singapore at her fingertips. Through this, I realised the true importance of Singapore’s spirited history, as well as the sheer extent of my grandma’s skills. She is not just a doting grandparent, but also a highly experienced and accomplished woman of her generation. From her, I learnt the value of patience and serenity. In this fast-paced world today, we no longer have the time to appreciate the beautiful little things around us. It really shocked me to learn that the past was such a vibrant, lively time to be alive. I feel that back then, people cared more for deep things like heritage and tradition than we do now. It is my opinion that the appeal of such peace-filled matters is fading fast with every new generation. I dream that our country will always remember to look back and appreciate all the effort that brought us to this point, as a successful nation. In order to help this dream come true, I pledge to continue a few of the dying traditions such as the creation of handmade tang yuan. I hope that Singaporeans will understand the need to preserve our heritage, and not to lose ourselves amidst this new-age hubbub. I recommend the tourists to drop by the numerous hawker centres around Singapore, and try out our satays and chicken rice. I feel that our hawker centre culture is a deep-rooted, core foundation of what makes us Singaporeans. Aside from the delight that will pleasure their taste buds, they will also get to experience our heritage first-hand and pay tribute to the generations before us for getting us to where we are now.

Artwork



TITLE: Masjid Sultan Mosque ARTIST STATEMENT

What is your vision for Singapore? What will you do to help Singapore realise this vision?

I hope that we can continue to keep our racial harmony and live peacefully regardless of race, language or religion. I will help to uphold these values through my actions and lead by example.

My artwork is inspired by the Masjid Sultan Mosque which is located at Muscat Street. This mosque is one of the tourist attractions in Singapore and visited by many tourists. It is of a great significance to me as a Malay Muslim and I am intrigued by the design of the Mosque. My great grandfather told me that in the past, he did not go to a big Mosque building to pray. He will go to a 'Surau' with the Muslims in his community for his daily prayers. It is very fascinating now to see many Mosques built for the religion and to have such a big building like Masjid Sultan Mosque to be as part of Singapore's tourist attraction.

My grandfather told me that times will change, things will change, but our morals and family values will never change. No matter what happens, we must stand firm on our values and stay strong as a family to overcome whatever challenges that lay ahead of us.

Artwork



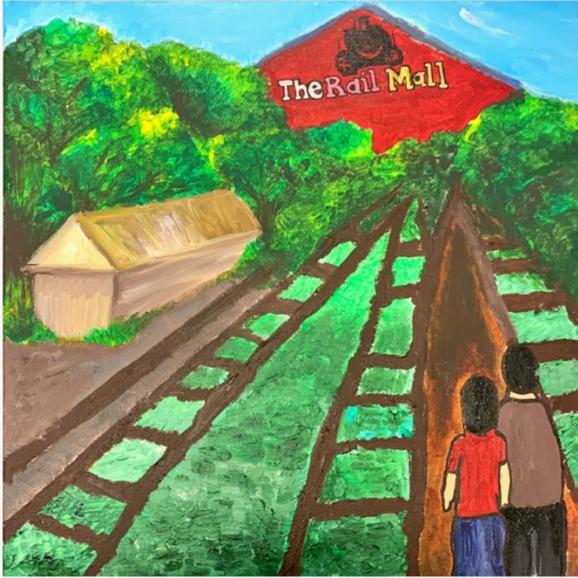
CHARLOTTE TAN, PRIMARY 5C, FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

When I interviewed my grandma, she told me that she would always take the bus to her home after school. Through her sharing, I've learnt that she only had to pay 10 cents to get a bus ticket and the bus conductor would punch a hole on the ticket. I found this information very interesting as I could see that times have changed so much. It has changed not only in the way we live, but an increase in our cost of living! In present days, there is no longer a bus conductor to punch our bus tickets, instead, everything is digitalised and all we need to do is to tap our EZ-link cards on the card reader to pay our bus fare! Also, I could not believe that 10 cents was the transport fare for people living in the olden days of Singapore. As such I chose to draw this picture as I found this sharing by my grandma so interesting, and believe that many other children (like my schoolmates and friends) may not know much about our bus system in the past and the life our pioneer generation went through.

My vision for Singapore is for my country to keep ahead with times and tap on technology to make our lives easier. Instead of tapping our EZ-link card on the card reader, I hope that in future, there will be a face recognition system that could auto deduct our bus fare from our credit card or bank account and this will help the elderly too as they may have difficulty to tap their cards and maintain their balance when alighting and departing from the bus.

I wish to tell all Singaporeans to care and communicate more with the elderly as there are so much we can learn from their life experiences. By chit-chatting with them, not only we show that we care, we also embrace the life-long learning spirit and like my experience, I would not have known of the bus system in the past if I have not spoken to my grandma!

Artwork



Alton Chan Wai Yu Sec 3N1 tanglin Secondary School (TSS)

In this artwork, I chose to depict the old Bukit Timah Railway Station. The person I interviewed was my grandmother. In the past when Bukit Timah Railway Station was built, my grandmother told me that she was also part of the crew that helped to build it. Bukit Timah railway station is used for passenger traffic back when it was open and eventually ceased operations in 2011. It also used to be part of a railway line used for commuting and transporting goods between Singapore and the rest of the Malay Peninsula. Right now, the station has been gazetted for conservation and is part of Singapore's efforts to preserve the rich heritage of the Rail Corridor, which allows visitors to go on a journey through various natural landscapes, communities and unique experiences. Nearby, The Railway Mall is a nice contrast to show how the old and the new can co-exist together to offer both urban and rural experiences. I hope that my work can inspire more people to check out Singapore's rich heritage and natural spaces, and to embark on an adventure by trekking through these places!

Bukit Timah area used to be an industrial hub in the 1950s, and factories like Ford and Yeo Hiap Seng (of Yeo's packet drinks) set up their shops there. The quarrying industry was also a prominent business in the area after the opening of Bukit Timah Railway Station. One interesting fact is that the granite mined there was actually used to build the infrastructure of the Causeway and roads. Along the Bukit Timah Trials, we can also visit former granite quarries in the area such as the Singapore Quarry and the Hindhede Quarry in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

Experience

Pri

What is Singapore like when you were my age?

Contact your grandparent(s), or an elder to learn one **new** thing about them regarding the topic.

Getting to Know a Senior/Elder Better

Reflect. (a) Who did you talk to? What did you learn about them that you didn't know before?

(b) What values did you learn from your grandparent(s)/elder? How has Singapore changed since they were your age?

7 Yang Yuchen Grace, a primary 5 student from Nan Hua Primary School, who contributed to the gift to SG, attest to how this year's activity has also inspired her, "My 71 year old grandmother recalled that when she was younger, she worked as a worker at the mines and have even saved 3 people while working! I have never known that my naggy grandmother was a heroine. Through her detailed sharing, I learned that in her times, their jobs were very dangerous, and life was hard, compared to how easy it is now, with technology reaching its peak in its development. My hope for Singapore is for everyone to persevere like what our ancestors had done to build this very land we walk on every day. We can all contribute little by little, little by little, and eventually it would pile up to a great benefit to our country. I also hope that our citizens would respect the elders for their wisdom and experience, and their great extent of knowledge that now, we, the younger generation, might not have known of. Together as one, we can help to bridge the gap between the younger and older generations, and embrace the stories they tell."

Yang Yuchen Grace 5D Yang Yuchen Grace 5D, Nan Hua Primary School

"I worked as....a worker when I was young, and saved 3 people from the mines," My 71 year old grandmother recalled, smiling, when I asked her about her job. I gasped. That had set me to look at her in new eyes. I have never known that my naggy grandmother was a heroine. Through her detailed sharing, I learned that in her times, their jobs were very dangerous, and life was hard, compared to how easy it is now, with technology reaching its peak in its development.

My hope for Singapore is for everyone to persevere like what our ancestors had done to build this very land we walk on every day. We can all contribute little by little, little by little, and eventually it would pile up to a great benefit to our country.

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Chong Xin Tong, from Woodgrove Primary School, expressed her newfound respect for her grandmother's experiences. "I talked to my grandmother, and I found out that Singapore was a small fishing village in the past. She shared the joys of communal living and how everyone does things together. My grandmother enjoyed fishing with her close friends as they treated one another like family. At times, the fishes that she had caught also became part of our dinner. Listening to these stories makes me grateful for current times and how food is readily available. I have newfound respect for how my grandmother lived through these years and how Singapore has transformed from an island with many villages to a beautiful city in a garden." Xin Tong's artwork depicts Singapore's skyline, symbolizing its rapid modernization. "What consisted of mainly kampongs have now been transformed into an urban jungle of concrete buildings. Since Singapore is globally renowned as a 'City in a Garden,' I drew a backdrop of greeneries as a representation of its nurtured nature. My artwork overall illustrates our city's growth from Singapore's humble beginnings as a fishing village into a vibrant and thriving metropolis."

Title: Metropolis Singapore

I depicted Singapore's skyline to highlight Singapore's rapid modernization. What consisted of mainly kampongs, have now been transformed into an urban jungle of concrete buildings. Some iconic landmarks I have included are the Marina Bay Sands, Singapore Flyer, HDB flats and even the MRT that have become our principal mode of transportation! Since Singapore is globally renowned as a 'City in a Garden', I drew a backdrop of greeneries as a representation of its nurtured nature. My artwork overall illustrates our city's growth from Singapore's humble beginnings as a fishing village into a vibrant and thriving metropolis.

I talked to my grandmother, and I found out that Singapore was a small fishing village in the past. She shared the joys of communal living and how everyone does things together. My grandmother enjoyed fishing with her close friends as they treated one another like family. At times, the fishes that she had caught also became part of our dinner. Listening to these stories makes me grateful of current times and how food is readily available. I have newfound respect to how my grandmother have lived through these years and how Singapore has transformed from an island with many villages to a beautiful city in a garden.

Since Singapore is known as the 'City in a Garden', I dream for Singaporeans to improve on our recycling habits as recyclable materials are still thrown into normal trash bins. I believe if we recycle right, we could innovate to make other products and there is no wastage. To do my part, I can create posters to spread awareness. Schools could also start a collective effort for a project together. A message I have for Singaporeans is, "Let's play our part to refuse, reuse, reduce and recycle." This way, we can not only protect our environment, but also make our city beautiful and green!

As he shared his recollections, I could almost feel the kampong spirit and camaraderie in the air. Although my grandfather and his friends had little to no luxuries, and kampong living was simple, they were grateful for what they had. They deeply cherished their togetherness and unity.

This reminded me of how we as Singaporeans came together to face the challenges ahead. Although our surroundings have changed over the decades with buildings and technology replacing attap homes, we should remember and cherish the unity and multi-racial togetherness that is unique to Singapore. It is this unity and togetherness that will help us overcome our challenges in the future.

R DIYA

4 GRATITUDE

Marymount convent school

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. Inez Chai, a Secondary 2 student from CHIJ St Nicholas Girls School's attest to this experience in her submission, "I could feel (grandmother's) excitement when she shared with me the games she played with her friends. Five stones were her favourite. I was very interested and asked if she could teach me. She made a set of five stones two days later, by wrapping some uncooked rice inside fabric from old jeans. Then, she demonstrated how to play the game. I was pretty amazed and had fun playing this game with my grandmother. This activity has helped my relationship with my grandmother to become closer, and most importantly, I learnt that my grandmother was right. Phones are not our everything. Therefore, I strongly encourage everyone to take some time to discover new things to do.

I chose the topic "Hobby" almost without hesitation because my grandmother always nags at me when she sees me playing my phone. She will then recall the days when she was still young, saying how fun and meaningful days were without mobile phones. Therefore, this sparked my interest in knowing what she used to do for fun when she was young.

I could feel her excitement when she shared with me the games she played with her friends. Five stones was her favourite. I was very interested and asked if she could teach me. Two days later, she took the five stones she made, using a piece of fabric from an old jeans to wrap some rice inside. Then, she demonstrated how to play the game. I was quite amazed and had fun playing this game with my grandmother. This tightened my relationship with my grandmother and most importantly, I learnt that my grandmother was right, phones are not our everything.

Therefore, I strongly encourage everyone to take some time to discover new things to do. Especially during these days with Covid-19, it is a good opportunity to bond with your families by doing things together, instead of playing phones in your own rooms. With my artwork, I want to tell Singaporeans happiness can be brought by playing simple games with your loved ones.

However, it is such a pity that many Singaporeans are spending more time with their phones rather than their loved ones even when they are staying together.

I hope that Singaporeans, regardless of race or background, can live happily together, and I believe all it takes is some respect towards the people around you. Chatting with my grandmother has definitely brought me many benefits. Now, I picked up a new skill, playing five stones!

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9 Tan Shi Yuan Shermaine, a Secondary 4 student from Juying Secondary School attest to this experience in her submission, “My grandmother painstakingly brought up my parents by working very hard and saving all her hard-earned money for her children. My grandmother taught me many important values. In life, hard work is important. I have also learnt from my grandmother that regardless of the job we do, we can all have a dream and play a useful role in society. I will work hard to achieve (my dream), and play my part for Singapore, just like my grandmother did



(Everyone, regardless of occupation, can have a part to play in society.

This artwork features a younger self of my grandmother who had many dreams when she was young, but she is a cleaner now.

Despite being a cleaner, my grandmother painstakingly brought up my parent by working very hard and saving all her hard earned money for her children.

My grandmother taught me many important values. In life, hard work is important. No one owes us a living and we must work hard for ourselves and our loved ones. I have also learnt from my grandmother that regardless of the job we do, we can all have a dream and play a useful role in society. Just like during Covid-19, all the cleaners in Singapore played an essential role in keeping our environment clean and safe.

I coloured the background black to show the societal perception that being a cleaner is a dirty and undesirable. However, the bright and vivid colours represent the happiness and hope that my grandmother has given me.

While she can only hope and dream about fulfilling her dreams now, she has inspired and encouraged me to fight for mine, and I hope to achieve my dream for the sake of my grandmother. I want to help her to live her unfulfilled dream. I will work hard to achieve mine and play my part for Singapore, just like my grandmother did!

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“My grandmother and I have not always had the closest relationship. As we are generations apart, I did not think I would be able to relate to anything she used to do at my age,” shares Abby, a secondary 3 student from Yishun Secondary School. “However, after asking her all these questions, I felt like I had gotten closer to her and I finally understood what she had to go through and how different our lives growing up were. I feel like now I can relate to her better. After reflection, I know I should spend more time with her and I know I have more opportunities than she did, so I will make the most of them and pursue my dreams.”

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S MATTHEA ABBY Yishun sec

My grandmother and I have not always had the closest relationship. During family gatherings, we would not talk much as we never had anything in common to relate to. To get to know her more, I asked her what her favourite hobby was when she was my age. As we are generations apart, I did not think I would be able to relate to anything she used to do at my age. However, I was shocked when I learned about her.

She told me that when she was growing up, she had no access to technology so, she had to rely on the outside world to entertain herself which is very difficult compared to now. Technology can be found everywhere we look now. She added by telling me that every day after school, she would play sports with her friends. She told that she enjoyed playing sports very much and even thought about pursuing being an athlete. However, growing up she was not very well off so she knew there was no way of pursuing her dreams. When I heard this, I was heartbroken for her. I wish she could have pursued her dreams. I believe that she could have been an amazing athlete. After hearing what she said, I finally understood how different the ways we grew up are.

Another question I asked her was what her hobby is now. To that, she replied that since she never grew with easy access to technology, she never knew how to use it. I have tried time and time again to teach her how to use her handphone but she has just never caught on. And since she does not use technology, she has to find other hobbies to entertain herself. She has recently picked up a hobby that keeps her occupied for hours, which is knitting. I love seeing her spend her time knitting and putting her heart and soul into every piece of clothing she knits. Recently, she has been knitting clothes to give to my family as gifts during family reunions. For my recent family reunion, she knit me an amazing jacket and I knew she had spent a very long time making it for me and had used up a lot of effort to surprise me with it. When I received her gift, I felt very touched as I knew she spent a lot of effort on it and I made sure she knew that I appreciated it very much.

After asking her all these questions, I felt like I had gotten closer to her and I finally understood what she had to go through and how different our lives growing up were. I feel like now I can relate to her better. After reflection, I know I should spend more time with her and I know I have more opportunities than she does so I will make the most of them and pursue my dreams.

About sg

My Dream for Singapore

- (a) What is your dream for Singapore? What can and will you do to make this dream come true?
(b) What is the message you have for Singaporeans to rally support for your dream?

Pri

Lim Yann Wen (6 Compassion)

Marymount Convent School

I spoke with my grandfather and understood more about him. I chose this story as it tells us that the elderly have a lot of wonderful memories about the unknown past. I now know him better and our bonds are deeper, stronger and tighter. Since the past, Singapore relies more on technology and has made great advancements. There are air-conditioners, trains, computers, even our classroom whiteboards have changed! So much has changed and the elderly are still trying to adapt to all of this futuristic life we lead. Learning about the amazing perseverance and gratitude of the past, I would like to inspire Singaporeans to persevere and reach their dreams. Learning more about my grandfather was amazing! I knew about traditional games like five stones, pick up sticks and more, but never knew about bola tin or my grandfather's self-created games! He was hardworking and achieved his aspirations and told me about the great Chinese New Year celebrations... I certainly enjoyed this experience and would like to do it again!

Pri



My dream for Singapore is for Singapore to be cleaner. Although Singapore is known for being clean, however, there are still people who are inconsiderate and litter. As I walked around Singapore, I still see litters on the street. I can do my part by picking up litters and throwing them away to avoid having insects. I can also encourage or remind people to be considerate and throw their trash into the bin. I hope that there will be a heavier consequence for those who litter.

My message to Singaporeans is: Be considerate and pick up your trash, it wouldn't hurt. If everyone is considerate, then Singapore can become a truly clean and green countr

2023 pri-sped artist statement_Wellington Primary School.pptx

Clarisher Ang 5Enthusiasm

pri



My artwork shows a Malay Attap house found in the old kampongs. I am interested in the building structure of such houses and was inspired by the last kampong in Singapore, Kampong Lorong Buangkok. I hope that we are able to preserve the last kampong allowing it to be part of our future developments.

My vision for Singapore is for it to be a safe, clean and environmentally friendly country. I pledge to be socially responsible and keep Singapore a clean and green country. There is only one Singapore, so let us all play our part to make it a better place.

My artwork shows a Malay Attap house found in the old kampongs. I am interested in the building structure of such houses and was inspired by the last kampong in Singapore, Kampong Lorong Buangkok. I hope that we are able to preserve the last kampong allowing it to be part of our future developments.

Paya lebar Methodist girls school (pri)

Grace Julius 4 Joy

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My dream for Singapore is that I hope Singapore can be a country where no one would be judged for their ideas, their passion, and I also hope that a Singapore can be a positive community where citizens are not afraid to be themselves.

I pledge to try and support everyone's passion and dreams and not judge anyone for who they are.

My message is that everyone can achieve their passion as long as they work for it and believe in themselves.

Nan Hua High School OurHeartForSG Artworks

Wong Yen Chen Trixie

S1-02

CELEBRATIONS

Pri

Natalie Chay Yun Xi

5D , NANHUA PRI SCHOOL

As a catholic preacher, my grandmother did not earn much money. Back then, during Chinese New Year, their family of four shared a fish for dinner. Birthdays were hardly ever celebrated. I was stunned to hear this, and I realised how much I had to be grateful for.

Despite being impoverished, my grandmother explained that she was satisfied as long as they had food on their plate. I could barely believe her when she said that the only snack she had in her childhood was marie biscuits. Up until now, the plain biscuit is still one of her favorites, currently neck-to-neck with my grandmothers' new discovery, Julie's peanut butter sandwich biscuits.

I have learnt that no matter how bad things seem to be, we should always count our blessings and be thankful for what we have.

In my eyes, my grandmother is my sole hero. I will always look up to her as she taught me the importance of being grateful.

We should all appreciate our seniors as they have all contributed to where we are today. I hope that our generation will also strive to be the best version of themselves and continue to play a part in building our future.

Sec

– nan hua high school Zelia Wang Xin Le

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“Hi grandma, may i know how you celebrated festivities in the past?”

“Back in my days, there was no such thing as video calls, and it was difficult for us to go back to China to visit our relatives...” my grandmother replied. Many years ago, people celebrated festivities by coming together as a kampong spirit. “I vividly remember playing with fire crackers as well as lanterns hanging around the kampong”. Festivities today have changed drastically. During Chinese New Year in the past, people gathered to celebrate together, and engage in activities such as paper crafts together. Due to Singapore’s racially diverse population, people often celebrated the different traditions together.

“My mother used to sew cheong sams for us”. Many were not as wealthy to afford traditional costumes from shops and had to have it handmade. “During Christmas, there was no gift exchange. Even now, when I visit some local shops, it brings back nostalgic memories of when I used to celebrate Hari Raya with my close friends, which helped me learn more about a different culture.”

I was amused by the sharing from my grandmother, it is through meaningful conversations with the elderly that we learn more about lives in the past. Just like the majority of the population in Singapore, my grandmother and my family celebrates Chinese New Year which is the beginning of a new year in the lunar calendar. My family likes welcoming the new year by doing spring cleaning, and it is definitely satisfactory to see the house sparkling clean and ready for visitors, also known as “Bai Nian”.

Through interviewing my grandmother, I realised how grateful she is for the things around her. Even though there wasn’t much, and she was still staying in kampongs, that did not let her spirit down as she still had a thrilling time despite the simple celebrations. I learnt to be thankful for how fortunate I am to be celebrating festivities in a modern day society. It is hard to even think how people in the past managed to enjoy such simple lives.

Many years have passed and Singapore has grown into a stronger nation. Despite the kampong spirit present in the past, there were still racial riots and social unrest. In present days, Singapore is a multicultural society and citizens are more understanding towards the races, cultures and religions as compared to the past. There has been significant reduction in prejudice. However, Singapore is still emerging stronger, and is still constantly undergoing changes.

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Sharmaine Sim (31)

5 Humility

- (a) I spoke to my grandmother and found out that my life is definitely better than my grandmother when she was at my age. As my grandmother was not well-off, the family could not celebrate festivities in a luxurious way. It was a small affair and celebration was with her mother and her sister only. Although they did not have grand feasting, they enjoyed every second of it. My grandmother would eat sambal petai with anchovies and sambal chicken feet. As I have observed, she loves eating spicy foods as she grew up eating it. No wonder she cooks spicy dishes often.
- (b) Even though my life in the present is comfortable, I learnt that I should be grateful and thankful to have the life I am enjoying now. As I reflect on my grandmother's past, I realised that it is being with the loved ones that matters most. Singapore has definitely changed for the better, however traditions, culture and certain places in Singapore still reminds me of Singapore in the past and that holds dearly in my heart. As we move forward into the future especially after Covid 19, I hope that Singaporeans will continue to come together to face the challenges and to prevent a breakout of a Covid wave. I hope that we don't have to wear face masks for a long period as it means that a disease has broken out. If there are activities in school that allow me to play a part, I would put my best effort while carrying out the activities. My message would be 'Onward Singapore, We can do it as a strong united nation'. If we do not do as well today, we can do better tomorrow. If I have the opportunity to take tourists around Singapore, I would take them to Marina Bay Sands, the Merlion spurting water as it represents our country as a fishing village once upon a time, famously known as Temasek, translated to lake. I am sure that after a day of travel around Singapore's most popular areas, the tourist would be hungry and they can enjoy my recommendations. As a foodie, I would recommend laksa, mee hoon kueh, chicken rice and many other local dishes.

Pri

Canossa Catholic Primary School Huang Ka Yi Chloe 5 Piety A Walk

Down Memory Lane

Meet Mr Francisco Vera, a vibrant individual who has called Yishun his home since young. He loves Yishun for the people whom he says are very respectful of one another and for the convenient amenities. From my conversation with Uncle Francisco, the Assistant Station Manager of the Potong Pasir MRT station, I gleaned much insight into what it was like growing up as a Singaporean. Throughout his life, he has embraced two passions that have shaped his character and brought joy to his days: his early days of playing basketball with his friends to the present and his current passion of cycling with his family at East Coast Park, enjoying the sunsets with his family. He described such magnificent sunsets with such vividness that I could actually envision them.

The place which he has the fondest memories of is Botanic Garden, now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Uncle Francisco and his parents went there for his tenth birthday to take in the greenery together as a family. The sprawling gardens with lush flora and fauna made for a beautiful and relaxing day with his loved ones. It was a day that Uncle Francisco cherishes and is thankful for, as he was able to celebrate his birthday with his parents. When asked about the name of a place he knows the origins of, Uncle Francisco smiled and shared the story of Dhoby Ghaut. He revealed that there were once Indian washermen who would wash their clothes in the stream known as Sungei Brass Bassa. The area was subsequently named Dhoby Ghaut after this activity, as *dhoby* means washerman in Hindi, while *ghaut* or *ghatin* in Hindi refers to the area along a riverbank used for bathing or washing.

I have always been told to appreciate what I have, but Uncle Francisco opened my eyes, showing me what being grateful looks like, sounds like, and feels like. When I was interviewing him, I never once heard him mention anything about watching television or playing mobile games, so life was different back then when he was younger as technology was not so advanced. He was most content being out in nature settings.

Uncle Francisco mentioned respect and this is so important today. Singapore has worked hard to maintain racial harmony so that we have a loving home to live in. My dream is for Singapore to prosper and remain a safe and wonderful country for its people. I pledge to stand up for what is right and remain a kind person who helps those in need. I wish for all Singaporeans to stand up for those in need, and stay united.

Singapore is well-known for her hawker food. My personal favourite is laksa – a dish with white noodles in spicy coconut infused gravy. I would recommend laksa to tourists who love spicy food, and chicken rice for tourists who have a low spice tolerance. As for a special place in Singapore, I would recommend going to Marina Bay Sands. The light show is really calming and fun to watch.

Truly, Singapore is home to the fond, precious memories of many like Uncle Francisco Vera.

Food/snacks pri



Name: Ilhan Aqiel Mohammed Heirman (5D)

School: Park View Primary School

Rica Zou Jiatong

P4 Integrity

The main part of the picture is my grandma, so she stands in front of the whole artwork. The background is the iconic vortex from Changi Airport in Singapore.

I learnt that her hobby is reading, I didn't know that before. I learnt the value of gratitude as I am grateful to have this time to spend time with my family and get to know her better. Singapore has changed in so many ways. Since its independence, Singapore residents no longer live in kampongs. They live in the flats that we can see everywhere around Singapore.

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My grandmother smiles at me as I sit down with her to chat about her favourite food. She loves spending time with me and I love time with her too. From my conversation with her, I realised that my grandmother really loves local food! Her favourite dishes when she was young were steamed promfret fish, *kway teow* noodle soup, fried *kway teow* noodles, and fried carrot cake. Feeling nostalgic, she shared with me that her mother used to make all kinds of delicious food for her meals. Her family's favourite local food was *yong tau foo*, which is a kind of food where you can either enjoy it dry with chilli, or with a soup base. You can choose from a wide range of ingredients such as cabbage, ladyfinger, tomato, meatballs, bittergourd stuffed with fish paste, and much more.

For dessert, grandmother loved iceball dessert which is crushed ice shaped in balls and seasoned with sweet syrup. When I eagerly told her that I would like to try it, she shook her head and told me that unfortunately, it is not commonly sold in stalls anymore. One could commonly find a push cart on the streets with an Indian man selling iceballs back in the 1950s to 1960s, but the number of iceball stalls has dropped to nearly zero. She suggested that I try ice kacang instead and promised to bring me to the nearby food court.

In my personal experience, I find local food quite enjoyable as it is delicious and can be quickly prepared. My family's favourite local food is chicken rice as we find the chicken moist and the chicken rice fragrant and tasty.

Singapore has changed in many ways since then, such as in the surroundings, food, and cultural activities, and much more. This experience conversing with my Grandmother and parents allowed me to learn about my Grandmother's favourite food and about life in Singapore that I did not know before. I also learned the value of gratitude from my Grandmother as she is grateful that she is able to savour many delicious dishes, past and present, because of the peace that Singapore has enjoyed all these years.

My dream for Singapore is for her to be a safe and harmonious country where everyone is friendly and caring. I pledge to show respect to everyone I meet, to make my dreams come true. I wish for all Singaporeans to have the same vision as me – I hope that everybody can work and play in harmony regardless of race, language, or religion.

Canossa Catholic Primary School
Lee Tze Xuen Kaelyn
4 Joy

Sec



Student Name: Iselle Yap Yi Xian School: Hillgrove Secondary School Class: 1-6

Title of Artwork: Chilling in the 1960s When I heard the stories from my grandma, I was inspired to present a portrayal of what rest and relaxation looked like.

An example is when my grandma spoke of hearing stories on the radio or watching television while eating snacks such as Ice Jems and Colorful Kueh. These were presented in my art piece through the Ice Jems, Colorful Kueh and Coffee on the floor with a Radio. As for the Television I drew it in a style similar to the Radio to show the past style. Inside the Television there is an Ang Ku Kueh which I coloured black and white to show that technology was not as advanced as the past but my grandparents still enjoyed their youth thanks to simple things like food or colorless Televisions. There are also two tickets placed beside the Coffee cup to show the way people took transportation in the past and in the tickets there are drinks and foods like Milo, Grass Jelly Milk Tea, Curry Puff and lastly Dao Sa Piah. I drew them inside the tickets hoping that the people viewing my artwork would understand how a bite from these scrumptious delicacies make me feel like I'm in my grandma's shoes. On the walls there are Chinese New Year decorations that remind my grandma about the times she had in the past celebrating a new year, chowing down on the festival delicacies. The bright red in Chinese tradition symbolizes good luck and the words on the decorations such as “福”, “年年有余”, “大吉大利” and “恭喜” are different phrases that mostly symbolizes joy, prosperity and good fortune. Other than the decorations, there are also two photo frames on the wall, one showing Fish Balls and the other showing Ice Jems. I decided to put these foods inside photo frames because I feel that these foods are still very popular now and since photo frames are used to preserve memories in the past, I decided to use the photo frames to show how Singapore preserved these two foods till now. The rest of the elements I used, like the color scheme, were used to help bring out the foods and make it look as appetizing as my grandma said it was. In summary, I hope this art piece inspires

others to preserve their traditional delicacies and culture. Even simple food like Kopi O or Ang Ku Kueh too. I spoke with my Grandma. Something that I didn't know before and learnt from my Grandma through this activity was a kind of fun and relaxation that is different as compared to now. Some values i learnt from my grandma was to be grateful for what I have and respect people's effort to make this world a better place. Singapore's technology and economy are one of the greatest changes between olden Singapore and modern Singapore.

My dream for Singapore is to help Singapore be able to experience the joy and fun through offline activities from the past that brought my elders joy instead of being on our phones all the time. I pledge to try and encourage others to do more offline activities to help this dream come true. I want to share with all Singaporeans that we should imagine the delight on our faces when we forge bonds with others through these games and activities.

An interesting place i would recommend tourists to go to is Jewel. Jewel is a popular place in Singapore with different activities and a huge waterfall with various shops nearby That makes it all very enjoyable. Next, an interesting food i would recommend tourists to try is Chicken Rice. The Chicken Rice in Singapore Hawker Centres or Shopping Malls all have a rich aroma that makes it an enjoyable meal. Furthermore, this is one of the famous foods in Singapore that has been passed down for many generations. Lastly,an activity i would recommend tourists to take part in is Chinese Chess. You may easily find some Chinese Chess Boards embedded onto stone tables in the park where you can see some elders having an intense match of Chinese Chess. Although this game is intense, it is a fun and enjoyable game where you get to relax and play with a friend.

Sec

my artwork is a charcoal painting of a roasted duck. When I asked my grandmother about her favourite foods from her childhood, she told me that she loved roasted duck but she could only eat it on special occasions or the days of goodbye. So I drew a scene of Chinese new year to show that.

I spoke with my grandmother and I learnt that food did not come easy then. I learnt to be grateful for what I have now and understand that I am very fortunate now. Singapore has changed drastically since then as I can get roasted duck on a daily basis if I wanted to and we are more versed in different cuisines now.

My dream for Singapore is to continue to be a peaceful country that is multiracial and multicultural. I hope that Singaporeans continue to be united and help one another.

Tan Jia Xuan

Sec 2G OHFSG 2023 Submissions CHIJ St. Joseph_s Convent

Sec



My artwork is about my neighbour's favourite food during the 1950s to 1960s, Her favourite food was satay with peanut gravy. She stated that everyone would eat their stays seated around a table while sharing a single communal pot of peanut gravy for their satays and this how I imagined them to be. The woman in the middle and the man at the right most corner are both british signifying that Singapore was under the British rule. Their happy faces tell us that they were enjoying each others' company and were delighted to be free from the Japanese rule.

I had interviewed my neighbour and I learnt that she likes to try varieties of food regardless of its ethnicity. Her favourite food back then was Satays dipped with peanut sauce especially from a specific shop that was popular those days. I got to know that she had plenty of friends back in the 1950s to 1960s and loved spending time with them. I learnt to be more open to new things and embrace changes. I also grew more humble and grateful for what I have now as I realized that people back then had faced many difficulties but still strived and stayed happy. Singapore has changed a lot since then, road-side stalls are now replaced with modern infrastructure, and Kampongs are now HDB flats. Singapore's journey since the 1960s is an inspiring tale of progress and development. From being a struggling nation grappling with many challenges to becoming a thriving global city-state admired for its efficiency and innovation, Singapore serves as an example for other nations aspiring to achieve similar success through careful planning, strong leadership, and dedication to progress.

R Dharznah

Sec 2 Faith

CHIJ_St._Joseph_s_

sec



OHFSG 2023 Submissions CHIJ St. Joseph_s Convent Megan Cheng Mei En Sec 2D

You have to understand the past to understand the present. This is why I interview my grandparents, born in the 1950s to 1960s, about their lives back then, as many things have changed since. An example is how my grandparents used to be able to put out firecrackers during Chinese New Year, as it used to be allowed. Putting out firecrackers always sounded fun, and if I had a chance to, I might try it so that I could feel how it felt back in the days. When my grandmother was young, handphones were not invented, hence, she used to spend her time after school playing skipping rope with her friends. It was something she really enjoyed doing as a Primary School student because she felt that it was really fun to play with. She also loves to sew, she learned it from her friend's sister while hanging out at her friend's house. Her ambition when she was younger was to be a fashion designer. She told me she loves sewing because she always has a sense of satisfaction and was glad to see people wearing the beautiful clothes she sewed and liking them; it gives her a sense of pride that she made that piece of clothing. She took sewing as her Secondary CCA to pursue her interest. Personally, I really love the things she sews, such as the pants she sewed for me, it was so comfortable, and the fabrics she uses are always so unique. My grandmother's favourite food is Chee Chong Fun, she used to eat it every morning for breakfast as it used to be cheap and delicious. She also told me that Chee Chong Fun tasted different back then, they used to use red sauce instead of black sauce. A place my grandfather frequently went to was Queen Street, a place named after Queen Victoria. I have learned that my grandfather used to go there frequently to find my grandmother, as she used to live there with her mother, who is my great-grandmother. Hence, it became a place he holds close to his heart, remembering those days when he and my grandmother were still dating. This place is also definitely very significant to my grandmother, as it was where her childhood was and where precious memories still live. Personally, I have been there a few times, and I really love the food there. Hopefully, I get to learn more about the History of this area from my grandparents. My grandfather's hobby is fishing. He enjoys fishing, and started from a young age, after fishing, he would bring what he caught back home. Unfortunately, my grandfather has stopped fishing for a long time, hence, these were happy memories that I have only heard stories of. Sometimes, I wonder how the fish my grandfather caught tasted and if they tasted better and

fresher than the fish sold in the market. Sometimes, I also thought about how nice it would be to bond and spend time together as a family, eating the fish my grandfather had caught. Although there were so many interesting things in the past that I did not get a chance to try, I am still so grateful to have been able to learn about all these amazing memories that my grandparents used to share. Now that I have known the past, I can understand the present.

I spoke with my maternal grandparents and learned more about their youth and life in Singapore back then. Some of these questions I asked them for the essays are questions that we would not really talk about in our daily lives. Hence, through this experience, I really got to know more about my grandparents. For example, I never knew that my grandmother enjoyed playing skipping rope when she was younger, as she has never told me much about her hobbies. I also did not know that my grandmother used to stay in Queen Street and that that was where my grandfather frequently looked for her. Some practices and hobbies that they might used to have might have changed over the years, so I did not know that my grandmother's favourite food is Chee Chong Fun, as she does not eat it every morning for breakfast anymore. I also did not know much about my grandfather's fishing experience, I did not know that he used to bring home the fish he caught. Some values I have learned is to be appreciative, to appreciate what we have now that they did not have when they were young, and the memories we have now as they will turn into History one day. Changes Singapore made is that they have banned firecrackers, some stores have changed the sauce they use in Chee Chong Fun, and handphone has be now invented.

Sec



My name is Natalie Goh and I'm from Beatty Secondary School. My artwork is about the contrast between traditional and trendy sweets. I choose this storyline because I miss the times that I ate the old school snacks with my school mates and I want to revisit those moments. What I have observed in the present times, many people enjoy bubble tea, bubble tea ice cream, gummy bears, chocolates, famous brands snack. While trendy snacks are tasty, old school snacks create simple taste with deep meaning, which brings good old memories for many Singaporean.

Singapore old school snacks were popular during the 70s, 80s and 90s. They were first sold in the mama shops found at shophouses and were a treat to primary school students who are still in their learning years. During my primary school days, when we step into the mama shops, we will look out for simple jellies, flat circular biscuits, fake ice cream snack, white rabbit candies, and ice popsicle that we are excited about sharing! But the trends now are all about bubble teas and different kinds of flavour tapioca pearls. There were times I find it hard to find the old school snacks that I am craving for in some mama shops. Branded snacks become more easily found as they are usually placed at the entrance shelves.

In this artwork, the old school snacks were filled with colours to show my excitement when I have them again, in contrast with the black and white mono-tone trendy snacks in the background. This idea is to show the public that old school snacks may not be as popular now but they are the 'growing up' snacks for Singaporeans as they can be found in the mama shop around the neighbourhood.

My vision for Singapore is to have a futuristic Singapore but also preserve the traditions and cultures. We should continue to preserve and support traditional food so that the familiar with rich taste can continue to be passed on for many generations. I hope my artwork brings fond memories to people when they recall what they used to have in the past and want to bring it back again.

In light of the Covid-19 situation, I hope our country keeps going no matter what, and that the people will continue to stay safe, stay at home and most impo Full Name: Natalie Goh Jia Min
Class: 2N2

Title of the work: "Sweet" Memories

stantly never lose hope.

Sec

The artwork is laksa, with prawns, bean sprouts and fish cake slices. I tried my best to draw a 'traditional'

laksa, with nothing too fancy, but something simple. I used colour contrasts in the prawn which i am proud of

as the combination of white and orange-red gives the artwork more vibrancy and life.

I interviewed my friend's grandfather through call. Back in the 1960s, when he was about 13 years old, his favourite food was laksa. Not just the laksa you could find at a stall, but the laksa that his mother would make. Laksa was his comfort food. The aroma of laksa brings him back to his nostalgic childhood. To this day, the laksa anywhere else, will never taste the same as his mother's. He also often snacked on iced gems with his friends at the playground which he would purchase from the 'mama' shop at the void deck. From this

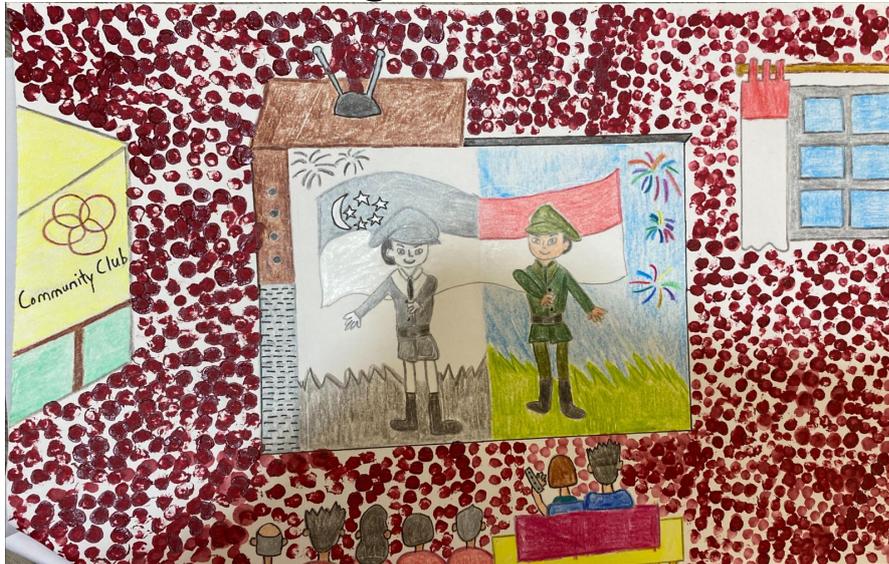
interview, I learnt the value of gratitude. Being grateful for the things I have now, and for my childhood and my parents. To cherish these memories and hold them close to my heart, so that every now and then, I too can experience that nostalgia when I grow older.

JESSICA ALYSIA ZAINAL

Sec 2E

2023_Sec_artiststatement_CHIJ_St._Joseph_s_Convent

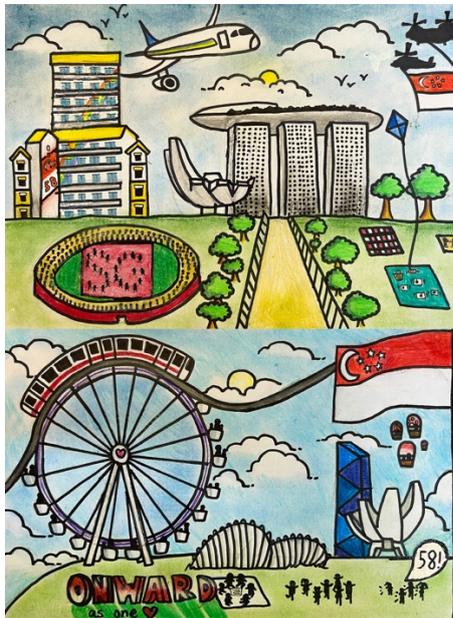
Hobby pri/ sec



From my Grandmother, I have learnt that there was no coloured television in the past. The shows were in black and white. Grandmother said no matter how beautiful the makeup was, it was still black and white. As not many people could afford a television at home, they had to go to a Community Club to watch the television programmes and they could not choose to watch the shows they wanted.

I feel that we are so lucky to be able to watch television programmes in the comfort of our cosy homes whilst lounging on a huge, comfy sofa. We can use a remote control to choose the shows that we would like to watch. Everything is in colour, no longer black and white. I wish to tell all Singaporeans that we should always be grateful for what we have. We are so much luckier as compared to the people in the past. Cherish everything and everyone around you.

Pri



I talked to my grandmother, and I found out that Singapore was a small fishing village in the past. She shared the joys of communal living and how everyone does things together. My grandmother enjoyed fishing with her close friends as they treated one another like family. At times, the fishes that she had caught also became part of our dinner. Listening to these stories makes me grateful of current times and how food is readily available. I have newfound respect to how my grandmother have lived through these years and how Singapore has transformed from an island with many villages to a beautiful city in a garden.

Chong Xin Tong

4E

2023-pri-sped-artist-statement Woodgrove Primary School

Sec



I spoke with my grandmother. I focused on this story as it was much more interesting and my grandmother seemed like she truly missed the village life the most. Seeing her reminisce about her childhood and youth made me appreciate what I have now, so I decided to focus on this story so that I can create something that would make her think of the good memories when she sees the art.

Often, we see our elders as just elders, and forget that they too, were once kids. Talking to my grandmother about this truly made me remember that she was once young like me, and that she is young at heart.

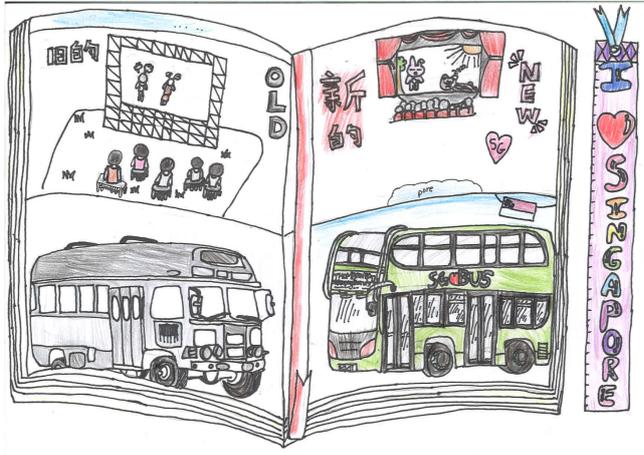
I learnt that the life 60 years ago is extremely different from the life we lead now. We should be grateful for what we have and how much the country has developed.

My dream for Singapore is that Singapore becomes a 100% inclusive country, Be it race, religion or sexual identity. I am unable to do things on a large scale, but I will show my support by donating to charities that help with these causes, and by attending events that raise awareness. I will also educate those that are uneducated and insensitive about these topics, in hopes that I can change their mindset.

Alone, we might not be able to achieve much, but if we all do our part and work together, we can achieve great things.

Bukit Panjang Govt High School 401 CHIN ZI XI, KENISHA

Pri



I spoke with a senior in my church. She told me that during her childhood years, there were open-air cinemas and the tickets cost ten cents only. However, the audience needed to bring their own stool to watch the film. She also shared that she attended her primary and secondary schools at Queenstown and so happen these schools are located in my neighbourhood. She said that the buses were always packed with passengers and sometimes she even had to stand on the first step of the bus entrance. It was a scary experience for her as she had to grasp her school bag tightly as the bus sped off. From her conversation, I learnt that things that seem to be impossible now were possible at that time due to the limited resources and facilities. Hence, I created my artwork to encourage Singaporeans not to give up easily but to follow what those people did in the past to persevere and think out of the box. In those days, Singapore's cinemas were not air-conditioned with no seats or shelter and the cinemas depend on the weather condition for its operation. However, we have indoor cinemas with fully air-conditioned and comfortable ascending chairs that we could enjoy the movies in Singapore at present. My dream for Singapore is that people do not make their lives too complicated with the obsession of materialistic things, but to be liked those people in the past living a simple and yet happy life. I pledge to be contented with what I have and only get what I need instead of what I want. I would like to tell all Singaporeans to be grateful for what we have and help one another to overcome the difficulties.

Talitha Koh Shun Nah (3 Integrity)

Marymount Convent School

pri



Name: Ayra Aqueenza Binte Rosli (5A)
School: Park View Primary School

The Singapore we know now is a nation that is advanced with efficient transportation system. When I asked my maternal grandmother about Singapore's 'kampong' days, it was vastly different .

She told me that she would meet her friends living in the same kampong to play traditional games. As there was no television in many homes, villagers would gather at houses, usually those who were rich enough to buy a TV. They would stand outside the window to watch the TV programme.

Now, every household has at least one bathroom. In the past, all the villagers had to take turn to go to the toilet. There was no flushing system so all the waste would go into a wooden bucket which would only be emptied the next morning. I am thankful that I have an easier life than my grandparents. We should be appreciative of what we have now.

I hope the people will live in harmony and Singapore continues to be riot-free. I also wish that we can find a cure for dengue, cancer and other deadly diseases. I hope people with disabilities will live comfortably and they get to find jobs to be financially independent.

Ayra Aisya Binte Nazrul

5R1

Park view primary

Sec

I spoke with my maternal grandparents and learned more about their youth and life in Singapore back then. Some of these questions I asked them for the essays are questions that we would not really talk about in our daily lives. Hence, through this experience, I really got to know more about my grandparents. For example, I never knew that my grandmother enjoyed playing skipping rope when she was younger, as she has never told me much about her hobbies. I also did not know that my grandmother used to stay in Queen Street and that that was where my grandfather frequently looked for her. Some practices and hobbies that they might used to have might have changed over the years, so I did not know that my grandmother's favourite food is Chee Chong Fun, as she does not eat it every morning for breakfast anymore. I also did not know much about my grandfather's fishing experience, I did not know that he used to bring home the fish he caught. Some values I have learned is to be appreciative, to appreciate what we have now that they did not have when they were young, and the memories we have now as they will turn into History one day. Changes Singapore made is that they have banned firecrackers, some stores have changed the sauce they use in Chee Chong Fun, and handphone has be now invented.

OHFSG 2023 Submissions CHIJ St. Joseph_s Convent

Megan Cheng Mei En

Sec 2D

Sec



6b-2023-sec-artist-statement_Hougang_Secondary

Ting Xian Ya and Raine Sim

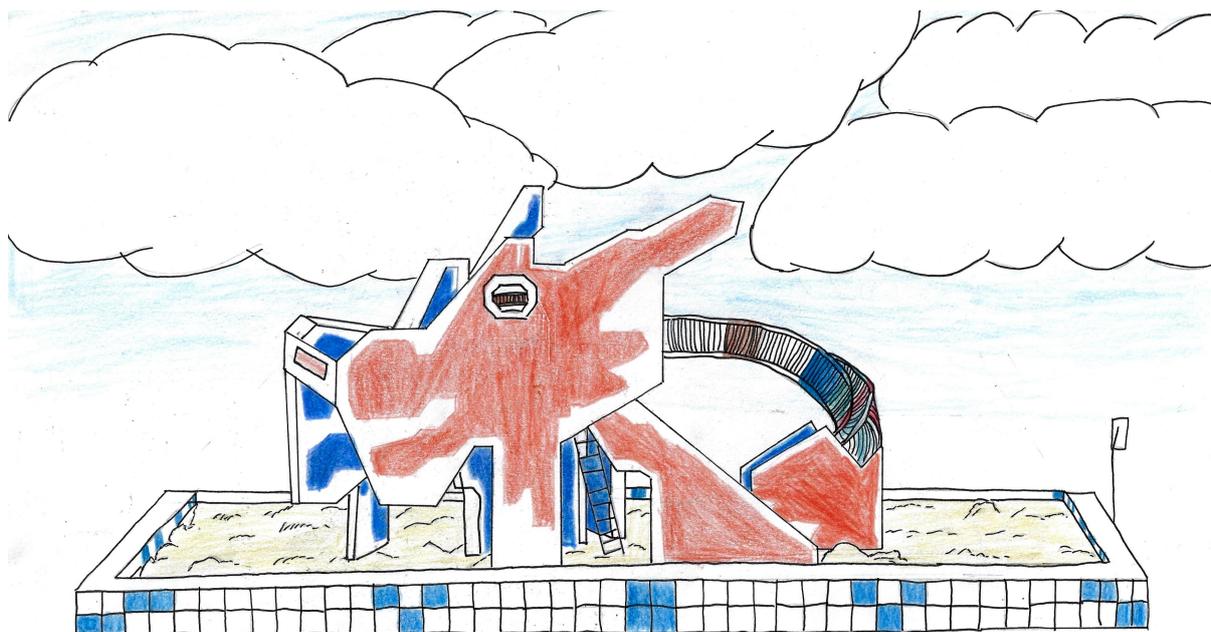
3O and 3E

Our artwork is inspired by the recent Racial Harmony Day (RHD) celebration that happens in school every year. We played the different traditional games in the past like the '5 stones' and 'pick-up-sticks' and got to know about the different types of weddings and funerals so that in the future younger people would still be able to pass on these games to different generations. These are also some games that the elderly enjoy playing in the past with their friends, and they enjoy eating foods like pineapple tarts, tutu kueh and iced gem biscuits.

We interviewed the elderly at Ren Ci Nursing Home for our VIA on 30 June 2023 and we also interviewed our own grandparents to ask them what are their favourite past food and games. We learnt about many different past foods that the elderly and our grandparents used to eat and the different games that they played. Instead of being greedy and asking for more luxury things from our family, we now understand how hard our parents have to work to provide us with the things we need. We learnt from the elderly and our grandparents that we should not be asking our parents for too much as they are trying their best to provide for us and we should be grateful for what we have now, like having food on the table every day, a roof over our head, and clothes on our back. Now with inflation, our parents would be working extra hard to try and earn more income for the family.

Ambition / job

sec



Constance Sim (5)
1C

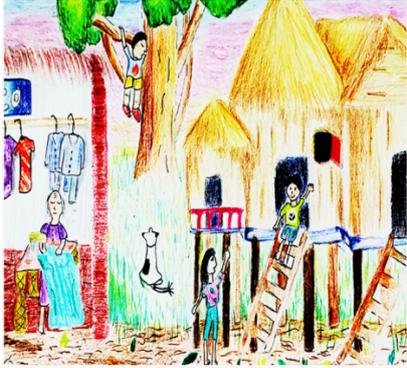
I chose to focus on my grandmother's education. My grandmother's family was not well-off, and she was one of seven siblings who attended English classes and school. During her time, it was already considered good if people could make it to secondary school. I have learnt that I should be grateful that I can attend school without any difficulty, unlike my grandmother who could barely afford her education fees.

Singapore has changed over the span of 4-5 decades, and I have learnt that I should be grateful that I can go to school easily, and that I should treasure the things and people around me.

CHIJ ST TERESA'S CONVENT

Constance Sim (Class 1C)

Pri



Name: Leanne Lam

Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)

My grandmother was born in the 1930s and her parents ran a tailor shop of which she would help out occasionally. In the picture shows my grandmother and her siblings playing and having fun during their childhood days. These memories are memorable for my grandmother and hearing these stories, I could feel her joy and fondness of the past. As I see my grandmother age, I reflected on life and know that our grandparents cannot be with us forever. Life is short. So, let us remember to treasure our loved ones and spend more quality time with them.

My vision for Singapore is to have a society that cares for one another; that fellow Singaporeans spend more time with their family, especially the elderly. Unlike the carefree days of the past, Singaporeans are very busy at school and at work. Not only that, we are also pre-occupied in this digital age with gadgets and our social lives. Unlike the kampong days in the past which my grandma shared about, people these days are glued to their gadgets and communicate not by speaking, but by typing. With this, we may lose the human connection and the quality time to sit talk and speak.

I hope that we can take greater effort to set aside quality time and spend it with our family and loved ones, and I believe this starts with me. I pledge to take a greater conscious effort to chit-chat with my grandparents and share their interesting stories with my friends so that they too, will want to learn something about Singapore's history!

My grandmother lived in Bugis when she was young. It was very different then, and many families lived in Kampongs. She told me that when she was bored, she and her other siblings would go outside and climb trees for entertainment. As her parents ran a tailor shop, she said that during those days, it is more common to have tailor-made clothes especially for occasions like Chinese New Year, Hari Raya and Deepavali. This is because big shopping malls did not exist and choices for ready-to-wear clothes are limited. It is also cheaper to tailor as the customers can bring their own yards of cloth to the shop! This way of life is very different from today where it is more convenient and sometimes cheaper to purchase clothes from the shopping malls.

Pri



When my senior was a young boy, he distributed newspapers to people to earn extra cash, and he would do so while riding a bicycle. Although it was a fond memory, it can be very tiring, especially when riding uphill. He also enjoyed occasional treats to the theatre. The movies were black and white then and the early cinemas had no air-condition. I cannot imagine how stuffy that would be!

Singapore has come a long way since then. We now get to stay in a clean environment, with an efficient transport system and great conveniences enabled by technological advancements. All these would not have been possible without the hard work put in by our forefathers years ago. However, as we reap the benefits of what our forefathers have toiled for, we must be grateful and also remind ourselves not to be complacent.

Lua En Qi, Celine, Eunus Primary School, P5 Resilience telok kurau primary

Sec

Lee Jing Xuan, 1E2
Juying Secondary School

I wanted to focus on the hard efforts of the people from the past. I asked my mother about this competition and she mentioned that her grandmother was once a Samsui Woman who had to work for long hours. Therefore, to bring her achievements to light, I decided to emphasise this in my artwork. When textbooks mention that Samsui women worked hard, I didn't know the level of intensity of it. But after hearing of my grandmother's story, she commented on having to work multiple night shifts just to get paid enough to make ends meet.

I want to encourage Singaporeans to strive and put in their best effort as we cannot take our nation's peace for granted. Back then, Singapore didn't have many good job opportunities that pay a good sum of money, but now, we spend money like it grows on trees. I hope Singaporeans can soon realise that and only buy what they need. My dream for Singapore is to have a more multicultural community. Even now, racist jokes are being made casually by so many. I hope that we can achieve complete peace, with no minority or majority voices and everyone can have an equal say in opportunities and events. Watch what you say, don't say something that you might regret later in future. Samsui Women wore red hats as they were eye catching and would reduce incidents that happened at construction sites they were working in.

pri



In the past, my grandfather did not have much money and he walked a long way from home to school and back again each day. He lived in a village and life was very different from the modern and well-connected neighbourhoods that we have now.

The Pioneer generation has persevered through hard times. With courage and resilience, they built the modern city we are proud to call home today. I am grateful for my grandparents. Without them, Singapore will not be what it is now.

boon lay garden pri

CHONG KAI LE KYRA of Class 6/2A

Sec



Full Name: Tan Xuan En, Clarissa VClass: 2E4 Title of the work: The Timelapse

My name is Clarissa Tan and I'm from Beatty Secondary School. My mother used to work at the General Post and she said it was a very busy postal service. The General post office was later converted into the current Fullerton Hotel. The building with its colonial architectural design was returned to its full glory that lasted for two years. The Fullerton building with its grand architecture one of Singapore's national movement inspired me to create this artwork.

I used warm colours such as yellow, orange and red to represent the feelings I have when I first visited the building. The black and white tones, fading into colours represent the idea of the present and the future, that the building has witnessed over the many decades.

Postal services were introduced in Singapore in the early 19th century after Singapore was founded by Sir Stamford Raffles. In the past, the postal delivery services such as bullock cart, horse carriage or on foot were not allowed in the town area. During the year 1819 and 1858, people in Singapore have to go to the General Post Office to hand in their letters for posting. There were also no stamps during that period but a register was kept of all the letters received at the post office and the names of sailing ships on which they were carried. Now there were posting boxes available in the town area to post letters, which will then be collected by the postman. The horse-drawn mail coaches were also then replaced by vans in 1914 as the mail traffic increased rapidly. It is very convenient for the people now as there are Self-service Automated Machines (SAMs) everywhere in Singapore to allow people to buy stamps, top-ups, pay bills, fines or even weigh packages.

My vision for Singapore is to preserve the old infrastructure so that our future generation will have a chance to look at it in real life but not from a picture. I would post it on a social media platform to pass the message about the importance of preserving the old infrastructure in Singapore.

My message to Singapore: Despite the COVID-19 is still ongoing, we must continue to stay positive no matter what happens and remember, it is never too late to fight against the virus. Most importantly, we should stay together as one.

sec

Ng Kai Jun (Dunman Secondary School) 2B

The person that I have decided to interview was my maternal grandmother. My grandmother has much resilience and is an extremely strong person. She rarely gives up when she has an issue with something and will find a solution no matter what, and she will sometimes do it without anybody's help as she does not want to bother anyone in the family.

After interviewing my grandmother, I have found out many things about her and her life story. One of them being that she used to work at a coffee shop in Singapore. This fact especially shocked me as I was not told about this despite taking care of me for years.

In the year 1993, my grandmother came to Singapore with my mother from Malaysia to find work to support my mother's four brothers at home as they needed money to support the family and pay the student fees. Since my grandmother did not have much experience with the higher paying jobs in Singapore back then she decided to work in a coffee shop that was hiring.

Even though my grandmother worked in a coffee shop, she wanted to do something different like owning a cafe shop instead of working in one. My grandmother was very passionate about cooking. Whenever my family goes and visits her, she will always be a specially prepared vegetarian. n food for us. I was also inspired by my grandmother's resilience to achieve her dreams; she would sometimes stay up late when everyone was sleeping and experiment on different recipes. If the recipes are successful, she will write them down into a book. In this book that she kept for years has more than a hundred recipes that my grandmother handwritten with passion to achieve her dreams.

The coffee shop that my grandmother worked at was a somewhat small coffee shop. It sells a wide variety of different types of coffee, bread and set meals. The coffee shop usually gets extremely crowded during the lunch hours and the after-work hours, this caused my grandmother to overwork and sometimes come home late.

However, my grandmother told me that she enjoyed her time there and was highly grateful that her boss had hired her for the job at the coffee shop. While working there my grandmother developed some dislikes. Firstly, there were a few occurrences where some customers were being very troublesome as they would complain about my grandmother "messing up" the food. This made my grandmother very self cautious about everything she did due to not wanting to get fired for no reason. Secondly, the work schedule my grandmother has to follow was packed to the fullest. My grandmother did not have much breaks and did not have time to come back to Malaysia to see her family at home. Nonetheless, there were some things

my grandmother looked forward to. Seeing the happy faces of the customers she served made her happy like a dog with two tails, she even made some friends with the customers as it gets lonely when there is no one in the shop she will look forward to her friends coming. They would always have coffee and chat together whenever they have the free time. My grandmother's boss was also there for my grandmother, she helped her to be able to rent a house to live in for the time being. Not only they too started to become best friends

After a year or two my grandmother moved back to Malaysia. Even though she lives in Malaysia now, she would always suggest coming to Singapore for a vacation. I know that she has many memories about working in Singapore, no matter if it was a bad or a good memory she will still smile when she talks about it.

All in all, I am grateful that I have taken up this creative writing competition and was able to interview my maternal grandmother. Before this I did not think that I would be interviewing my grandmother but now I think it was worth it as I get to learn more about her. Although I interviewed her through a phone, I was heavily inspired by her story as it taught me to be grateful of what I have now and to face my challenges with determination and with great resilience. I hope when I grow up I would be able to bring her to Singapore again.

Sped



Tan Yuan Jie Ivan Sec 3/2

Apsn katong

This drawing reflects how resilience and family support have inspired the artist to cherish and celebrate meaningful moments together. The depiction of a Chinese New Year reunion dinner of the artist, his parents and his grandparents holding hands further strengthens the bond and unity that the artist has with his family.

The Singapore National flag in a heart shape symbolises his grandfather's contribution to the prosperity of Singapore as a hotel chef and his love for the family.

My grandfather, Andrew, had a childhood dream to be a doctor. However, the family could not afford the education as they were poor. Instead of feeling helpless about his situation, he worked hard to be successful and to create a better future for himself.

Through his determination and grit, he worked his way in the kitchen as an assistant till he became a chef at a hotel. I am grateful to my grandfather as his hard work created a better future for his family. I cannot imagine the strength that my grandfather had. He is an inspiration to me.

My dream for Singapore is that we can be kind to each other, no matter young or old. I will make this dream come true, starting with myself, as kindness pays forward.

places pri/ sec

I chose to focus on places/activities as I felt that it would give me more insight on the living conditions in the past. I spoke with my Grandma who is 80. I learnt that life for her was tough back then, since she was the oldest child, she had to take care of her siblings in the day and go to school at night.

I learnt that I should be grateful for the things as simple as shelter, food and water and not take them for granted as those were luxuries in the past

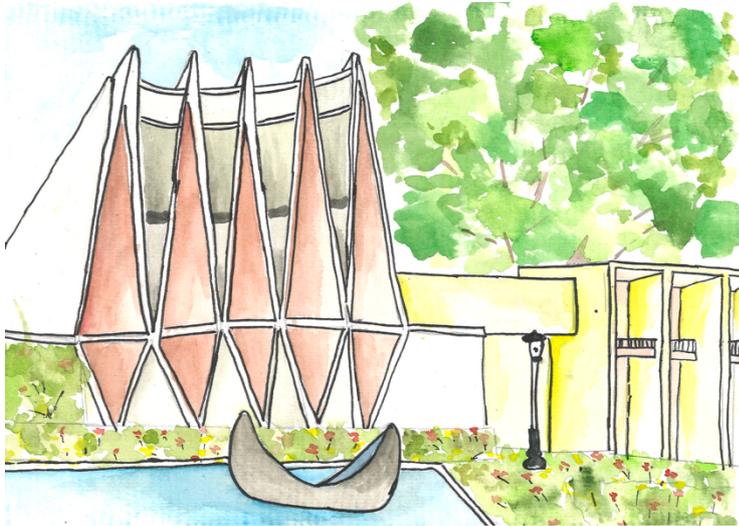
We all have electricity now and no longer have to use oil lamps; every household has their own toilet and would not need to share a common toilet anymore; water is also easily accessible now. But the 'kampung spirit' is lost, and neighbors are not as tight-knit as they used to be.

My dream for Singapore is to bring back the "kampung spirit" and peace we had in the past-when times were less complicated. I pledge to spread positivity amongst my peers and remind them the importance of respecting and supporting each other. I would like to tell all Singaporeans that unity is strength, and if we live in harmony we can achieve much more together as a nation

Damai Primary School

NEO KAY LIN (6A)

Sec



When my mother was younger, my grandparents used take the entire family out to the Van Kleeef Aquarium and the National Theatre.

These attractions were located at the foot of Fort Canning hill, both closed down at the end of the 1990s to make way for part of the Central Expressway (CTE) constructions nearby.

One particular thing I heard and found interesting was that the prices for entry at the Van Kleeef Aquarium was only 30 cents back then, which is much cheaper than today. This reflects how to times have changed since the olden days.

For this project, my interviewees were both of my grandparents. Through them, I learnt about what entertainments existed in the 1960s and certain features, for example, the prices which was very shocking to me as you would expect an entry fee to a modern aquarium to be at least more than \$30. I learnt to be grateful for the present as more things are modern, convenient and life is much easier than in their time. For example, in the past education was not readily available for many children and it is my grandma regrets not getting a proper education because of it, constantly reminding me to study hard and make the most out of what I have now.

I hope that Singapore becomes a welcoming place for all races and religions and I, as an individual, will try to prevent any misunderstandings to foster good relationships with my peers who may come from a different race.

HON PUI JENG ULYSA

Sec 2E

OHFSG 2023 Submissions CHIJ St. Joseph_s Convent

Pri

Grandfather visited Orchard Road sometimes with his family. Back in the 1960s, Orchard Road was still not fully developed, and many parts of Orchard were still occupied by plantations. As he grew older, the place started filling up with shopping centres, offices and hotels, replacing the plantations. After Orchard Road became fully developed, it retained its name because of its history of being filled with orchards.

He likes to visit Guillemard Road to meet up with his many kampong friends who still live there. He enjoyed collecting stamps and cards, as well as catching spiders and catching fish in rivers with his friends. They would also play football together and sometimes visit public pools when he grew older.

From Grandfather's story, I realised that Singapore has come a long way since she gained independence 58 years ago. From clusters of kampongs which were prone to catching fires, to Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats which offer safe and comfortable residential apartments for the people here, the change was certainly for the better. We now enjoy living in neighbourhoods which offer amenities aplenty and marvel at the convenience of having everything from clinics to supermarkets and schools just a stone's throw from where we live – the result of careful urban planning.

This conversation with Grandfather is one I will always cherish because I learned so much from Grandfather about Singapore's rich history. I learnt to be grateful for what I have, for there are many things that I normally take for granted of, but which were non-existent when my grandfather was a child. For example, air-conditioning and technology like smart mobile phones and laptops! Grandfather taught me that a simple life was sufficient as he was happy and grateful for everything he had. I truly admire him for his contentment and gratitude.

My dream is for Singapore to emerge a stronger country, anchored in unity, peace and harmony. I pledge to do my part by being a responsible citizen and promoting care and love in my actions. Happy Birthday Singapore!

Avery Leow Le Chi

6 Hope

Sec

I asked about the tourist attractions she visited when she was young. Surprisingly, the first attraction she visited was the National Museum of Singapore. I did not realise it already existed then. After some research, I found out it was built in 1887! It was originally called Raffles Museum but the name was changed in 1960 to National Museum of Singapore. My grandmother shared her experience with me and I found out the museum did not have air-conditioning then. There were lesser artefacts and attractions than we have today. I realised how fortunate I am as I would not survive without air conditioning. This shows the effort Singapore has put into developing these places and its importance in Singapore. The museum holds a special place in my grandmother's heart as it reminds her of when she first arrived in Singapore.

Through speaking with my grandmother, I found out a lot of things about Singapore that I never knew. For example, I did not know people caught insects and fishes to fight! It was very interesting as I could not do that without getting frightened by the thought of it biting me. I also learnt that the majority of Singaporeans were unable to study as the government did not focus on education back then.

A value I learnt from her is gratefulness. Although she did not have a comfortable childhood, she was grateful for things her parents did for her. This taught me to appreciate what I have and be grateful for the smallest things in life. Singapore has changed since as we now live more comfortably and have the necessary education to succeed in life later on. The government has also developed facilities around neighbourhoods for our entertainment.

My dream for Singapore is for everyone to have equal opportunities and not discriminate against people from different backgrounds. I will not judge people based on their race or background. Everyone is unique and deserves equal chances no matter gender, race or ability.

Lim Shi Ting

203

nanhua

Lifestyle

Pri

I spoke with my grandfather and understood more about him. I chose this story as it tells us that the elderly have a lot of wonderful memories about the unknown past. I now know him better and our bonds are deeper, stronger and tighter. Since the past, Singapore relies more on technology and has made great advancements. There are air-conditioners, trains, computers, even our classroom whiteboards have changed! So much has changed and the elderly are still trying to adapt to all of this futuristic life we lead. Learning about the amazing perseverance and gratitude of the past, I would like to inspire Singaporeans to persevere and reach their dreams. I encourage everyone to be grateful to people around them anytime and anywhere, especially now during Covid-19, when they could disappear from life any second now. Please remember that doctors are sacrificing a lot and don't shun them away. They are like cleaners, unsung heroes. Learning more about my grandfather was amazing! I knew about traditional games like five stones, pick up sticks and more, but never knew about bola tin or my grandfather's self-created games! He was hardworking and achieved his aspirations and told me about the great Chinese New Year celebrations... I certainly enjoyed this experience and would like to do it again! My dream for Singapore is for everyone to live harmoniously. No riots, war, racism, fight, impoliteness etc. I pledge to follow my dream as much as I can and make the world a better place. My message would be that the world can be better if we all help each other. Resist all bad things for the good of everyone living, present and future, including yourself! I hope we will all follow this path to a better world!

Lim Yann Wen (6 Compassion)

Marymount Convent School

Pri



My grandmother had many fond memories of taking the bus with her family or friends. It ranged from not being able to close the windows while it was raining, to her daughter losing her tooth! It would be more unique to draw and write about her bus experiences.

Also, it is truly fascinating to step back and see the changes that have taken place over the years. Back in the 1980s, buses were definitely not what they look like today. To name a few changes - last time, you needed to worry about getting wet in the bus. Now, even if it rains while we are on the bus, we can just enjoy the rain and not even give a thought about it! Now, we have air conditioning in the buses. Back then? Nope, but you could definitely feel the wind blowing on you. Oh and don't get me started on the bus fees! My grandmother would only need to pay 15 cents to ride the bus! Now we have to pay so much more!

I think that we, Singaporeans, should learn to be grateful for what we have now and how far we have come. There are always going to be pros and cons but we should try to look more on the bright side! If we see people struggling or having difficulties, we should always take the initiative to step up to help out.

NAME: NUR ERYNNA NG

CLASS: P6 JOY

SCHOOL: HAIG GIRLS' SCHOOL

Pri



From my Grandmother, I have learnt that there was no coloured television in the past. The shows were in black and white. Grandmother said no matter how beautiful the makeup was, it was still black and white. As not many people could afford a television at home, they had to go to a Community Club to watch the television programmes and they could not choose to watch the shows they wanted.

I feel that we are so lucky to be able to watch television programmes in the comfort of our cosy homes whilst lounging on a huge, comfy sofa. We can use a remote control to choose the shows that we would like to watch. Everything is in colour, no longer black and white.

My dream for Singapore is that COVID-19 will come to an end and all will be back to normal. I wish to tell all Singaporeans that we should always be grateful for what we have. We are so much luckier as compared to the people in the past. Cherish everything and everyone around you.

Janessa Tan Xuan Yu - 3 Teamwork

Sec



I spoke with my grandmother. I focused on this story as it was much more interesting and my grandmother seemed like she truly missed the village life the most. Seeing her reminisce about her childhood and youth made me appreciate what I have now, so I decided to focus on this story so that I can create something that would make her think of the good memories when she sees the art.

Often, we see our elders as just elders, and forget that they too, were once kids. Talking to my grandmother about this truly made me remember that she was once young like me, and that she is young at heart.

I learnt that the life 60 years ago is extremely different from the life we lead now. We should be grateful for what we have and how much the country has developed.

Amidst covid-19, I hope my artwork will encourage Singaporeans to come together and work together, just like the "kampong spirit" my grandmother and her friends and siblings used to have.

In a period of time where isolation at home is common, instead of staying in our rooms and keeping to ourselves, why not we take the opportunity to bond with the people closest to us instead, and forge many new memories?

Instead of associating covid-19 with negativity, I hope Singaporeans can learn to make the best out of everything that they have and create positive memories in negative and tough times as well.

Singapore has changed in various ways

1. Housing: the people in the past used to live in kampongs with poor living conditions (for example, no proper sewage disposal system) but now, we live in HDB flats, condominiums, etc. with good living conditions and amenities all around us.

2. Transportation: in the past, vehicles like rickshaws and bicycles were common. However, today, we have the MRT, buses, cars and much more.

3. Technology: in the past, technology was still developing and people were still getting used and learning how to use technology. Now, we use technology on a daily basis.

My dream for Singapore is that Singapore becomes a 100% inclusive country, Be it race, religion or sexual identity. I am unable to do things on a large scale, but I will show my support by donating to charities that help with these causes, and by attending events that raise awareness. I will also educate those that are uneducated and insensitive about these topics, in hopes that I can change their mindset.

Alone, we might not be able to achieve much, but if we all do our part and work together, we can achieve great things.

Although we call Singapore a sunny island, the truth is that Singapore is not made up of just one island - we're made up of 64 islands, many of which are inhabited.

Some of these islands are converted into tourist spots, or relaxation areas - for example, Sentosa, Coney island, and St. Johns island are the more famous islands that people tend to go when they wish to take a break from the bustling city

Bukit Panjang Govt High School 401 CHIN ZI XI, KENISHA

Sec



I chose to focus on this story as I wanted to know more about how my grandparents lived in the past. I spoke with my maternal grandparents and learnt that in the past they did not live in houses like ours now, but instead they lived in kampongs that had many people in a village.

I learnt that we should be grateful for what we have now as they didn't have such advanced things that most of us have today. With my artwork, I wish to inspire and encourage Singaporeans to know what it is like to be living in the past and be grateful that we would not be needing to live in such conditions during a pandemic.

I chose to focus on this story as I wanted to know more about how my grandparents lived in the past. I

305B GWENDOLYN NG YI XIN Bukit Panjang Govt High School

sec

- I chose to focus on my grandmother's education. My grandmother's family was not well-off, and she was one of seven siblings who attended English classes and school. During her time, it was already considered good if people could make it to secondary school. I have learnt that I should be grateful that I can attend school without any difficulty, unlike my grandmother who could barely afford her education fees.
- I learnt that she was the most fortunate one in her family to be able to attend English classes, as during her time, there were more Chinese schools compared to English schools. However, when my grandmother graduated in the early 1970's, she did not obtain a good aggregate for her GCE O Levels as she needed to look after her sick father, who was unfortunately diagnosed with throat cancer at the time she was taking her examinations. She worked in a factory, but she didn't quite like it. After 3 months, she was introduced to other job roles, such as a clerk, and subsequently, she worked as a cashier at a department store. My grandmother had no career aspirations when she was younger, she worked just to support her family.

My grandmother did not grow up with mobile gadgets as Singapore was not technologically well developed during her time. I rarely used them when I was younger too. She used to bring me to the playground almost every day, and I enjoyed it very much. Singapore has changed over the span of 4-5 decades, and I have learnt that I should be grateful that I can go to school easily, and that I should treasure the things and people around me.

I hope that my artwork will encourage people to be grateful for the things that they have now.

- Singapore has become technologically advanced, compared to the past. As such, while it may have become easier to communicate with one another, we have sometimes forgotten how to build warm and meaningful relationships with one another.
- My vision for Singapore is for people to spend more time with their family members although technology may be advancing now. I pledge to not only pass on this vision to future generations, who may experience even more advanced technology in the future, but to also practise it now that my grandparents are still healthy and alive.
- CHIJ ST TERESA'S CONVENT Constance Sim (Class 1C)

sec



Pau Jia Jing Sec 3N1 Tanglin Secondary School (TSS)

My artwork is inspired by my grandmother's early job in the 1960s as a Samsui Woman. As the sole breadwinner of the family, my grandmother had to take on this job and feed her family of 4 in order to survive. It was not an easy job and required strength and long hours of manual labour. One thing that I learnt from her story was that we should always persevere and strive on no matter how tough things may get. In my work, I want to show appreciation to all the samsui women who contributed in developing Singapore back in the days, so that Singapore can continue to prosper and develop into such a modern and beautiful city. My wish for Singapore is for all of us to be united and stay safe, so that we can continue to contribute and build a safe and beautiful Singapore for our future generations.

Samsui Women, also known as Hong Tou Jin (red head scarf in direct translation) refers to a group of chinese immigrants who came to Singapore between 1920s and 1940s in search of construction and industrial jobs. A typical day of a *samsui* women starts very early at the break of dawn where they would have a simple meal before gathering to walk over to their respective construction sites. By 8am, they would be hard at work digging soil and earth, or carrying debris and other construction materials in buckets that hung from shoulder poles. Work usually ended at around 6pm, after which many *samsui* women would gather together for a simple meal to end the day. Many *samsui* women worked well into their 70s, which meant that they were involved in creating modern landmarks like the Toa Payoh Estate and Bishan Station, part the very first stretch of MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) stations that opened to the public in 1987.

