



Things



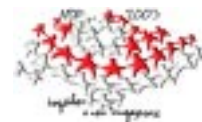
that make us



Singaporean



哪些事物
menjadikan
நாம்
Singaporean



What is it that makes us who we are? Many things. It is this small island that is our city and our state. It is the past that we share: history and memory, personal and national. It is our present: our society and habits, the threads of our daily lives. It is the values we uphold, our mindsets and attitudes. It is the system of our government, the institutions that mould us. It is what drives us.

It is the composition of our citizens, our languages and speech. It is the icons we recognise

as our own, and by which others recognise us. It is the people whom we share all these things with: friends, family, other Singaporeans.

This small book contains the many things that Singaporeans of diverse backgrounds say connect them to Singapore. It is a cheer, a chuckle, a cry, communicative, confident, contemplative. It has a distinctive voice, instantly recognisable. It is a celebration of you and me. It is about why we call Singapore home.





A little red dot to the world we may be.
But to us, the people of
Singapore,
It's you and it's me!

- Leong Wan, student, 15

**Our place in the world –
past, present and future.**

- Sandra Devi, executive, 38

Never forget, Singapore's made by our ancestors' sweat.

~ Siti Sarah Bte Daud, student, 11



The shortness of the Singapore River and the length of its history.

- Thomas George, lawyer, 45

The fast moving and challenging lifestyle has always been the same daily routine for all Singaporeans.

- Tuan Gengxing, full-time national serviceman, 20

The founder of Singapore is Sir Stamford Raffles in the year 1819. Since then, we have the famous Raffles Hotel and other things using the famous name 'Raffles'.

- Korrine Koh, student, 8



**The places, the memories and the people.
That's what makes Singapore my home.**

~ Koh Chen Chen, student, 21



Even though I am married to an Australian and have been living in Brisbane for 26 years, I still am a Singaporean at heart. So, here are my contributions towards *Things That Make Us Singaporean*:

1. The sounds of the Tok Tok Mee man selling hot steaming wanton noodles at 30 cents a bowl.
2. Remembering every word of Majulah Singapura and can still sing it with so much pride.
3. The memories of the samsui women and their gold toothy smiles. They couldn't speak English and I couldn't speak Chinese but their smiles said it all.
4. We really like to know how much you paid for your house, car, clothes etc. and then tell you, you could have it got it cheaper somewhere else... Horrors!

- Susan Neve (nee Chase-Currier), civil marriage celebrant (Australia), 52

The Padang ~ our green, green grass of home.

- Ilsa Sharp, author

Our 44 national monuments and numerous historic sites.

- Zubir Ahmad, teacher, 35



MARK DE WINNE



CHUA EE KIAM

360 degrees of greenery.

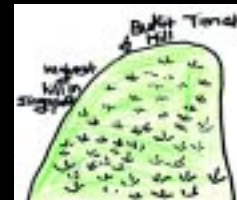
Sherry Tan Wanxin, student, 16



ALVIN LOH

Instant trees

Ibrahim Kairul, taxi driver, 38



ESTHER CHAN JIE YI



Multi-racial, Singlish speaking,
Always for the better seeking.
Studying hard for a degree,
Pay for one and get one free.
Hawker centres and smelly durians,
Those things make us Singaporeans.

- Vanessa Manap, student, 12



ALVIN LOH

Singapore is very clean. There are workers
who clear all the rubbish.

- Zheng Naihan, student, 14

When tourists visit Singapore and say how
clean Singapore is.

- Sudesh Kumar, self employed, 38



CHUA EE KIAM

Would I miss Singapore if I was away?
I thought about this today!

The food, yes, the friends I say,
My flat and fun I have each day

- Khoo Liyuan, student, 11

MING



Do you...

... speak with a Singlish slang?

... eat from the meepok man

... aim for 10/10?

... shop at NTUC?

... dream of winning lottery?

If you do, SINGAPOREAN you're through
and through!

- Lynne Chan, student, 12

With a ball, we can turn any place into a
soccer pitch.

- Kenneth Lim, student, 16

**Being Singaporean is when
I say, "Let's apply for a flat!"
and my girlfriend knows
straight away what I mean.**

- Andrew Bok, executive, 26

Racial Harmony, our armed forces, the \$600 million durians, and
most importantly, our tenacity to fight for what's ours — that
last bargain blouse at Metro.

- Hudzaifah bin Juwanda, student, 14





JESSICA LAI

Brothers and friends going out together regardless of race, language or religion and remaining friends for life.

- Kenneth Tan, student, 13

Playing football every week. Watching English football every week. But still feel Singaporean.

- Mawardi, storeman, 35

Referee kayu, kelong, half ball — these are things that Singaporeans talk about when we mention football.

- Lester Cheo Shian Tong, accountant, 34

Having a Singapore-style education.

- Tio Shu Hao, full-time national serviceman, 20

Born and raised in Singapore.

- Tan Gwee Khiang, public servant, 45



YEOW KOK LIANG

We are able to find rubbish bins easily.

- Lim Jia Ying, student, 14

Land claimed from the sea. - Osman Yacob, civil servant, 40

Once 18, it's time for boys to become MEN (NS time).

- Mathan s/o Haridass, full-time national serviceman, 18

The disasters that we grieved over and overcame together:
the Silk Air crash, SQ006, Hotel New World collapse, cable car
accident, the RSS Courageous collision, SARS, and the economic
downturn.

- Ong Chin Guan, taxi driver, 40

Enjoying each holiday: Christmas, Lunar New Year, Deepavali and
Hari Raya.

- Tay Eng Chye, IT trainer, 32



SIMON THONG



TAY POH THAI

**Looking out from a three-tonner at the
night lights of a HDB estate, and thinking:
It's worth doing this for my country and
my fellow Singaporeans.**

- Lau Wai Leong, pharmacist, 34





The ubiquitous HDB flat is the most common form of residence for most Singaporeans.

- Ng Cheng Kiang, engineer, 30



Recipe for a Nation

MRT, Newton Circus,
Esplanade at night,
Singtel, Starhub, chicken rice,
Orchids, lions, crescent light.

Orchard Road to Suntec,
Flats in the sky, reservoirs around,
Rojak and char kway teow.

Mix.

- Melissa Ng Myen Ping, student, 15



"Multi-everything" makes us Singaporean:
Multi-lingual, multi-racial, multi-religious,
Multi-cultural, multi-tasking,
Not to forget our multi-storey car parks.

- Otsuka Keiko, student, 10



A foreign friend asked me: "How come you know so many languages?" I told him I live in a cultural language centre called a HDB flat, learning Malay from the left, Tamil from the right, and dialects from top and bottom.

- Ong Wee Loong, full-time national serviceman, 23



Sitting on a plane from London
hearing the buzz of aunty voices:
talking of kids at home and red-bean buns
dazzling lights on the sweeping runway
I've come back home.

- Tan Wen Li, student, 15



The smells of an HDB corridor: fish, curry, incense and my
particular favourite, durian.

- Neil Humphreys, journalist, 28

We rush to work, we work to have.
We rush to complain, we keep to silence.
We rush for free, we all want the Cs.
We are full of contradictions.

- Wu Weiyan, student, 16



**Everywhere in Singapore,
The people sing a song.
“Lah, lah, lah, loh, loh, loh.”
Groove to the tune of the Singapore Song!**

- Joanna Lee, student, 15



TAY KAY CHIN



Singaporeans are willing to forgo their annual increments, have wage-freeze or pay-cuts in order to help companies ride through this economic downturn and help each other maintain their jobs.

- Chin Siew Hong, senior accounts assistant, 38



What government says Singaporeans follow.
No riot, no disagreement but willing to swallow quietly.
Very disciplined! I like it. That's the spirit!

- Johnson Ong, senior executive, 34

Most Singaporeans are bilingual and I believe that's the most distinct trait.

- Lim Ting, business support officer, 21



Singapore: An island where
colour doesn't matter.

- Nur Ernie Effendi, student, 11

To be able to look forward to age 55, when all Singaporeans who have worked hard can enjoy CPF and be contented with personal finances.

- Foong Pui Lin, housewife, 44

Our culture is traditional, yet our way of thinking is modern and systematic.

- Ng Yoon Peng, administrative assistant, 29



**Never see chewing gum
for more than 10 years.**

- Woon Kheng Boon, engineer, 32



The unique brotherhood that all Singaporeans share. Someone will surely know somebody from somewhere in Singapore like from the same school or used to live in the same area etc...

- Daniel Tan Tian Jin, full-time national serviceman, 21

The versatility of our communal HDB void decks embracing community, culture and colour...

- Rebecca Gloria Yeo, teacher (South Africa), 23

Malay weddings on voids decks, Chinese funerals on void decks and Mamak stalls on void decks.

- Fatimah Bte Osman, housewife, 40



**High rise buildings. Clean streets.
Everything is in order.**

- Lai Han Lee, draughtsman, 25

**Singapore (the city within the
walls of my heart).**

- Jasmine Foo Yi Ming, student, 15



URA: It shapes our island.

HDB: It builds our heartland.

- Thiru Elangovan, programmer, 35

The Great Singapore Workout.

- Ramlah Bte Syed, manager, 32

Short pants, slippers, lah, lor, leh
Mixture of English, Mandarin and Malay
EM1, EM2, EM3, Gifted and Express
Stress! Stress!
But who cares anyway?
Upon our victory brings 5Cs
Yay!

- Wong Kon Kit, student, 9



TAN HUEY-JUN

MUNSHI AHMED

The different languages I speak everyday, such as Mandarin, Malay, Hokkien, Teochew...

- Khoo Koe Hoe, housewife, 52



The way we are brought up

- Chew Jing Ee, full-time national serviceman, 21

Singaporean?

Aiyah, so easy...

Go Kopitiam, can see already!

See they go cut queue?

We Singaporeans, so kiasu!

Greedy one, never full!

Eat rojak, want yong-tau-foo!

Oi, what you laughing about??!!

- Loh Huilin, student, 14





“Money No Enough.”

- Lim Say Loong, consultant, 34

Betting my last dollar that every Singaporean feels the same way as I do: Blessed to live in an independent nation and knowing that I’m part of a cohesive society.

- Suzanah Bte Salim, corporate support officer, 25

Singaporeans when travelling have certain traits:

We insist on chillies wherever and whatever we eat.

We go to the most remote corners of the world in search of the perfect meal.

We try to calculate the monetary value of everything we see, be it properties, cars or paintings.

- Richard Eu, CEO, 55

Small country, big heart — how we give generously to charity even in tough economic times.

- Audrey Tan Hui Jun, student, 16



“Traffic police come already!” Singaporeans rush out! Never put parking coupons.

- Kuo Sok Wan, sales and application, 29



Laughing at a man with a pair of yellow boots with curly hair.

- Amanda Tan, student, 15

Everyone has a place at the starting line and a chance to reach
the finishing line... If we do not falter, we can fulfill our dreams.

- Vinna Yip Kai Mun, student, 11



NUS, NTU, ERP, SDU,
PAP, MRT, LKY, STB,
SBS, JBJ, AMK, SIA,
AYE, PIE, ECP, ISD,
CPF, SPG, PSA, GST...

- Chin Liong Choon, public servant, 23

Kids in pyjamas walking around town centres with their parents after dinner. Soft waffles with kaya, red bean, blueberry or peanut butter spread at neighbourhood bakeries. Camping overnight for National Day Parade tickets. Making fun of Ah Bengs and Ah Lians while declaring that we share some of their characteristics. Tuition advertisements flapping at bus-stops.

- Sam I-shan, student, 25

Truthfully it is our passport
Seriously it is our taste for delectable food
Generally "The Great Singapore Sale"
Honestly the "mama" shops
Frankly, it is the PAP winning all the elections.

- Lay Chee Kian, student, 14

MUNSHI AHMED



CWOs for litterbugs.

- Ho Shu Qin, student, 13



Easy-link, Speaker's Corner (quiet), Esplanade, SMS and now even MMS and YOU!

- Chua Ai Choo, factory staff member, 30

Spending time with people who we were once strangers to share laughter together after the NDP training sessions.

- Yap Shu Shan, student, 18

We love to eat, we love to shop.
We are "kiasu" but know when to stop.
We speak English peppered with Singlish.
We love durians.
We are Singaporeans!

- Jaime Lau Jia Min, student, 9



Look at all the people of Singapore.
They are the "Things That Make Us Singaporean".
The way we speak, eat, sleep, work and play.
Oh yes, that unspoken oneness of Singapore.
To me nothing beats that.

- Diane Lim, businesswoman, 43



**Baby bonus to encourage and reward babies, babies and more babies.
We support our national ideology of
"Family as the basic unit of society".**

- Ong Lih Lian, homemaker, 30



I know that I have stepped home when at the airport the plants looks greener, the custom queues move faster, and the taxi queues so organised. And in days to come I will be eating mee siam, popiah, Indian rojak.

- Carol Yin, pharmacy assistant (Australia), 50

We must cooperate so that our project will be the best.
We also must cooperate so that we can do our work faster.

- Jolene Teo, student, 8

We are kiasu because we do not want to lose to our friends. If someone has a new toy, we will all buy the same toy. When a new supermarket opens, everybody would go there and then boast they have been there first.

- Kenneth Chew, student, 11



BOB LEE KENG SIANG



AZMAN BIN ISMAIL



When I see parents queuing up to register their children to enter Primary 1.

- Aishan Banu, student, 15

Mid-year sales, year-end sales, post-festival sales.

Those are the best times to flood the shopping malls.

- Tan Lek Keong, marketing executive, 34



Everyday is a daily shuttle of children to and from care-giver/ school/home.

- Chong Kah Pui, engineer, 38



Once, while my friends and I were talking down Oxford St, London, a Briton approached us and asked if we were from Singapore. The way we speak clearly labeled us Singaporeans!

- Shaun Quek, full-time national serviceman, 19





Fines makes us fine Singaporeans.

- Len Yue Lan, building technician, 46



TEN THINGS THAT MAKE US SINGAPOREAN

1. We use too many acronyms yet keep creating new ones.
2. We think that \$100,000 is a reasonable price for a Toyota Corolla, and \$1,000,000 is a reasonable price for a bungalow, but \$5 for a plate of fried noodles is a barbarous outrage.
3. We think that everything should be 'topped up'.
4. We wear winter clothes indoors and summer clothes outdoors.
5. In a country where people use smart cards for public transit, we have no problem with construction workers riding in the open backs of pickup trucks.
6. We're not ashamed that the government needs to care if we know how to use a toilet or urinal correctly.
7. We're sure that the best way to change social behaviour is through consistent and comprehensive government-sponsored campaigns that permeate as many aspects of life as possible. And when they don't work, we never speak of them again.
8. We think a bus is incomplete without a TV.
9. Every task we take on and every group we form is incomplete without a mission statement and a cheesy slogan.
10. We understand everything on this list.

- Chin Liong Choon, public servant, 23

Our ability to see the funny side of life — eg. the many jokes that are currently floating around about SARS.

- Andrew Foo, Singapore Business Association, Queensland, Australia, 46



We complain loudly when subjected to inconveniences but are willing to stand like penguins for hours to secure freebies.

- Hang Kaile, student, 23

The absolute relief when the Government gets kiasu in times of SARS. Never mind the conservatism on porn and art. When it comes to making sure people don't go running about when they are on home quarantine, there is nothing more reassuring than knowing that they have to stand in front of a web cam to show they are being good!

- Lee Gek Ling, university teacher

The campaigns that helped shape us: Rugged Society, Keep Singapore Clean, Courtesy, Productivity (Teamy the Bee), Clean and Green, Population...

- Ismail Mohamad, retiree, 60



TAN WEI LIANG

I think that the thing that makes me feel Singaporean is our kiasuness. Looking back at the Hello Kitty incident, I think only Singaporeans will go to that extent to queue up overnight for that kind of thing.

- Sim Yong Jiang, full-time national serviceman, 21





MIKO YEO

**Whenever I am asked if I am Singaporean,
I always say proudly with a smile, 'Yes, I am.'**

- Lim Yan Ling, student, 14



LEE KAY GEI

Vanda Miss Joaquim was selected to be the national flower because of its hardy, resilient qualities and its ability to bloom throughout the year. Singapore is just like this flower.

- Pamela Tan En Hui, student, 12

**Although our country is small,
we won't let others bully us.**

- Lau Wei Ying, student, 10

Standing at attention while singing the national anthem and saying the pledge with pride.

- Jessie Woo, housewife, 47



SERENE LOO

Mei Ling greets Ali, "Apa Khabar?"
Ali greets Raja, "Vanakkam."
Raja greets Eunice, "How do you do?"
Eunice greets Mei Ling, "Ni Hao"
We are Singaporean.

- Nicole Koh, student, 7



ZHANG KAI YUN



Worrying that my children do not have enough assessment books to practise for school exams.

- Tan Peck Hoon, supervisor, 44

Where can you find children
Who do assessments all day long?
Who attend enrichment classes?
Who buy past year papers from other schools?
Only in Singapore!

- Lim Ting, student, 10

Human brains – our only resource in Singapore.

- Koh Phui Wah, education officer, 36



English, Chinese, not so good.
Maths and Science, good, good, good.

~ Neo Wei Li, student, 12





BOTH BY MUNSHI AHMED

Streaming and school ranking.

- Arul Rajah, accountant, 40



Our ability to survive in a highly competitive environment.

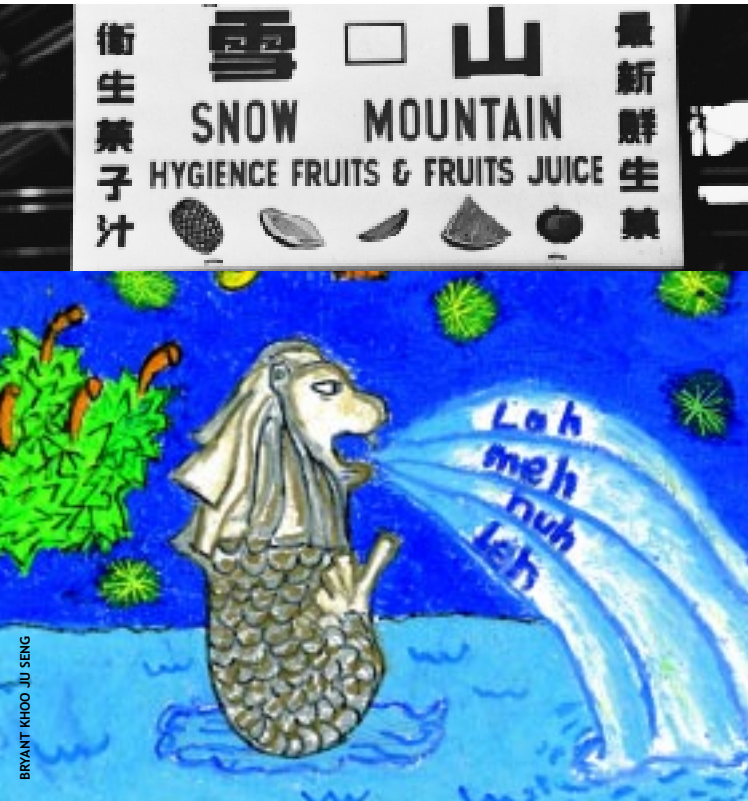
- Wong Lau Heng, full-time national serviceman, 23

Travelling overseas means going to Sentosa for the day.
Visiting the airport to have an ice-cream.

- Winston Stanley Wong Wei Ming, system analyst, 27

Where else can one savour such delicious char kway teow, nasi lemak, chicken curry or even steak in a hawker center.

- Dios Vinly Jr, manager, 31



One of our national past times has got to be complaining. We tend to forget how blessed we are until we visit other countries and realise that we have taken a lot of things in Singapore for granted.

- Jasmine Yeo, self employed, 25

Singaporean language is so unique
It is because our English is very weak
Our language is called "Singlish"
It makes our Singapore teachers feel feverish.

- Muhammad Hamizan bin Markom, student, 14

It's the way we talk
And the way we shop
It's the food we eat
And the company we keep
Which gives us flavour
As we live together
As Singaporeans.

- Samuel Chuah Wen Jin, student, 10



The men sitting down
talking about army days and
the women complaining that
the men are always talking
about army days.

Bernard Goh, businessman, 39

Look! I can see a moon,
a star, and the colours red and white
on our flag.
I am a Singaporean!

- Goh Xiu Ling, student, 5



Roses are red, violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet
while Singapore's
Flag is red and white.

- Chang Wei, student, 8

Whenever there is MOB (mobilisation for preparedness),
we'll be back!

- Hap Kim Hong, storeman, 31





Streets named after pioneers of our country.

- Ng Ee Loon, full-time national serviceman, 21

This habit of whacking an empty seat on the bus or MRT before sitting down, especially if another person has just vacated that same seat moments earlier.

- André De Winne, director, 48

The 3 Fs (family, friends, food), the 4D and the 5Cs (cash, car, condo, club, credit card).

- Khoo Pak Tiang, real estate agent, 48

Providing equal opportunities for all regardless of their race, language or religion. Being understanding and sensitive to the customs and traditions of others. Living together in harmony as one people.

- S.A. Amanulla, corporate support office, 44





NICOLAS CHONG

Singaporeans are never at rest.
The students will have to struggle for their test
The workers are always busy at their desk
They always want the best from the best.

- Bryan Kwok Bing Xian, student, 8

Our 3-letter acronyms from everything vehicular: ECP, CTE, PIE,
COE, ERP, MRT...

- Xavier Kiat, advertising executive, 30

Where else on Earth do you pay \$30k only for a piece of paper
called COE before you can even buy a car.

- Tay Boon Hwee, vice president, 35



ALEX TAN



GOH TENG TUAN

Food for fuel
Money for motivation
Put it together and you'll
Get our nation.

- Joachim Crispian Pereira, student, 12



PANG WEE CHIN



Going round the island to taste different famous food recommended by people, media, magazines...

- Lim Ho Soon, technician, 25

Looking out for rubbish bins while abroad because we are so well-trained not to litter and talking about where to get good food even during meals!

- Paul Tan, statutory board employee, 33

I order 'two kosong' at a prata shop. Nobody thinks twice about my skin colour being more like the prata dough than the person making it. "We're all same-same, mah!"

- Lim Shu Ming, student, 15

Swarming and queuing at a favourite hawker stall.

- Ann Kuo, occupational therapist, 26



Knowing I can grab a bite anytime night or day without having to travel more than 1 km!

- Kirpal Singh, writer, academic, 54

Bringing my own chilli sauce when I go overseas.

- Ezekiel Azib, student, 12

The pleasure you get when a total stranger in another country shows he knows something about Singapore — and wants to come here.

- Lee Geok Boi, writer, 56

Unity in diversity.
Meritocracy.
Cosmopolitan society,
Global city,
E pluribus unum,
Multiculturalism.

- Thenaesh s/o Elango, student, 9



A place where talent from everywhere is welcomed.

Pan Pang Loong, salesman, 31



CHEE WEI CHONG



CHUA EE KIAM

I am Singaporean because I know our government
is clean like the streets.

Ow Wai Sum, student, 15

The first-generation leaders who laid
a solid foundation for us.

T. Naidu, executive, 55

The pre-landing warning on in-coming flights about
the 'severe penalty' for drug trafficking.

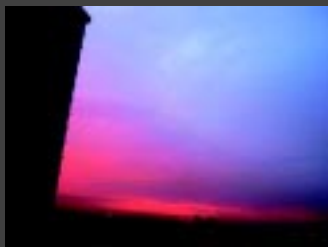
Salim Bashir, air crew, 35

**Our little island is also known for
being the Singapore Stopover –
for migratory birds.**

- Chua Ee Kiam, dentist



KIM HELLEN



Freedom has always been a big thing to me. I see it in the big sky above. It is the only tangible object that can properly translate my feelings of being free. But the Singapore sky is only as big as the country, an island city that only measures 23 km from north to south and 42 km from east to west and can be traversed in less than an hour. I wanted more. So like a collector of vintage clocks and antiques, I started collecting parts of the Singaporean sky.

"Pieces of My Sky" was not a conscious effort but something I shot occasionally with a small camera. Rather, I was prompted by what tugged the inner cords of my heart-strings as if to say, "shoot that Ernest. Keep it. Bring it home and put it in a box."

Like jewellery and diamonds, I kept the pictures small and close to my heart.

- Ernest Goh, photographer, 24

Speaking dialects at home, learning mother tongues and English in school, singing National Anthem in Malay.

- Ang Eng Chuan, teacher, 39

Our sports heroes like Tan Howe Liang, C. Kunalan, Ang Peng Siong, Patricia Chan, Ben Tan, K. Jayamani, Azman Abdullah, Remy Ong, Wong Pheng Soon, Chee Swee Lee...

- Anuar Yatiman, retiree, 75



Sure, we do love to gripe about the high cost of living, kiasu people, the weather... but in spite of everything, you know deep down inside that there's something special about this place that you'll always love even though things aren't always perfect. The way the sun sets on the Esplanade, the way we cheer our hearts out for the Lions, the pride we feel when visitors compliment our beautiful city... nowhere else in the world can ever give us this warmth and security. Hate to sound clichéd, but this truly is my home and boy, am I proud of it.

- Teng Pei Yun, student, 21

The Economic Miracle of the late Sixties and Seventies.

- Salmah Bte Hussein, teacher, 50

The respect and credibility you get when you identify yourself as a Singaporean in a foreign country.

- Lee Yi Chian, IT professional, 33

Recently, I was on holiday in Canton. The tour guide on the bus asked us which countries we came from. When my turn came, I said, "from a little red dot." The tour guide immediately replied, "Ah! You're from Singapore. Welcome!" (Sorry, this is scribbled on the back of an advertising flyer. Recycle paper. Inspiration hit me on the road!)

- Ho Teck Poh, retiree

Must be fast, must be first and must win.

- Kevin Quek Juan Teck, manager, 37

Our attitude — always stay on the safe side.

- Derek Wong Ann, senior portfolio manager, 34



If China has the famous Great Wall, Singapore has four walls consisting of four races as one nation who can defend the four corners of Singapore from invasions.

Mohd Zamm Amir, self employed, 36

Being able to walk in the streets late at night without having any fear.

Eleanor Lim, administrative manager, 45



DALILAH HANI

5 stars and a moon
 4 Ethnic Races
 3.9 Million People
 2gether we stand in
 1 spirit
 - Adriana Chan Sau Fong, student, 15

Searching frantically for my ear plugs and rank epaulettes the night before my in-camp training.

- Law Joo Huat, IT professional, 37

Seeing full-time national servicemen going back to camp on Sunday nights, and remembering...

- Goh Eck Kheng, publisher, 47



EDWIN LOO



ERNEST GOH

Here are my thoughts on what makes a Singaporean citizen. It's their:

- 'can do' attitude and enthusiastic commitment to everything,
- loyalty to their friends and colleagues from overseas,
- way of talking Chinese very fast and talking English slowly,
- friendliness,
- desire to do well in life,
- good manners and how they like to exchange business cards,
- desire to see Singapore as a nation of high repute and income,
- embrace of new technology,
- delightful use of Singlish.

- Graham Bachtold, management consultant
 (former expatriate writing from England), 53

To be able to work harmoniously with people of different races.

- Peh Chew Hua, office attendant, 49



Saying the pledge and really following what we have pledged.

- Pang Siyan, customer service, 27

Singaporeans are like threads of different colours joined by equality to become a tapestry with varied coloured patterns on it. What makes us Singaporeans is our harmony.

- Sharon Preethi George, student, 11



The rules and regulations projected everywhere make me feel a real Singaporean.

- Seow Chin Ne, childcare supervisor, 33

Our Water Polo Teams, past and present, and their 19-year unblemished gold medal record at the SEA Games.

- Joginder Singh, retiree, 65



Singapore is a small country.
However, it is big enough for people
of different races and religions.

- Nurul Asyiqin, student, 10





LIM TIEN CHIANG

Being 'kiasu' in the outbreak of SARS — all masks are sold out, but no one seen wearing them on the road.

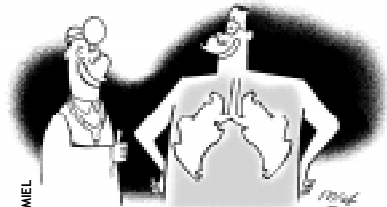
- Wong Joo Onn, mechanic, 32

Doctors, nurses and many others that support behind — Some-one Always Raising Superhands — while fighting SARS. Salute to these people.

- Low Chuey Har, associate engineer, 39

During this SARS situation I take full responsibility to safeguard myself and others from getting SARS.

- Sivinda Kaur, dental therapist



MIEL

SARS. The virus has connected me with other Singaporeans even more closely because I know each and every one of us must work together to fight it.

- Lindley Ho, graphic artist, 28

SARS came.
School closed.
The children rejoice.
Mother's homework came...
That is not all!
The school's homework arrived.
The children worked and worked...

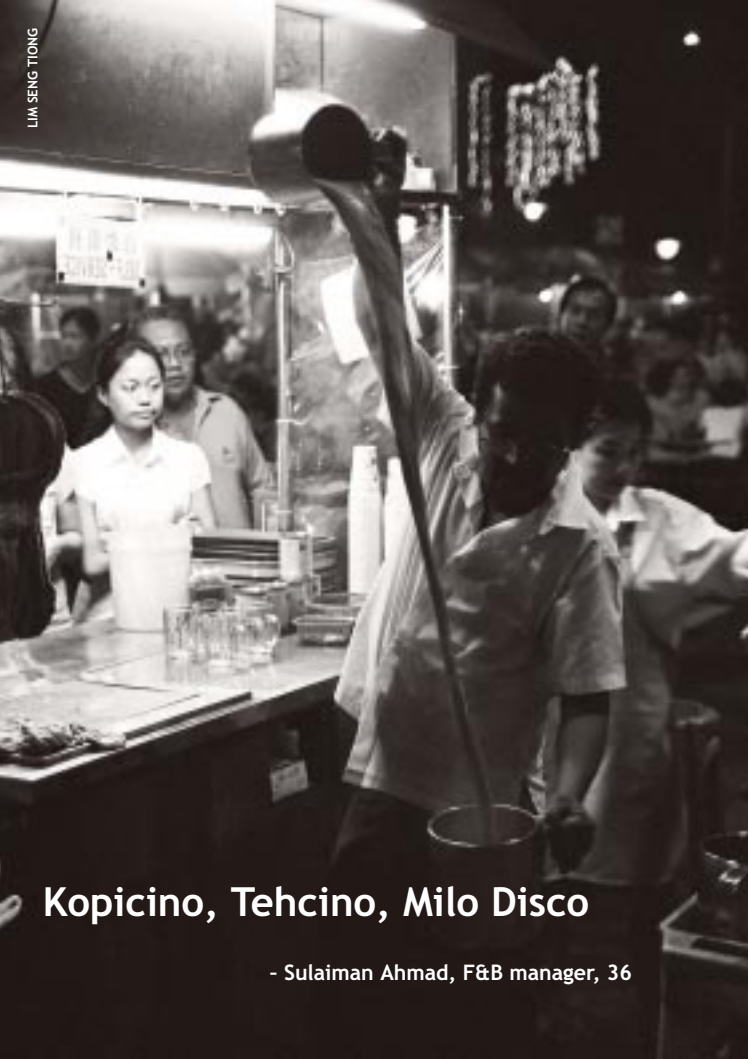
- Estella Chin, student, 10



SEAH HOCK PENG



EE KAY GIE



Kopicino, Tehcino, Milo Disco

- Sulaiman Ahmad, F&B manager, 36



Although we are just a red dot on the map,
We are like chili padi in a pot,
Small in size but still very hot.

- Gavin Low Yo Jun, student, 13

Pioneers of NEWater
Bidders for COEs
Queuers for Hello Kitties
And creators of Singlish

We... ..
the inventors
the survivors
the Singaporeans

- Daeng Nur Ashikin, student, 12



HIGHEST IN SINGAPORE AND JB... SOME SAY BATAM.



HILARON GOH

Being in another country, hearing someone bargain with shopkeepers in Singlish over a discount of maybe fifty cents.

- Bervyn Lee, lecturer, 39

Looking out expectantly from the airplane window as we land at Changi airport, searching for familiar landmarks and being happy to be home again.

- Joan Hon, retired teacher, 60

A small nation but a hardworking lot. What really binds us is the years we spend together serving for the safety of our nation.

- Steven Lai, manager, 37



SARAH HO



CHEONG KIAT HOE

Peng Kang Hill and Hill 265 in Marsiling, they made Singaporean men.

- Kenny Chan, bookshop manager, 51



LIM SENG TIONG

NMPs and Elected President. - Abdullah Talib, foreman, 50

Our Nanyang style of art. The Artists' Village. The SSO. SDT. The physicality of Singapore theatre.

- Ramli Karim, student, 24

What is Singapore to me?
Sunny sky or grey sea,
Housing garden or concrete jungle,
Safe haven or pampered bundle
What ever it may be
Singapore is home to me.

- Amala Dyal, student, 11

NEWater! Gulp it down!

- Harold Foo, student, 13



MARK DE WINNE



Singaporeans epitomise the spirit of continual advancement. In the words of our national anthem: *Majulah Singapura!* Hopefully, the new generation of Singaporeans will all say: "I will go forward with Singapore!"

- Esther Tan Cheh Hiang, housing agent, 53

A mixed background. The mix of the Chinese, the dash of the Malay, a pinch of the Indians, and a little of the Eurasians makes a wonderful thing, SINGAPOREANS!

- Louis Puah, student, 13

Singapore is just like a rainbow, consisting of different cultures and races. This rainbow becomes stronger especially after every heavy rain. We have proven this in the past.

- Serina Yeo, customer service, 27



**We have many friends to play with
and many fruits to enjoy!**

Karen Chin, volunteer manager, 28



Being Singaporean is surviving.
 Making something out of nothing.
 The HDB, the Esplanade,
 A cosmopolitan city-state.
 In short —
 Being Singaporean is a miracle.
 - Angela Ang Jie Ling, student, 16

The crane is the national bird of Singapore.

- Yasmin Yusoff, property agent, 28

This is Singapore lah:
 Chili crabs, roti john, and chicken rice
 Everything here die, die must try!

En-bloc redevelopment, EC, HDB,
 Have you heard of IUP, MUP and LUP?

Travel on TIBS, SBS, COMFORT and MRT,
 Or else pay for COE, ERP and CBD.

No eating, no drinking, no littering on the MRT —
 Singapore is indeed a 'fine' city

NTUC, Raffles City and Change Alley,
 Shop like it's free, but mostly just look-see.

SIA, MAS, SES, and foreign talents we will pay,
 To build our economy, so don't pray, pray.

Tuition, remedial, assessment books and tonics too
 For a place in gifted, independent or autonomous school.
 I Not Stupid
 So they say...

- Jenny Lee, teacher, 49



The \$600 million “Durians”!

- Tein Keh Tiam, coffee shop assistant, 51

Like the ice-kacang
Delicious, attractive, interesting —
A blend of different ingredients
Yet curiously unique.

- Hartini Bte Yusoff, student, 14



That dot on the map,
It's more than a spot.
It's our home,
And it's all that we've got.

Born together,
And raised together,
We love Singapore.
United forever.

- Adeline Chong Mun Teng, student, 16



EE KAY GIE



ESTHER CHAN JIE YI

IVAN TEO CHENG TIEN



The smell of the coffee shop, the children playing at the park, neighbours chatting away and the roads ever so busy, make me feel just lucky to be in the neighbourhood.

- Mdm Unamamma d/o Muthiah, 48

Looking back at my kampung days... looking at how far we've come today.... and looking forward very much to tomorrow.

- Colin Santa Maria, personal trainer, 35

I'm proud to be Singaporean,
Multi-racial
Best of all,
Surrounded by Oh!
So many shopping malls!

- Nur Syahirah bte Abdul Rahman, student, 11



EUNICE CHAN



Never too small to think big. - K.C Ong, general manager, 38

The joy of eating at the hawker centre and seeing people in their best outfit of singlets, shorts and slippers.

- Foo Weiyl, student, 15

Singlish – the 'lahs', lehs' and 'lors'
Our everyday conversations revolve around them
A sense of belonging to our society
An even greater sense of identification.

- Ng Tingguan, student, 15

MUNSHI AHMED



I am a Singaporean because



I choose to love this country.

- Ong Jet Win, student, 16

TAN NGIAP HENG

TED GUO XUAN

LIM HEE LENG

LEE TIAH KHEE

Today Once More

Years ago, where that old Bedok road suddenly
Swung inland, I felt you breathe. Benedicting
Sunlight by the pillbox lit a quiet in which I heard
My heart's first cry. It grew into a circling eagle,
Whose thermal eye kept free our dome of blue.
Far below the tide rippled, turned and gripped,
Removing sand from under where I stood. You
Held me citizen as I grew, wondering in awe,
What made darkness come at noon, or why sea-salt
Bitterness, and the wind's lamentations, can cleanse.

From there a tale of colony, war and occupation;
From here a past we made from careful politics
For better history, and bright embraceable evenings.

Hunting for a future leaves memories and images
Of crucial moments: gritty challenges which, for some,
Are high despair and doubt; a time to think of leaving.
Stay and be damn'd, or prosper in our fashion.
We re-arranged ourselves, besieged our hills, re-made

The contexts of our lives as we gardened city and island.
Now petal, shade, octaves in the night, and young faces,
Shift the mood and margins of our hopes, our seasons.
Side by side, old and young split Merlion thoughts, giving
Reasons, while savouring those two durians-on-the-bay.

Each generation has its songs and destinations that assert
A different destiny. Theirs more digital; keyboard-bound.
I learn, adapt; process words to stalk and refresh nostalgia.
Today, no smoke from burning half-dried wood to smudge
Our skyline's signature. Eyes tearful, not from fumes,
But the death of friends. Gopal and James now live in
That ever present past. So does Lim Boh Seng. I cross
The Padang as *banzaïs* echo again, rolling down city steps
As Coleman's demolished home haunts the new with gusto.
I taste the stalls in Hock Lam Street, feeling the chillies rise
As Ah Lau cuts his fruits. Foodcourts are less friendly.
Regret? Yes and no. All is still here, as I pass the latest Bedok,
Knowing epiphany, tide, and crab are still a mile away.

Edwin Thumboo



I'm born in Singapore
That's number one
I live in Singapore
That's number two



I study in Singapore
That's number three
I die in Singapore
And that is ALL!

- Soon Chieng Wah, student, 10

People from all walks of life coming forward to perform for the nation during the NDP show.

- Lee Gek Hong, dental assistant, 31

I feel proud to be a Singaporean because I am a 50-year-old grandmother but am still participating in one of the marching contingents on National Day 9-8-2003.

- Sapiah Bui, housewife, 50

The Singapore flag flown by helicopter during the NDP.

- Teoh Wee Keong, full-time national serviceman, 23

It must be the Kallang Roar! In a way I feel it signifies our Singaporean spirit, especially at the NDPs. I think every Singaporean knows what it is!

- Tan Puey Yee, undergraduate, 21



KOH BENG CHYE



SERENE LOO

August 9th 1965

Noriwansah bin Ramli, full-time national serviceman, 19



We shoot for the stars.

- How Soon Fatt, accountant, 37

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