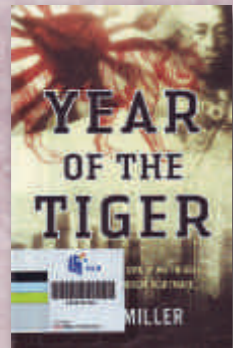


## RECOMMENDED READS



**Title:** Year of the Tiger

**Author:** David Miller

**Call No.:** SING MIL

**All Rights Reserved, Monsoon Books, 2012.**

*(This book is also available in Overdrive, accessible via <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg>.)*

Wartime treasures buried in Singapore are unearthed during a routine construction digging, and anthrax, which was placed with the loot, is released into the atmosphere, triggering a global bioterrorism catastrophe. Assistant Superintendent Gerald Loh of the Singapore Police Force has to quickly find a way to halt the deadly plague and prevent the world from coming to an end!



**Title:** My name is Jason. Mine Too: Our Story, Our Way

**Author:** Jason Reynolds and Jason Grifflin

**Call No.:** Y 811.6 REY

**All Rights Reserved, HarperCollins Publishers, 2009.**

Jason Reynolds is a poet. Jason Grifflin is an artist. Together, they put together poetry and visual art to tell witty and heart-grabbing stories about their identities.



**Title:** Sampan

**Author:** Chua Hui Ying

**Call No.:** J SING S821 CHU

**All Rights Reserved, Ethos Books, 2014.**

This is a collection of poems inspired by Singapore's surroundings, accompanied by whimsical and striking illustrations.

Want to borrow these books?

Go to [search.nlb.gov.sg](http://search.nlb.gov.sg) to find out which libraries they are available at.

For more great reads, visit [discovereads.sg](http://discovereads.sg).



Public Libraries  
Singapore

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## &WORDS

### POEMS SINGAPORE AND BEYOND

adapted from "lion heart"

by Amanda Chong

(...)

In the jungle, amid rasping branches,  
trees loosened their shadows to shroud you.  
The prince beheld you then, a golden sheen.  
Your eyes, two flickers; emerald blaze;  
You settled back on fluent haunches;  
The squall of a beast, your roar, your call.

In crackling boats, seeds arrived, wind-blown,  
You summoned their colours to the palm  
of your hand, folded them snugly into loam,  
watched saplings swaddled in green,  
as they sunk roots, spawned shade,  
and embraced the land that embraced them.

Centuries, by the sea's pulmonary,  
a vein throbbing humming bumboats –  
your trees rise as skyscrapers.  
Their ankles lost in swilling water,  
as they heave themselves higher  
above the mirrored surface.

Remember your self: your raw lion heart,  
Each beat a stony echo that washes  
through ribbed vaults of buildings.

Remember your keris<sup>1</sup>, iron lightning  
ripping through tentacles of waves,  
double-edged, curved to a point –  
flung high and caught unsheathed, scattering  
five stars in the red tapestry of your sky.

<sup>1</sup>Traditional Malay curved sword, believed to have magical powers.

#### Think about these questions:

1. What makes the Merlion a national symbol?
2. Can you think of other Singapore-related icons that may be used as national symbols?
3. What is an item or symbol that best represents you? How is it representative?



Extract from **&Words: Poems Singapore And Beyond, Pages 62-63.**

**Title:** &Words: Poems Singapore And Beyond

**Editor:** Edwin Thumboo

**Call No.:** Y SING S821 WOR

**All Rights Reserved, Ethos Books, 2010.**



## TALKING POINTS: NATIONAL SYMBOLS

WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS BASED ON THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BELOW.

## ACTIVITY 1: EXPERIMENTAL POETRY

Work in groups to create your own experimental poetry relating to Singapore.  
Once completed, write your poem in the space below.

## ACTIVITY 2: AN ODE TO...

Pablo Neruda wrote a poem titled Ode to Tomatoes to highlight his love of tomatoes. Can you think of a way you can pay tribute to your favourite local dish with words? Write a short poem below.

*The street  
filled with tomatoes,  
midday,  
summer,  
light is  
halved  
like  
a  
tomato,  
its juice  
runs  
through the streets...  
-from Ode to Tomatoes by Pablo Neruda*



An Ode To: