

## RECOMMENDED READS



**Title:** Journeys: An Anthology Of Short Stories

**Author:** Minfong Ho

**Call No.:** SING HO

**All Rights Reserved, Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2008.**

Award-winning author Minfong Ho draws on her personal experiences to put together this collection of twelve short stories. From the story of a skylark that wants to fly to a heart-breaking tale of an old duck egg seller, the stories will strike a chord in any young reader.

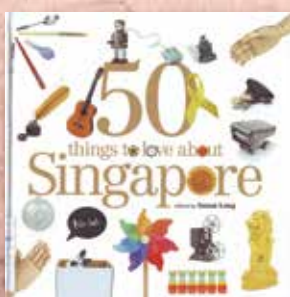


**Title:** Under One Sky

**Call No.:** SING UND

**All Rights Reserved, National Library Board, 2013.**

This anthology pulls together some of the best works in Asia from Malaysia's Zakaria Ali to Tamil Nadu's Jeyamohan. The collection also includes Ken Liu's The Paper Menagerie which won numerous awards in fiction writing in 2013, including the Hugo and the Nebula.



**Title:** 50 Things To Love About Singapore

**Editor:** Susan Long

**Call No.:** SING 959.57 FIF

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In this tongue-in-cheek book about Singapore, read about the everyday items that reflect on and represent what Singaporeans are passionate about.

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**Public Libraries  
Singapore**

# PART V: A MALAYAN LANGUAGE

*(THE SHORT STORIES AND RADIO PLAYS OF S. RAJARATNAM)*

**VOICE 1:** And now, dear brothers and sisters, I shall call upon that champion of the people – Malaya's well-known politician – a man who can truly be described as 'your friend, my friend –everybody's friend' – Mr Silver Tongue.

**SILVER TONGUE:** Brothers and sisters, Merdeka! (CROWD: MERDEKA! MERDEKA!) I do not propose to make a long speech tonight. I shall say what I have to say simply, briefly and bluntly. My theme tonight is unity. Unless we, the various races who live in Malaya become one nation, one people – unless we become loyal Malaysians, there can never be peace and progress in this lovely land of ours. What does it matter that we are Malays, Chinese, Indians or Eurasians – or Eskimos or Patagonians. What does it matter if our skins are this or that shade. Remember that beneath the skin we are brothers.

(...)

**VOICE 2:** Not a bad speech... but such a pity!

**NARRATOR:** What do you mean? I thought he was talking sense.

**VOICE 2:** But all wasted – wasted.

**NARRATOR:** Wasted? Why, there must be at least three thousand people listening to him. What he has said should make them think.

**VOICE 2:** That's where you are wrong. I agree he said some fine things. But not many of the three thousand understood him.

**NARRATOR:** Come off it. Don't be so superior. Just because they are ordinary people you think they are all stupid.

**VOICE 2:** Now just a minute. I didn't say they were all stupid. All I said was that they didn't understand a word of what he was saying.

**NARRATOR:** But he spoke in fairly simple English. A little bit pompous and flashy perhaps...

(...)

**VOICE 2:** Well only some 10 percent of the people of Malaya are said to be literate in English. Let us, however, put it at double that figure – 20 percent. So only 20 percent of your typical Malayan crowd understood what Mr. Silver Tongue was saying. For the remaining 80 percent Mr. Silver Tongue's earth-shaking speech was a series of beautiful but meaningless sounds. If he should call them idiots or tell them to take a running jump they would still give him a big hand at the end of his speech.

### Think about these questions:

1. What are some of the ways in which you communicate with your friends?
2. In your everyday life, how do you communicate effectively?
3. The internet has created new ways for people to communicate and be connected.

Highlight two pros and cons of communicating via the internet using channels such as Facebook and Twitter.



Extract from The Short Stories and Radio Plays of S. Rajaratnam,  
Pages 170-172

**Title:** The Short Stories and Radio Plays of S. Rajaratnam

**Call No.:** SING RAJ

**All Rights Reserved, Epigram, 2011.**





# TALKING POINTS: THE SHORT STORIES AND RADIO PLAYS OF S. RAJARATNAM

WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS BASED ON THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BELOW.

## ACTIVITY 1: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

How well do you communicate? Are you able to give clear instructions to other people? Follow the instructions given by the facilitator.

### STUDENT A'S DRAWING

### STUDENT B'S DRAWING

### MY REFLECTIONS ON THE ACTIVITY:

1. What were the difficulties or successes experienced by you and your partner?
2. Which exercise was more difficult? Why?
3. What does effective communication entail?

## ACTIVITY 2: OVERCOMING BARRIERS

Fifteen-year-old Patrick Otema was born deaf. There are no schools for deaf children where he lives. He has never had a conversation with anyone, not even with his father. Watch a video about his life. (Source: "Patrick Speaks | Unreported World | Channel 4" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHfC6jqBhkk> (last accessed on 30 November 2014))

Put yourself in Patrick Otema's shoes. Write down some of the ways in which Patrick's life would change after he learns sign language.

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Why is it important to be able to communicate with other people?

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