

“那东西去哪儿了？”拉维轻声说着。
“我好怕哦。我们可以离开这儿吗？这里好暗啊！”慧玲全身发抖地恳求道。



拉维和慧玲在哪儿？慧玲害怕什么？拉维和慧玲会发生什么事？它们会受伤吗？和拉维、慧玲和法扎以及一只犀鸟，一起在新加坡植物园感受一次奇遇吧。

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XINGNAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

植物园奇遇



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By students of Xingnan Primary School

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是时候做决定了。三个好朋友，法扎、拉维和慧玲必须决定要到哪里去完成专题作业。

“要不我们去新加坡植物园吧？”法扎提议道。

“为什么你会建议去那儿呢？”拉维好奇地问。

“我从来没有去过那里，那里是个热门的景点吗？”慧玲接着问道。

“当然！那里是我国第一个联合国教科文组织（UNESCO）世界文化遗产，它不但吸引了不少外国游客，还吸引了本地人去那里游玩。你知不知道那里是新加坡保留最完好的历史景观，占地大约 100 个足球场那么大呢？那里有上万个各式各样的植物，争奇斗艳，让人大饱眼福！”法扎兴奋地说道。

“哇！听起来真有趣！我们现在就去探索吧！”拉维高兴地叫了起来。



到了新加坡植物园时，他们决定坐在邵氏基金交响乐台周围茂密的草坪上野餐，然后开始探索之旅。他们吃了三文治、水果和薯片，还喝了橙汁。



“好饱啊！”慧玲边伸了下懒腰，边说道。

拉维和法扎闭着眼睛，舒服地躺在野餐垫上。突然，慧玲打破了宁静。

“起来！起来！快看山坡上的那座建筑物！”慧玲激动地大喊道。

拉维和法扎揉了揉眼睛，大声地打了个哈欠。

“什么建筑物啊？”法扎咕哝着。

“那栋黑白相间、殖民风格的建筑物好美啊！要不我们去参观参观吧？”慧玲说。

“啊哈！那栋建筑物叫伯基尔馆（Burkill Hall），”拉维一边说，一边指向指示牌。“我做过调查，伯基尔馆是个无需电力供应的英式马来种植园式的建筑。为了保证通风效果，二楼的两边都有阳台。伯基尔馆也是植物园第一任园长劳伦斯·尼文（Lawrence Niven）居住的地方。它由华人建筑商建造的，建筑费用为4000新币。”去那儿的途中，不同种类的动植物让他们大开眼界。突然，慧玲停下脚步，尖叫道：“啊！那是什么？看起来好可怕呐！”



拉维安慰慧玲：“不用怕，这只是一只无害的巨蜥。除非你惊扰了它，否则它不会攻击你。”慧玲有些半信半疑，小心翼翼、慢慢地绕过蜥蜴，确保自己和蜥蜴保持安全距离。

“快看！拉维和法扎！”慧玲大叫道！



两个男孩不约而同地转向慧玲。

“又怎么啦？”法扎问。

“你们看那朵美丽的胡姬花。”慧玲回答。

“那就是我们的国花‘卓锦万代兰’（Vanda Miss Joaquim），”拉维告诉大家，“那是新加坡第一个有记录的胡姬花杂交品种，于1890年初，由艾妮丝·卓锦小姐培育的。”他们拍了几张美丽的胡姬花照片后，继续前往佰基尔馆。



终于到了伯基尔馆，他们发现了建筑物的门开了条小缝。他们朝房间里瞄了一眼，看见一个大大的黑影子飞来飞去。

“是什么东西在飞呢？是不是一只蝙蝠？”很多却不是他们期望的可能性浮现在他们的脑海里。



“我们去看看吧！”

“不要吧……里头看起来好诡异。”慧玲犹豫道。

“别怕，我们会陪着你。”法扎鼓励着慧玲。接着，法扎和拉维走进建筑物。慧玲蹑手蹑脚地跟在两个男生后头。



“那东西去哪儿了？”拉维轻声说着。

“我好怕哦！我们可以离开这儿吗？这里好暗啊！”慧玲全身发抖地恳求道。

“看！看那墙上的影子，它越来越大了！”法扎指着影子说。



“怪物！怪物！”慧玲害怕地尖叫着，用手盖住眼睛。

“现在它绕着圈儿飞着。”法扎细心地观察。

“那不是只怪物。它是只身上黑白两种颜色，有黄色嘴巴的鸟儿。请别叫了，你吓到那鸟儿了。”拉维边解释，边试图让慧玲冷静下来。

慧玲停止尖叫，睁开双眼。接着，她又叫了起来。

“小……小……小心！”
但是，一切都太晚了。



砰！
那只可怜的鸟儿撞在墙上，
跌在地上。
三个朋友吓得目瞪口呆，
嘴张得大大的。
回过神后，
拉维和法扎闪电般地跑到
鸟儿那儿。
慧玲不敢相信眼前的这一幕，
站在那里，
一动也不动。



“惨了！看看鸟儿翅膀上的血。”拉维紧张地说。

“你还好吗，鸟儿？”法扎问。

“我们带它去兽医那儿吧。”拉维提议。

拉维温柔地把受伤的小鸟放在手中。

“它看起来好可怜啊！”慧玲抽泣道。



兽医为小鸟做了全身检查，告诉他们小鸟的伤势并不是很严重，他们听了，松了一口气，放下心中大石。然而，小鸟需要约一个星期才能恢复健康。慧玲自告奋勇地提出要带小鸟回家照顾。



一个星期后，小鸟终于痊愈了。

“谢谢你们的照顾。我叫比利。”一天早上，小鸟突然开口道。

听到了小鸟的自我介绍，三个好朋友吓得后退一步。

“你们为什么这么怕我？我不会伤害你们的。”比利保证。

“你可以开口说话？真的会说话？”慧玲不敢相信自己所听到的。

“是的，我能说话。我们可以成为朋友吗？”比利问道。

“没问题。”三个好朋友异口同声地回答。

三个小孩开始一一自我介绍，还谈起他们的家人和朋友。

突然，比利看起来好难过。



拉维留意到比利流泪了。

“你为什么那么伤心？”拉维问。

比利难过地回答：“我想我的家人和朋友了。我想回家……”慧玲摸了摸比利，安慰道：“不用担心，我们会尽快帮你找到家人的。”

“要不我们现在带你到伯基尔馆？”法扎问。

“我家就在霍尔特图姆馆（Holttum Hall）附近。”比利回答道。

慧玲疑惑地问：“你那天为什么会出现在伯基尔馆？”



“我和姐姐在玩捉迷藏。她还没找到我时，你们就出现了……”比利哭着，一五一十地告诉三个朋友事情的经过。

“别哭了！我们现在就带你去‘霍尔特图姆馆’。”拉维说。



于是，比利和朋友们一起走向霍尔特图姆馆。他们经过不少有趣的建筑物，也在著名的天鹅湖和比利合影，拍了很多搞笑的照片。忽然，慧玲大喊道：“比利在哪里啊？”他们不再拍照，纷纷喊道：“比利！比利！你在哪儿？”



¹Swan Lake: The Swan Lake is home to numerous species of aquatic plants and fishes, and is named as such because of a pair of beautiful mute swans from Amsterdam that glided gracefully across the lake.

Source: <https://www.visitsingapore.com/see-do-singapore/nature-wildlife/parks-gardens/singapore-botanic-gardens/>

在找比利的路上，他们经过一间黑白相间的平房，看见地上有一根羽毛，看起来和比利的很相似。

“看，这羽毛是不是比利的？”拉维问道。

“比利会不会在这栋建筑物里？”法扎提出看法。

“霍尔特图姆馆。”慧玲读了墙上的牌子。

“这个门被锁住了。要不我们试试从那边开着的门进去？”拉维建议道。

那个开着的门把他们带到一个隐藏的热带雨林步道。三个好朋友踏入热带雨林步道时，瞪大双眼，大吃一惊。



一道刺眼的亮光把他们带进一个全新的世界……许多犀鸟在空中飞来飞去。慧玲想：或许比利在这里？那里有太多和比利长得一模一样的犀鸟，他们失去了信心。“我只希望比利安全地回到家人身边。”慧玲说。正当他们要离开时，耳边传来了比利的声音：“嗨，伙伴们，我在这儿，这是我的家人。”他们转身一看，看见比利和它的家人。

“我是比利的姐姐，比礼。谢谢你们照顾它。”比礼道谢道。

他们开始海阔天空地聊了起来。过了一会儿，比利的爸爸叫了起来：“里德利先生来了！”





“你们好……今天我们来了好些客人啊！”
里德利先生说。

比利向里德利先生分享了自己的惊险旅程，也说起慧玲、拉维和法扎照顾它的事情。里德利先生向三个好朋友道谢，并做了自我介绍：“我是新加坡植物园的园长，这是我的宠物马来貘。我正在进行一项特别的研究，需要犀鸟帮我把橡胶树高处的水果摘下来。”每当犀鸟摘给他一颗橡胶树果子，里德利先生就会奖励犀鸟它们最喜欢吃的水果。

“要不我们去演奏台吧？为了表示谢意，我让犀鸟为你们献上一个特别的表演。”
里德利先生说道。

²pick the high hanging fruits: In nature, rubber fruit splits open when ripe and the seeds fall onto the ground

演奏台在山上的平地，高于海平面 33 米。那里有一个八角凉亭，建于 1930 年，周围都是有黄色叶子的雨树。犀鸟拿着乐器，站在凉亭的屋顶边上。比利挥了挥手中的指挥棒，犀鸟开始演奏。

“上帝保佑我们高尚的女王……上帝保佑女王！”

三个好朋友敬畏地欣赏犀鸟乐队的表演。表演吸引了一群观众。表演结束后，观众席响起了如雷般的掌声。慧玲、法扎、拉维和犀鸟以及里德利先生拍了许多照片。



³“God save our gracious Queen...God save the Queen!” : Lyrics of the British national anthem ‘God save the Queen’. Singapore was a British Crown colony from 1946 to 1963.

Singapore Botanic Gardens and the Rubber Industry

(reference: <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/sbg/about/our-history/1888-ridley-and-the-malayanrubber-industry-from-1896>; <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/history/events/a8ceea4c-1c8b-4c9a885c-b85038b39e4c>;

The 'mad' man and his rubber seeds..The Straits Times, 9 April 1973,

Page 20

By 1920, Malaya was producing over half of the world's rubber. How did this happen?

This goes back to the year 1877 when 22 rubber seedlings from the Kew Gardens in England were sent to the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Out of the 22 seedlings, 11 were sown in the Botanic Gardens of Singapore.

The rubber industry grew out of these trees propagated in Singapore Botanic Gardens. From 1870s to 1890s, experiments were carried out to make rubber planting commercially viable. The Gardens' first scientific Director, Sir Henry Nicholas Ridley researched on the most suitable place for planting, the ideal density per acre, the best method of raising seedlings, the most effective processing techniques, and the best means of packing and shipping processed rubber. Mr Ridley also invented the herring-bone method of rubber tapping technique that resulted in maximising the quantities of latex without harming the tree.

By 1890s, Mr Ridley was walking around with bags of rubber seeds persuading coffee planters to switch to rubber cultivation. Often, he also visited Straits Settlements plantation owners with his jacket pockets filled with rubber seeds from the 1000

mature trees growing in the gardens. By 1912, when Ridley retired, nearly 600,000 acres of land were planted with rubber.



Sir Henry Nicholas Ridley with an original para rubber tree in the Economic Garden.

Interesting Architecture Facts

Holttum Hall



Holttum Hall was formerly used as an office and orchid breeding laboratory by the Director of Singapore Botanic Gardens, Eric Holttum, during his tenure (1925-1949). It is a symmetrical building with a unique porch that is sometimes seen at the entrance of English church compounds. It has roof vents and louvred vents over the windows to cope with the topical climate. Holttum Hall houses the Singapore Botanic Gardens Heritage Museum, which opened in December 2013.

The Garage



The Garage (completed between 1924 and 1928) at Singapore Botanic Gardens used to house cars of professors in the Horticulture Department. It is built in a distinctly Art Deco style. Today, this colonial building houses two Food & Beverage establishments.

E J H Corner House



The Corner House is a two-storey black and white bungalow built in 1910 to house officials and administrators during the colonial period. It was named after Eldred John Henry Corner, the Assistant Director of the Gardens from 1929 to 1942. Today, the Corner House is a Michelin star restaurant.

Ridley Hall



Ridley Hall was built in 1881. It is named in honour of Sir Henry Nicholas Ridley, the first Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens from 1888 to 1912. It was first used to house the Gardens' Herbarium and Library's collections. It later became Mr Ridley's office. It is a one-storey building with generous overhanging roof eaves to protect the walls and interiors from the tropical sun and rain.

Burkill Hall



Burkill Hall was built in 1886. It served as the residence of the Gardens' superintendents and directors for more than a hundred years. It was named in honour of the Gardens' two former Directors, Isaac Henry Burkill, and his son Humphrey Morrison Burkill. It is the last known surviving two-storey Anglo-Malay plantation style bungalow. Today, it is used to exhibit VIP orchids.

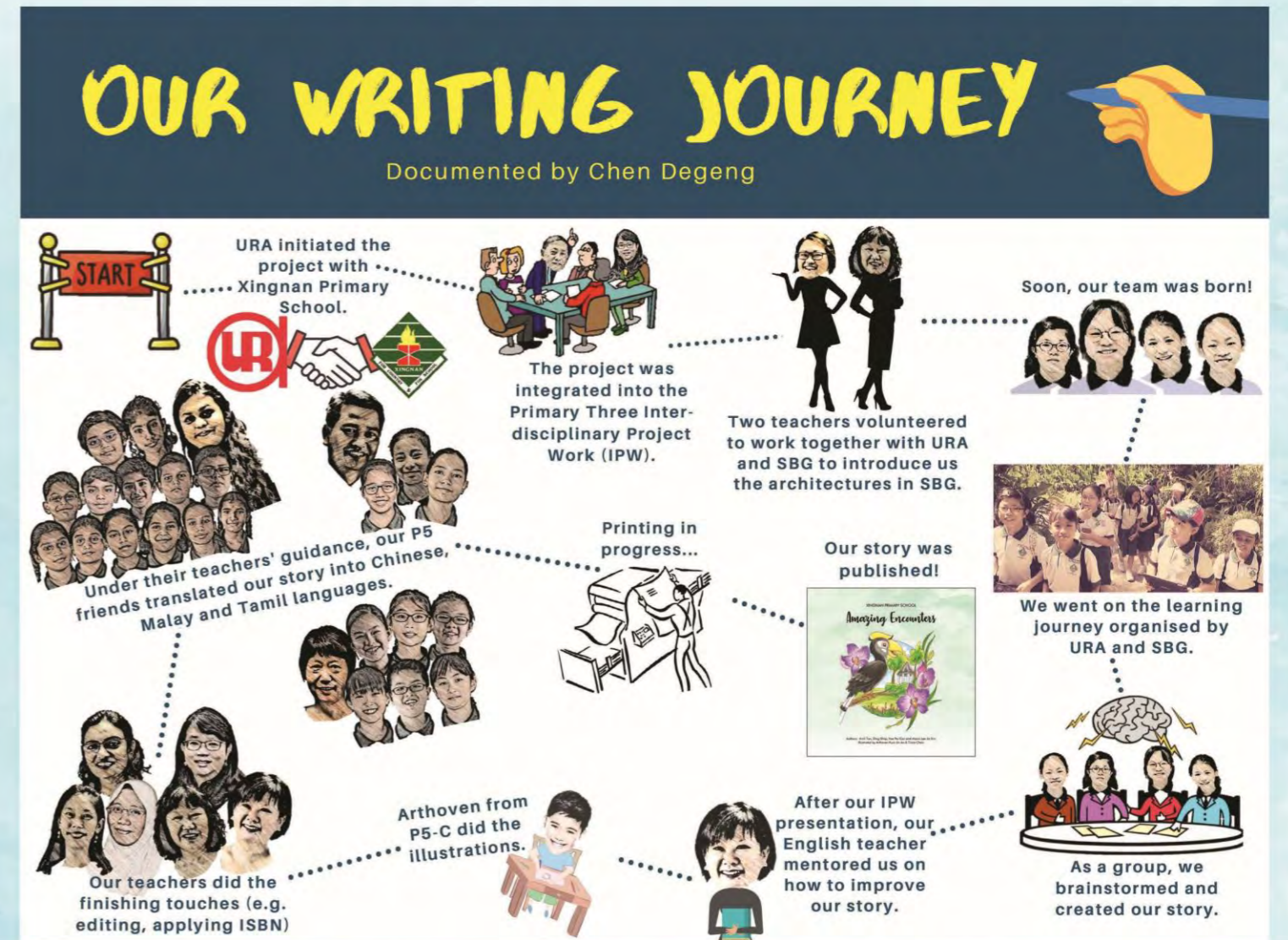
The Bandstand



The Bandstand refers to the small hill where the octagonal gazebo, built in 1930, sits on. In the olden days, bands used to play at the bandstand twice a week to entertain people. Today, it is a favourite place for people to take their wedding photos.

This story is written by a group of 4 nine-year-old students as part of their submission for their Inter-disciplinary Project Work to promote Singapore Botanic Gardens. While the events and characters in this story are fictitious, these writers have tapped on their learning experiences at Singapore Botanic Gardens and worked together to bring you "Amazing Encounters". An eleven-year-old student in the school did the illustrations under the guidance of his mother.

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