

Author Spotlight Adeline Foo



Adeline with her fans during a school visit

Adeline is a mother of three and a published children's book author with 13 books. She has worked 15 years in corporate public relations and advertising, the last seven years were spent in public service.

In 2006, Adeline received the inaugural *First Time Writers & Illustrators Publishing Initiative Award* given by the *Media Development Authority of Singapore* and the *National Book Development Council of Singapore*. Identified by the media authorities as one of Singapore's forerunners in children's book writing, she received support to publish four books featuring the denizens of a tropical rainforest. The *Rainforest Friends* series proved a success and were later adapted into cartoons aired on national TV.

Following the success of the *Rainforest Friends* series, Adeline was supported by the *National Heritage Board* to develop a series of *Singapore Peranakan Stories* in 2008. This series of early history books for young readers showcases the unique *Chinese-Malay-Eurasian* immigrant hybrid culture of the *Peranakans*.

Her latest books include titles from the *Monsters in the Mind* series and her 13th book, *The Diary of Amos Lee*.

These days, she works from home, writing and preparing for speaking engagements – on topics ranging from nurturing creative thinkers to getting inspired to write.

In her words:

"When I was a little girl, I was inspired to write when I met an author in school. Now that I am a mother and an author, I believe in visiting schools to encourage children to read and write. Over the last three years, I've met many parents and children in my writing journey. Nothing touches me more than to have a child tell me that they like my books, because they see themselves mirrored in the stories – laughing at a funny line or a defiant act, or simply having hope like my characters do, that tomorrow will be a better day! Writing for children is a gift that I have inherited, it comes from hoping that maybe like the little girl that was inspired by the author she met in school, I could do the same for another child, in nurturing an author 10, 20 years down the road."

Puteh is a six-year old girl adopted into a *Peranakan* family. She lives with her grandmother, a *nonya*, and her *amah*, a maid-servant from *China*. Her story is a fictitious one created by the author with her scant memories of being brought up by her *Peranakan* grandparents. As the story of *Puteh* evolves, so does the knowledge and awareness of the author in understanding her own *Peranakan* heritage. Through *Puteh's* story, the author hopes that more children will be encouraged to learn about *Peranakan* heritage and appreciate history as seen through the eyes of a child.

The Amulet

Puteh loses her amulet, a protective charm for health, in a fight with her best friend *Itam*. Without it, she feels unwell and has terrible nightmares. Read about the comical exploits of *Itam* and *amah*, the family servant, when they try to help her. A story of friendship and loyalty, join the two children on a journey back in time to learn about two ancient *Chinese* traditions.

Chilli Padi

Puteh has a new friend, *Itam*, a kitchen help adopted by her grandmother. The two children find themselves in trouble when they get into a fight in the kitchen. *Itam* is punished for *Puteh's* misdeed. Read about how *Puteh* redeems herself with her new friend by using the magic of her beaded slippers.

A tale of friendship and loyalty, join *Puteh* and *Itam* on the first of their kitchen exploits and discover a unique side of the *Peranakans* through their food heritage.

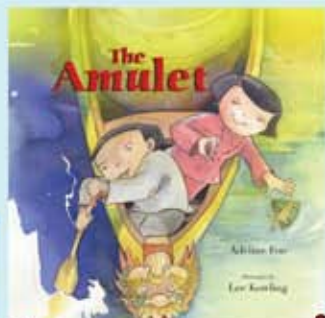
The Beaded Slippers

Puteh has a pair of worn, beaded slippers that were given to her by her grandmother. The slippers allow her to enter an imaginary world and glimpse into the past. Are the beaded slippers really that magical?

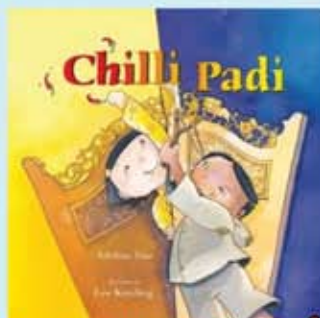
The Kitchen God

A protector of the hearth and a representative of the Jade emperor, the Kitchen God is worshipped by *Puteh's* grandmother. One day, *Puteh* gets into trouble for causing a fire in the kitchen. Join *Puteh* on a quest as she races against time to appease the Kitchen God, before he punishes her for her misdeed. Will she succeed in her quest?

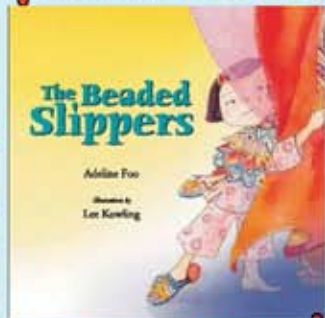
Series Illustrated by **Lee Kowling**



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