

## Braille in children's book

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Braille is printed alongside the texts on the pages on the left of the book.

When children touch the pages on the right, they can feel the texture and the lines that outline the map of Singapore, the face of a boy or a Garfish.

The writings and the textured images are very meaningful for the readers of the English book *Hang Nadim and the Garfish* and especially those who are visually impaired.

“It is an illustrated storybook for children and we want the visually impaired to experience the excitement of reading just like other children,” says local writer Madam Lee Seow Ser to *Gah!*

The book also uses a special font that makes reading easier for children who have dyslexia, low vision or are visually impaired. The Dyslexie font was created by a Dutch graphic designer.

This book is part of a community book project collaboration by Madam Lee, local writer Miss Hidayah Amin and art and design lecturer Madam Tan Ai Khim.

The project is known as ‘To S.I.R (Socially Inclusive Reads) with Love’ that aims to give young and special-needs children an opportunity to enjoy an interesting book together.

It received support from The National Arts Council (NAC).

The book that was published by Helang Books was launched in conjunction with the SupeHero Me festival on 20 June at the National Library.

“We want to inculcate the value of empathy among children since young so that they understand the plight of special-needs children and value the senses that they have,” say Madam Lee.

It is the first book from the series *Little Kids, Big Ideas* – aiming to encourage children to believe that their ideas may be beneficial to society.

For instance, in the book *Hang Nadim and the Garfish*, a child named Hang Nadim shares his idea to the King about the way to stop a garfish attack. This story is based on the popular folklore *Singapura Dilanggar Todak* (Singapore Attacked by Garfishes).

In this book there is a page that displays the Braille alphabet and numbers.

This enables readers to study Braille.

Before this, the book *The Mango Tree* written by Miss Hidayah Amin won the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award and the Grand Prize of the 2015 Samsung KidsTime Author's Award.

*Hang Nadim and the Garfish* costs \$45 a copy and can be ordered via email through [helang.books@gmail.com](mailto:helang.books@gmail.com)