



Farrer Park

*Rhyming Verses from a
Singapore Childhood*

Ann Peters
Illustrated by Lydia Yang

Farrer Park



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Cover design by Lydia Yang
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Published with the support of



National Library Board Singapore Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
Peters, Ann, 1948-
Farrer Park: rhyming verses from a Singapore childhood / Ann Peters;
illustrated by Lydia Yang. – Singapore: Epigram Books, 2012.
p. cm.
ISBN: 978-981-07-1676-9

1. Singapore – Juvenile poetry. I. Yang, Lydia, 1992- II. Title.
PR9570.S53
S821 – dc23 OCN787728849

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First Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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EPIGRAM BOOKS / SINGAPORE

To my parents
who gave me a childhood to remember.

Farrer Park

I have grown up and gone away
Left my childhood behind
At least this is what I always say
Until something brings it to mind.

A word, a memory will raise it up
From where it had quietly lain
Raking the earth and ancient dust
And I'm back in my childhood again.



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Tick Tock Mee

Tick tock, tick tock
Is it already four o'clock?
There's the boy
Knocking bamboo sticks about
Past our window I can see
Taking orders for his mee.

Tick tock, tick tock
Every day, like the clock
There's the boy
Walking round and round the block
Announcing that it's time for tea
Want to order wanton mee?



Longkang Fishing

Every time, when it rains
Water fills the monsoon drains
Longkang fishing here we go!
Casting nets in the flow
Then we just wait and wait
Till some fish we can bait
And when we do
What a big hullabaloo!
Running home with the fish
Asking Mum for a dish.

Mum, she says, "What is this?
Am I seeing longkang fish?
How many times have I told you
Longkang fishing not to do?
It is dangerous, do you hear?"
And she takes me by the ear!
"You can drown doing that!"
And she gives me such a swat!
"It is dangerous near that drain
Promise you won't fish again?
Now throw it back, this fish you took.
And go and take your history book!"





About the Author

Ann Peters is a Singaporean editor who has worked for many years in Asia's mainstream print media.

Her fond recollections of growing up carefree in the Farrer Park neighbourhood inspired these rhyming vignettes, which are evocative of the people and places during her childhood. Ann has two grown-up children.



About the Illustrator

Lydia Yang is a young Singaporean illustrator. A graduate of the School of Design at Temasek Polytechnic, she is inspired, in particular, by Gary Baseman, McBess and Classic Disney. Lydia's favourite types of illustrations are hand-rendered typography and chalk-based drawings.



In this charming collection of rhyming verses, Ann Peters tells the stories of her wondrous, carefree childhood in the Farrer Park neighbourhood. Embodying the spirit of the people and places in the Singapore of old, these poems are imbued with fond memories that Ann hopes to share with the children of today. The poems are accompanied by lovely full-colour illustrations by Lydia Yang, a promising Singaporean artist.



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