



WRITE OF PASSAGE

THEY WHO CAN'T READ

DOCUMENTARIES / FACTUAL

HUMAN/SOCIAL INTEREST

Write Of Passage

Imagine texting your crush, and she thinks you're stupid because you misspelt all the words. Or going to the MRT station, and losing your way because you can't read the signs. How about trying to give your daughter a spelling test, but unable to read the words out loud?

These are the real stories of people in Singapore who struggle to read and write in English, well into adulthood.

How did they fall through the cracks, growing up with a world-class education system? And how did they end up being a hidden minority with few avenues to turn to for help?

Diana Ser gathers 5 of these Singaporeans, and give them the expert help they need over three months. This motley crew include a young engineer, an ex-gang member, a stroke victim, a hotel staffer who speaks fluent English and a mother concerned that her illiteracy is affecting her daughter.

Join them on a heartwarming journey as they set out to conquer the tasks we take for granted – from writing a love letter to singing an English song.

Host: Diana Ser

想象一下，当你给喜欢的人发短信，她却认为你蠢，因为你拼错了所有的单词。或者去地铁站，因看不懂路标而迷路。又或者在给女儿听写测验时，无法大声念出单词。

这是某些新加坡人直到长大成人都难以用英语读与写的真实故事。

这被忽略的一群是如何在世界一流的教育体系中成长？他们最终又如何成为隐形的少数群体，无处求援？

Diana Ser 召集了其中的 5 名新加坡人，并在三个月内为他们提供所需的专家指导。这群杂牌军包括一名年轻的工程师、一名前黑社会成员、一名中风者、一名能说流利英语的酒店工作人员以及一名担心自己是文盲会影响女儿的母亲。

和他们一起踏上一段温暖的旅程，征服我们认为理所当然的任务--从写情书到唱一首英文歌。

主持人: Diana Ser

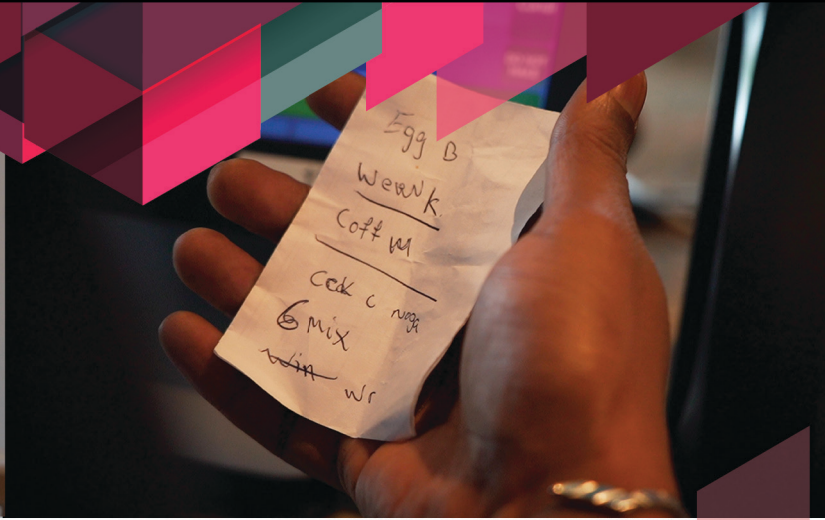
Language: English

Episodes: 3 x 60 minutes
Producer: Mediacorp Studios
Distributor: Mediacorp

For sales enquiries on content distribution:

Grace Chia gracechia@mediacorp.com.sg
Pamela Teo pamellateoww@mediacorp.com.sg
Tracy Sim tracysim@mediacorp.com.sg
<http://contentdistribution.mediacorp.sg>





EP1: My Secret Is I Can't Read

Diana Ser finds out how her motley crew of adult illiterates keep their secret hidden in a world labelled in English.

Stephen, 33, is a successful engineer who can drive without reading road signs. But he has a secret weapon to cope with his inability.

Jega, 40, speaks eloquently in his job as a waiter but he reads like a 6-year-old. The hospitality veteran fears being promoted because he can't read food tags.

Jimmy, 60, spent most of his adult life in prison. He wants to start a new leaf but he is bewildered by the English-centric world he's thrust into.

Xiao Ling, 35, worries that her poor English is the reason her Primary 5 daughter is falling behind,

And finally Maya, 40, only lost her literacy 3 years ago in a stroke. Her aphasia causes her to struggle to find the words she wants to convey.

Join Diana as she finds out what each of them would like to do, if only they could read and write English like the average Singaporean.

EP2: Shame Under The Spotlight

Midway through their lessons, Diana Ser challenges her motley crew of adult illiterates to do the seemingly impossible - memorise an English script and put up a play in front of friends and family.

Xiao Ling is keen to improve her English, so she can perform the play without people laughing at her. But her efforts face resistance from an unexpected quarter.

Painful experiences brought on by illiteracy has made Stephen reserved. But the play brings out a side in him that surprises Diana as well as a mystery guest from his past.

Meanwhile, Jega who speaks 3 languages but simply cannot read English, finally solves the mystery of his life-long struggle with literacy.

EP3: What's The Score?

With just one month of lessons left, Diana is delighted to witness the progress our five illiterate adults have made so far. But they will be put to the test soon. Can they achieve their literacy goals?

The oldest at 60, Jimmy struggles with the classroom life. Would he be able to sing in English in front of an audience?

While Stephen's goal of writing a love letter to his wife becomes more crucial than ever when he finds out he'd be sent overseas for two months.

Maya feared she'd never be able to speak words again after a stroke that caused aphasia. Can she order food from a stranger for the first time in three years?