

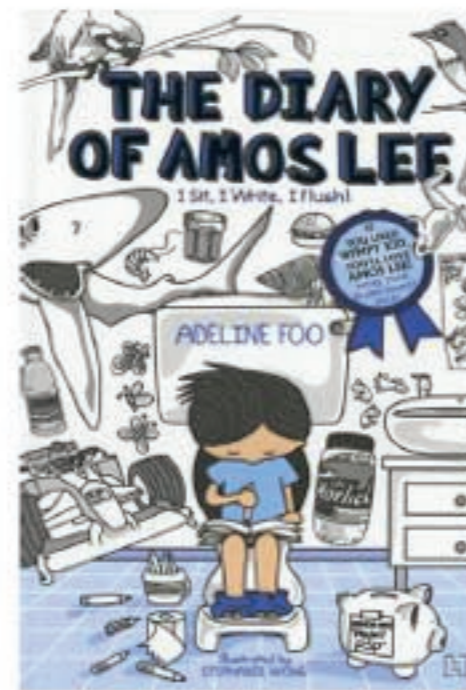
# On a day-to-day basis

Here's a diary that is not only funny but also a riveting read.

R. KRITHIKA

Now how do you resist a tag line that goes "I sit, I write, I flush". Simple, you don't! Adeline Foo's *The Diary of Amos Lee* grows on you as you read and it's something most kids will identify with, even if it's set in Singapore. Dealing with parents, a whining young sister, school bullies, tough teachers and grades... it's the same everywhere.

Not that Amos is a nerd who wants to record his thoughts and deeds. His mum comes up with a New Year's resolution that he should start a diary while he's in the toilet "when I am doing my big business." And so it begins: from a quick sketch of the dramatis personae — that's Amos himself, his sister, his parents and grandparents — the reader is hooked into the life of a pre-teen. Of course Amos has some advantages: his mum is a freelance writer — "she can write from home (not very good news for me) but some days, she won't be home as she has to go



for meetings. That's the good part" — and he gets to tag along on her assignments to food joints, malls etc.

## Random thoughts

There is a downside to this diary business, of course. And that's the fact that Amos' mum is keeping an

eye on what he writes and corrects his mistakes. Not that this stops Amos from putting down his thoughts.

He wonders if the urine detection sign in the lift actually works and thinks about testing it; of course mum puts a stop to it; about trying to start a fish spa with grandpa's guppies; about the famous night safari; about his friends Alvin and Anthony... Current events too are mentioned: the earthquake in Sichuan; the Singapore Grand Prix...

Written almost as a child would speak — and marked with mum's spelling corrections and outraged remarks — *The Diary of Amos Lee* makes for riveting reading; some of it does seem kind of gross but is still funny. Stephanie Wong's illustrations add to the humour. So go ahead, pick this one up and get ready for a bucketful of laughs. This is only the first of the three; so get set for more from Amos Lee.

**THE DIARY OF AMOS LEE: I SIT, I WRITE, I FLUSH: Adeline Foo; Hachette, Rs. 195.**

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2. Write down your diary for one day on it — any one day. What you did, what happened to you that day, what was cool, what was 'ew'... choose any one fun day in your life.
3. Do up the page however you want. (See our tips inside.)
4. On the back, write your name, age, date of birth, address (with the pincode), phone number and e-mail (use your parents' if you don't have one) and send it to:

I Sit, I Write Contest  
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**WIN!**  
Last date: 15 August 2011

25 lucky winners get:

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- A super diary with your name printed on it

And everyone who participates gets an Amos Lee poster!

\* This contest is open to all Indian children between 8 and 14 years \* Relatives of Hachette Book Publishing India Pvt Ltd employees cannot participate \* The Judges' decision will be final \* No communication about decisions will be entertained \* All disputes will be under the jurisdiction of Delhi courts. For complete rules, please visit [www.hachetteindia.com/children/Contest.aspx](http://www.hachetteindia.com/children/Contest.aspx)