

## •THEBIGTHING•

# I Sit, I Write, I Flush!

Despite its title, the latest book by children's author Adeline Foo is not about toilet humour!  
BY MALINI NATHAN

**W**HAT started as random rants in a toilet has now become the inspiration for a new children's book.

Titled *The Diary Of Amos Lee - I Sit, I Write, I Flush!*, the book is the brainchild of Ms Adeline Foo, 38, a mother of three and author of 12 other children's books including *Ben's Friends From The Rainforest*, *Secret Hoarder* and *The Midnight Tree*.

The idea for her latest book came from her older son, Benjamin, nine, who introduced her to *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid* by American author and cartoonist Jeff Kinney. Ms Foo loved the book and said it reminded her of *The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole, Aged 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* by English author Sue Townsend, that she had read years before.

As a mother, she wanted Benjamin to learn to express himself well, so she started making him pen his thoughts in a book she kept in the

bathroom.

Using some examples from this book and memories of experiences shared with her children, friends and family, Ms Foo brought her 13th book to life.

It charts the life and experiences of Amos Lee, 10, through his diary of the year 2008 in Singapore.

Targeting eight- to 12-year-olds, the book covers themes such as sibling rivalry, friendship and helping the less fortunate. It charts memorable occasions throughout the year such as the F1 race, Beijing Olympics and even the Chingay parade.

"I wanted a book that told children they aren't alone in facing exam anxiety, failing to

meet parental expectations, having overprotective and neurotic mothers and facing bullies in school," said Ms Foo of the idea behind the book.

She added that the book, which took four months to complete, is her way of teaching values through a spunky and vibrant true-to-life character like Amos.

"Amos is like any local boy. He has feelings. He can be tough and weak. And that's what young readers can relate to."



ST PHOTO: DESMOND LIM

Author Adeline Foo says the material for her latest book came from random thoughts while in the toilet. She has three children (from left), Tessa Foo, six, Jeremy Foo, four and Benjamin Foo, nine.

## Get the author to visit your school!

Want author Adeline Foo and illustrator Stephanie Wong of *The Diary Of Amos Lee - I Sit, I Write, I Flush* to visit your school?

Just answer this simple question in less than 100 words:

How have you helped a friend in need?

Send in your entry to [stdot@sph.com.sg](mailto:stdot@sph.com.sg)

Include your full name, age, class, school, phone number and a picture of yourself.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL ENTRIES: JUNE 8**

The writers of the best eight entries, chosen by the author, will each receive an autographed book.

The top three entries will also get a special school visit by the author and illustrator and Ronald McDonald!

## Get your copy of *The Diary of Amos Lee* I Sit, I Write, I Flush!

The book is in stores or online at [www.marketasia.com.sg](http://www.marketasia.com.sg) or come to The Play Den, Level 2 at The Arts House, this Sunday at 2pm! Meet the author and get your very own copy at just \$11! (Usual price: \$13.90) Just bring this coupon to the book launch to enjoy your discount.

Mark it in your calendars!

You can even get your books signed by author Adeline Foo and illustrator Stephanie Wong.

