

Our Ghost Stories in Tamil

In 2018, my friends, Sri and Sivhani, presently in 4E6 and 4E5 respectively, thought it would be a good idea to create a book filled with ghost stories as our Tamil ViA project. They approached our Tamil teacher Mdm Meenatchi and ViA teacher Ms Angie Sew for approval and guidance. Once they got the go-ahead from them, they publicised their idea to the rest of the class and also to Tamil students in other classes and levels, and encouraged everyone to start writing stories.

The Struggle

Sri and Sivhani faced many challenges in collecting the stories from students of different levels. Students ran away as if facing zombies when requested to contribute ghost stories for the completion of the project, as they did not want to put in their time and effort in it; until we told them that this would help toward their ViA points.

It was a tough exercise to go through each of those stories and compile them in a systematic manner as they were all from students of different levels. They were unsure as to whether they should have put the stories according to level or random order.

Moreover, it was another difficult task to identify and rectify grammatical errors and spelling errors.

Then there was the task of creating a book cover and to get more appropriate pictures for some stories, so as to make the reading more interesting and enjoyable.

They also had to find out how many hours each student had worked for the project and compute and compile details. Many of the participants did not know whether to create titles for their stories and hence Sivhani and Sri had to create titles.

Furthermore, they faced another obstacle as they had to run and find a publisher to publish the book. (In our thoughts, a ghost runner, to drive out the evil and bring the book alive.)

The students also faced a lot of challenges in writing the story. According to one of the secondary three students (which plenty of other students, including me, agree to), writing a ghost story in Tamil was a new experience for her, and the fact that she did not know whether it would be interesting if she wrote it was making things more difficult.

Some students put a lot of their time for researching, to make the stories they wrote interesting and tried their best to make sure that there were no spelling errors to make it easier for Sri and Sivhani.

The process of publicising

On 1 February, the Tamil Ghost Story was launched at Geylang East Library. Sri, Sivhani, Reshaa from 4E2 and Raahila from 2E1, and I acted out one of the stories as part of the promotion of the book. The writer of the story, Aafia from 2E1, gave a short speech on how honoured she was that we picked her story to act out, Sri and Sivhani made a speech about the inspiration for the project. One of the secondary three students who came to support us said that we did great in our drama and that it was a fun and interesting way to publicise the book. The audience, including our teacher, fellow Tamil students from TKGS, parents and family members were happy to share our success.

In the end...

After facing plenty of hardships, we finally managed to publish the book on Kindle, on 2 February this year. The journey was like going to a theatre, expecting a horror movie, but instead landing in a romantic comedy in the end, when the book got published. The struggle to carry out this project was finally over and was also successful. Everyone was overjoyed. That was the end of the journey of creating our amazing book, 'பேய்கள் ஜாக்கிரதை', or otherwise known in English as 'Beware of the ghosts'.

By: Atiya Basheer Ahamed 4E5



Group picture taken after the book promotion event.

From left, front row: Raahila 2E1, Aafia 2E1, Srivarthini 4E6, Mdm Meenatchi,
Sivhani 4E5, Reshaa 4E2, Atiya 4E5

Back row: Srinithy 2E6, Sweda 2E6, Safiyah 3E6, Aafrin 3E2, Pavittra 3E2

On screen: Book cover.

Other pictures:









