



My Little Chingay Float

by Josef Lee

When little Meena builds a tiny float for the big Chingay Parade, everyone says it's too small. But with the help of her friends, she discovers that big hearts and bold dreams shine brightest when we come together. A joyful tale of teamwork, harmony and believing in yourself.

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It was the night of the annual Chingay Parade. AS her family watched the parade on television, little Meena sat nearby - too young to understand, but already wide-eyed with wonder.





Oh, the lights! The music!
The colourful floats!

Meena was mesmerised.

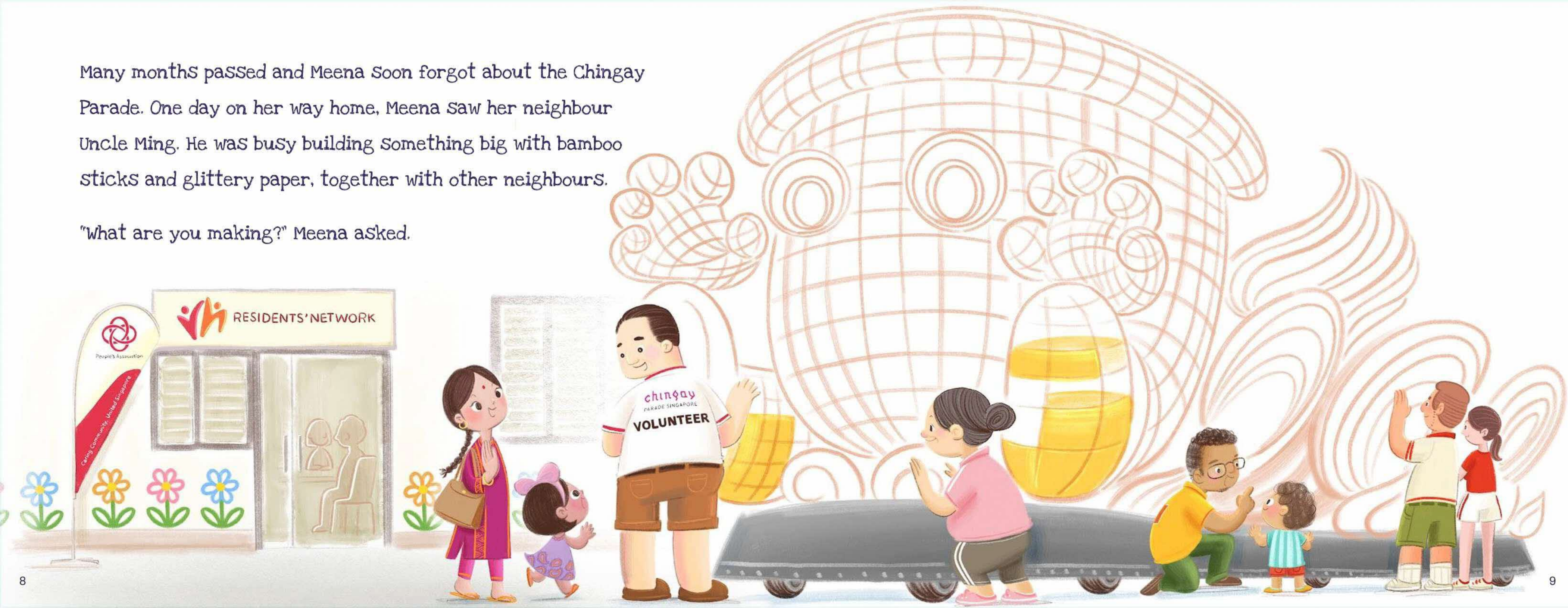
Her eyes followed
every dancer,
every twirling ribbon.

That night, Meena hugged her Soft toy tightly.
"I want to ride on a Chingay float one day,"
She whispered. Meena drifted off to Sleep
with a big dream in her little heart.



Many months passed and Meena soon forgot about the Chingay Parade. One day on her way home, Meena saw her neighbour Uncle Ming. He was busy building something big with bamboo sticks and glittery paper, together with other neighbours.

"What are you making?" Meena asked.



"We are making a float for the Chingay Parade!" Uncle Ming said.
"Chingay celebrates our different cultures, and brings everyone together." Uncle Ming told Meena more about the Chingay Parade.

"Chingay Parade started long ago as a street parade during the Chinese New Year period. Over time, it grew into a joyful festival for all races and cultures in Singapore."



"There are multicultural dancers, kompong performers and stilt walkers... all in one big parade!"

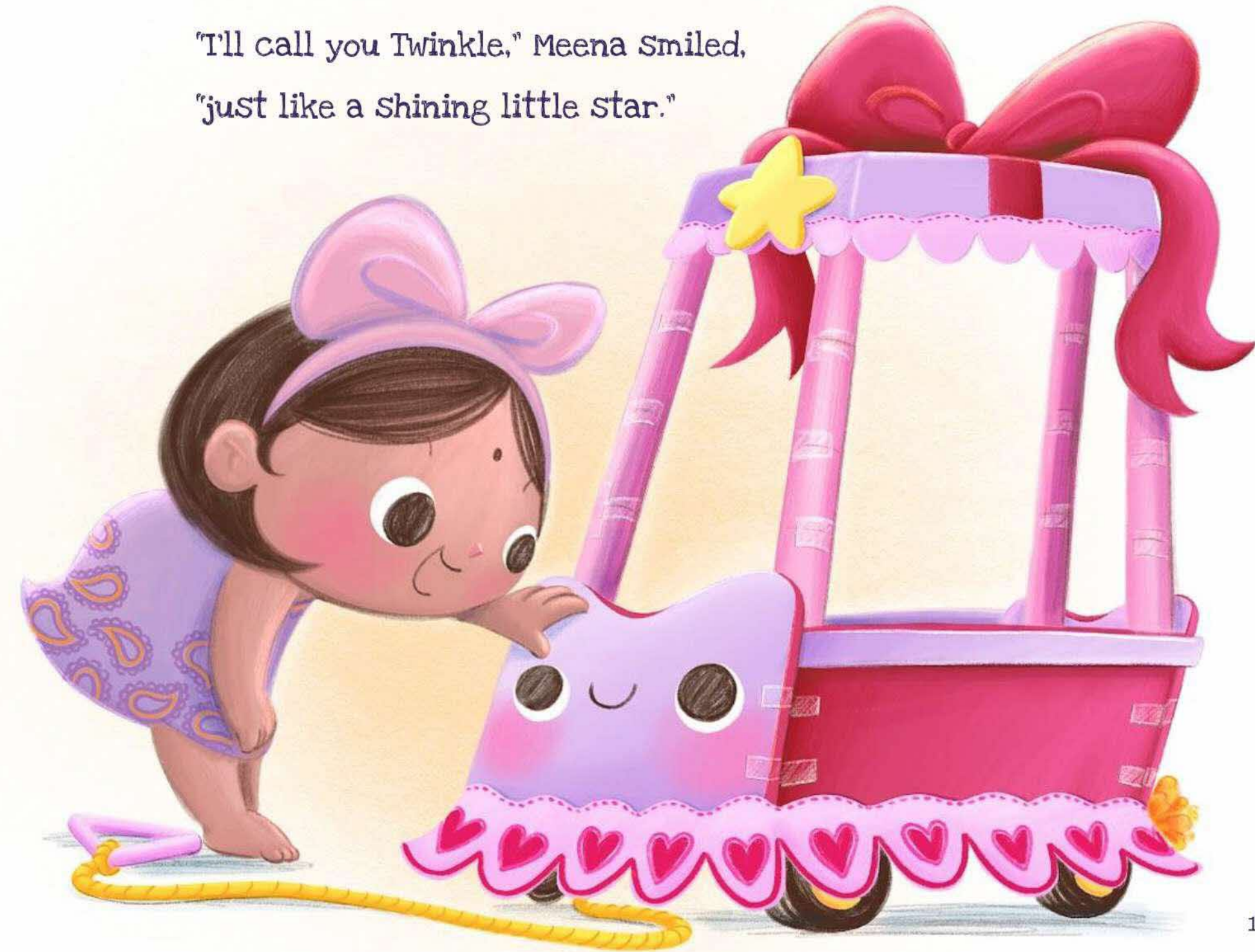
Meena's eyes sparkled. "I want to be part of it!" she said.



That night, Meena rushed home. She looked around her room and gathered old boxes, buttons, ribbons and strings. She also took marigold flowers from grandma's garden. Every evening, she painted and glued. Her little float began to take shape.



"I'll call you Twinkle," Meena smiled, "just like a shining little star."



When Twinkle was ready, Meena brought her to the void deck.

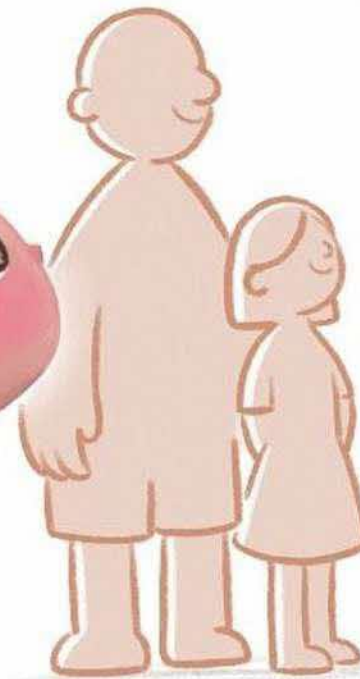
"Uncle Ming, look! I made my own float!"

Uncle Ming chuckled warmly. "Wah! So cute - like a baby float!"

He glanced at the giant float behind him and added with a smile,

"Maybe not big enough for the big parade... but who knows?"

Even the grandest floats start small."



Meena walked home slowly, with Twinkle rolling behind her.

"Maybe we are really too small,"

she sighed.



That night, Mummy gave her a hug.

"Even small ideas can grow big - if you have help."

The next day, Meena met her friends at the playground.

"Nurul, Kai, Eden... will you help me make Twinkle better?"
she asked. "Of course!" they chimed together.



Hi, Twinkle!

They brought things from home -

Nurul brought a piece of batik cloth from her mother's old dress, and a small kompang from her School Show.




Kai found lantern-making materials from an old art project and blossom flower decorations.

Eden shared sparkly star lights from a holiday display.



Mummy added peacock feathers - soft, shiny, and full of colours.



Twinkle looked bright, bold and beautiful.
The children clapped and cheered.
Then they sang a little song together -

*You may be Small but still a star,
With Colours bright, you'll Shine So far!
Together we build, together we play,
Let's Share our joy at this Chingay!*

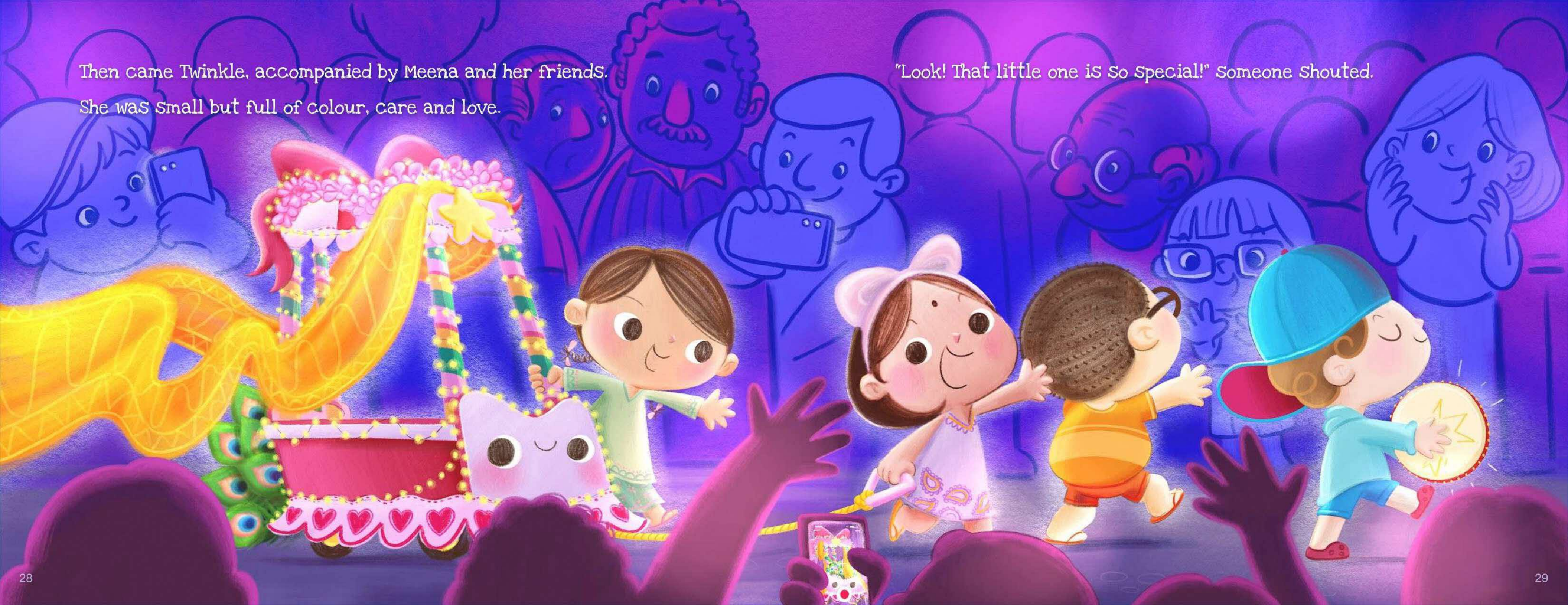
The Chingay Parade finally came. The giant floats are all over

Singapore, visiting even the heartlands.



Then came Twinkle, accompanied by Meena and her friends.
She was small but full of colour, care and love.

"Look! That little one is so special!" Someone shouted.



The crowd clapped and cheered. Meena beamed.
Even Uncle Ming smiled proudly.
"So small, but so full of heart," he said.

Meena looked at Twinkle and whispered,
"You're not the biggest, but you shine the brightest."
Her friends nodded.

Twinkle had connected them in the most joyful way.



That night, Meena sat beside Twinkle, hugging her close.
Her eyes began to close as moonlight filled the room.
"We did it," she whispered.

*Even small dreams can shine
when we work together.*



*Chingay is
a celebration
for everyone—
big or small,
young or old.*

*When we come
together and
celebrate our
cultures, we can
shine like stars.*

*Just like Twinkle.
Just like you.*

Let's Learn with Meena!

Fun Chingay Facts!



Did you know these cool things about Chingay?

2 Chingay means "The Art of Costume & Masquerade"



'Chingay' means the art of costume and masquerade in the Hokkien dialect — dressing up in costumes and putting on performances.

1 Chingay is a People's Parade!



Chingay is a people's parade celebrating multiculturalism with elaborate costumes, colourful floats and cultural performances.

3 It's for Everyone!



People from different ages, races and cultures take part — Chinese, Malay, Indian, Eurasian and many others... even kids!

4 Chingay started in 1973!



Chingay began as a humble street parade, and is one of Singapore's biggest celebrations now — full of colours, music and smiles during the Chinese New Year period!

5 The Floats can move!



Chingay floats have wheels, lights, and even moving parts! Some can even twirl, spin or glow in the dark!

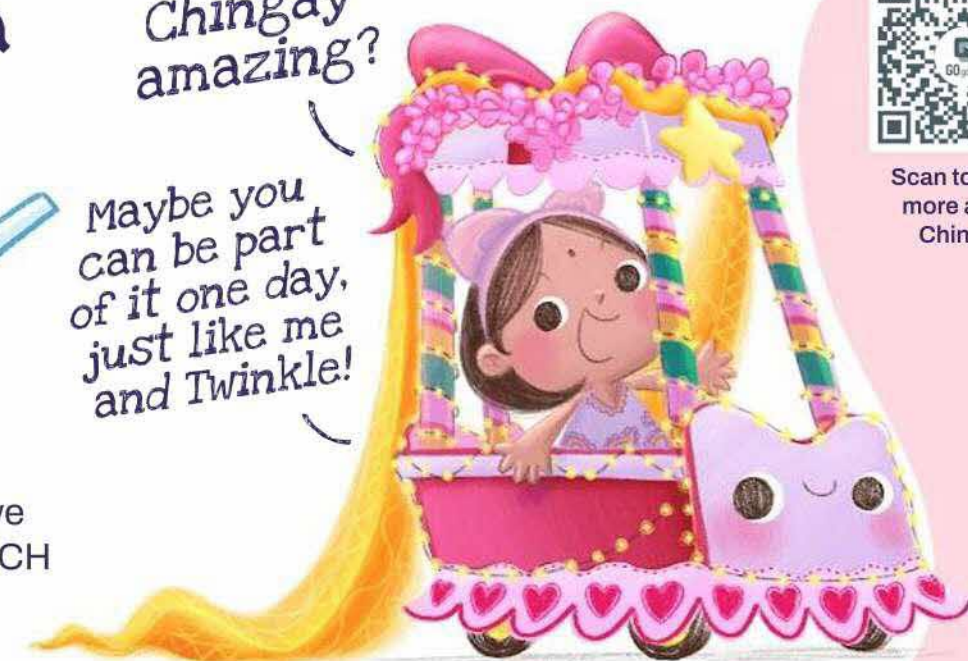
6 Nominated by Singapore & Malaysia for UNESCO ICH list



Chingay is our living heritage — a tradition we celebrate every year. Being on the UNESCO ICH list helps the world see how special it is.

Isn't Chingay amazing?

Maybe you can be part of it one day, just like me and Twinkle!



Scan to know more about Chingay

Whose Costume is That?

Can you guess which costume is the performer wearing?

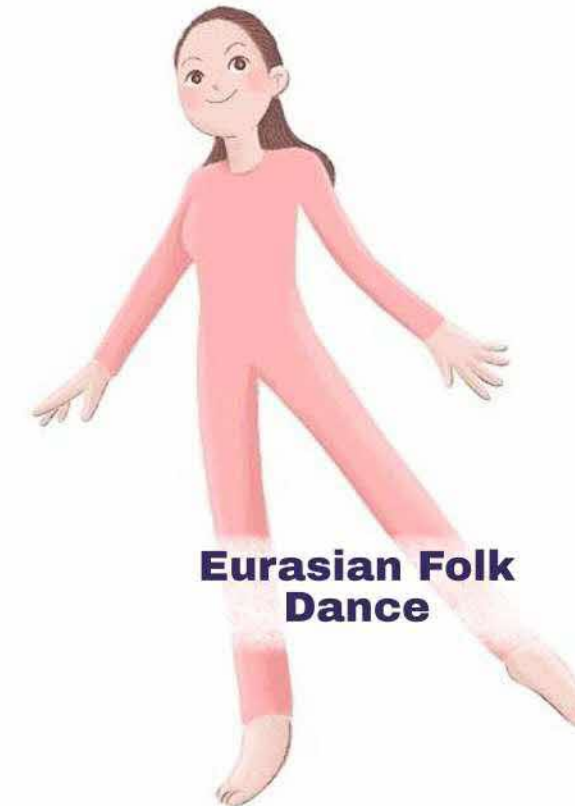
Point and match them with your friends!



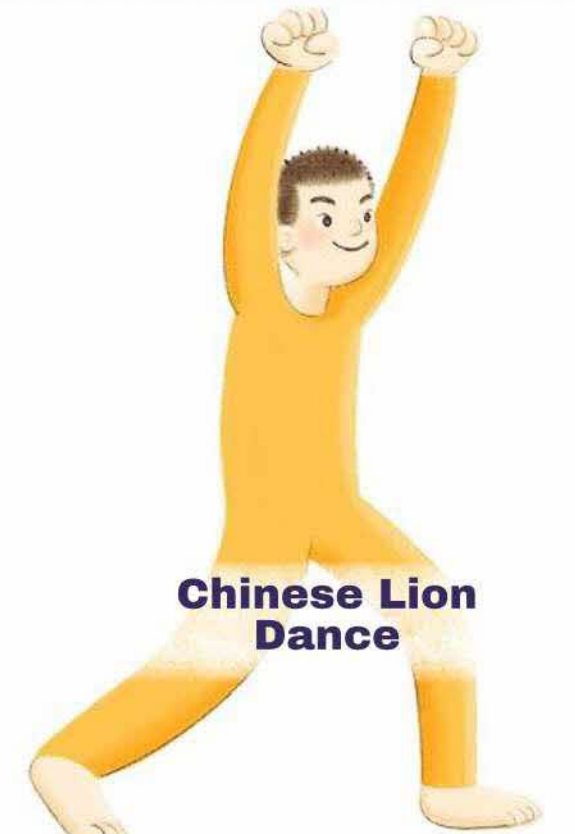
Indian Classical Dance



Malay Kompang

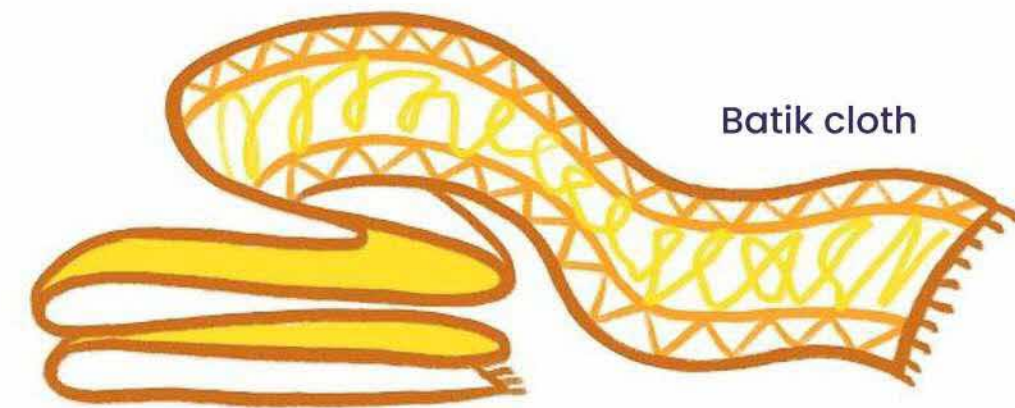


Eurasian Folk Dance



Chinese Lion Dance





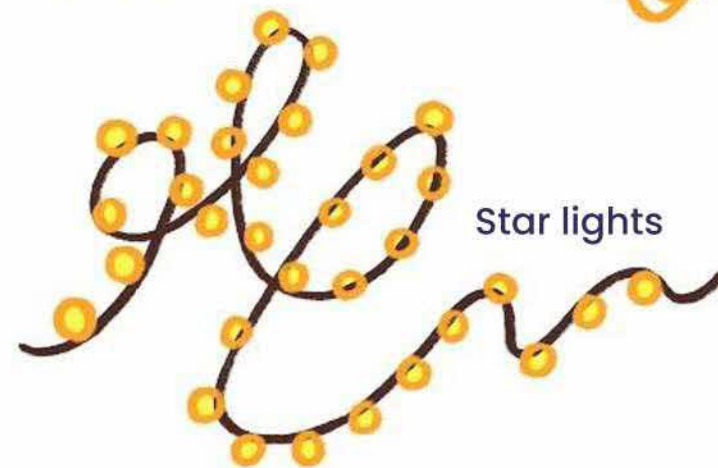
Batik cloth



Ribbon



Flowers



Star lights



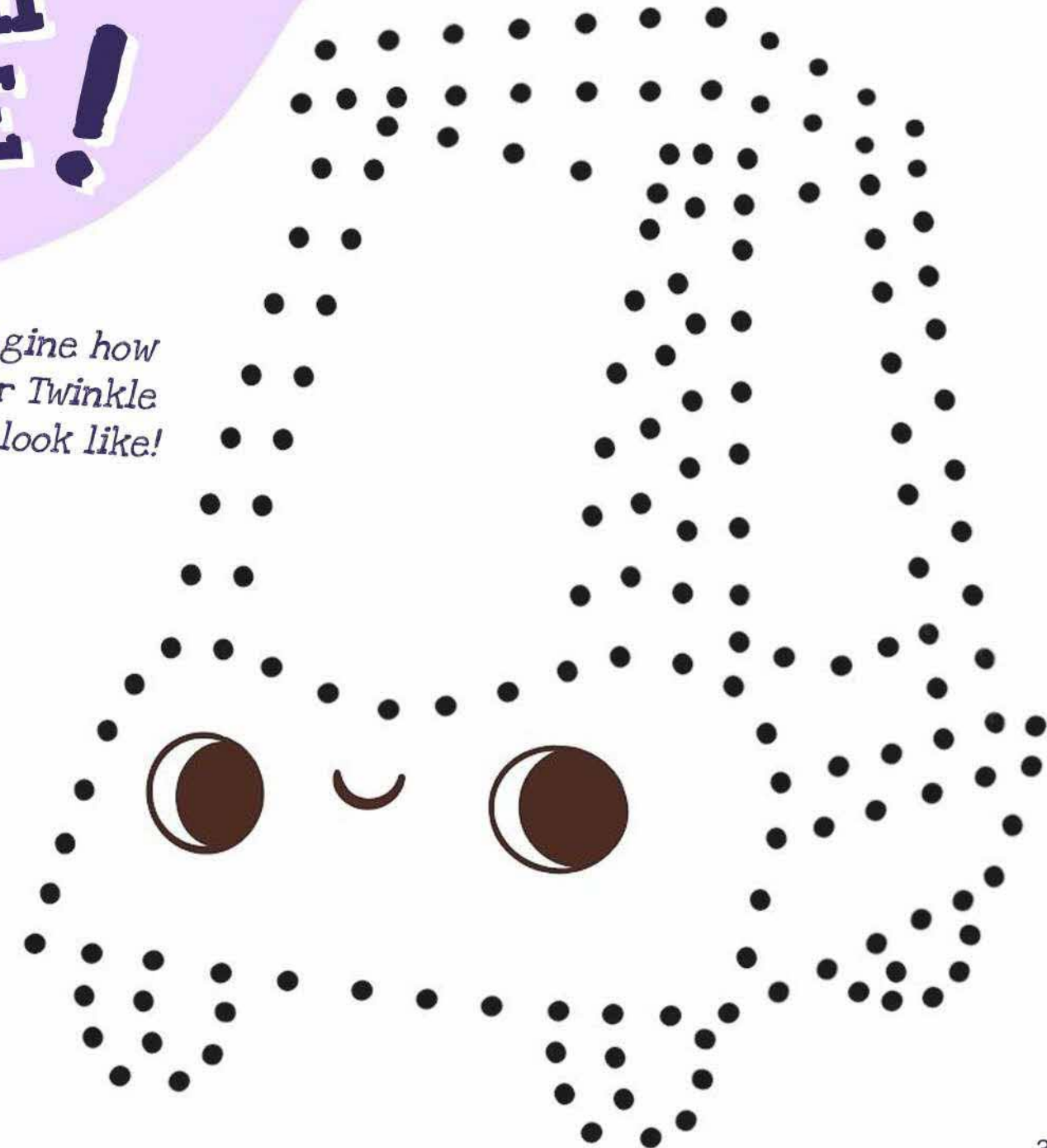
Peacock feathers

What else do you want to add to your Twinkle?

Build Your TWINKLE!



Imagine how your Twinkle will look like!



Step Into Chingay: Where Heritage Comes Alive

Chingay, organised by the People's Association (PA), is Singapore's most spectacular street parade.

The vibrant event has enchanted generations with its kaleidoscope of colours and cultural performances, bringing communities together in celebration of our shared heritage and diversity. Each year, PA brings fresh energy to this beloved parade, weaving traditional elements with contemporary expressions. To celebrate SG60, Chingay 2025 is a special edition that captivated audiences with an all-new immersive layout featuring a four-level stage for performers and a PAssionArts Street within the parade avenue to enhance community participation and showcase art installations co-created by residents and students.

In commemoration of the 60th bilateral anniversary between Singapore and Malaysia in 2025, both countries have jointly nominated for the inscription of Chingay onto the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

We invite you to join us at this extraordinary celebration where cultures unite.

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