



**Mrs Susan Chan**  
*Chairman,  
English Selection Panel  
Letters from Grandma  
and Grandpa*

## Message

When I first gazed at the face of my grandson, Christian, twenty-two months ago, I was filled with an indescribable sense of joy and love. I rejoiced at his safe delivery and basked in the beauty of his birth. He was adorable, tiny, and yet so complete. And without even trying, he stole my heart immediately, simply by being born. I speak fondly as a grandmother and I know I am echoing the sentiments of all grandmothers.

Becoming a grandmother has made me even more determined to stay active and engaged in society. It is the wish of every grandparent to be there to experience his or her grandchildren growing up, and be a part of their lives as much as possible. Hence, when I was asked to chair the panel for this project, I accepted immediately as I felt that this was something I was meant to do.

As a grandmother, I firmly believe in the importance of the insights and influence of the older generation in the lives of the young. There is much for us to share with our grandchildren from our own lives.

As an educator, I believe in the importance of family in nurturing the growth and development of children. The home is the first building block of a child's life. A home that is rich in family connections, especially with the older generation, can provide a strong and supportive environment for the child.

I have been actively canvassing for support for this book and I sincerely thank all the contributors who have supported this project with their letters. My husband and I have also penned a letter for our grandchild.

In these letters are stories from the past, thoughts about what the future portends, and an emphasis on some core values that bind our society together – humility, tolerance, compassion, hard work and being frugal and not materialistic, to name but a few.

Many of the letter writers simply want to share their feelings of love and joy with their grandchildren. Some have grandchildren who are living overseas, and may only get to meet them occasionally. Some have very young grandchildren; some have grandchildren who are already adults. Regardless of age or locale, all the letter writers write of the happiness and joy their grandchildren give them.

The writers come from varied backgrounds, across different ethnic groups, religions, and professions. The voices may be disparate, but the key message is the same. All the writers invariably contributed to this book because they wished to leave something behind for their

grandchildren – something invaluable, something to remember them by, something to set their grandchildren on their own life journey.

There are many gems of wisdom here, and many inspiring stories. I hope that this book is just the beginning of the process of capturing our legacies for the next generation. I hope reading this will inspire other grandparents to write to their grandchildren, thus fostering stronger ties across generations in our society.