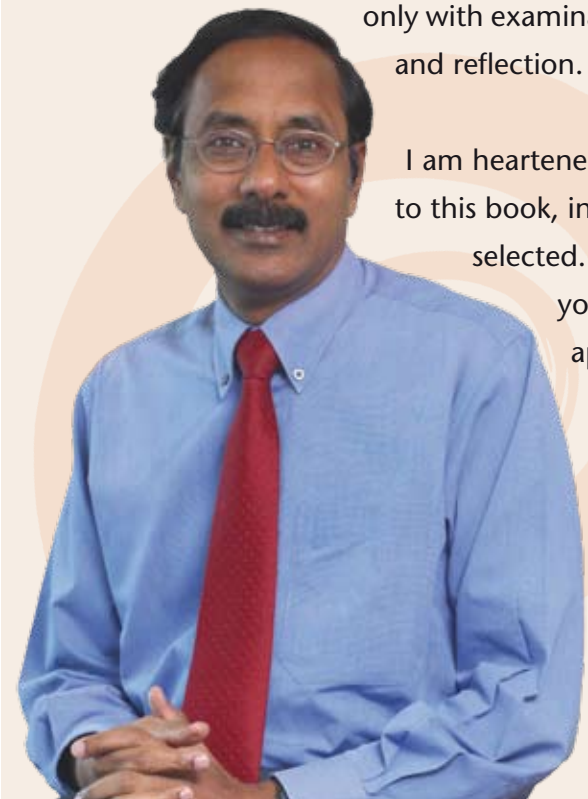


# foreword

**STORYTELLING AND LETTER WRITING** are art forms both creative and personal. They make us slow down and really listen, to what people have to say. They contain nuances and words that convey feelings and thoughts that cannot be captured in a quick conversation or cursory email. When you sit down to write a letter, you take a deep breath first, then let the memories or emotions come to you, before the words flow onto the page.

*To My Grandpa/Grandma* received a boost this year with the partnership with the Ministry of Education. It is the perfect partnership between two organisations with a mission of education and lifelong learning. This takes the Letters and Stories to the schools and allows students to write without associating the act of writing only with examinations or tests, inspiring children to write, for self expression and reflection.

I am heartened by the growing number of writers who have contributed to this book, including those whose letters and stories may not have been selected. For the writers featured here, your willingness to share your thoughts and feelings with such openness is deeply appreciated. For both selected and unselected writers, I hope that this is just the first step to a closer relationship with your grandparents, filled with heartfelt sharing. Write and read, then write some more and read it out loud – that is all that is needed for anything to grow.



*To My Grandpa/Grandma* is a book of wisdom. To a young nation like Singapore, it is an important part of our oral history and social landscape. It contains reflections spanning three generations – the hopes and dreams and wonderings of the younger generation communicated to their grandparents. It connects the old and young and preserves the oral history and heritage of our nation that would otherwise be lost. These Letters and Stories attempt to preserve the heritage and important values and beliefs that make Singaporeans who they are today. Perhaps, this may be used as part of the literature taught in schools.

The National Library Board (NLB) is proud to continue to give support to *To My Grandpa/Grandma* and we look forward to its growth. We welcome partnerships that would help us reach out to more Singaporeans as well as suggestions from our readers. It is my hope that this will grow to become an important part of Singapore's oral and written history.

**Dr N Varaprasad**  
**Chief Executive**  
**National Library Board**

*The National Library Board – an inspiring beacon of lifelong learning, bringing knowledge alive, sparking imagination and creating possibilities for a vibrant and creative Singapore.*