



Lesson plans & activities based on

The House on Palmer Road

Lesson Plan 1:

Maps & The Neighbourhood

Suitable for Ages: 8-12

Theme:

- Maps
- Physical History

Lesson objectives:

- Creative writing
- Reading maps
- Making physical connections
- Research

Preparation:

Read the chapter “Sunday Specials” (Pg 108), paying closer attention to the route the family took to the Chinese Swimming Club, and what Sing describes seeing. Look at the illustrated map on pages 112-113 for added guidance.

Activities:

1. Now & Then

Using an old map, trace the route the family took to the Chinese Swimming Club. Then trace the same route they took using present-day maps. Compare how the new roads follow or differ from the old roads. Which landmarks are still standing and which have changed? How are these places and spaces used now? (Eg. the old airport building is still there, but how has it changed from Sing’s time?) Discuss what Sing would have seen along the way if she travelled along the same roads now. Then reflect on the changes and why it happened.

Tip: SLA’s One Historical Map (<https://ohm.onemap.sg>) is a very useful resource for this exercise. Archival photos also help.

2. Kampong Life

Research and discuss what kampongs were like in Singapore. Pretend you live in Kampong Amber and write about your life there. Use archival images for prompts. (Resources: National Archives)

3. Map it out

Get students to draw a map of their neighbourhood, or their route from home to school. Identify a few landmarks just like the illustration on page 112-113, and describe them.