

## WORDS MATTER: LANGUAGE AND POWER



Welcome to the Primer series. Here you will find the weekly Primer articles and some curated resources to support teaching and learning.

To what extent does language shape our worldview and influence audiences? In this issue, we will learn about the power of language and how we should use it with discernment.



FOR SUBSCRIBERS

*Mind your language – words have the power to change the world*

This is the ninth of a series of 12 primers on current affairs and issues in the news, and what they mean for Singapore.

Sharna Bhow



Photos for the content of a recent edition of a memorial (Photo by Sharna Bhow)



<https://go.gov.sg/2023primer9-1>



<https://go.gov.sg/2023primer9-2>

**Scan or click on the QR code  
to access the primer.**

**In this issue, we will:**

- find out more about how language is used to inform and influence audiences;
- explore how language is a tool that can engender bias or encourage inclusivity; and
- understand the need to be discerning communicators in today's world.

# BACKGROUND

Scan or click on the QR codes below to access the links.



## LANGUAGE AND POWER

How do words shape our world? Read this article to learn about how language can be an instrument of power.



## LANGUAGE AND OUR PERCEPTION OF REALITY

Can the language we use influence our perception of reality and the way we approach problems?



## OUR CHOICE OF WORDS

How might our word choices fuel polarisation? Read this article to learn about the consequences of our word choices.



# PERSPECTIVES

Scan or click on the QR codes below to access the links.

As you read these articles, consider the following:

- To what extent should language be nuanced in the name of inclusivity and social responsibility?
- How far do you agree with the perspectives and how does each writer's view support or challenge the others?



## WHAT'S IN A WORD?

Ong discusses the power of words and how they can be used or misused.



## LANGUAGE AS A REFLECTION OF US

Ulin argues that we should choose our words carefully as the language we use reflects who we are.



## POLITICALLY CORRECT LANGUAGE

Joshi argues that the promotion of politically correct language for the sake of inclusivity should not be taken too far.





# EXTEND YOUR UNDERSTANDING: RESOURCES FOR BLENDED LEARNING

Scan or click on these QR codes for more information.

Video: Can Hate  
Speech Incite  
Genocide?



How Words Shape  
People and Culture



The Dangers of  
Toxic Speech



How Language  
Affects Our Sense  
of Time and Space



## SLS RESOURCES



Critical  
Reading



Online  
Falsehoods

## OTHER ST RESOURCES

### ST GP RESOURCES



### ST IB RESOURCES



# WEEK 8 READING CHAMPS!

CLARISSA BAY YI TING	ASRJC	IAN WANG	NUS High
DYLAN ONG ZHI HENG	ACJC	LOO IVAN	RI
KYRA TEO	ACS(I)	LOW ZI TING	RVHS
GLENDA CHRISTOPHER GREGORY	CJC	ERNEST HAROLD YEO	SAJC
CHEE SHI YAO ALICIA	DHS	SHEN CELINE	SOTA
JANICE KAU SHIYU	EJC	TRINA LING SZE YI	SSP
CHAY YING SONG ARIEL	HCI	KOH YI SEN EVAN	SJI
LEE YOONJI	JPJC	EDRIC SAN	TMJC
HO BOON HIOK	MI	SIM YUN SAN, ANABELLE	TJC
TEO WEN ZHE GARETH	NYJC	ARIS HAIQUEL ZULKARNAIN	VJC
NG HUI EN IRIS	NJC	CHEONG RUI JIE	YIJC



## READING CAMPAIGN

Organised in conjunction with the Primer season  
(over 12 weeks from 20 March to 7 August)

### PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

- One winner per school per week\*
- Winners are determined based on the total number of articles read in each week.
- Each winner will receive a prize from SPH Media Limited.

\*Past winners will not be eligible in the following weeks but will qualify for the final round.

### FINAL ROUND

- The top three students who read the most articles over the 12 weeks will be identified from the weekly winners and they will receive attractive prizes from SPH Media Limited!
- The school with the highest average number of articles read during the Primer season will also be announced at the end of the campaign.



# ST-MOE NEWS OUTREACH PROGRAMME 2023 PRIMER TOPICS

20 Mar	<a href="#"><u>Resource Scarcity, Climate Considerations and Implications on Geopolitics</u></a>
27 Mar	<a href="#"><u>Budget 2023</u></a>
3 Apr	<a href="#"><u>Wildlife Conservation</u></a>
10 Apr	<a href="#"><u>The Value of International Sporting Competitions Today</u></a>
17 Apr	<a href="#"><u>Regulation of Medical Technology</u></a>
8 May	<a href="#"><u>Fame and Celebrity Culture</u></a>
15 May	<a href="#"><u>The Search for Authenticity in an Interconnected World</u></a>
22 May	<a href="#"><u>Strengthening Intergenerational Bonds</u></a>
17 Jul	<a href="#"><u>Words Matter: Language and Power</u></a>
24 Jul	<b>The Place of Museums Today</b>
31 Jul	<b>The Sharing Economy</b>
7 Aug	<b>Doing Good</b>

## ACCESS TO PREMIUM ARTICLES

*Scan or click on  
the QR code for  
step-by-step  
instructions on  
how to log in to  
ST Online.*

