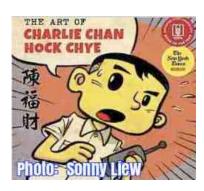
BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Alternate history of Singapore wins comics Oscars

25th July, 2017



A Singaporean graphic novelist has won three of the comic industry's equivalent of Oscars. Sonny Liew picked up three Eisner Awards for his comic "The Art of book, Charlie Chan Hock Chye". The book is a satirical rewrite

Singaporean history. Mr Liew scooped the top prize for Best Writer/Artist, Best US Edition of International Material, and Best Publication Design at the awards ceremony. The annual awards show was held at the San Diego Comic-Con on Friday. Liew told reporters that he was surprised his book had done so well as he never expected he would get an international audience for it. He said: "I always wanted people to read the book and get a sense of how rich our history was."

Mr Liew's book outlines the history of Singapore from its struggle for independence from British colonial rule. As well as focusing on Singapore's founding father and first leader, the late Lee Kuan Yew, Liew also highlights the role played by lesser-known people. He said: "I think the so-called official narrative Singapore story is part of our history, but it's not the whole story and I wanted to tell a more inclusive version of our history. I hope that's what people reading the book will get from it." Liew initially feared his book would be unsuccessful after Singapore's National Arts Council withdrew a grant for the book. However, this brought the book a lot of attention and boosted exposure and sales.

Sources: freemalaysiatoday.com / straitstimes.com themalaymailonline.com

Writing

People should read more graphic novels. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

graphic novel / comic / industry / satirical / top prize / awards / reporters / history / struggle / independence / colonial rule / official / narrative / version / exposure / sales

True / False

- The graphic novelist won three awards at an awards ceremony. T / F
- b) The awards show is held every two years. T / F
- c) The writer largely wrote for a global audience. T / F
- The writer wants people to get a sense of how wealthy Singapore is. T / F
- e) The book is about Singapore up until independence from Britain. T / F
- f) The book focuses on lesser-known characters in Singapore's history. T / F
- g) Sonny Liew didn't think his book would be successful. T / F
- h) The book got a grant taken away from it, which added to its success. T / F

Synonym Match

picked up

2.

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

novelist			a.	SL

1. novelist a. summarizes

. **satirical** c. awareness

h

yearly

4. annual d. took away

5. sense e. writer

6. outlines f. fight

7. struggle g. increased

8. narrative h. won

withdrew i. account

10. boosted i. ironic

Discussion - Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What country's struggle for independence impressed you most?
- c) Who was important in the founding of your country?
- d) In what way might graphic novels tell stories better?
- e) How can graphic novels help you learn English?
- f) What is the greatest part of your country's history?
- g) What kind of novel would you like to write?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Sonny Liew?

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Phrase Match

- 1. the comic industry's equivalent
- 2. Sonny Liew picked
- 3. The book is a satirical rewrite
- 4. at the awards
- 5. get a sense of how rich
- 6. Mr Liew's book outlines the
- 7. its struggle for
- 8. a more inclusive
- 9. this brought the book a
- 10. boosted exposure

Discussion - Student B

- a) What do you think of graphic novels?
- b) What's the difference between graphic novels and comic books?
- c) Do you prefer graphic novels or novels?
- d) What do you know about Singapore's history?
- e) What do you know about Comic Con?
- f) What is your favourite novel?
- g) How rich is the history of your country?
- h) What is your favourite comic?

Spelling

- 1. the comic industry's gauniteelv of the Oscars
- 2. a atisliacr rewrite of Singaporean history
- 3. Mr Liew <u>spdocoe</u> the top prize
- 4. at the awards oencymre
- 5. The nuanla awards show
- 6. get an international ieednauc for it
- 7. Mr Liew's book <u>iesulotn</u> the history of Singapore
- Iggeurst for independence
- 9. the so-called official raaervnti
- 10. a more veiunlsci version of our history
- 11. Liew <u>yinliatil</u> feared his book would be unsuccessful
- 12. boosted oeerupsx and sales

Answers - Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. f	8. i	9. d	10. g

- a. and sales
- b. ceremony
- c. our history was
- d. lot of attention
- e. up three Eisner Awards
- f. independence
- g. version of our history
- h. of the Oscars
- i. history of Singapore
- j. of Singaporean history

Role Play

Role A - Historical

You think historical fiction is the best genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their genres aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): crime, science fiction or fantasy.

Role B - Crime

You think crime is the best genre. Tell the lothers three reasons why. Tell them why their genres aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): historical fiction, science fiction or fantasy.

Role C - Science Fiction

You think science fiction is the best genre. Tell I the others three reasons why. Tell them why I their genres aren't as good. Also, tell the others I which is the worst of these (and why): crime, I historical fiction or fantasy.

Role D - Fantasy

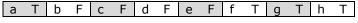
You think fantasy is the best genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their genres aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): crime, science fiction or historical fiction.

Speaking - Novel genres

Rank these with your partner. Put the best novel genres at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- fantasy
- science fiction
 - espionage
- urban fiction
- historical
- romantic
- crime
- action

Answers – True False



Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.