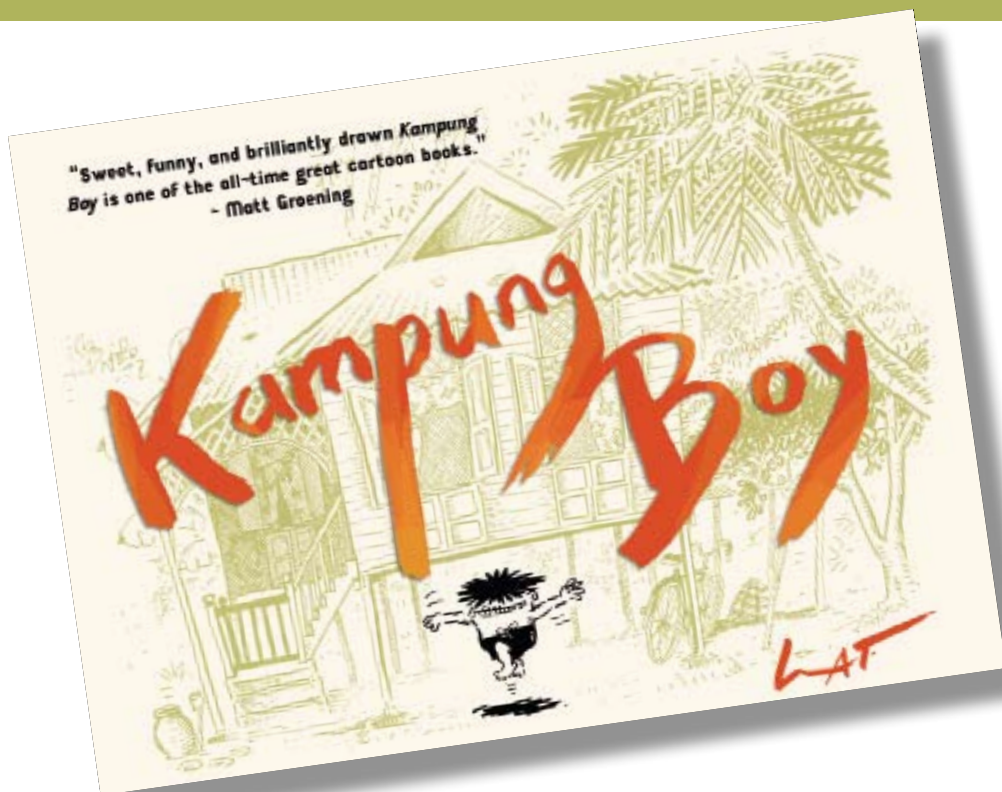


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Kampung Boy



The Tok Modin was quite a funny fellow, as we discovered after being introduced to him. We had a brief conversation when he asked us about ourselves, our studies, and our favorite pastimes.

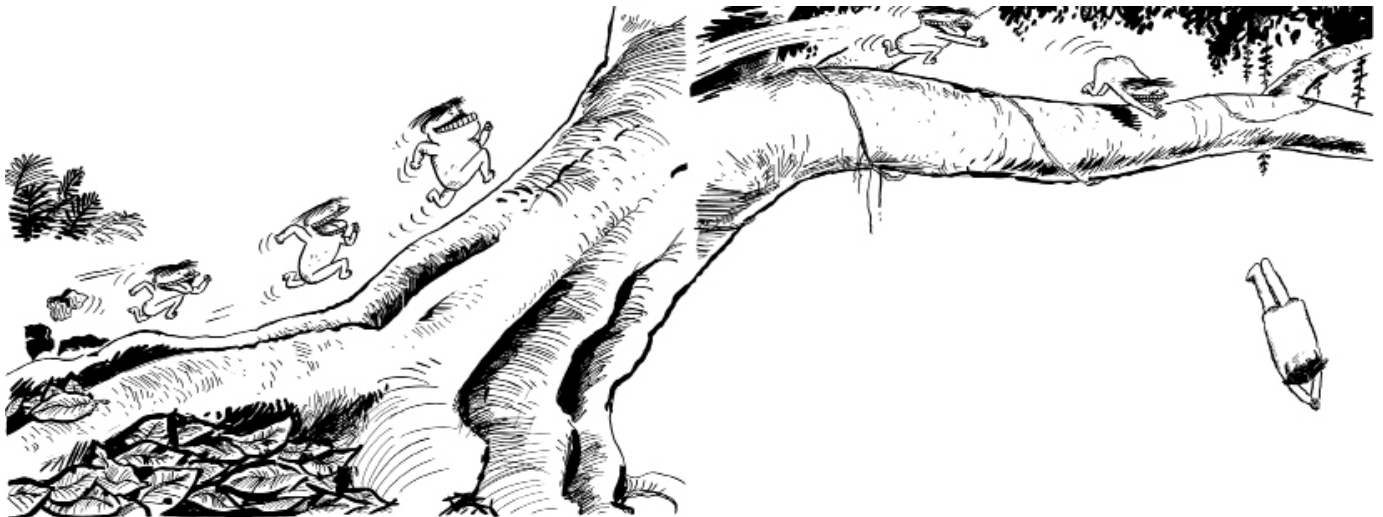
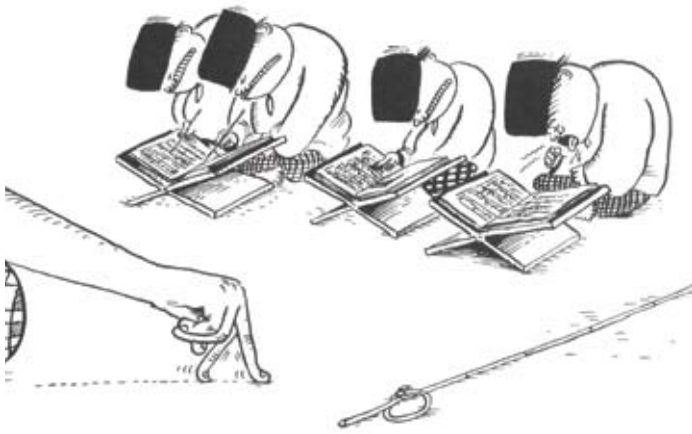
"Have some chocolates," he said later and offered us some "chocolates," which were actually betel leaves and areca nuts.

(Earlier, he had uttered a magical incantation over the "chocolates" so that after chewing them we could undergo circumcision painlessly.)



In two minutes it was over!
It was not very painful. Just like an ant bite!

One thing I discovered about an afternoon class was you tend to get sleepy...





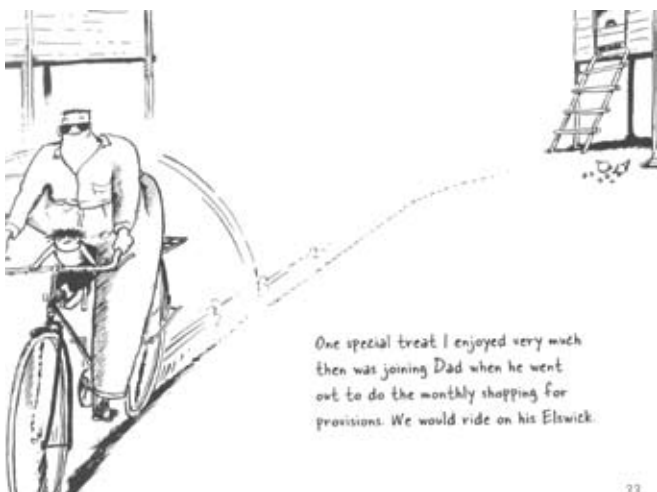
If it was the fruit season, we'd spend more time guarding Meor Yusoff's durian trees.

Then we passed through a dredging area. It was the first time I saw a tin dredge up close. I told the boys that when I was younger I was scared of the dredge because I thought it was a monster. The fellows laughed.



We laughed a lot that day.

Oh, yes! By this time we already had another fellow in the family. My brother, Abdul Rahman. As you can see, he enjoyed being taken for a ride on the spathe of the Pinang tree.



One special treat I enjoyed very much then was joining Dad when he went out to do the monthly shopping for provisions. We would ride on his Elswick.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Lat's Kampung Boy is a timeless favourite of millions of readers in Southeast Asia. With masterful economy worthy of Charles Schultz, Lat recounts the life of Mat, a Muslim boy growing up in rural Malaysia in the 1950s: his adventures and mischief-making, fishing trips, religious education, and work on his family's rubber plantation.

Meanwhile, the traditional way of life in his village (or kampung) is steadily disappearing, with tin mines and factory jobs increasingly overtaking the village's agricultural way of life. When Mat himself leaves for boarding school, he can only hope that his familiar kampung will still be there when he returns.



This delightful autobiographical graphic novel is hilarious and affectionate, with brilliant, super-expressive artwork that opens a window into ordinary Malay life. Such is the affection for this book in his native Malaysia, Lat has been honoured as one of that country's national treasures, entitled to the honorary title, Datuk.



Editions of Kampung Boy, his most celebrated work, have appeared in France, Germany and the US. Written originally in English, the book has sold countless thousands of copies.

Mohammad Nor Khalid was born on 5 March 1951 and is a celebrated cartoonist in Malaysia. Known as Lat, many of his cartoons appear in the editorial pages of the Malaysian national newspaper, New Straits Times.



One of the most beloved cartoonists in Southeast Asia, Lat published his first work when he was just thirteen years old. He has received numerous awards, including, in 1994, the prestigious Malaysian honorary title Datuk. Most recently he was honored by the Malaysian Press Institute with their Special Jury Award, given to 'those who have contributed significantly to journalism and society and have become an institution in their own right.' He is famous throughout Malaysia.

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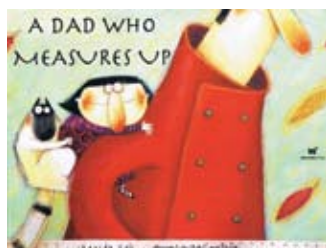
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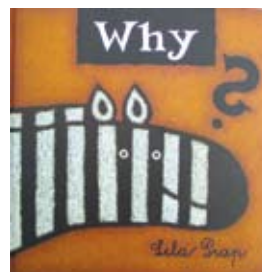
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