~ Recommendations ~

- **Ho Poh Fun**
  Ho Poh Fun (b. 1946, Singapore – d. 12 March 2018, Singapore) was a poet and writer. Her poetry collection, Katong and ...

- **Paul Tan**
  Paul Tan Kim Liang (b. 1970–) is a poet and winner of the Singapore Literature Prize in 1993 and 1997 for his collections ...

- **Felix Cheong**
  Felix Cheong Seng Fei (b. 1965, Singapore–) is a poet and recipient of the National Arts Council Young Artist Award ...

- **Gwee Li Sui**
  Gwee Li Sui (b. 22 August 1970, Singapore - ) is a writer and poet. Formerly an academic at the National University ...

- **Yong Shu Hoong**
  Yong Shu Hoong (b. 1966, Singapore–) is an award-winning Singaporean poet and literary advocate. His collections of ...

- **Leong Liew Geok**
  Leong Liew Geok (b. 1947, Penang, Malaysia–) is a renowned local poet. She was one of the 10 Singaporeans selected for ...

- **Alvin Pang**
  Alvin Pang (b. 1972, Singapore–) is considered as part of a new breed of young Singapore poets that emerged in the 1990s. ...

- **Boey Kim Cheng**
  Boey Kim Cheng (b. 1965, Singapore–) is widely regarded as one of the most promising Singapore poets to emerge in the ...

- **Cyril Wong**
  Cyril Wong Yit Mun (b. 1977, Singapore–) is an award-winning poet and writer. He clinched the National Arts Council’s ...

- **Kirpal Singh**
  Kirpal Singh (b. 1949, Singapore–) is a poet, literary and cultural critic, and university lecturer in English language ...

- **Ng Yi-Sheng**
  Ng Yi-Sheng (b. 25 November 1980, Singapore–) is a full-time writer whose controversial literary works have garnered ...

- **Tan Hwee Hwee**
  Tan Hwee Hwee (b. 1974, Singapore–) was the recipient of the National Arts Council’s (NAC) Young Artist Award in 2003. ...

- **Stella Kon**
  Stella Kon (b. 1944, Edinburgh, Scotland–), a playwright, novelist, short-story writer and poet, is best known for her ...

- **Arthur Yap**
  Arthur Yap Chioh Hiong (Dr) (b. 1943, Singapore–d. 19 June 2006, Singapore ) was a second-generation Singapore poet ...

- **Rex Shelley**
  Rex Anthony Shelley (b. 27 October 1930, Singapore–d. 21 August 2009, Singapore) was an award-winning Singaporean writer ...

- **Elangovan**
  Elangovan (b. 1957, Singapore–) is a bilingual poet and playwright known for exploring controversial themes and the ...

- **Gopal Baratham**
  Gopal Baratham (Dr) (b. 9 September 1935, Singapore–d. 23 April 2002, Singapore) was a neurosurgeon and author. He won ...

- **Lee Tzu Pheng**
  Lee Tzu Pheng (b. 13 May 1946, Singapore–) is one of Singapore’s distinguished poets. A retired university lecturer, ...

- **Alfian Sa’at**
  Alfian bin Sa’at (b. 18 July 1977, Singapore–), commonly known as Alfian Sa’at, is a prominent English- and Malay-language ...

- **Eleanor Wong**
  Eleanor Wong Siew Yin (b. 6 February 1962, Singapore–) is a lawyer and playwright. She is best known for her trilogy ...

- **Haresh Sharma**
  Haresh Sharma (b. 1965, Singapore–) is the resident playwright of The Necessary Stage, Singapore. A critically-acclaimed ...

- **Heng Siok Tian**
  Heng Siok Tian (b. 1963, Singapore–) has published five volumes of poetry. An educator for more than 25 years, she received ...

- **Robert Yeo**
  Robert Yeo Cheng Chuan (b. 1940, Singapore–) is a poet, playwright, novelist, essayist and librettist. He has written ...

- **Philip Jeyaretnam**
  Philip Jeyaretnam (b. 1964, Singapore–) is a senior counsel and an award-winning writer. He is the youngest son of veteran ...

- **Claire Tham**
  Claire Tham Li Mei (b. 1967, Singapore–) is the author of several award-winning short story collections and two full-length ...

- **Edwin Thumboo**
  Edwin Nadason Thumboo (b. 22 November 1933, Singapore–), Emeritus Professor at the National University of Singapore’s ...

- **Roger Jenkins**
  Roger Jenkins (b. 1953, Singapore – ), Singapore-born Briton turned Singaporean, drama educator, poet, playwright, storyteller, ...

- **Chew Kok Chang**
  Chew Kok Chang 周国灿 (b. 1934, Guangdong, China–), otherwise known as Zhou Can (周灿), or other pen names such as Qiu
Koh Buck Song (b. 1963, Singapore–) is a writer, editor, poet and journalist. He has edited, co-edited and authored books of fiction, non-fiction and poems. He is also a consultant in areas of branding, communications strategy and corporate social responsibility. In addition, Koh has served on the boards and committees of various government organisations.

**Early life and education**
Koh completed his primary and secondary education at St Andrew’s in the 1970s before entering Hwa Chong Junior College. He then went on to study English at Cambridge University before serving National Service, and later received a post-graduate Certificate in Education from the University of London. He continued to further his education thereafter at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in the United States, where he was a Mason Fellow and earned a master’s degree in public administration.

Koh grew up in Toa Payoh and described his family background as humble. As a child, he loved reading and had borrowed as many books as he could from the public library. He wrote his first poem, titled The Jetty, in primary school. It was in secondary school when his interest in literature grew, and he credited his teachers in secondary school and junior college for nurturing his love for the subject.

**Work**
Koh worked as a journalist at The Straits Times, when the newspaper bought out the last six years of his government service bond. He was with the newspaper from 1988 to 1999, during which he assumed various roles, including literary editor and columnist. In his career with the newspaper, he had written columns such as Monday with Koh Buck Song, and This week in politics.

After leaving The Straits Times, Koh joined the Economic Development Board of Singapore from 1999 to 2003. Around 2006, he was Head, Public Affairs, Southeast Asia, at communications consultancy firm Hill & Knowlton (SEA) Pte Ltd.

In addition, Koh was a council member at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and had taught leadership courses as an adjunct associate professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He also had a stint as an adjunct faculty member at the Singapore Management University’s School of Social Sciences, where he taught a course on media regulation and censorship.

**Literary career**
Koh has displayed his literary skills by editing, co-editing and authoring books of fiction, non-fiction and poems. His published poetry collections include A Brief History of Toa Payoh and Other Poems in 1992, The Worth of Wonder in 2001 and The Ocean of Ambition in 2003. His poetry has been featured in anthologies such as Journeys: Words, Home and Nation, Words for the 25th: Readings by Singapore Writers, No Other City: The Ethos Anthology of Urban Poetry, and Portraits of Places: History, Community and Identity in Singapore. The 2002 anthology From Boys to Men: A Literary Anthology of National Service in Singapore, which included his poems, was compiled and co-edited by Koh. His fiction book, Bugis Street: The Novel, was published in 1994 to accompany the musical of the same title.

Besides writing for the local newspapers The Straits Times and Today, Koh was also an editor for Singa, a journal on literature and the arts in Singapore.

In 1990, Koh represented Singapore at the Southeast Asian Writers’ Conference held in Manila, the Philippines, as well as the Cambridge Literature Seminar in 1992. In the same year, Koh was poet-in-residence at the Scottish Poetry Library in Edinburgh, Scotland, under the auspices of the Singapore-Scotland Cultural Co-operation Programme.

**Literary influences and style**
Koh cited T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound as his literary inspirations. Other influences during his early years include John Steinbeck, Chinua Achebe, William Shakespeare.
Public service
Beyond the field of literature, Koh has been involved in various public service positions. He was a member of the board of directors of the National Arts Council, and had served on its Drama Review Committee. He was also a member of the Censorship Review Committee of the former Ministry of Information and the Arts from 1991 to 1992, and then from 2002 to 2003. Koh had also served on the Singapore Arts Festival Steering Committee, as well as the board of advisors to the National Book Development Council of Singapore.

Published works
Poetry
1992: A Brief History of Toa Payoh and Other Poems.
2003: The Ocean of Ambition.

Fiction

Poetry and fiction (as co-editor)

Non-fiction (as author or editor)
2000: Toa Payoh: Our Kind of Neighbourhood.
2002: Heart Work.
2011: Nostalgia is the Most Powerful Seasoning.
2011: Living with the End in Mind: A Study of How to Increase the Quality of Death in Singapore: Perspective of 30 Leaders.
2011: Brighter: Electricity in Singapore, from Beginning to Beyond.
2012: Perpetual Spring, Singapore’s Gardens by the Bay.
2013: Sambal Days, Kampong Cuisine.
2014: Learning for Life: Singapore’s Investment in Lifelong Learning since the 1950s.
2016: Our Guardians: Keeping Singapore Safe and Secure since the 1950s.

Authors
Alvin Chua & Neo Tiong Seng

References
Personal Name: Koh, Buck Song. Corporate Name: Singapore. Koh Buck Song is a writer, editor and consultant in branding, communications strategy and corporate social responsibility in Singapore. He has authored and edited more than 20 books. YouTube Encyclopedic. His regular opinion column, Monday With Koh Buck Song, ran for over 10 years. He also launched and anchored the column This Week in Politics. From 2003 to 2004, he was a contributing columnist based in the USA for the Singapore newspaper Today, on current affairs relating to the USA and Singapore.