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I-RoLE 2023

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

**EMBRACING CHANGE:
EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE
OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC,
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

13 - 14 MARCH 2023

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THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: A CHILDREN'S SHORT STORYBOOK

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ABSTRACT:

A children's book has long been recognised as a crucial component to help children's mindsets grow. Therefore, The Circle of life essentially serves the same purpose as other, more common storybooks but more focus on imparting important life lessons and awareness of life discovery. The chosen scope of this assignment is Creative Writing (ALS252). The objective behind the creation of this book is to enable readers to capture the central idea of the short stories and to help children learn fundamental language abilities and vastly expand their vocabulary. The survey results showed that most of them agreed that short stories are a good medium for children to gain knowledge. Hence, this showed that a collection of children's short story books do teach children and young learners about life.

Keywords: Children, short story, book, values, lessons

1. INTRODUCTION

The Circle of Life was a project set up for the subject called Professional Communication Exercise (ELS304). This project's chosen area of study is creative writing, a subject covered in the fourth semester of the Diploma in English for Professional Communication. This project's scope was selected due to its potential to gain revenue. The idea of writing a book was developed after I got some inspiration from the books I have read such as poems and short stories. Therefore, I would like to encourage children to read books and improve their vocabulary. A short story is a piece of narrative prose that is generally focused on a single topic. It is of restricted scope and consists of an introduction, body, and conclusion (Blurb Blog 2019). Although a short story shares many similarities with a book, it is written with far greater accuracy.

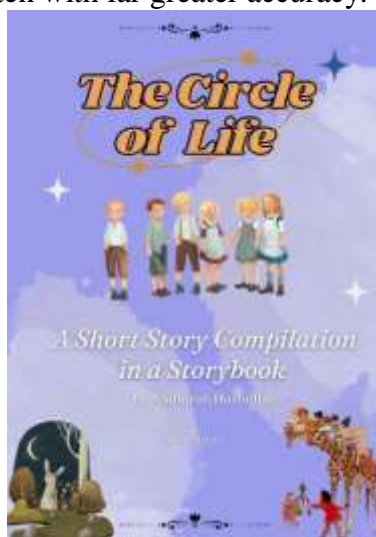


Figure 1. The Circle of Life book cover

The Circle of Life is a children's book filled with compilations of short stories about life lessons and advice. This book has a total of 5 short stories. The target audience for this book is children, young learners and parents. The reason why I chose to call my book "The Circle of Life" is because it suits my contents in the book since it leans more toward lessons about life. The book cover above shows that I have chosen a simple, illustrative and colourful design.

1.1. Project Objectives

The purpose of writing this book is to teach children and young learners about life, for example, "Beware of Strangers" which will be one of the titles in the book. When read on a regular basis, short stories can boost a reader's self-assurance and foster a lifelong appreciation for literature, both of which are important in preventing the summer learning slide.

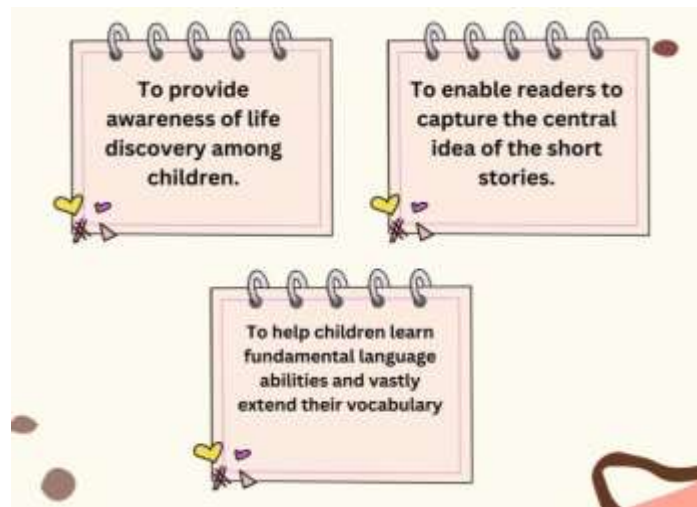


Figure 2. The objectives of The Circle of Life

The figure above shows the objectives of The Circle of Life. Firstly, this project is to provide awareness of life discovery among children. Hence, reading to children enhances relationships, and fosters emotional intelligence, and mental growth. Secondly, it enables readers to capture the central idea of the short stories easily. Since a short story tends to bore readers easily because of its condensed nature, I will try to develop the plot in an interesting manner in a way that provides sufficient details to let readers envision the setting easily. The last objective of this project is to help children learn fundamental language abilities and vastly extend their vocabulary. According to Natural Beach Living (2018), children's storybooks not only impart new information – by enhancing children's vocabulary and communication skills.

1.2 Entrepreneurial Activities

A project that generates profits must offer entrepreneurial opportunities in order to be successful and profitable. This project had two primary objectives: profitability, and networking. These objectives are attainable with the right amount of effort and strategy for attracting the customer's needs.

The most vital element needed to ensure a business thrives is profitability. For this project, profit will be generated by selling the book as it is undoubtedly considered crucial to book authors with insufficient time to generate creative ideas. Hence, The Circle of Life is responsible for generating original, creative and knowledgeable content stories before publishing a book to increase the higher possibility of attracting customers.



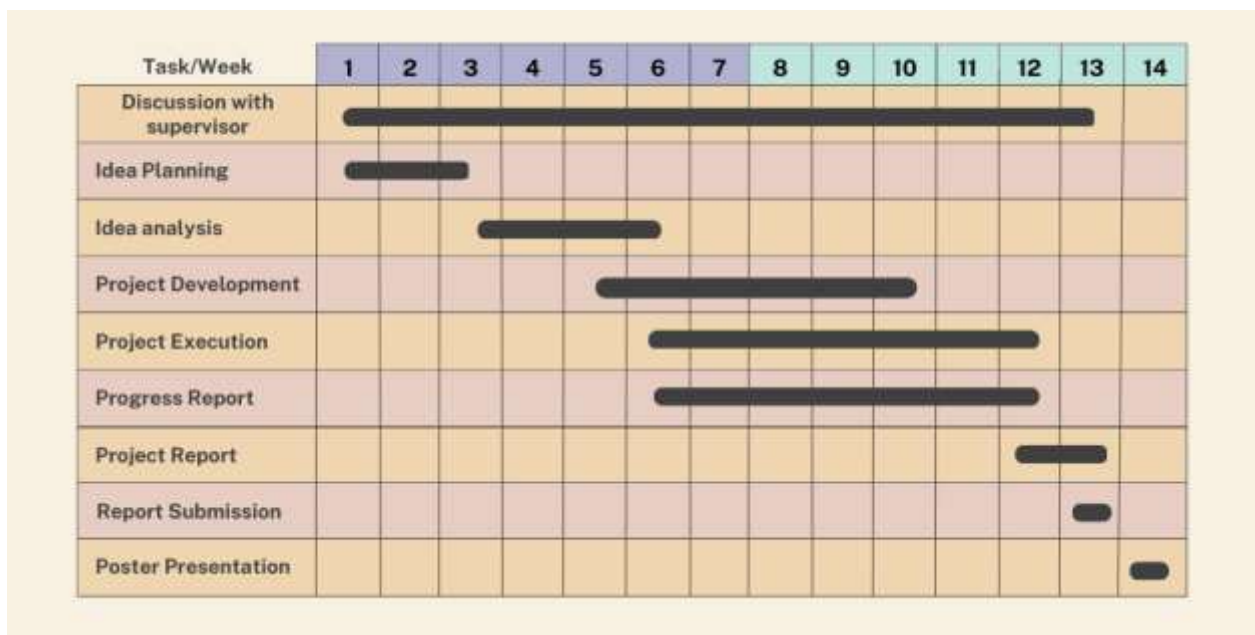
Lastly, networking is valuable to any business professional but especially entrepreneurs. It offers critical opportunities, knowledge, and support that can be the difference between a venture that succeeds and one that fails. Aside from that it also helps authors to maintain a good relationship with the readers so they will secure their target for their next book in the future. Networking allows authors to get their books recognised by others. Therefore, it can create a lot of connections with multi-beneficial individuals as it is essential for the book branding.

2. METHODOLOGY

In this project, a survey was conducted and received 30 respondents who are mostly aged between 36 to 45 years old. It is an online survey that provides evidence that children’s short story physical books are still relevant and gives knowledge. The survey is the best method to understand the public’s opinion on children’s short story books and how it affects their perception of this book.

2.1 Gantt Chart

All the progress here is transferred into a Gantt Chart to serve as a better overview of the timeline of all the tasks that have been completed.



3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the direction of ensuring this project can maximise and use the entrepreneurial opportunities available, a market survey was conducted and distributed to the public. This survey is intended to analyse the demand and public acceptance of children's short story books to be published.

3.1 Questionnaire

In the survey, a number of questions were given in an effort to gauge how other respondents felt about the project's concept. The survey was conducted for three weeks and received a total of 30 respondents. Figure 3.1 shows the age range of respondents who have answered this survey. It

can be seen clearly that this survey has received an enormous response from those in the range of 36-45 years old, 40%. Thus, this project will focus more on those in the circle, also known as parents as some are still either students or individuals who are already working.

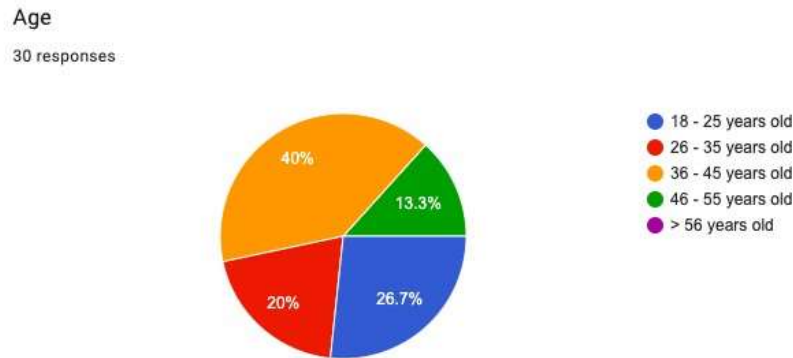


Figure 3.1 Respondents' age

The distributed survey also asked whether the respondents liked reading storybooks or not. Figure shows that 76.7% like to read storybooks while the rest do not. What can be interpreted from the results of this survey is that the respondents, who comprise 38.2%, are not exposed to literature, causing them not to like reading storybooks. As I've mentioned before, instead of saying the respondents don't like reading, I think it's more reasonable to state they have insufficient reading skills.

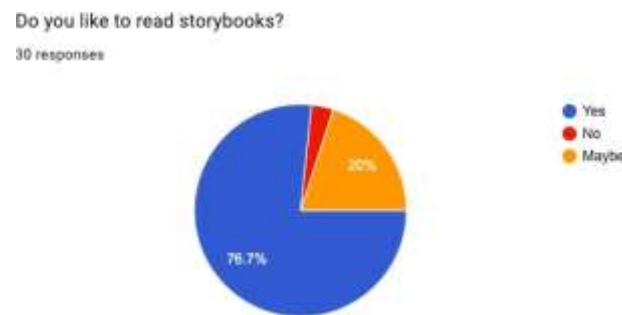


Figure 3.2 Percentages of respondents who read storybooks

Furthermore, it can be seen from Figure 3.3 that 56.7% of the respondents prefer to read children's storybooks. It also shows that 26.7% chose life discovery short stories and the rest is moral value stories.

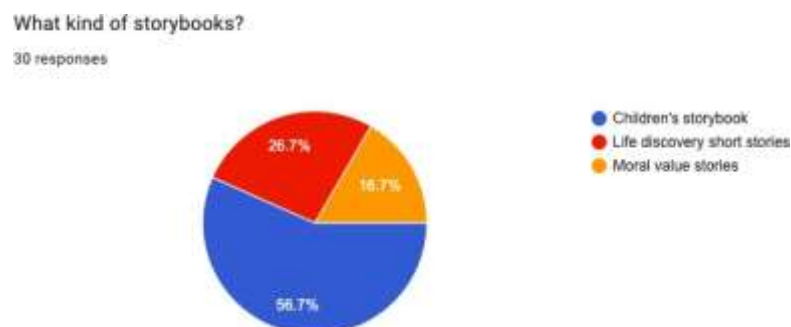


Figure 3.3 Percentages of what kind of storybooks the respondents read.

After most, whether respondents were interested in buying children’s storybooks in the future was also asked at the end of the survey. This question analyses the percentage of those who can be used as target customers for this project. Figure 3.4 below, shows a total of 86.7% are confident that they are interested in buying children’s storybooks in the future. The highest percentage of 13.3% was respondents who chose 'maybe'. It can be said that it is not a specific answer to assume whether the respondent is interested or not. There may be many factors that cause them to choose such an answer. For instance, they are parents and interested in buying but their children do not like reading or they are past the age of 12, still, they intend to give it a try as they saw advertisements about The Circle of Life. Hence, I will take that percentage of 52% into account as they may be interested in buying children’s short story books once The Circle of life is published.

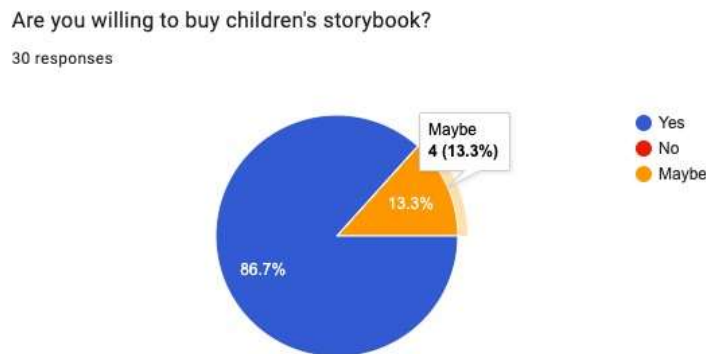


Figure 3.4 Respondent's possibility to buy The Circle of Life

4. CONCLUSION

To conclude, The Circle of Life is a project undertaken after considering entrepreneurial opportunities and a good concept for a children's short story book for young learners aged 7 to 12. Evidently, the survey conducted, showed that short stories do give knowledge to children. The purpose of this storybook will benefit not just the child but also the parents who will get to use it as a medium to teach their children in setting a good growth mindset about important life lessons. In addition, the majority of respondents who are parents agree to purchase the storybook for their children. Therefore, children’s storybooks that contain moral values and life lessons should be introduced and marketed more.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

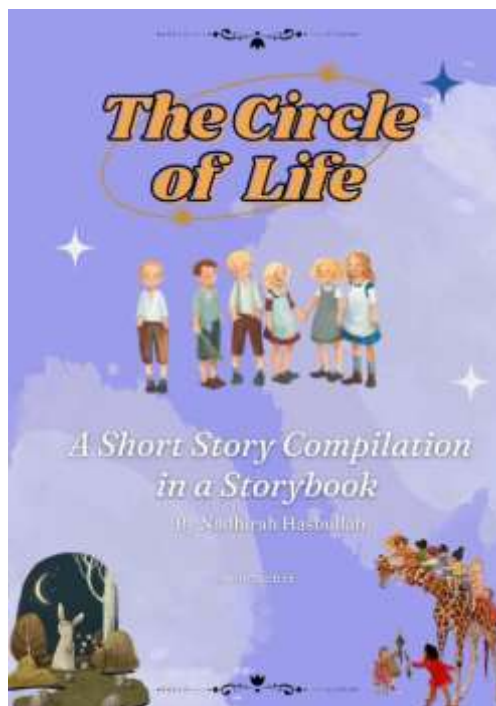
I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who helped and advised me during the project and portfolio, whether directly or indirectly. My greatest appreciation goes to Mr Deepak Singh for providing me with insightful advice and assisting me in organising my ideas until the completion of the project and this portfolio. In addition, I would like to thank Miss Sofwah Binti Md Nawi and Miss Suhaili for their many contributions to the project from Week 1 to Week 14. Without everyone's assistance, I would not have been able to do so much; from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

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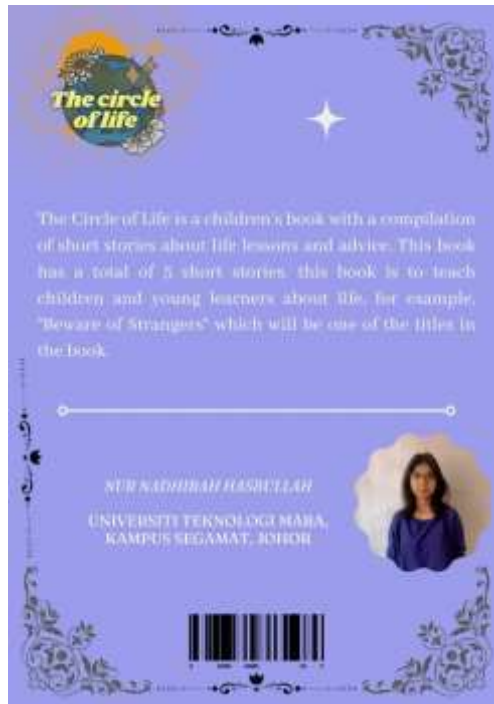
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APPENDICES

1. Book covers

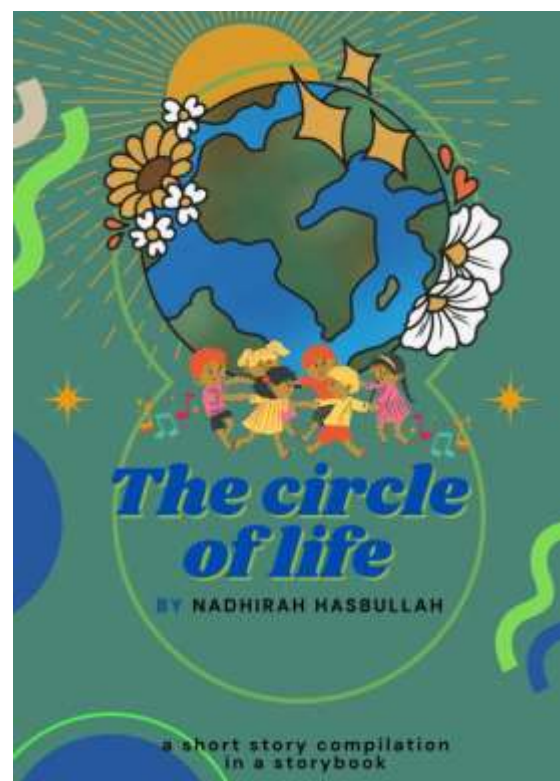
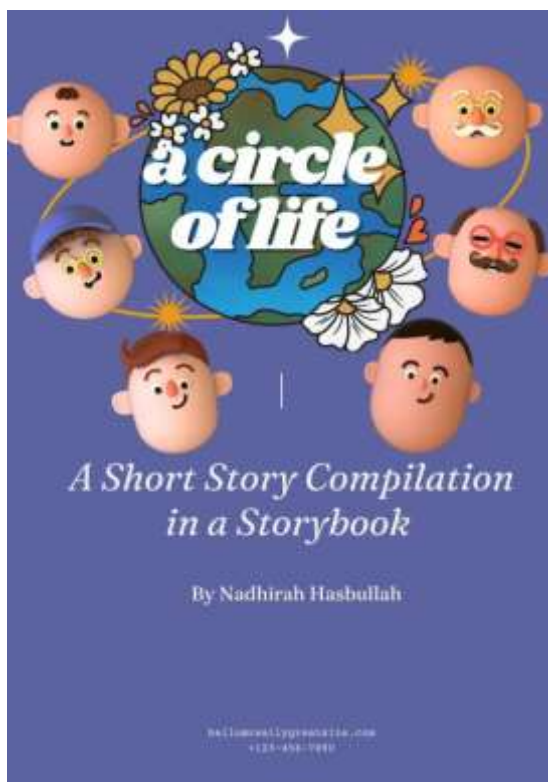


Front Book Cover



Back book cover

2. Posters







3. Project Survey form

ELS 304 PROJECT SURVEY

Hello! I am Nadhirah Hasbullah from JLD1205A. I would like to do a survey for my ELS304 project where I am going to do a children's book with a compilation of short stories for young learners from the age 7 to 12 years old.

 nadhirahabi@gmail.com (not shared) [Switch account](#) 

*** Required**

Email *

Your answer: _____

Age *

18 - 25 years old

26 - 35 years old

36 - 45 years old

46 - 55 years old

> 55 years old

Occupation *

Student