

# ***Lion Heart*** By Amanda Chong

Use these notes to help enhance your understanding of the poem

## Stanza One

**You:** direct address gives importance to the Merlion

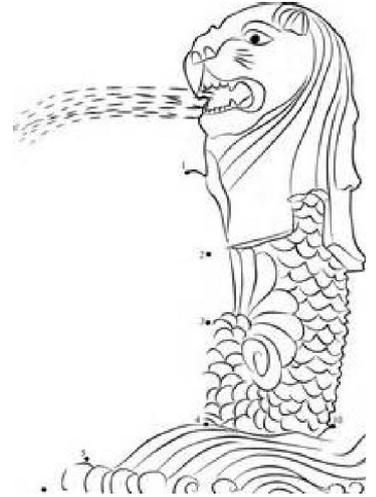
**Skin dappled scales of sunlight:** Imagery is bright and radiant

**Water whipped:** alliteration creates an idea of strong and dynamic movement

**Lungs . . . lips** the organs and body parts enabling this vital force. See how the parts of the body appear as the poem develops until we are presented with the full creature in all its magical glory!

**Bud:** plant imagery. As the poem progresses this imagery is developed.

**Morning mists:** alliteration creates an atmosphere of the mysterious traditions of the East



## Stanza Two

**Legs still rocked with memory of waves:** evokes the image of the Merlion before it reached land and found its feet

**Sinews of sand ran across your back:** alliteration creates the feeling of sand moving

**Rising runes:** alliteration focuses our attention on the exotic image of ancient alphabets

**Heart thumped...animal skin drum:** jungle imagery

**Heralding:** proudly announcing this regal visitor

## Stanza Three

**Jungle...branches...trees...shadows...squall...beast...roar:** jungle imagery that show the lion in its natural habitat, relates to Singapore's natural splendour

**Rasping branches:** the trees sigh (personification)

**Trees loosen their shadows:** personification

**Fluent haunches:** the lion's back legs are perfect in their movement and poise



#### Stanza Four

**Seeds...saplings...roots:** the plant imagery is continued and is a metaphor for the growth of Singapore from poor fishing town to proud island state

**Snugly into loam:** Singapore's nurturing and rich soil encourages the seeds to grow

#### Stanza Five

**The sea's pulmonary vein:** the roots of Singapore are tied closely to the sea and its fishing heritage; the sea is the breath and the blood

Trees rise as skyscrapers: simile compares the tall buildings to the trees, continuing the nature imagery

They heave themselves higher: the alliteration shows the effort and force of the buildings to reach for the sky, a metaphor which uses personification to show the country's ambition

#### Stanza Six

**Remember:** imperative never to forget the **raw lion heart**, the roots, the origins

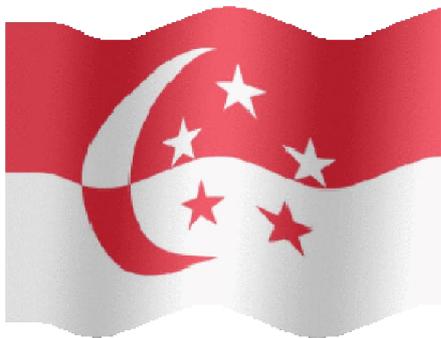
#### Stanza Seven

**Remember:** repetition. The message the poet wants to enforce, making Singapore's citizens loyal to their country and their ancestry

**Keris, iron lightning:** this strong powerful sword

**Ripping** (through waves): mighty power

**Tentacles of waves:** metaphor creating a sense of mythical magic in suggesting that the sea is a living creature, like a giant octopus



#### Stanza Eight

**Flung high:** the sword is thrown up into the sky and through this action **scattering five stars**, which refers to the design of the flag

**Red tapestry of your sky:** the Singapore flag is red and white, the red symbolises the universal brotherhood and equality of man and the white pervading purity and virtue.