

Headline:	Inspirational teachers recognised		
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Description:	Eight teachers received the Inspiring Teacher of English Award for their innovative methods yesterday. The award is given by the Speak Good English Movement and The Straits Times and supported by the Ministry of Education.		

## LEARNING ENGLISH

# Inspirational teachers recognised

Eight educators given awards for their innovative techniques

By TAN XING QI

POP star Michael Jackson has helped pupils at First Toa Payoh Primary to improve their English.

There, teacher Edwin Tan, 38, uses the musical approach to expand his pupils' vocabulary.

He said of the lyrics in Jackson's big hit Thriller: "There are many phrases in the song that describe fear. They can extract these phrases and use them for their compositions."

He was among eight teachers who received the Inspiring Teacher of English Award for their innovative methods yesterday.

Speaking of the enthusiasm he has sparked off, Mr Tan said of his pupils: "A lot of them are excited. They want to hear the songs and are eager to listen to the songs for the lyrics."

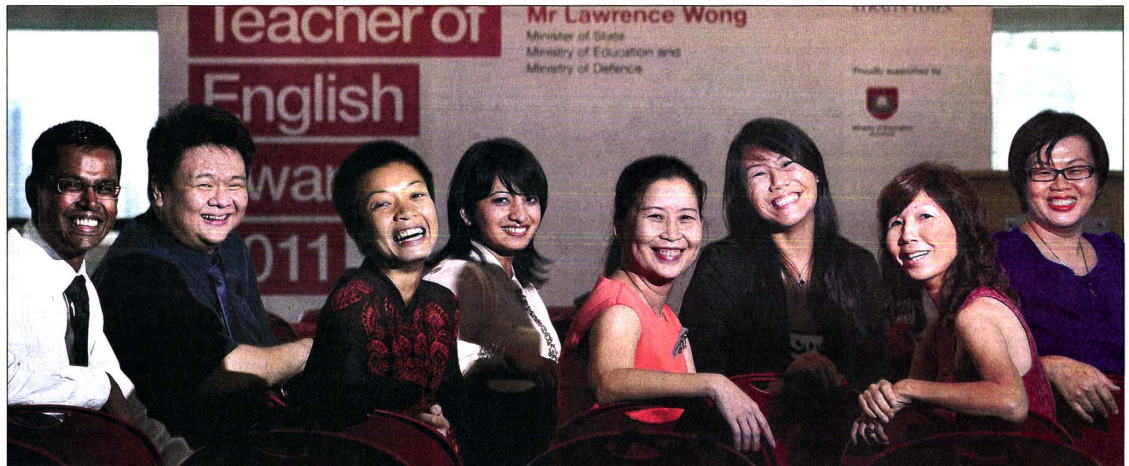
Another winner, Assumption Pathway School's Ms Suzaina Koh Nasir, uses YouTube video clips to encourage her academically weaker students to speak up.

For example, she showed videos of someone learning to ride a bicycle.

"Then, I got the class to share their experiences when they fell," said the 35-year-old.

The award, in its fourth year, is given by The Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement, and supported by the Ministry of Education.

Of the eight winners, four each are



Winning teachers (from left) Julian Victor, Edwin Tan, Suzaina Koh Nasir, Anna Mathew, Shirley Teo, Pamela Kiew, Lee Poh Lin and Gladys Ng each received a trophy, a certificate and \$2,000, plus, as Mrs Teo put it, "an endorsement of the fact that I have my students' interest at heart... and I want them to enjoy learning". ST PHOTO: MUGILAN RAJASEGERAN

from primary and secondary schools. A total of 88 teachers were nominated by peers, parents and students this year.

But it is not the job of only English teachers to be role models of good English, but all teachers who use English to teach, including teachers of mathematics, science or the humanities, said Minister of State for Education and Defence Law-

rence Wong, the guest of honour at the event.

That is why all schools will adopt the "whole school approach" - with all teachers working together to encourage good English throughout the school - in the next three to four years.

Students he has spoken to in the schools using the whole school approach

appeared to be confident and articulate, Mr Wong said.

The other award recipients are Ms Pamela Kiew from Bukit View Primary School, Ms Gladys Ng from River Valley Primary School, Mr Julian Victor from Rivervale Primary School, Mrs Lee Poh Lin from Montfort Secondary School, Mrs Shirley Teo from Teck Whye Second-

ary School and Ms Anna Mathew from Si Ling Secondary School.

Each received a trophy, certificate and \$2,000.

Mrs Teo, 51, said the award is also "an endorsement of the fact that I have my students' interest at heart... and I want them to enjoy learning".

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