

Headline	Lady Gigi and the Bard lends a hand in teaching English		
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Description	10 teachers receive this year's Inspiring Teacher of English Award.		



The 10 winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2010, from left are, Mdm Kamisah Bte Yusof of Pasir Ris Crest Sec Sch, Ms Karen Kang of Kent Ridge Sec Sch, Mrs Lynette Shanti Vincent of North View Pri Sch, Mrs Sng Mee Lian of Catholic Junior Collage, Mr William Anthony Grosse of Rosyth Sch, Mrs Lajwanti Thakurdas Melwani of White Sands Pri Sch, Mrs Angela Quek of Tampines Junior College, Mrs Sky Frank of CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity, Mrs Esther Chia of CHIJ Kellock and Ms Rachael Poh Yi Jeng of Ngee Ann Sec Sch. ERNEST CHUA

Lady GiGi and the Bard lends a hand in teaching English

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SINGAPORE — One pretends to be Shakespeare while the other pretends to be the fictitious sister of pop star Lady Gaga.

Yesterday, these two English teachers were out of 10 who received the Inspiring Teacher of English Award for using innovative ways to help students read and write the language.

Ms Esther Chia, of CHIJ Kellock Primary School, said she has adopted this persona called Lady GiGi — “The sister of Lady Gaga”, she tells her students — to get the pupils to learn the language in a fun way.

Said Ms Chia: “I suppose then it makes

them look forward to English learning. Because they never know what I’m up to whenever I come to class.”

Ngee Ann Secondary School English teacher Rachel Poh tries to make literature come alive by creating an online Shakespeare avatar on instant messaging service Microsoft Messenger — so that students can talk to the Bard himself.

Said Ms Poh: “Students are very familiar with using MSN and social networking sites like *Facebook*. So it cuts down the work on having to teach them how to use these sites and it makes them very interested because they start to think that Shakespeare is quite cool and he can chat with us on MSN.”