

## HOME

## History Class

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## COLUMNS

In History Class, Mrs Raj, wound up in a green sari, Talked around the clock about *kapal-kapal Iropah* that would dock, occasionally, as I nod Off, Mrs Raj would stop.

"Pull up your socks!" she'd say, like a siren Distressing our ears, and all the poor dears In History Class.

I. PULL. MY. BLOODY. WHITE. SOCKS. UP. And gulp.

"You must mix history up and drink it down" Mrs Raj said in a voice, cold as glass and Seven-Up.

"No, no, no!  
ABSOLUTELY NO.  
Sleepy heads in class. You go!  
GO! And stand outside.

I Decide. This is a circus,  
Madness! This is NOT, this IS...  
THIS IS HISTORY  
CLASS".

We, the locals, find this funny and laugh.  
History for us, like the cannons, is a blast.

Someone who'd been to the ISKL - for a period  
As short as a bell - barfed in the back of the class.

The ISKL is the International School of Kuala Lumpur  
It is the Upper Class, you and I, are DELETE.  
NOT THE ELITE, so love song,  
You and I can read

History and Law  
But there is not one place INTERNATIONAL, you  
And I can go, Love song!  
No matter what seeds we sow  
The Malay language and elite  
Sit on our head  
As we row the same boat

"Duduk! Duduk! Duduk! Sit down you clown!"

"But Teacher, Mrs Raj, you told me to GO!"

"Yes, but you don't go till I tell you to GO!"

"You girls are getting as bold as brass. Don't think I Don't know," she said, lifting her eyebrows, "What You are doing outside  
THE CLASS."

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## LETTERS

- [Tiong, please sell off one or two of your newspapers](#) Then calming down, "History is a subject you cannot Afford to reject, the old truths are always there."
- [Highway 'kings-of-the-road' need to be dethroned](#) "Ah yes, teacher, the world is laid bare  
But it is not fair, alas! It only belongs to the fair!"  
Said one poetic soul whittle thin like a pencil  
Boring a hole in a desk.
- [Public transport: Things bad in Manchester too](#) Drama. Melodrama. That's one of the girls from Ipoh  
Not to sink so low, and mention Michelle Yeoh,  
Who also Escaped  
Mrs Raj's History Class  
With James Bond  
No Less
- [Policies turning turtle in Terengganu](#) Because Tomorrow Never Dies  
History Never lies.
- [Purpose of CLP exam - you tell me](#) So many of us go! Love song!  
It seems so wrong!
- [Law should protect single fathers too](#) "Not necessarily, you know. History is about old  
Souls, not our rice bowls, learn all you can  
Spread yourselves out  
Become a Red Chinese Fan  
Find another land...
- [Private healthcare should be curbed](#)
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## OPINION/FEATURES The Bell Rang.

- [The mouse that \(shouldn't be allowed to\) roar\(ed\)](#) History Test is Tomorrow, alright GOOD LUCK,  
said Mrs Raj, her voice slipping like sand  
In an hourglass, I am leaving THE HISTORY  
CLASS.
- [Shortsighted over transportation woes](#) "And You, pull up your socks, don't be lazy  
Or the facts will be hazy.  
Don't Go Outside The Class," said Mrs Raj,  
Asking another girl to carry our books  
To the garage.
- [Pope Benedict, Islam and violence](#) "I won't go outside the classroom, Teacher!  
I'll stay here and wait for the bridegroom  
Mr Wang is teaching the next class".
- [Flaws in EPU's apparent methodology](#)
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*The writer is a prize-winning Malaysian writer in voluntary exile. Her published work can be [viewed here](#).*

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