

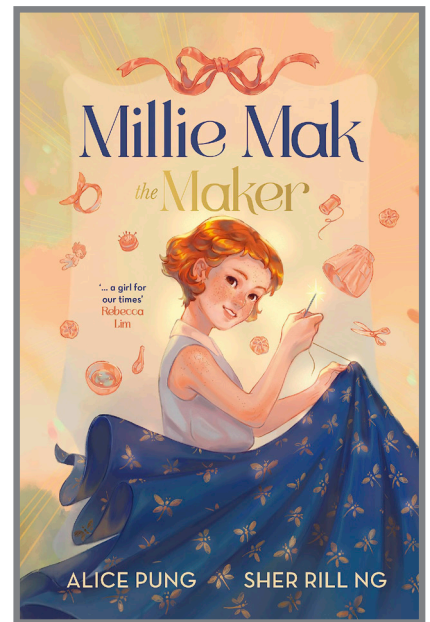
Millie Mak the Maker

AUTHOR

ALICE PUNG

ILLUSTRATOR

SHER RILL NG



SCIS: 5457747

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary

SYNOPSIS

Nine-year-old Millie Mak has discovered she has a superpower!

Using everyday objects, Millie turns them into something new, beautiful and useful. Who would ever think that a sunhat could be made from an old bedsheet, a skirt from a tea-towel or some hair scrunchies from a scarf?

Through her creativity and clever thinking, Millie also deals with different friendships, tricky family challenges and contributes to the school fete.

You can make the special objects Millie creates from the detailed and yet easy-to-follow instructions included in the book. And best of all, nothing needs to be bought!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alice Pung is the bestselling author of the memoirs *Unpolished Gem* and *Her Father's Daughter* (winner of the 2011 WA Premier's Award) and the essay collection *Close to Home*, as well as the editor of the anthologies *Growing Up Asian in Australia* and *My First Lesson*. Her debut novel *Laurinda* won the Ethel Turner Prize at the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards and has been adapted into a successful play. Her second novel, *One Hundred Days*, was shortlisted for the 2022 Miles Franklin Award and has been optioned for a film. She is the author of children's books including *Be Careful, Xiao Xin!* (ill. Sher Rill Ng), which was a CBCA 2023 Notable book and shortlisted for the ABIA and Australian Book Designers Awards, *When Granny Came to Stay* (ill. Sally Soweol Han) and the Meet Marly books (ill. Lucia Masciullo). Alice was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to literature in 2022.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sher Rill Ng is a Melbourne-based author and illustrator. She designed and illustrated for software companies before releasing her debut picture book, *Our Little Inventor*. Her work also includes contributing Thumbelina's illustrations to the anthology *Fairytales for Feisty Girls* by Susannah McFarlane, illustrating Emma Allen's *The Night of the Hiding Moon* and co-creating *Be Careful, Xiao Xin!* with Alice Pung, which was shortlisted in the 2023 Australian Book Designers Awards—Best Designed Children's Book, and the 2023 ABIA awards.

STUDY NOTES

- Look at the book's front cover, pay attention to the words and images on there, and discuss:

- What do you think the story will be about?
- What did you see on the cover that made you think this?
- Now read the blurb on the back cover and discuss:
 - Were your predictions about the plot correct?
 - What questions are still left unanswered after reading the blurb?
 - Now that you know the basic plot, what clues were given about the story on the front cover?

WHILE READING

- Look for three verbs written in past tense in the text. Change these verbs from past to present tense. Eg. Floated—float.
- With a partner, can you research when Miss Mary Mack was first sung by children and what games the children played as they sang the song?
- Find out more about Queen Mary's dollhouse by researching when it was made, who it was made by and why it was so special. Use the information Granny gives Millie (Chapter 1 and Chapter 3) as the starting point for knowing which words to use in your internet search.
- We only get to understand the story from one person's point of view in this book—Millie's. Put yourself in Shanelle's place and write The Tip Op Shop scene (Chapter 8) from her point of view. Or write the scene where Ahma and Millie disagree (Chapter 5) from Ahma's point of view.
- Look at the instructions, in the 'Be the Maker!' section, for how to make some of the items in the story. Choose one item. Can you draw illustrations to match the written instructions for making this item? Try using one illustration for each step.