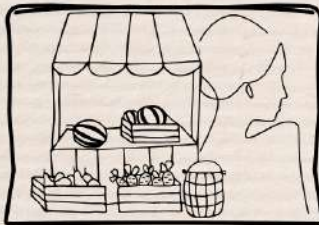
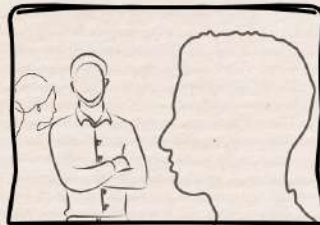


ENGLISH TRANSCRIPT FOR SYAIR SINYOR KOSTA (THE TRADITIONAL POEM OF SENOR COSTA)



Senor Costa arrives at a port-city and chances upon a beautiful lady named Lela Mayang at the market.



Senor Costa falls in love with her but soon finds out she's the concubine of a rich Chinese merchant, Ceng Koah.



Out of desperation, Senor Costa seeks the aid of Milam, a witch doctor who was well-known in the city, to concoct a love spell.



Milam who also happens to be Lela Mayang's jamu seller, visits her and slips a garland at her house to enchant her with the love spell.



Ceng Koah holds a massive event at his estate. This was the prime opportunity for Senor Costa to lure Lela Mayang out of her master's place.

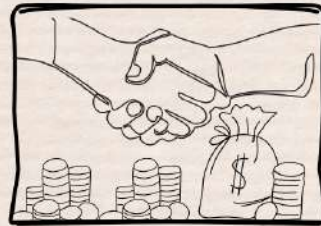


Senor Costa spikes all of the guests' drinks. He escapes the estate with Lela Mayang and steals precious items from Ceng Koah's property.

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When Ceng Koah regains consciousness, he was furious to find that he had been robbed of his wealth and concubine.



Ceng Koah promises the governor that he will reward them handsomely if they were to support his chase for Senor Costa.



YOU get to decide what happens next!

About...



Malay Heritage Centre

The Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) is a museum situated at Kampong Gelam which provides a wealth of cultural exposure and learning experience about Malay culture and heritage.

Though it is currently closed for renovation works, MHC continues to bring various programmes to partner venues around Singapore.

Follow MHC on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok ([@malayheritage](#)) to keep up to date with the latest happenings and events.



Shahril Samri

The storyteller, Shahril Samri, is a preschool teacher in Singapore and the founder of Pantunism, a Malay poetry movement in the region. He has done sessions at MHC and National Library Board (NLB) community libraries. He is also the author of *Lepiong dan Cepiong Mencari Makan*. Follow him at [@pantunism](#) on Instagram!



The Story

Syair Sinyor Kosta is adapted from a *syair* (Malay traditional poem) composed by Sultan Mahmud Baharuddin, the ruler of Palembang, Sumatra in the early nineteenth century. There are several versions of the story with slight variations to the characters and different endings. The photo on the right is the actual manuscript handwritten in *Jawi*, from the collection of Leiden University Library.

