

Source: The StraitsTimes, pC3

Date: 7 November 2022

Science YouTuber makes learning fun and quirky

Popular social media personality Biogirl MI has published a comic book to make the subject entertaining

If your kids comment that science and nature videos are boring, they probably have not watched those helmed by Biogiri MI.
Known for her quirky and candid presentation style, the 28-year-old YouTuber hams it up for the camera as she covers subjects such as the climate and wildliffe from a Singaporean perspective.
Think topics like why the west side of Singapore is wetter and the animals you can find at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park.
These one- to 10-minute videos can be found on Just Keep Think, and the proposition of the control of the proposition of the propositi

her fiance Raye Ng, 33, in late 2019.
One video in which she investigates if there are too many otters in
Singapore has garnered 55,000
views on YouTube.
Meanwhile, the best performing
video, which has close to two million views on Facebook, explains
food science using the famous
dalgona candy game from Netflix
drama Squid Game (2021).
Both videos were uploaded in
2021. "They went viral because
they are topics people care about,
but we covered them in a different
way," says Ng, who shoots, edits
and produces the videos.
A former content strategist on
humour site SGAG, Ng recalls going
on a snorkelling trip with Kong,
who used to be a teaching and curriculum specialist at The Learning
Lab tuition and enrichment centre,
in early 2019.

"There's no meaning to it."
Kids and adults have been joining Kong on paid nature tours and intertidal walks.
She adds that children have short

"While filming MJ with a GoPro

"While filming MJ with a GoPro (camera), she started babbling about a washed-up coral skeleton. It was a eureka moment for us and it sparked a cascade of ideas."

Kong, a life sciences graduate from the National University of Singapore, has always been interested in nature and wildlife.

After six months of planning, the couple started the channel as a Face-book page and the rest is history.

She left her teaching job of three years to run Just Keep Thinking full-time with Ng last year.

On top of hosting, Kong also gathers the information and scientific research required for each piece of content. She is a regular on science-related discussion panels hosted by various industries.

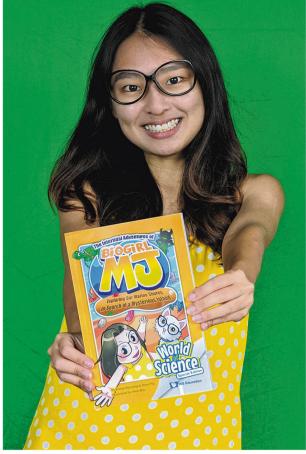
On encouraging kids to develop a love of science, she says: "Many parents think that they could get their kids interested just by sending them to a programme, taking them to a programme, taking nature areas.

"While that may kick-start their interest, it is important to provide context to what is in front of them.

interest, it is important to provide context to what is in front of them.

context to what is in front of them.
"For example, if I explore a beach
and I spot all these animals, but no
one tells me what they are, how
they live, what threats they face,
then I don't really gain anything
out of this trip.
"There's personal and the

She adds that children have short attention spans and do not have the tendency nor the capability to think as deeply as adults do.
"To make their learning more effective and ensure sustained interest in the long run, we have to put in effort to make it entertained from their perspective.
"We also have to tell stories which can evoke emotions that could potentially motivate them to good as they mature and grow." This is also why the couple collaborated with World Scientific Education to launch a comic book,



comic book put out by Kong Man Jing, explores marine life in a fun way to keep young readers interested. PHOTOS: JUST KEEP THINKING

The Intertidal Adventures Of Biogirl MJ, the

The Intertidal Adventures Of Bio-girl MJ. The publisher approached them last year. "We both have the same goal of making learning a fun

same goal of making learning a fun process," says Ng. Kong agrees, "lust like every piece of content that we create on our channel, we put in a lot of effort and time to ensure that the comic book, albeit an educational one, has a sto-ryline that entertains the reader."

elisac@sph.com.sq

"The Intertidal Adventures Of Biogiri MJ retails for \$14.90 at bit.ly/biogiripreorder. Get it by Nov 15 to receive a mystery gift. The first 100 buyers will also receive an autographed copy. Authors Kong Man Jing and Raye Ng will be at storytelling events, including one at Times Waterway Point in Punggol on Dec 3, 3.30pm.



Kong (left) has been leading intertidal walks for kids and adults