

IMPORTANT NEWS BULLETIN FOR READERS IN THE SE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION:

The **beast** in a box

GREGORY JANICKE'S *THE SHADOW BEASTS* SERIES NOW COMES IN A CONVENIENT, SPECIAL FOUR-BOOK BOX SET

by **S. Indra Sathiabalan**

HOW often do you come across a riveting story where there are questions for discussion at the end of the book?

When Gregory Janicke (of comic strip *Fizzik Rules* fame) came out with *The Shadow Beasts* series aimed at preteens and young adults, he not only created a fantastic science fiction series but also made it educational as well.

Janicke, who is currently the development director of the Casablanca American School and teaches English, teamed up with publisher Marshall Cavendish to come out with this series, which also boasts colourful drawings of the characters by the author himself.

The Shadow Beasts series kicks off with *The Dark Mystery of the Shadow Beasts* which starts on Planet Dulunac where a unique group of

teenagers manage to escape from the ruthless dictator, CHNOPS, and his brutal army of Antibodies.

Together, Gyro, Marina, Lynai'seth and Jax form a group called The Outcasts which try to find a way to keep out of the reach of the dreaded Antibodies.

The Outcasts come from different cultural backgrounds and customs. But they must struggle to overcome their differences and survive the barbaric conditions which they find themselves thrown into.

The questions for discussion at the end of the book are to help stimulate conversation among readers on cultural issues, the value of science, the importance of taking responsibility and many other interesting topics.

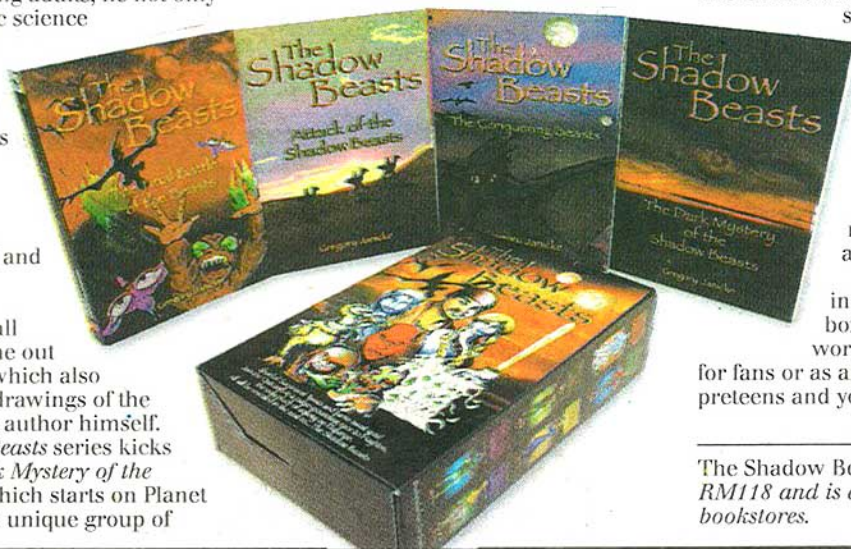
Subsequent books – *Attack of the Shadow Beasts*, *The Conquering Beasts* and *The Final Battle of the Beasts* – have all been well received.

The Final Battle of the Beasts sees The Outcasts make the ultimate sacrifice to reach HayVen, a place that may or may not exist. Readers wait with bated breathe to find out if this is in fact the last of Janicke's saga.

The saga of The Outcasts offers young readers plenty to discuss and argue over:

The series now comes in a convenient four-book box set which makes it a worthwhile collector's item

for fans or as an excellent gift for preteens and young adults.



The Shadow Beasts box set retails for RM118 and is available at major bookstores.