PART 1
READING ALOUD

In this passage, three girls discuss designing clothes.

Rosie, Tina and Marie were serious about clothes. All three girls were studying Fashion and Design at college – and on this Friday afternoon they were preparing their work for the college's end-of-year show. There would be medals for the students whose designs were judged to be the best in the show.
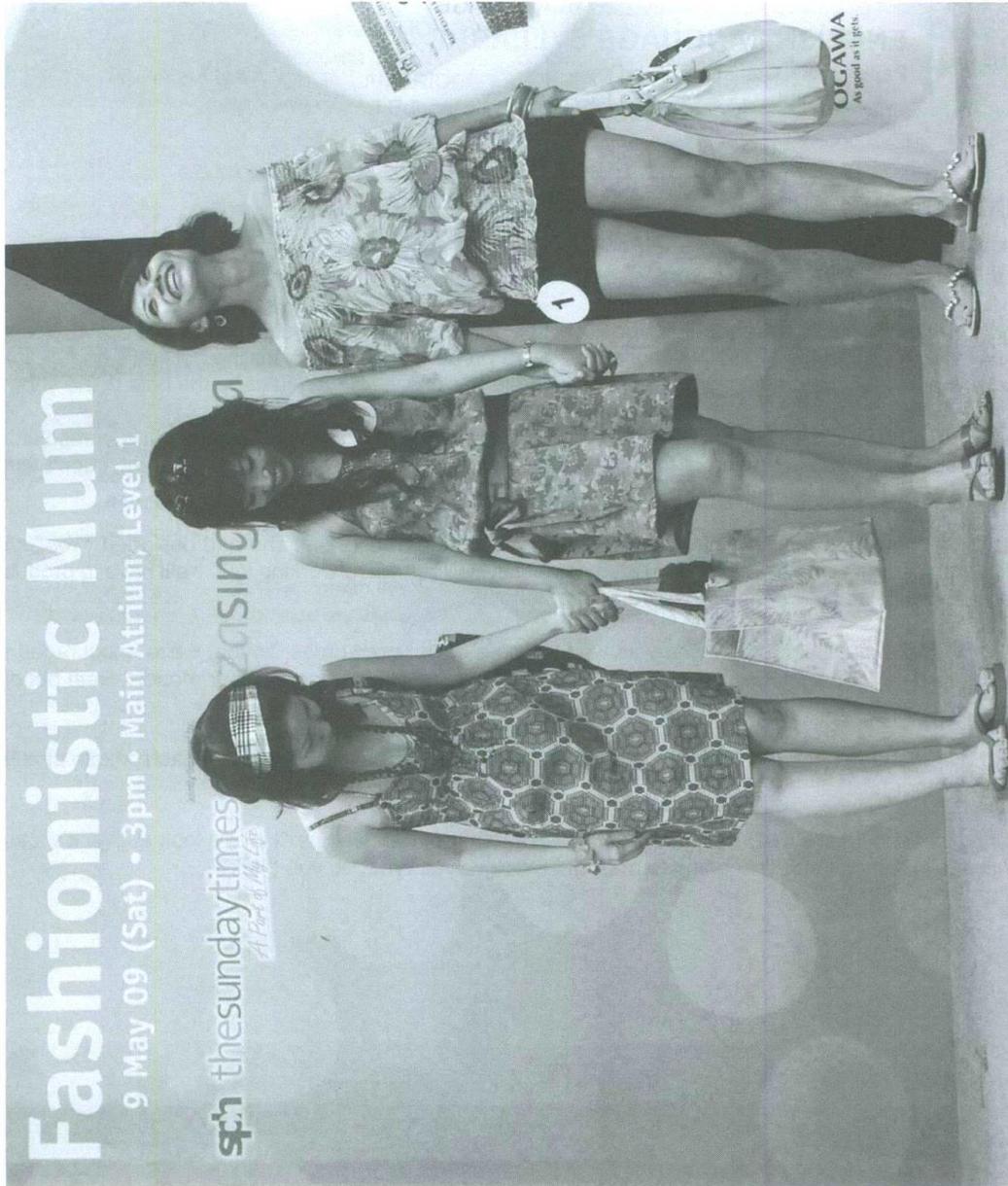
"I don't mind my clothes being put on show," said Tina, "but I don't really like being in a competition. The three of us have very different creative ideas – but that's the point. We're just different. I don't think any one of us should be called better than the others."

Marie was putting the finishing touches to a dark red cotton trouser-suit she had designed. "Yes," she said, "but the real world of fashion is just so competitive. When we're working in it, we'll have to produce clothes that will sell more than those from other labels."

"What bothers me," said Rosie, who was working on a flower-print dress, "is that we're encouraged to design clothes for slim young people, as if everyone was as thin as some of our models. Real people come in all shapes and sizes, after all."

"And different ages," added Tina. "Why shouldn't older people have good quality, fashionable clothes made for them?"

"Funny you should say that," said Marie, lifting up another of her designs. "Have a look at this. It's a suit for my grandfather. I think I'm going to make it in dark velvet. What do you think?"

© Singapore Press Holdings