ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of this thesis and doctoral degree is, in no small part, due to the support from a number of significant individuals in my life.

First, I want to thank my thesis supervisor, Professor Dr. Esther G. S. Daniel, for all her support, guidance, advice, cajoling and patience in helping me navigate the research and writing process. I appreciate every word that you read, every comment you made, every question you raised, and all of the countless words of support over the past two years. Also, I would like to thank my co-supervisor, Dr. Chin Hai-Leng for your caring and advices.

I would like to thank my research participants. Without them, this thesis would not be possible and I recognize their generous support of my work and interests, including the time they gave to talk with me and allowed me into their classrooms and lives. They are each wonderful exemplary teachers at Prokidz Institution as well as passionate novice teachers who aspire to be an excellent character educator.

To my husband, Ting Ping, I would also like to say a huge thank you for his many years of support and encouragement. I know I could not have made it this far without you, and your love and compassion have helped me through dark hours. Without you, I know I would not have been attempted this voyage, and you make me a better person each day that we are together.

Thank you and I love all of you very much.