



FUN DAY

TIMES



**Escorting Nadungamuwa Raja
for the Kandy Esala Perahera**

Pic. by Priyanka Samaraweera



FUN STUFF

PAGE 2



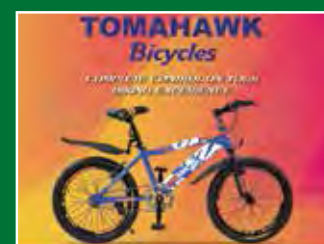
LANDMARKS

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COMPETITION

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Book Review

Tales from the School Days (Under the Tamarind Tree)

Tales from the School Days (*Under the Tamarind Tree*) is the latest book authored by former Assistant Principal (Primary) of Royal College, Colombo, Mr. Heras Fernando.

Annually many students gain entry into popular schools in Colombo, being successful at the 'Year 5 Scholarship Examination.' Three such students, from distant places, away from Colombo developed a good friendship.

At a corner of the school, close to its hostel, there is a well grown Tamarind tree. These three friends made it a habit to meet under the Tamarind tree in the evenings,

after finishing their school work.

It became their favourite spot to have a good time and recall the daily happenings at school. They also talked about places of interest in their respective home towns. Stories told by their elders also played a part. The three friends would enjoy their evenings together by relating such stories among themselves.

Heras Fernando's book retells such stories that were fondly recalled by those three schoolmates. Most relate to wild elephants in the jungles, including their habits and the encounters of the villagers with wild elephants.



The stories in the book spectacularly describe hitherto unknown facts about the behaviour of baby wild elephants.

Other stories on the toddy industry along the coastal areas and chena cultivation in the deep south are vividly described, capturing the harshness, suspense and horror associated with them.

Some others include descriptive accounts of Ella, Demodara and the horticulture of the up-country areas.

Hey kids,

Here's your chance to win a copy of 'Tales from the School Days' (Under the Tamarind Tree)! Send in your essays along with your full details, to Funday Times.

Topic : A happy or interesting school day memory
Age Groups : 8 - 11 years / 12 - 15 years
Word Count : 200 words

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Address: No. 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2.

From a Young Reporter

Science behind Halos

Halo means a bright circle around something. The word 'halo' is pronounced as "hay-lo".



Sun Halo



Moon Halo

There are many optical phenomena formed due to the refraction of light on water droplets and ice particles in clouds. One such familiar instance is the occurrence of a rainbow. A halo is somewhat like a rainbow too.

Mainly, there are two types of halos namely, sun halos and moon halos. Sun halos are formed when sunlight passes through ice particles in cirrus clouds (clouds that have the appearance of thin, wispy strands) and refract, so that a nice ring is formed. Moon halos are formed in the same way with the exception that

they are formed by the refraction of moonlight on ice particles.

A beautiful sun halo was observed in the Southern areas of Sri Lanka on July 29, 2021 in the afternoon. It was a stupefying sight.

It is amazing how light can bend to form an exact circle so that it seems to centre the sun or the moon. A halo is yet another fantastic effect of light.

Science is behind the scenes of some things that we sometimes regard as miracles.

Sandali Hapuarachchi (14 years)
Sanghamiththa B. V., Galle

FUNDAY TIMES Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

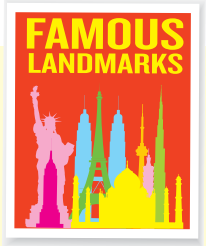


Young Reporters Coupon

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Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.

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Dalada Maligawa

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a world-renowned place of worship, where the left canine tooth of Gautama Buddha is enshrined. The temple which is venerated by thousands of local and foreign devotees and visited by tourists daily, was named as a world heritage by UNESCO in 1988.

The temple which is an important religious site to Buddhists all over the world also has immense cultural value. The Kandyan architecture is combined with the unique style used to build 'Dalada Mandira', the shrines which housed the Sacred Tooth Relic previously in other kingdoms.

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is built in the city of Kandy near the ancient Royal Palace which is situated to the North of the temple and the forest reserve called "Udawatthya Kelaya" to the East. The famous Kandy Lake also known as "Kiri Muhuda" to the South and "Natha and Paththini Devala" on the West. The temple is



Handunkudama ▲

adorned with intricate carvings using gold, silver, bronze and ivory.

The city of Kandy is the final location of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Gautama Buddha. The Sacred Relic was brought to Sri Lanka by Princess Hemamala and Prince Dantha from the city of Kalinga in ancient India, during the reign of King Keerthi Sri Meghavarna (Kithsirimevan 301 – 328). It became a symbol of Sri Lankan kings and was preciously guarded in a special shrine built within the precincts of the royal palace, wherever the capital was located.

The ruins of such edifices remain in ancient capitals of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Dambadeniya, Yapahuwa, Kurunegala, Gampola and Kotte. While in Kandy the last Kingdom, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic continues to be the greatest shrine to receive the utmost veneration of the Buddhist world.

The first "Dalada Madura" in Kandy, which housed the Sacred Tooth Relic was built by King Wimaladharmasuriya I (1592 – 1604). History reveals that this was destroyed by the Portuguese during their invasions.

The second temple, built in the same location by King Rajasinghe II (1635 – 1687), was burnt by the Dutch. According to Dalada history, in the year 1687, King Wimaladharmasuriya II built a three-storeyed Dalada Madura and performed Dalada rituals with great devotion. With time the building was decayed and destroyed. Later, his son King Sri Weera Parakrama Narendrasinghe (1707 – 1739), built the two-storeyed Dalada Madura which one can see today. The South Indian Kings who ruled the country from Senkadagala renovated and protected the shrine which was built by King Narendrasinghe.



Ceiling decoration in the entrance ▲



New Shrine Room ▲



Esala Perahera ▲

The temple was finely renovated and beautified by King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe to its present appearance.

The Paththirippuwa or the Octagonal Pavilion was constructed by King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe (1798 – 1815).

Protecting the Sacred Tooth Relic and conducting religious rituals without a break is being carried out to the present day, under the strict surveillance of the three chief custodians of the Tooth Relic, the most Venerable Mahanayake Theros of Malwatta and Asgiriya chapters and the lay custodian, the Diyawadana Nilame.

The historic Kandy Esala Perahera also known as the Dalada Perahera is conducted annually around the streets of Kandy to pay homage to the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha.

Source: sridaladamaligawa.lk



August 10

News in Pictures



London, UK
 'Our Teacher's a Troll' transforms Lesnes Abbey Ruins into an open-air theatre.



Adana, Turkey
 Waste from materials used in fishing such as ghost net and rope are collected by divers from the seabed. The waste will be transformed into bags, cleaning cloths and other items.

Faridpur, Bangladesh
 People watch as a rare freshwater crocodile is captured from a river. Wildlife rangers tried for two weeks to catch the reptile.



Nuevo Queja, Guatemala
 Sergio David Jom (two years), lies on a scale as he is measured during a wellness checkup in a makeshift settlement. At least once a month, a nurse visits Nuevo Queja, where malnutrition has doubled since last year's mudslide. 'One in three [children] are stunted,' says head nurse Cesar Chiquin.



Kabul, Afghanistan
 Internally displaced Afghans from northern provinces, who fled their homes due to fighting between the Taliban and Afghan security personnel, take refuge in a public park.



A boy is comforted by his sister



Locarno, Switzerland
 Visitors enjoy a film showing on the Piazza Grande during the international film festival.



Islamabad, Pakistan
 The national flag is raised ahead of the country's 75th Independence Day, on August 14, which marks the end of British colonial rule.



Evia, Greece
 Local youths and volunteers gather in a field to support firefighters as wildfires continue.



Gaza Strip, Palestine
 Khalil Hamdan, 64, repairs shoes and bags for students before the start of the new school year. The economy in Gaza has worsened not only due to COVID-19 but also as a result of a political standoff.

Source: The Guardian

August 11

Little Amal: The giant puppet walking 5000 miles

Meet Little Amal - the not so little puppet of a 9-year-old Syrian girl who is walking 5,000 miles from Turkey to the UK.



The journey represents the stories of the millions of young refugees who are forced to leave their homes and often travel alone without their parents.

Designed as part of a project aimed at raising awareness of the difficulties faced by child refugees, the nearly 12-foot-tall puppet will cross the border of eight countries.

She'll be moving from Turkey to Greece, then Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and finally the UK where

Little Amal's journey will end in Manchester on November 3.

The giant puppet has been made by the same people who worked on the horse puppet for the theatre production of 'War Horse'.

Called The Handspring Puppet Company, it takes a total of four puppeteers to animate Little Amal: one for each arm, one for her back, and one actor inside her body, walking on stilts and also operating a contraption called "the harp," a complex system of strings that control the puppet's facial expressions.

August 10

Travelling elephants in China finally heading home

The herd of elephants that have attracted worldwide attention for their trip across China are finally almost home.

The elephants travelled up to 700 km (435 miles) through the Yunnan province in China, reaching the outskirts of Kunming, a major city, and then turning back.

The herd of 14 elephants were seen crossing the Yuanjiang river on Sunday night, and all are said to be in good health and now heading to their original nature reserve.

On Sunday it was reported that the herd were 200 km (124 miles) from home.

Their original nature reserve is in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, in the south of China, close to the border of Myanmar.



The elephants were exhausted and needed to rest - researchers noted that elephants don't usually sleep like this, which leads them to believe they were very tired from their travelling.

The elephants have been on their travels for 17 months. The elephants left the nature reserve last year and began an unexpected trek further north of China.

Chinese authorities who have been following the elephant's journey don't know why the herd decided to travel so far, or travel at all. To help guide them back home, they set up food baits and roadblocks to direct them to suitable habitats where they would be safe.

The herd of elephants travelled through several counties such as Mojiang and Eshan, popping up in different villages, towns and cities. Thankfully, once they reached the outskirts of Kunming, they changed

direction and started their journey back home.

Authorities also used 18 drones to distract the elephants from busy areas where they could cause harm to themselves or others.

Even though the elephants did raid a few farms and shops for food, no injuries were caused to any animals or humans throughout the past 17 months. They were even spotted taking a bath in a canal!

Scientists are confused why the elephants decided to travel so far, even when a couple members of the herd were about to give birth.

Speaking with the BBC, Joshua Plotnik, assistant professor of elephant psychology at the City University of New York, believes that one reason for the elephants journey could be because of human-related disturbances in their habitat.

In China, Asian elephants are the most protected animal species and thanks to their conservation efforts, wild elephants in the Yunnan province has risen from 193 in the 1990s to 300 today.

The rise in numbers is impressive because their natural habitats have reduced from human related activity, such as deforestation.

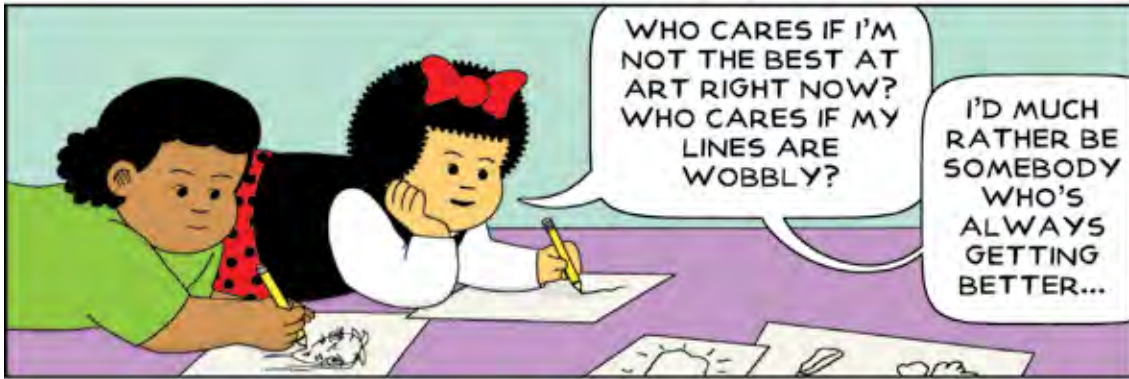
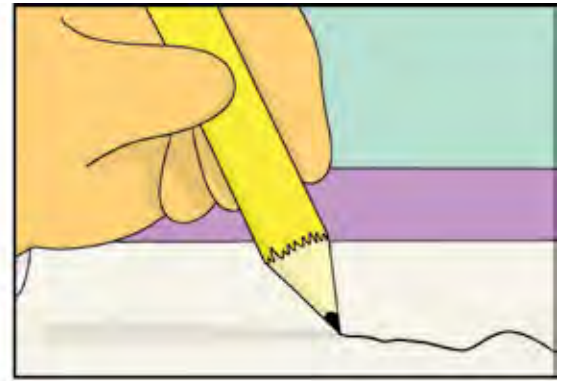


The elephants began their journey in Xishuangbanna and travelled all the way to Kunming, in the Yunnan province, China.

Source : CBBC Newsround

nancy

BY OLIVIA JAIMES



Ginger Meggs



Rugrats



Let's read with Room to Read!

Dear Children,

Today's story is called, 'What is Peace?'

Explore the concept of peace through lyrical text and warm, whimsical illustrations.

Readers are invited to look at peace from various perspectives, to consider the different facets of peace, and to reflect on what peace means to them.

Let's begin...

From far, far away, the world seems still.

Quiet and cool. Calm and peaceful.

The closer we look, the more we see.

There we are.

Running, laughing, learning, fighting... and making peace.

What is peace? Is it a belly full of your favourite food?

Or the gentle hum of your mother's voice?

Maybe it's the warm weight of blankets pressing you into sleep.

Or stories whispered way past bedtime?

Sometimes peace is strong and solid as a fort.

But then... it tumbles in a heap of angry words.

Sometimes we grasp it so tight that... Snap!

Peace is a fragile thing.

Hard to make and hard to mend.

But it's always there, in the rhythm of our hearts,

in the breath that moves through us.

There it is. Can you feel it?

Now, what will you do with it?

Will you let it warm you like an ember?

Will you sing it in the streets?

Will you take good care of it?

Will you share it?

You may not know just yet.

When you close your eyes,

what do you see? Peace everywhere.

-The End-

Access the full story with illustrations via Room to Read's **Literacy Cloud**.

<https://literacycloud.org/stories/3066-what-is-peace/>

These storybooks are published by Room to Read, who believes that *World Change Starts with Educated Children*.

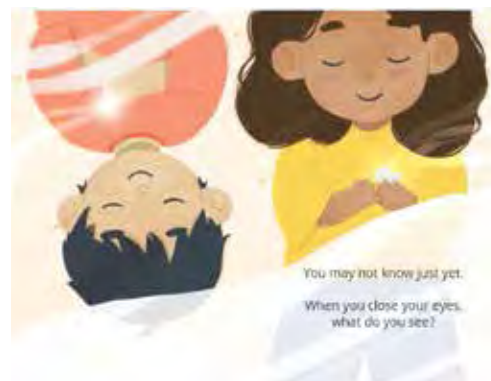
This book was published in 2020 as part of Room to Read's global Peace and Equality collection.



What Is Peace?

Author : John Lasack

Illustrator : Kat Yao



This week's trivia
After reading the story,
close your eyes and imagine 'peace'.
What do you see?

Send your own **creative answer** this time, to literacylk@RoomtoRead.onmicrosoft.com and stand a chance to win a storybook by Room to Read! One lucky winner will be chosen every week and the prizes will be given at the end of the series.

Cartoon Time!

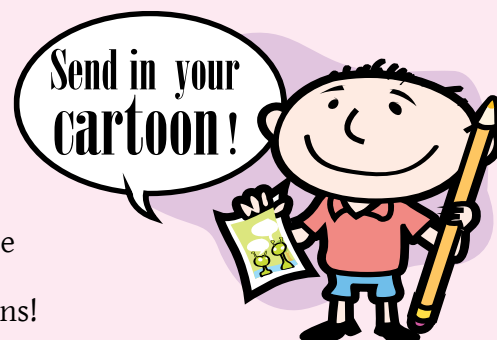
Hey Kids! We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what's more they will be your own cartoons.

So, here's a chance for you to try your hand at producing your very own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption. It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes).

The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times.

So good luck to all you cartoon fans!



Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything. They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Jokes

What goes tick tock, bow wow, tick tock, bow wow?



A watch dog.

What is black and white and red all over?



A sunburnt zebra.

Which animal makes the best pet?

A cat... because it is purr-fect.



What is black and white, black and white, black and white?

A penguin rolling down a hill.



What time is it when a lion walks into a room?

Time to leave.



Where do cows go on the weekend?
To the moo-vies.



Please send competition entries to:

Funday Times
 C/O the Sunday Times
 P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
 Or
 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
 Colombo 2.

Please note that competition entries (except Reeves Art) are accepted by email.

Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name (including Surname),
Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for weekly competitions:
September 1, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

From the Editor ...




Hi Kids,

Funday Times, turned 21 years this week. We thank all our loyal readers who have supported us over the years.

We are sorry we are unable to do something special this year due to the pandemic affecting our country and the world as well.

We hope you keep on reading the Funday Times...

We wish you all the best! Take care and keep safe.

Umar Shamroz
10 years on August 17

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.

Tomahawk

Quiz




No. 186

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 186 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of July 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2021. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 186' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners
 will receive brand new
Tomahawk Mountain Bikes
 with the compliments of
Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years are eligible to participate.
(Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: August 31, 2021

  Or  fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 186

1. Name the only Grand Slam tennis championship played on a grass court.
2. What is Bonsai?
3. Where is Temple Mount situated?
4. What is the mathematical process Google Translate uses to translate text from one language to another?
5. Who is the youngest person to travel to space and what was the name of the spacecraft he travelled in?