

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
AUGUST 18, 2024



FUN DAY TIMES



COMPETITIONS

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KIDS NEWS

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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 are accepted by email.

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 Number 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 this week's competitions:
September 4, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Competitions
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- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.



24th Anniversary

Funday Times celebrates 24 years in August this year. We now have eight pages, four in print and four additional pages online. The fundaytimes.lk website is also up and running. We thank all our readers for being with us through the years. To mark the Anniversary, we are planning an Essay and Art Competition for all our young readers.

Essay Competition

Age Group: 9 years and below

Topic: My favourite hobby

Word Count: 150 - 200

Age Group: 10 - 12 years

Topic: Why I like to read

Word Count: 200 - 250

Age Group: 13 - 15 years

Topic: Pros and cons of digital reading and art

Word Count: 250 - 300

or
 fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Art / Digital Art Competition

Age Groups:

4 - 7 years and 8 - 15 years

Entries for Art Competition could be sent on any topic of your choice. The topic should be clearly stated on your entry. You could use any art medium such as paints, crayons etc., or Digital media.

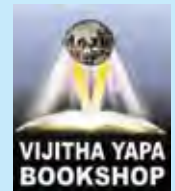


Entries for Essay and Art should include Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School.

All entries should be certified by a parent or teacher as your own original work. Winners will be awarded attractive prizes!

Closing Date: August 20, 2024

Prize Sponsors



Punchi Ape' Perahera organised by the Model Early Childhood Development & Daycare Centre University of Kelaniya, was held at the university premises on August 8, 2024.

The Magic Shoe

By Manoshi De Silva

Methuli washed her new pair of pink shoes and kept it under the mango tree, to dry out in the sun. A monkey who was in the mango tree, looked at the shoes curiously, wondering what they were.

After Methuli left, he came down and grabbed one shoe and climbed up again. The monkey inspected the shoe by turning it around, but soon lost interest and threw it away as he leaped to another tree.

The pink shoe fell down and got caught between two mango branches. In the evening Methuli came out to take her shoes in. To her surprise there was only one shoe. She looked all around the mango tree but one shoe was missing. Then she checked all over the garden. But the shoe was not to be found.

"A stray dog must have taken it," said Methuli. "That can't be because the gate was locked," said Methuli's mother, who was helping to find the missing shoe. Methuli was very confused as to how one of her new pink shoes had vanished. "It has just disappeared!" said Methuli. "Like an act of magic. Maybe it was a magic shoe!"

The next morning as the sun rose, the birds came out in search of food. A sparrow saw something unusual among the branches. "What is this?" she wondered, flying around Methuli's pink shoe. She perched on it and observed it well. Then she crept inside the shoe and came out again.

"This thing is ideal to build a nest. I must start building my nest inside this because it will protect the eggs and keep them safe!" said the sparrow and she flew away to find twigs and other stuff needed to build her new nest.

A mynah came and sat on the mango branch and saw the shoe next. "Now what is this?" she wondered hopping around the shoe. "Looks like an ideal place to build a nest for me. I must bring some pieces of coir and start building a nest right away!" she said flying away in search of coir.

The sparrow got a little late to find twigs, so the mynah returned before her. She put the coir inside and started building the nest.

"This is going to be the best nest I've ever had," she thought flying away in search of more material to complete her nest.

The sparrow returned meanwhile, with twigs in her beak. She peeped inside the nest and saw that the base of the nest was already built.

"What a surprise!" she said. "Looks like this thing is building a nest on its own, these pieces of coir were not here before. This is a magical thing!" The sparrow carefully arranged the twigs she brought on top of what the mynah built. Building a nest required a lot of hard work. It meant many flights to and fro.

The mynah returned as soon as the sparrow left. She was surprised to see new pieces of twigs added to her previous work. "How wonderful! This thing builds the nest on its own! I didn't even bring some of these things," shouted the mynah.

"Uh oh," thought a squirrel who had been there from morning. He didn't want to be the one to tell them that there were two owners to the shoe nest.

"The nest is magically building inside this thing!" said the mynah, "I only brought twigs once and when I returned it was bigger than when I left it!" A little while after the mynah flew away, the sparrow returned with some more twigs and feathers she has gathered. She arranged it and said, "This is the fastest nest that I've ever built. This has got to be magic!"

The squirrel watched quietly as the sparrow flew away and the mynah returned. "What! My bed has already been made with soft feathers by this magical thing!" shouted the mynah. "Thanks to this magical thing, my nest is almost complete," she said arranging the twigs and trying to make the nest neater. Just then the sparrow returned. "Oh, now is when the real magic starts!" said the squirrel shaking his head.

"Hey! Hey!" shouted the sparrow, "stop messing with my nest!" The mynah stared at the sparrow and fluffed her feathers. "What do you mean by calling it 'your nest'?" she asked sounding annoyed.



"I found this magic thing and started building my nest in it. So it's my house!" said the sparrow perching on the pink shoe.

"Well, it is I who found this magic thing and started building my nest in here, so it's my house and not yours!" said the mynah who sat on the other side of the pink shoe.

"Please stop fighting!" shouted the squirrel, "I was here from morning and saw what happened." The squirrel explained to the birds how they both took turns and built the nest. "And that's how the nest was completed magically. The sparrow saw it first and the mynah started building first. So it belongs to both of you!"

But the birds were not happy with this explanation. So they decided to have a fight and see who won the nest. They started pecking and attacking each other. "Please stop fighting!" shouted the squirrel but the birds started pulling the shoe with their feet. The shoe got pulled away and fell down under the mango tree with a thud, spilling out all the twigs and the coir.

Methuli came out to see what the sound was. She was surprised to see her lost pink shoe under the mango tree, just where she had left it to dry the day before.

"My shoe has reappeared!" shouted the girl in surprise. "This must be a magic shoe! How else can it disappear and reappear like this?" she said carrying it inside.

"Serves you both right, for fighting!" said the squirrel, as the two birds flew away annoyed.

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7 - 9 AGE GROUP

Match the countries to their flags.

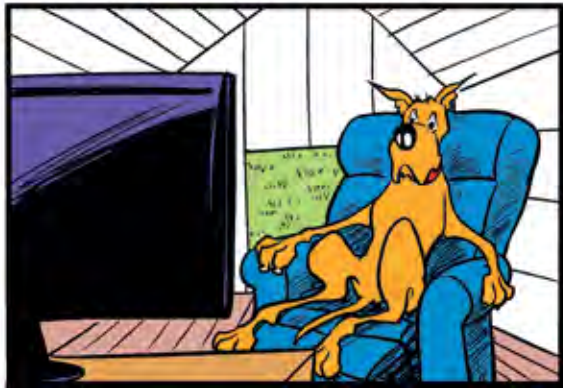
	SPAIN	
	RUSSIA	
	FRANCE	
	CHINA	
	PORTUGAL	
	BRAZIL	
	JAPAN	
	GERMANY	
	ITALY	
	THE UK	
	AUSTRALIA	
	MEXICO	

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7 - 9 years WINNERS!

- ▶ Krishmi Fernando, Colombo 14
- ▶ Zaid Shifaz, Dehiwala
- ▶ Aara Akram, Matale
- ▶ Zainab Ilham, Dehiwala
- ▶ Imeth Liyanapathirana, Mt. Lavinia

Winners please call Funday Times on 2479333/2479337 and arrange to collect your prizes.



DOG GONE FUNNY SKANEATELES, NY
 TINA CASTLE'S ENGLISH BULLDOG, JELLYBEAN, GOBBLES HER DINNER EVERY NIGHT IN NO TIME FLAT. ONE EVENING, WHEN TINA HAD COMPANY TO DINNER, JELLYBEAN BROUGHT HER FOOD BOWL INTO THE DINING ROOM AND JOINED THE PARTY. DON'T FORGET ME!

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My best friend

Win: As You Like It – A Shakespeare Children's Story

"All the world's a stage..." One of the most quoted lines of Shakespeare was first heard in this play.

This short narrative version has been suitably adapted to help introduce the play to young readers.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: Esala Perahera

Win: Five Children & It by E. Nesbit

The five children are Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and the Lamb, their baby brother. And 'It' is the Sand-fairy known as the Psammead that lives in the gravel pits. It is furry and fat, with hands like a monkey's – and, when it's in the mood, has the power to grant wishes.



The children discover that wish-making is fun at first, but sometimes when wishes come true, fun can soon turn into trouble...

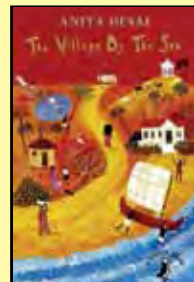
Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Olympic Games 2024

Win: The Village By The Sea by Anita Desai

With their mother ill and their father permanently drunk, Hari and Lila have to earn the money to keep house and look after their two young sisters.



In desperation, Hari runs away to Bombay, and Lila is left to cope alone.

Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



Or



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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.



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Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

J
O
K
E
S

Which animal makes the best pet?

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



What is black and white and red all over?

A sunburnt zebra.



What time is it when an elephant sits on your bed?

Time to get a new bed.



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

Time to leave.



Raccoon

Raccoons are active-at-night, (nocturnal), mammals that live throughout much of the world, from North and South America to Asia. These ubiquitous mammals are found in forests, marshes, prairies and even in cities.

They are adaptable and use their dexterous front paws and long fingers to find and feast on a wide variety of fare.

During winter in cold northern climates, raccoons sleep for extended periods, although they don't actually hibernate. To prepare for cold winters, raccoons pack on extra body fat in fall. This extra fat helps provide the raccoon with energy when it's too cold to search for food.

Diet

In the natural world, raccoons snare a lot of their meals in the water, being excellent swimmers. These nocturnal foragers use lightning-quick paws to grab crayfish, frogs and other aquatic creatures.

On land, raccoons lumber around on all four paws like a bear. Among the raccoon's favourite foods on land are: fruits, seeds, nuts, birds' eggs and plants. They pluck mice and insects from their hiding places and raid nests for tasty eggs.



Raccoons also eat fruit and plants –

including those grown in human gardens and farms. In cities, raccoons scavenge around garbage bins and will eat scraps of food and other trash found there.

Raccoons live for around one to three years in the wild. In captivity, where the raccoon doesn't need to worry about finding food or outwitting predators, some have lived as long as 20 years.

Den Behaviour

These ring-tailed animals are equally opportunistic when it comes to choosing a denning site. They may inhabit a tree hole, fallen log, or a house's attic.

Females have one to seven cubs in early summer. The young raccoons often spend the first two months or so of their lives high in a tree hole. Later, mother and children move to the ground when the cubs begin to explore on their own.

Raccoons in the northern parts of their range gorge themselves in spring and summer to store up body fat.

COMMON NAME: Raccoon
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Procyon lotor*
TYPE: Mammals
DIET: Omnivore
GROUP NAME: Nursery
AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 2 to 3 years
SIZE: 23.75 to 37.5 inches
WEIGHT: 4 to 23 pounds



They then spend much of the winter asleep in a den. There are several other species of raccoons, in addition to the familiar northern (North American) raccoon. Most other species live on tropical islands.

Source: National Geographic



Statue of Jane Austen to be built

August 9, 2024

A statue of the famous author Jane Austen will be built outside Winchester Cathedral to celebrate the 250th anniversary of her birth.

Jane Austen was an 18th Century English author who wrote books like 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Sense and Sensibility.'

Her books have sold millions of copies all around the world and have even been turned into TV shows and films.

The new statue of Jane will be made from clay, by famous sculptor Martin Jennings — who also made the statue of nurse Mary Seacole, and the new UK coins featuring King Charles III's picture.

Speaking about being chosen to make the statue, sculptor Martin Jennings said: "I look forward to producing a memorial to Jane Austen which will draw people from far and wide to celebrate her legacy and that of the great city and cathedral in which she rests."



This is what the finished statue will look like.



During her lifetime Jane Austen wrote six novels: 'Sense and Sensibility', 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Mansfield Park', 'Emma', 'Persuasion' and 'Northanger Abbey'.

Her first novel 'Sense and Sensibility' was published in 1811, and she published it anonymously — which means she didn't put her name down as the author and kept it secret — saying it was written by 'a Lady'.

It was quite rare during this time for women to be published authors, as women did not have very many rights, they could not vote until 1918, or have control over their own money until 1870.

In her novels she regularly poked fun at how people expected women to behave at that time, and her female characters were witty and clever.

To this day many people still celebrate her work and study it in schools and universities, and her face was even on £10 notes in the UK.

She died in 1817 in Winchester, in Hampshire, at the age of 41, and is buried at the Cathedral there.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winchester, Sarah Greer, said: "This beautiful statue is a fitting tribute to one of England's finest writers and Hampshire's most beloved residents.

The statue will be placed in front of Winchester Cathedral — where Jane Austen is buried — by September 2025.

Who was Jane Austen?

Jane Austen was a famous English writer who was born in 1775 in Steventon, in Hampshire, and had six brothers and one sister.

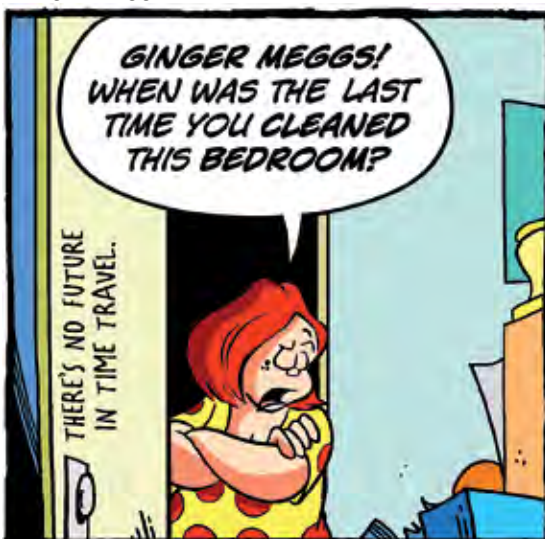
Jane grew up in a wealthy family, and fell in love with reading and writing from a young age, often putting on plays for the family with her older sister Cassandra.



Sculptor Martin Jennings has previously made lots of statues in the UK.

Source : CBBC Newsround

Ginger Meggs



August 13

News in Pictures



London, UK
Workers measure a new Banksy artwork at the London Zoo.



Omsk Region, Russia
The Aurora Borealis, also known as the 'Northern Lights', illuminate the sky as people gather to watch the annual Perseid meteor shower near the village of Borodinka.



New York, USA
Italian air force planes mark the 500th anniversary of Giovanni da Verrazano's 1524 expedition.



Jakarta, Indonesia
Market traders prepare national flags and decorations for the country's independence anniversary on August 17.

Khan Younis, Gaza
Children react as people mourn Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.



Athens, Greece
Volunteers and firefighters try to extinguish a fire in a building as a wildfire burns in Vrilissia near Athens.



Gaborone, Botswana
Dancers wait at the airport to greet Botswana's Olympic gold medallist Letsile Tebogo, who won the men's 200 metres athletics event at the Paris Games.



The Mediterranean Sea
A migrant reaches for a life vest handed by members of the NGO Open Arms rescue boat "Astral" as he stands with others on a wooden boat in international waters south of Lampedusa.

London, UK
Shooting skeet women's silver medalist Britain's Amber Rutter with her child as she returns to London from the Paris Olympics.



Source : Reuters & The Guardian