

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 13, 2024



FUNDA DAY TIMES



Young Artists at 'Blank Canvas'

Pic. by Akila Jayawardena

WINNERS!
POETRY & ESSAYS
PAGES 2 & 5



FAMOUS PEOPLE
PAGE 4

(ONLINE)



ANIMALS
PAGE 6

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

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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:
October 30, 2024

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



BRITISH COUNCIL

Age groups:
6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years
Word limit: 100 Words

6 – 10 years

Water, Water, Everywhere

Water, water everywhere
 in the ground, in the air
 Wherever I go, you are there
 water water everywhere

You come from the sky
 and fall to the ground
 That's not the end
 of your day all around

O' water why do you never rest
 whenever I see you
 You help trees grow higher and higher
 until they grow no more

Water comes in many forms
 rain comes to dry zones
 When the winter air is around
 the snow will cover the ground

You help our thirst
 you help our growth
 you help us clean clothes
 you help in the night
 you help in the day
 All I want to say is thanks everyday.

Thinuli Goonewardana
 Lyceum Int. School, Nugegoda



Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

11 – 15 years

A Time Machine's Nightmare

I built a time machine,
 Full of amazing screens,
 Which were coloured green.

I went to dinosaurs era,
 Then to the World War Two,
 Where many bombs were thrown.

I thought of going to the future,
 As past was too much torture,
 And there was a shock for me.

It was World War Three,
 Where robots were drinking tea,
 And humans were dead.

Machines ruled the world,
 Men in endless pain,
 In the robots reign.

I fled in fear, machine damaged,
 I screamed with might,
 Until I woke from the terrible night.

Mehaashineey Krishnajothy
 Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below
Word Count: 150
Topic: My favourite animal


Win: **The Magic Bowl and Other Stories**



Fascinating folk tales with fine illustrations make this series a perfect beginning for a child's library.
 A collection of delightful stories that young readers will love!

Age: 10 – 12 years
Word Count: 150 – 200
Topic: A Halloween party

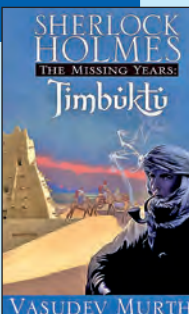
Win: **Five on Kirrin Island Again** by Enid Blyton



Uncle Quentin is working on secret experiments on Kirrin Island and he doesn't want anyone to visit, not even the Famous Five. But someone wants to steal his ideas and ruin his plans.
 George is determined to protect her father and save her island. She can't do it without the others – can they help her in time?

Age: 13 – 15 years
Word Count: 200 – 250
Topic: World Food Day

Win: **Sherlock Holmes - The Missing Years: Timbuktu** by Vasudev Murthy



Still wondering what Sherlock Holmes was doing between his reported death in 1891 and his reappearance in 1894? The whole world knew that he died at the Reichenbach Falls, tumbling over the jagged cliff in a deadly embrace with his nemesis Moriarty.
 But for history's greatest detective, "death" was only the beginning.

Book Competition



9 years and below
 My favourite storybook character
Seja Abeywickrama
 Southlands College, Galle

10 – 12 years
 Importance of Reading
Sheema Sarfaz
 Taprobane College Int.,
 Kalutara

13 – 15 years
 What you know about
 International Literacy Day
Vihansa Wijenayake
 St. Paul's Girls' School,
 Milagiriya





LIBERA and Hearts & Hands Foundation Bring Joy to Children at Jinananda Orphanage on World CHILDREN'S DAY



Children have a unique way of spreading joy to everyone around them, and on World Children's Day, that joy was celebrated in full. On September 29th, in celebration of World Children's Day, Libera and the Hearts & Hands Foundation went beyond empathy to make a lasting impact on the children at Sri Jinananda Orphanage in Wellawatta.

For the children there, this day became a cherished memory thanks to the thoughtful gestures from Libera and the Foundation. The children were dressed in specially designed outfits from the Libera Junior collection, made just for them. After enjoying a delicious lunch, they were given the chance to dive into a sea of fun and entertainment.

A drawing competition brought out the children's creativity, while face painting, a live photo booth, and DJ music added to the day's excitement. The event concluded with joyful performances from the children—singing, dancing, and a thrilling magic show, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony. Libera and the Hearts & Hands Foundation ended the day on a high note, presenting gifts to the children amidst smiles and laughter, creating a truly unforgettable experience.





R. L. Stine

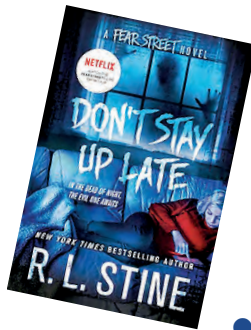
R.L. Stine is an American children's horror writer best known for his 'Goosebumps' and 'Fear Street' series.

R.L. Stine was born Robert Lawrence Stine on October 8, 1943 in Columbus, Ohio to Anne, a homemaker, and Lewis Stine, a shipping clerk.

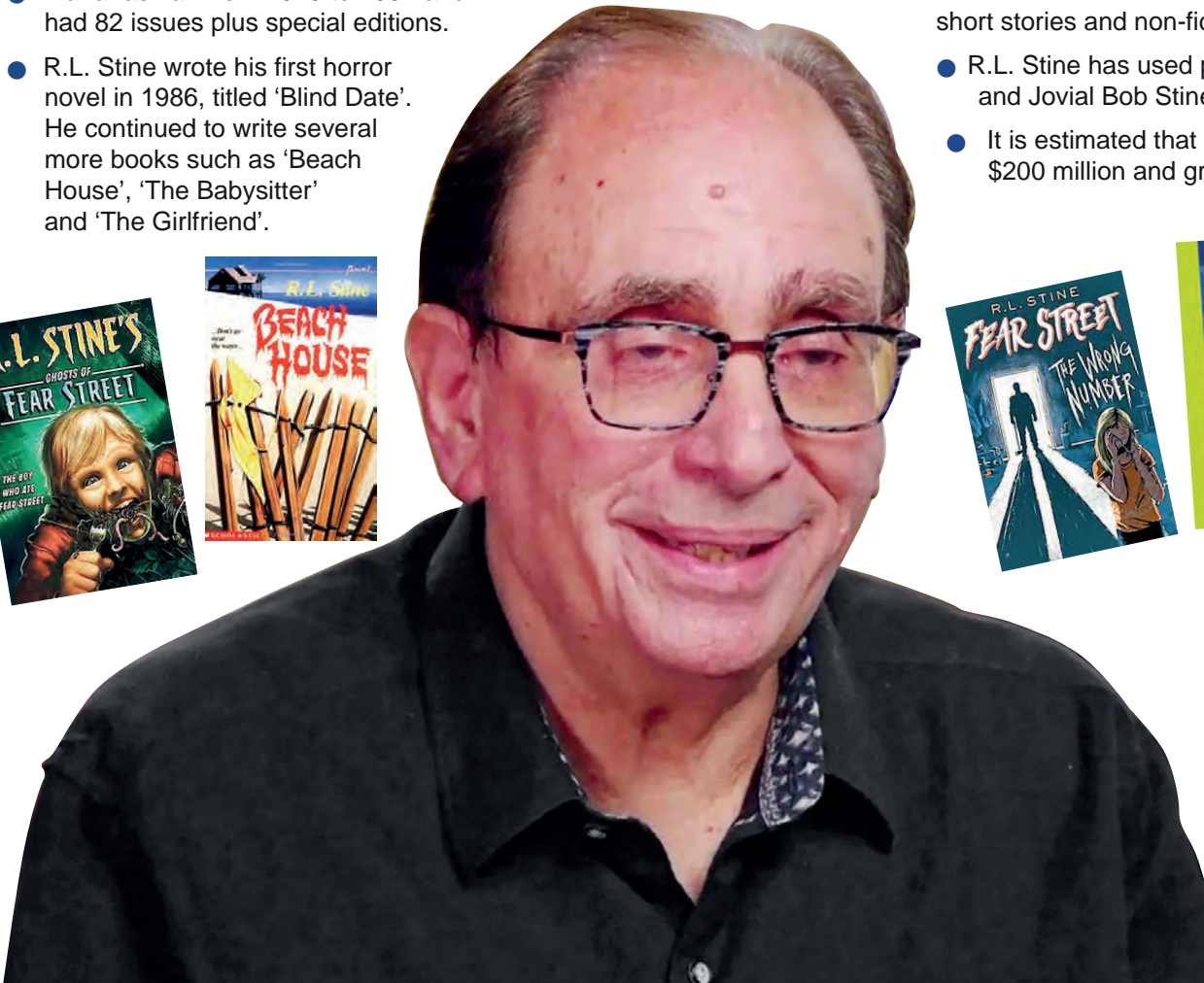
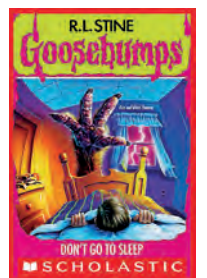
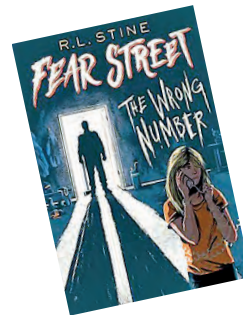
Stine has two younger siblings, a brother Bill and a sister Pam. Stine found a typewriter when he was nine years old and began writing. His first works were joke books and short stories. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1965 from the Ohio State University, where he had edited the school's humour magazine for three of the four years he attended. Upon graduation he moved to New York City where his writing career took off.

Interesting Facts

- Everyone in R.L. Stine's family calls him Bob.
- As a child he did not excel in school, getting mostly B's. He didn't like math or gym but was good at ping pong.
- After graduation from the Ohio State University and moving to New York City, Stine started writing children's joke and humour books under the pen name Jovial Bob Stine.
- R.L. Stine married Jane Waldhorn in 1969.
- Jane became a writer and editor and started Parachute Press with Joan Waricha in 1983. Parachute Press would help in the creation of all of R.L. Stine's popular series.
- R.L. Stine also started a teenage humour magazine called 'Bananas'. It was published by Scholastic Press.
- 'Bananas' ran from 1975 to 1984 and had 82 issues plus special editions.
- R.L. Stine wrote his first horror novel in 1986, titled 'Blind Date'. He continued to write several more books such as 'Beach House', 'The Babysitter' and 'The Girlfriend'.



- While R.L. Stine wrote his novels he also worked for Nickelodeon Network as co-creator and head writer of 'Eureka's Castle,' a children's program.
- R.L. Stine began writing the 'Fear Street' series in 1989. This series became the bestselling series for young adults in history, with more than 100 books.
 - In 1992, the 'Goosebumps' series was launched. This series has been translated into at least 32 languages. It also became a kids show rated as the #1 show in the United States for three years.
- From 2000 to 2010, R.L. Stine focused on writing installments for five book series including 'Mostly Ghostly', 'Rotten School', 'Fear Street', 'The Nightmare Room' and 'Goosebumps Horrorland.'
 - R.L. Stine was listed as one of the top 40 entertainers of 1996-1997 by Forbes magazine. He was estimated to have earned \$41 million during that time.
- R.L. Stine's books have sold more than 400 million copies around the world. His success has led him to be one of history's bestselling children's authors of all time.
- R.L. Stine and Jane had one child together, Matthew, born in 1980. Matthew went on to become a musician, composer and sound designer.
- In addition to the large number of series, R.L. Stine also wrote several stand-alone novels, humorous books, anthologies, short stories and non-fiction books.
 - R.L. Stine has used pen names including Eric Affabee and Jovial Bob Stine.
 - It is estimated that R.L. Stine's net worth is more than \$200 million and growing.



R.L. Stine

Sources: SoftSchools.com

9 years below

My favourite storybook character

My favourite storybook character is 'Snow White'. She is in the 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' storybook written by the Grimm Brothers long ago.

Snow White is the fairest lady in all the land. I like her beautiful red, yellow, white and blue mixed long frock, red shoes and her hair-band.

I wish I could be kind, innocent, lovely, gentle and sweet like Snow White, but not like her evil, rude, unkind and jealous stepmother.

I feel so sad about Snow White because she gets many troubles from her stepmother. She tries to kill Snow White several times but fortunately the seven dwarfs and the royal huntsman rescue her.

Snow White even admires the nature and animals. Therefore they also help her back. Every time she doesn't think that she is a princess. She thinks that she is a normal young girl. That's the main reason I like Snow White. She inspires me a lot.

Seja Abeywickrama (9 years)
Southlands College, Galle

Book Competition WINNERS

10 – 12 years

Importance of Reading

Reading is a very good habit that one needs to develop in life. Good books can inform you, enlighten you and lead you in the right direction. There is no better companion than a good book. Reading is important because it is good for your overall well-being. Once you start reading, you experience a new world.

When you start loving the importance of reading, you eventually get addicted to it. Reading develops language skills and vocabulary. Reading is also a way to relax and reduce stress.

It is important to read a book at least for a few minutes each day to stretch the brain muscles for healthy functioning.

Books really are your best friend as you can rely on them when you are bored, upset, depressed, lonely or annoyed. They will accompany you anytime you want them and enhance your mood. They share with you information and knowledge any time you want.

Good books guide you to the correct path in life.

Sheema Sarfaz (11 years)
Taprobane College Int.,
Kalutara

13 – 15 years

International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day is an international observance celebrated on September 8th each year. It was declared by UNESCO on October 26, 1966.

Literacy is a fundamental human right for all. It opens the door to the enjoyment of other human rights, greater freedoms and global citizenship as well as it is the foundation for people to develop knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviour. Education is an important human right but one that

is impossible to embrace without literacy.

There are 750 million uneducated adults around the world. Most of them are women. Even when there is school nearby, children can't succeed without the right material. Sometimes, one text book is shared between a class-room of students.

Literacy for children means greater success in school. Literate kids have more options. Literacy for girls gives them more control over their future. Literacy for mothers' is closely related

to child survival. Literacy for parents means better high-paying jobs, so they can do more for their children.

Although different countries have been trying to promote literacy on their own, the problem is illiteracy of worldwide in scope. We need international action for this problem. For the world, International Literacy Day is a chance to reflect on the literacy programs offered year-round.

Vihansa Wijenayake (14 years)
St. Paul's Girls' School, Milagiriya

'Blank Canvas' Art Exhibition

'Blank Canvas' an art exhibition by the students of The Secret Garden Colombo was held on October 5 – 6, at the Port City Mall in Colombo.

The vibrant exhibition was held in commemoration of the Art School's 15th Anniversary and World Children's Day.

Pix by Akila Jayawardena



Firefly

It's a quiet, warm summer evening with no human in sight for miles in the woods. As the sun sets, tiny flashes of light start to flicker throughout the trees. At first there's just a few, but soon hundreds of blinking lights are floating in the forest. Fireflies have come out for the evening.

Flying Beetles!

Also known as lightning bugs, fireflies are beetles. Most fireflies are winged. That's different from other light-producing insects of the same family, called glowworms. (Animals that produce light are called luminescent.)

There are about 2,000 firefly species. These insects often live in humid regions of Asia and the Americas, where they mostly feast on plant pollen and nectar. Firefly larvae — recently hatched worm-like fireflies that haven't fully developed yet (including their wings) — feed on worms, snails and insects.

You Glow, Guys

Fireflies mostly use their light to "talk" to other fireflies and find a mate. They have special organs under their abdomens that take in oxygen. Inside special cells, they combine the oxygen with a substance called luciferin to make light with almost no heat. They use this light, called bioluminescence, to light up the ends of their abdomen.

Each firefly species has its own unique flashing pattern.



When a male firefly wants to communicate with a female firefly, he flies near the ground while he flashes his light every six seconds.

Once he's near the ground, a female can more easily tell if he's from the same species as she is. (Most female fireflies can't fly.) She answers his flashes by turning on her lights. Then the male finds her.

Predators, such as birds or toads, get a different message from these lights. Although they can easily spot fireflies by their glow, they rarely eat them. That's because fireflies release drops of toxic, foul-tasting blood. Their flashing is a warning light to predators to stay away.

Lights out?

Fireflies aren't endangered, but scientists are worried about them. In recent years, fewer of the insects have been spotted during the summer. Pesticide use and loss of habitat have likely impacted the population, as has light pollution.

Too much night time light can be harmful to wildlife, affecting their migration patterns and hunting abilities. For fireflies, light pollution interferes with their attempts to signal each other.

Scientists aren't sure how much the firefly population



COMMON NAME: Fireflies

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lampyridae*

TYPE: Invertebrates

DIET: Omnivore

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN: About 2 months

SIZE: Up to 1 inch

has dropped since their small size makes them hard to tag and track. Plus an adult firefly's life span is just one to three weeks, which makes counting them difficult. Scientists are working on ways to better track and protect these insects.

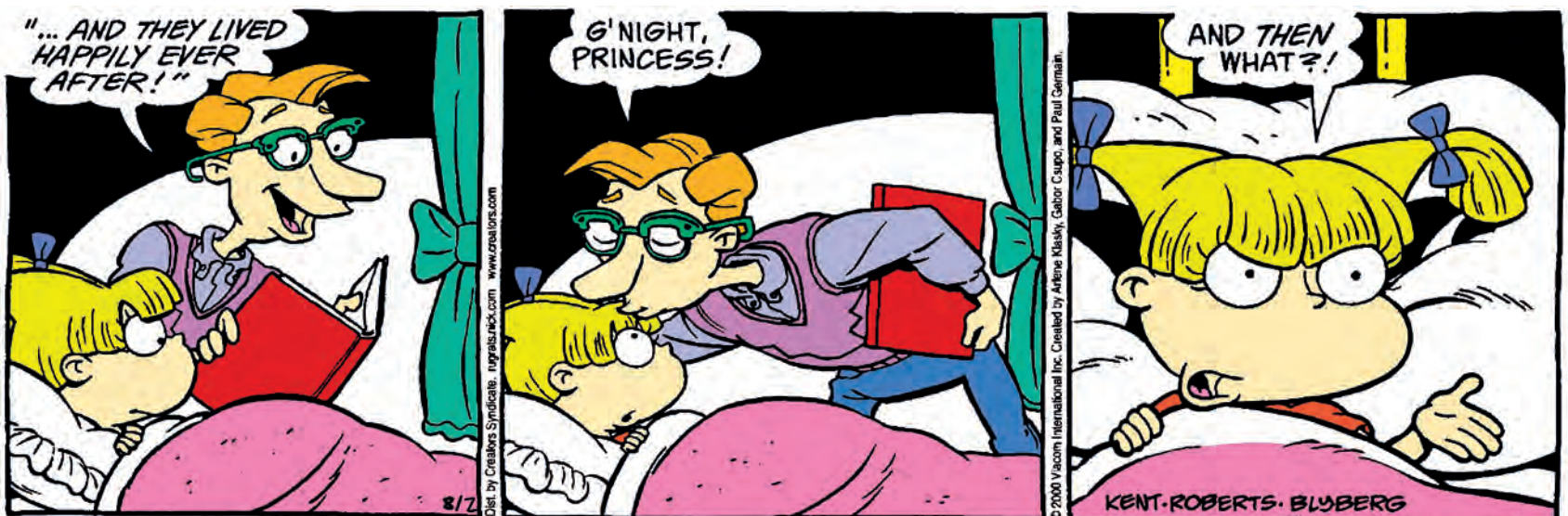
Fun Facts

- Large groups of fireflies sometimes blink in unison, or at the same time.
- Even firefly eggs glow.
- Firefly light can be yellow, green or orange.



Source: National Geographic Kids

Rugrats



Blast off: ESA launches rocket as part of Hera mission

October 8, 2024

The European Space Agency (ESA) has sent a rocket into space as part of a mission that is aiming to protect our planet from danger.

It's a continuation of NASA's DART mission from 2022.

DART stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test, and with it NASA was trying to see if it could knock potential planet-threatening asteroids out of the way if they ever came hurtling towards Earth.

It was the first mission of its kind - and it worked.

Dimorphos was the asteroid they hit, and the ESA now wants to have another look at it to see what affect the impact of NASA's satellite had.

What is an asteroid?

- An asteroid is a small rocky object that orbits the Sun
- These become meteors when they burn up in the Earth's atmosphere
- They come in lots of different sizes. Vesta is one of the biggest at 530 km (330 miles) in diameter- that's bigger than the distance from London to Paris.



Meteors burning up in Earth's atmosphere are what give us shooting stars.

What was the DART mission and why did NASA do it?

There are lots of asteroids in space, and while most get burned up in the Earth's atmosphere if they come anywhere close to our planet, if they're big enough, they could cause a lot of damage.

For example, it was an asteroid hitting Earth that wiped out the dinosaurs millions of years ago.

So scientists at NASA wanted to see if they could create technology that would send dangerous asteroids flying in another direction should they

ever make a beeline for our planet.

And they did.

They found an asteroid called Didymos, and orbiting it was Dimorphos.

They sent a satellite into Dimorphos to see if they could change its orbit, and after giving it a small nudge, they successfully changed its path.

What is the ESA's Hera mission hoping to do?

Hera is a continuation of NASA's planetary defence mission.

They want to investigate Dimorphos looking at things like the kind of crater caused by the impact, and whether it changed the shape of the asteroid.

The mission will take two years.

The first phase will see a satellite fly past Mars and get some rare images of Mars' moon Deimos in March 2025.

It will then travel to Didymos in February 2026, and enter its orbit to have a closer

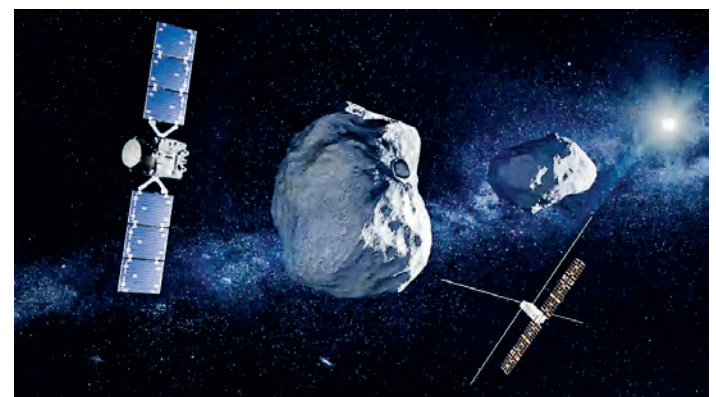
look at Dimorphos.

There are currently around 27,000 asteroids in near-Earth orbit, and any that are 140 metres (460 feet) and larger in size and come nearer than 4.7 million miles (7.5 million km) are classed as potentially dangerous.

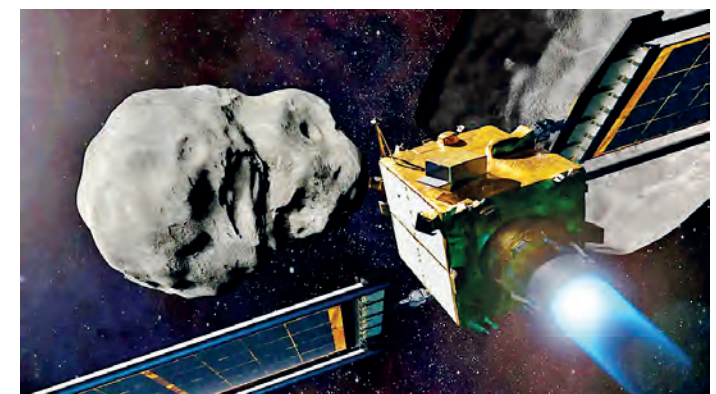
Mike Willis, space environment programme leader at the UK Space Agency, said that while an asteroid strike is "incredibly unlikely in the next 200 years", the Hera mission



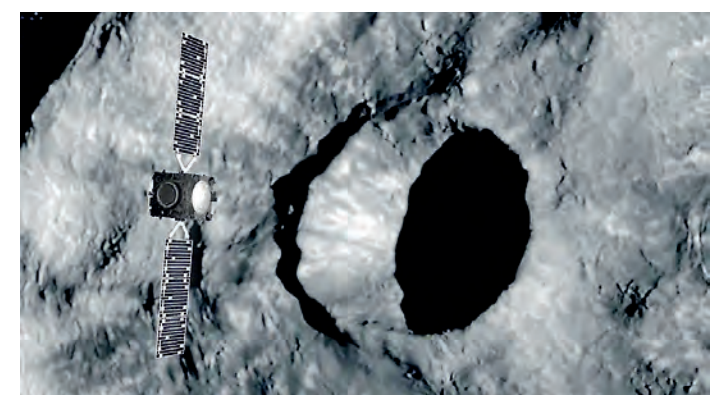
Hera has lift off.



An illustration of what the ESA's satellite will look like when it reaches Dimorphos in 2026.



This is an illustration of what NASA's DART satellite looked like just before impact with Dimorphos.



The ESA wants to get a closer look at the crater DART left behind on Dimorphos.

will play "a key role in future work to help protect our planet from space risks".

Source : CBBC Newsround

October 8

News in Pictures



Alberta, Canada ▲
Aurora borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, light up the sky over an old grain elevator in Brant, Alberta.



Khan Younis, Gaza
Displaced Palestinians sit in a damaged car as they flee areas in the eastern part of Khan Younis following an Israeli evacuation order, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in the southern Gaza Strip. ◀



Kibbutz Mefalsim, Israel ▲
A boy and his mother light memorial candles inside a bomb shelter in which people were killed during the deadly October 7 attack by Hamas from Gaza, on the first anniversary since the attack.

Florida, USA
Children help to prepare a sandbag, as sandbags are distributed to Pinellas County residents before the expected arrival of Tropical Storm Milton, in Seminole, Florida. ▶



North Carolina, USA
Volunteers help residents to clean their homes covered in mud, following the passing of Hurricane Helene, in Swannanoa, North Carolina. ◀



Florida, USA
Heavy traffic begins to back up on Interstate 275 South as residents evacuate St. Petersburg, Florida, ahead of Hurricane Milton. ◀



Bosnia and Herzegovina ▲
A drone view shows rescue workers searching for victims after the floods and landslides in a village of Buturovic Polje, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir ▲
Supporters of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Party celebrate outside the vote counting centre on the day of the assembly election results, in Srinagar.



Beirut, Lebanon
A displaced child sits on a pavement in the centre of the city of Beirut amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel. ◀

Source : Reuters