

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
JANUARY 5, 2025



FUNDA Y TIMES



COMPETITIONS
PAGES 2 & 4



MOVIES
PAGE 3

(ONLINE)



FLASHBACK
PAGES 6 & 7

KIDS NEWS

PAGE 8

Greetings for New Year 2025

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

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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:

January 22, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Young Reporter
- **Pages 6 & 7** – Flashback
- **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.

Hi Kids,
Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.

FROM THE EDITOR

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it.

What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book. The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop. Three winners will be selected each month.

Your account should not exceed 200 words. Please indicate word count, fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

Read-a-Book for December 2024

9 years and below

Seja Abeywickrama

Horrid Henry Tricks the Tooth Fairy
by Francesca Simon



13 – 15 years

R. H. Yusuf-ul-Faq

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Happy Birthday



Seja Abeywickrama
10 years on January 6



Kimberley Wijesuriya
Birthday on December 1, 2024

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.

Fun Movies in 2025

Compiled by Arrenga Nadaraja

Get ready because 2025 has some amazing movies you are going to definitely love.



On January 31st, get ready for 'Dog Man', an animated superhero movie about a police officer, his dog and the scary thing that happens to them both.



An adventure-based, family-friendly, live-action animated movie hits the screens. Paddington Bear returns with a visit to Peru with his English family, to see his aunt Lucy – coming out on February 14.



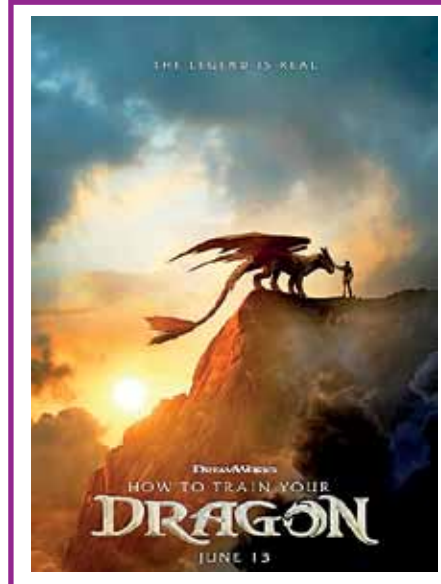
On April 4, grab your favourite drink, some popcorn and a toy because 'A Minecraft movie' with a mysterious "portal" and a "magical quest," appears in theatres — a live-action, action-packed, fantasy-filled movie not to be missed.



You are in luck because, in July, you can pick between three movies to watch with your Ammi and Thaththi. 'Superman: Legacy' on the 11th, a live-action that's part of the animated series; 'The Smurfs' movie, an animated, adventure musical on the 18th; and 'Fantastic Four' on the 25th, a superhero movie for those that love it all.



If you love animals, the beach and visiting a new country, you will love the next movie. On May 23, 'Lilo and Stitch' are back together on a crazy adventure in Hawaii — a live-action, remake of the first movie that came out in 2002.



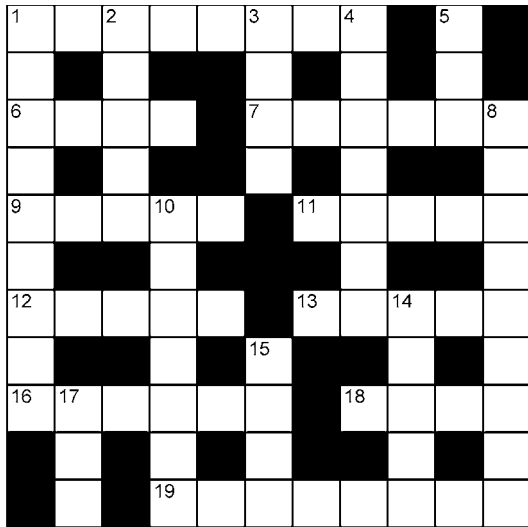
Dragons, swords and a big quest are coming your way with 'How to Train Your Dragon' on June 13. It will be in RealD, 3D and IMAX — a vibrant, action-filled, fantasy-based movie.



If you are a fan of witches, wizards and magic, 'Wicked Part 2', a musical, adventure romance, will be in theatres on November 21. 'Zootopia 2' comes out on November 26, with exciting adventures, so keep a lookout for these movies you don't want to miss...

Sources: IMBD / Rotten Tomatoes / Movie Insider

LUMALA Crossword – No. 5



- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1 A large, extinct animal | 1 Not the same |
| 6 Lose colour | 2 Big Ears' friend |
| 7 A stinging plant | 3 The sister of your father |
| 9 Where Egyptians live | 4 Decaying |
| 11 A soldier's gun | 5 Unwell |
| 12 More than is needed | 8 All the people |
| 13 Great pain | 10 A whitish root vegetable |
| 16 An underground passage | 14 Happen |
| 18 A sound bouncing back | 15 Too |
| 19 Correctly | 17 ___ and downs |

LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION

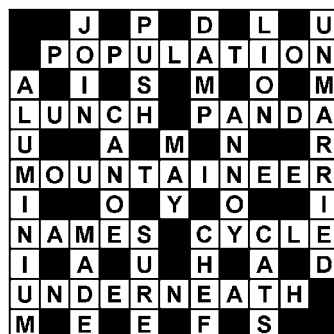
You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month. All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 5, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**. Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 5**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

Entries should be certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Closing Date: January 29, 2025

Solution No. 4



Sanula Jayasena,
Wadduwa



@LUMALABIKES

119, OLD GALLE RD, HENAMULLA, PANADURA
TEL: 077 755 2222

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4 – 6 years



- ▶ Tharunithhari Mohan, Kandy
- ▶ Fathima Yara, Colombo 6
- ▶ Sayyaf Riswan, Beruwala
- ▶ Fathima Raabiah, Matara
- ▶ Ahdha Abdul Malik, Colombo 2

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

4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Colour the Picture.



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From a Funday Times Young Reporter

Working towards your ambition

Ambition is the vision of one's life.

We all have an ambition and we have to work towards achieving our ambitions.

I try to do everything to make my dream a real and successful one. Along my childhood journey, I was dreaming to be a world famous doctor. I worked hard from lower grades onwards for that.

A doctor is a person who relates to both the birth and death of an individual. Therefore that profession is known to be a magnificent one. To be a doctor I must have better qualifications in Ordinary Level and Advanced Level examinations.



More than that, the interest is essential. "The university separated for medical students is looking for me," I inspire myself with these positive thoughts. The five years I will spend in medical university will add many experiences and values to my life. Then the hard practices will come to my life as barriers. If I go down in front of those barriers, my dream and the long-term path I came on, starts to break.

Therefore trust that the positivity in your mind is the compass for your dream, and following the direction should be done by yourself.

Enjalie Weerakkody (Grade 10)
Holy Family B. M. V., Kurunegala



Young Reporters



Young Reporters Coupon

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

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

.....

mail to Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Rugrats



Flashback

To recap 2024, NewsForKids looked back at some of the interesting stories they've covered during the year.

Scientists find 'Dark Oxygen' on the sea floor

August 21

Scientists have discovered a surprising new source of oxygen in the ocean. They believe that special rocks on the sea floor may act like batteries, creating oxygen from salt water. The discovery raises new questions about the effects of deep-sea mining.



Banksy's Animals go wild in London

August 22

Banksy is a famous street artist who creates unusual pictures on walls. Recently, Banksy surprised people in London by putting up a new piece of art featuring animals every day for nine days. The series of paintings surprised and delighted people, who rushed to see them.



Endangered Sea Lions help map ocean floor

September 12

Australian scientists have come up with a clever way to study hard-to-reach areas of the sea floor: they attached cameras to sea lions. The resulting videos have given scientists new information about the endangered sea lions, and also about the sea floor.



Britain closes its last coal power plant

October 2

The United Kingdom said goodbye to coal-powered electricity on Monday when the last coal-fired power plant in the country closed down. The closing of the Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station marks the end of a 142-year history of coal-powered electricity in Great Britain.



AI Tools help find ancient Nazca Lines

October 3

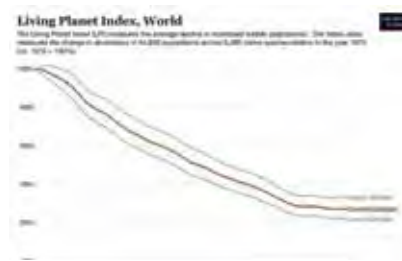
Researchers have discovered over 300 new ancient drawings in the Nazca Desert in Peru. They used Artificial Intelligence and drones to help them find the new drawings. The pictures were made by the Nazca people, who lived in the area over 2,000 years ago.



WWF reports massive drop in wildlife numbers

October 15

A new report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) says that the sizes of animal populations around the world have dropped by an average of 73% since 1970. The WWF says that humans are the main cause of these drops, and that we must act quickly to protect Earth's plants and animals.



Chepngetich crushes Women's Marathon Record

October 17

On Sunday, Ruth Chepngetich of Kenya set a new world record for the fastest marathon ever run by a woman, finishing in 2 hours, 9 minutes and 56 seconds. She's the first woman ever to finish a marathon in under 2 hours and 10 minutes.



Ancient log shows burying wood can store carbon

October 23

In 2013, a group of researchers wanted to see if they could keep wood from breaking down by burying it underground. They thought it might help keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. As they started to dig, they discovered a 3,775-year-old log that proved their idea was a good one.



Scientists use 2013 map to reveal ancient Mayan City

October 30

Scientists have discovered thousands of ancient Mayan buildings, including the ruins of a large city, in southern Mexico. The buildings and the city were unheard of before. The discovery suggests that there may still be many more ancient Mayan buildings waiting to be found.



David Rush sets a record by setting records

October 31

David Rush has set out to break as many Guinness World Records as he can.

Earlier this year, Mr. Rush broke his 181st record, giving him a new kind of record – the record for the most Guinness World Records held at the same time.



COF-999: A special new material for capturing carbon

December 4

Scientists in California have created a new material that can remove large amounts of carbon dioxide from the air. The fluffy yellow powder works faster than other materials and can be used over and over again. The new material could play an important part in the fight against climate change.



At 74, world's oldest bird lays another egg

December 5

The world's oldest known wild bird is an albatross named Wisdom. She's around 74 years old, and has recently returned to her nesting place in the Midway Atoll.

Wisdom may be old, but she's still active. She has just laid her first egg in four years.



Ai-Da Robot painting sells for over \$1 million

November 14

A painting created by a robot named Ai-Da was sold at an art auction last Thursday for \$1.08 million.

The painting is the most expensive artwork ever sold that was created by a human-like robot.



Philippines hit by multiple typhoons

November 19

The Philippines has been hit by six major storms, including five typhoons.

The latest storm, Super Typhoon Man-yi, struck on Saturday night, forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and causing serious damage.



Notre-Dame reopens five years after fire

December 11

Notre-Dame, one of the world's most famous churches, officially reopened on Saturday.

The church was badly damaged by a fire in 2019. The reopening was celebrated with a special service attended by many world leaders.



Gukesh Dommaraju becomes world's youngest Chess Champion

December 18

In December, 18-year-old Gukesh Dommaraju of India beat China's Ding Liren to win the World Chess Championship. The victory came in a hard-fought final game in Singapore.

Gukesh is now the World Chess Champion, and the youngest person ever to hold the title.



COP29: Countries reach \$300 billion agreement

November 26

Nearly 200 countries from around the world reached an agreement to help poorer countries deal with the climate crisis. The agreement came at COP29, a United Nations climate meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. Many people think the deal doesn't do enough to help poorer countries.



New Year celebrations around the world

December 31, 2024



Fireworks light up the sky over Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House in Australia. ◀



Fireworks explode over the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand. ▶



Marina Bay, Singapore. ▲



Countdown celebrations in Beijing, China. ▲



Fireworks explode at the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, in Dubai, UAE. ▲



The Atomium in Brussels, Belgium gets lit up by fireworks. ▲



Fireworks over Victoria Harbour at Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. ▲



Fireworks spark over the historical site of Giza Pyramids in Egypt. ▲



Fireworks light the sky above the Quadriga at the Brandenburg Gate during New Year's celebrations shortly after midnight in Berlin, Germany. ▲



Fireworks explode in the sky around the London Eye and Big Ben in London, UK. ▲

Source: The Guardian