



FUNDA DAY

TIMES



At a Scout Camporee

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

KIDS' WORLD

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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.

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

Closing date for weekly competitions:

March 12, 2025

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

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

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



Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Event
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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.

Good Luck and Farewell!

It is with a heavy heart that I write this final article to you.

I will truly miss being a part of this wonderful platform and sharing my thoughts with all the amazing readers.

I only wish I had more time to continue contributing. I will always look forward to reading.

To the readers, I wish you all the very best! Keep reading and exploring, and may you always find joy in the words you discover, encourage others to read and be inspired by language.

Thank you for the memories...
Farewell, Funday Times!

Anjana Vasanthakumar (Grade 10)
Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam,
Colombo

Let's protect the environment

The environment is our beloved Mother Nature. She is the reason why humans survive. She gives us all our needs such as air, water, fire and much more.

Natural disasters and human activities destroy the environment. One of them is pollution. There are many types of pollution such as air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution and more.

If we don't protect the environment now, we won't have a better environment in the future and it will make a major impact on our lives. Not just us, animals and other things will be destroyed such as the water cycle, biodiversity, the atmosphere etc.

So, the environment will be destroyed if we don't protect it. As we kids are still growing up we are not too late. So, let's stand up and protect the environment.

Sineli Weragala (Grade 5)
Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo

Flowers



Suthan Thiya (Grade 6)
Hindu Ladies' College

A Sri Lankan One Spot



Jayden Vander Hoeven (Grade 5)
St. Peter's College, Colombo 4

My New Year resolutions

A resolution is a firm decision to do or not to do something. We generally tend to make resolutions at the beginning of the year, though we may not always live up to it.

I too have made some resolutions, the main one being to be a better person than last year. I hope to be more cordial and amicable to my siblings and friends and in general to everyone I encounter.

Another resolution is to do better in my studies and sports activities. I have been reading as a hobby and I hope to read at least one extra book per month.

I like visiting places of interest and whenever my dad finds the time, he takes us to such places.

I also hope to be more helpful towards my parents and home-front, such as helping my dad to wash his car and giving a helping hand to my mom. Of course I haven't forgotten about my pets Ro and Flash. I will give them a weekly bath and find the time to spend with them.

Thameem Ibrahim (12 years)
Negombo South Int. School, Piliyandala

The forest



Haleema Thanish (10 years)
Ladies' College, Colombo

Family



Shyma Nafees (9 years)
Gampola Zahira College

Save Mother Earth



Durangi Mullegama (14 years)
Colombo Int. School, Kandy

Clown fish



Saqeef-ul-Haq (Grade 6)
Matale Int. School

My school

My school is C.W.W. Kannangara Central College, Mathugama. It is a mixed school. It is a beautiful school. It is a big school. There is a playground in my school. There are lots of buildings in my school. There is a library in my school. It has two science labs, a main hall and auditorium.

My school Principal is Mrs. Dulmini Senanayake. There are lots of teachers in my school. There are lots of students in my school.

My school is the best school in my district. It is in Kalutara district. I love my school.

Geethavi Saubhagya (11 years)
C.W.W. Kannangara C.C., Mathugama

My favourite hobby

My favourite hobby is reading. I love reading because it lets me explore new worlds and discover amazing stories. Whether I am reading a book about adventure, mystery or history, there is always something exciting to learn. Books make me feel like I am on an adventure, even when I am sitting at home.

One reason I enjoy reading so much is because it helps me use my imagination. When I read a story, I picture the characters and places in my mind. I can imagine what it would be like to fly in space or solve a big mystery. Reading allows me to experience things I might not be able to do in real life.

I also love reading because it helps me become a better writer. I learn new words and ideas that I can use in my own writing. Books teach me how to tell better stories and explain things clearly.

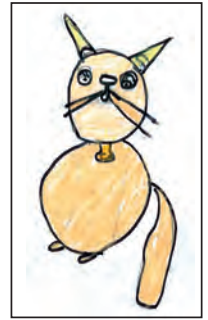
I try to read every day, whether it's for school or for fun. Reading is the best hobby because it makes me smarter, more creative and it's always fun.

Suganthan Labisashan (Grade 2)
Harvard Int. School, Matale

My pet

My pet is a kitty. It has two eyes. It has four legs. It has two ears. Kitty likes to drink milk.

I love my kitty.



Vidath Rusiru (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Park

The park is an open place to relax and play. People use the park for walking. Parks have green grass, plants and trees. Children love to play in parks. There are swings and see-saws to play. They visit the parks in the morning and evening. Many people exercise in the park. Big parks have fountains, statues and ponds.

Fathima Thihama (11 years)
Muslim B.M.V.

Please remember that **ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS** sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry. Articles should not exceed 200 words. Art should be on A4 size paper.



WITHOUT A BOOK

- Disappointment
- Doldrums
- Loneliness



WITH A BOOK

- Excitement
- Gladness
- Knowledge



Cartoon Time!

Cartoon by Bihandu Keerthisena

Cartoon by Thenuri Keerthisena

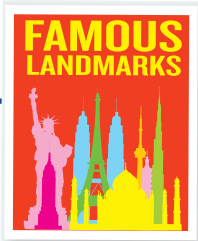
END OF A BOOK !

What it looks like



What it feels like





The Shard

The Shard is the tallest building in the United Kingdom and in Western Europe, with a height of 306 metres. It dominates London's skyline. This 95-storey skyscraper is located in Southwark, London. It has a total of 11,000 glass panels.

It was conceived as a building with multiple uses including a vertical city where people could live, work and relax. This building can be seen from 40 miles away, from the South Downs to the Thames Estuary. It was designed by award-winning Italian architect Renzo Piano. The total floor space of the building is around 11 hectares.



Architect Renzo Piano



Quick Facts

- The construction of this building was started in March 2009 and completed on March 30, 2012.
- It was inaugurated on July 5, 2012 by the Prime Minister of Qatar Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani.
- There are 306 flights of stairs and a total of 44 lifts including double-decker lifts.
- The average lift speed is 6 metres per second.
- There are a total of 82 floors in this building but only 72 are habitable. Remaining 10 floors contain a power station and radiators that run automatically.
- Approximately 95% of the materials used to construct the building are recycled.
- The initial design of the Shard was influenced by the irregular nature of the site. It was designed to look like a sail.
- The building was also the setting for a Greenpeace protest in July 2013.
- This tower contains 10 apartments, 27 floors of offices, three floors of restaurants and 19 floors of hotel accommodation.



Source: Easy Science for Kids

Famous Landmarks Quiz 57

Q: When was the Shard inaugurated and how long did the construction take?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 56

Kenuli Hirunya, Borella



59th Colombo Camporee



'Together in Brave Exploration' 59th Colombo Camporee for scouts was held at the Viharamahadevi Park recently.



Pix by
Eshan Fernando

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

FROM THE EDITOR

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.

mail to 
Or
email 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 :

mail to 

'Wicked' and 'Wallace & Gromit' win at British film awards

February 17, 2025

The UK's biggest film awards – the British Academy Film Awards – or BAFTAs for short, took place on February 16.

The BAFTAs celebrate the best movies, actors and production teams, from the UK and around the world. The award ceremony took place at a star-studded ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall in London on February 16.

'Wicked' was one of the films that received the most nominations, but who won what? Take a look below to find out!

'Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl'



'Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl' was nominated in three categories, and took home two awards.

The stop-motion movie won the Best Animated Film and Children's and Family Film awards.

The film's producer Richard Beek and directors Nick Park and Merlin Crossingham brought clay models of



Producer Richard Beek and directors Nick Park and Merlin Crossingham celebrated their wins.

Wallace & Gromit along with them to the ceremony.

Speaking about how well the film has done in the US as well as the UK, Merlin Crossingham said: "It is remarkable that our very Britishness is embraced in America.

'Wicked'

'Wicked', the film adaptation of the hit musical, was nominated for a whopping seven awards at the BAFTAs, and came home with two wins.

It won the award for Costume Design, and Production Design.

However, the movie's stars Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande missed out on winning leading actress and supporting actress.

This is the first time either actress had been nominated for a BAFTA film award.

Warwick Davis

Actor Warwick Davis, who you might know better as Professor Flitwick in the 'Harry Potter' movies, received this year's BAFTA Fellowship, the British Academy's highest honour, and Lifetime Achievement award.

"It's very overwhelming, this whole thing," he said. "You win the award and then you have to talk to loads of people, feeling very shiny."



Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo missed out on big acting awards.



Warwick Davis won the Lifetime Achievement award.

Source: CBBC Newsround

Climate change is making chocolate more expensive, say scientists

February 14, 2025

Evidence from US-based research group Climate Central shows that climate change is making cocoa – the main ingredient in chocolate – more difficult to grow.

This means that chocolate is becoming more expensive, and could become less available to us in the future.

A separate report from UK charity Christian Aid says it is also having a negative effect on the farmers who help grow the plants used to make chocolate.



How is chocolate grown?



32 degrees Celsius is the optimum temperature for cacao to grow.

Chocolate all starts with the cacao plant.

Cacao is the Spanish word for 'chcahuatl', which is what Aztecs called the beans grown on the plant that chocolate is made from.

It's thought that English traders misspelled cacao when they brought the beans home, and so cocoa stuck.

While it grows natively in South and Central America, it's now grown in West Africa, particularly in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

The cacao crops in West Africa are responsible for over half of the world's chocolate production.

Why is climate change affecting cacao harvests?

The report says, "climate change, due primarily to burning oil, coal and methane gas, is causing hotter temperatures to become more frequent".

Cacao plants shouldn't grow in temperatures hotter than 32 degrees Celsius (89.6 Fahrenheit).

If it gets hotter than that, the plants die and the cacao beans can't be harvested.

Climate Central's report found in the last decade that climate change had added an extra three weeks of above 32°C heat in Ivory Coast and Ghana during the main growing season between October and March.

Cameroon and Nigeria were also studied in the report.

Last year, the hottest year globally on record, the researchers found that climate change drove

temperatures above 32°C on at least 42 days across two thirds of all the areas analysed.

With fewer crops to harvest, the price of harvested cocoa beans has gone up.

Prices of cocoa around the world surged by 136% between July 2022 and February 2024, and the report says these increasing temperatures are partially to blame.



The pods are picked from the trees and opened to get to the cacao beans inside.

But more rainfall and insect infestation have also been creating difficulties. This has a massive effect on the farmers who have less cocoa to sell.

Christian Aid noted that the rising prices of cocoa is having a negative effect on the farmers responsible for its production.



Cacao farmers are being impacted by the high temperatures.

Source: CBBC Newsround

February 18

News in Pictures



Nuuk, Greenland
The Northern Lights appear over the island's capital.

Agri, Turkey
An aerial view of the snow-covered Ishak Pasha Palace, one of the most important Ottoman monuments in Anatolia.



February 17

Ontario, Canada
Passengers leave a Delta Air Lines CRJ-900 jet after it crashed on landing at Toronto Pearson International Airport in Mississauga, Ontario.



Berlin, Germany
A state memorial service for the former German President Horst Köhler takes place at the city's Dom Cathedral.



Venice, Italy
A boat carries "Pantegana", the big rat, as revellers row during the masquerade parade on the Grand Canal during the Venice Carnival.



London, England
The UK's oldest armed forces charity begins the 80-day countdown to VE Day 80. From left to right, child evacuee Doreen Simson, Women's Royal Naval Service veteran Ruth Barnwell, World War II veteran Henry Rice and lead vocalist of 'The D-Day Darlings' band, Katie Ashby, pose with a full-size replica of a Spitfire outside the Royal Albert Hall.

Arica, Chile
Dancers take part in the 2025 Con La Fuerza Del Sol Festival.



Hong Kong, China
Panda cubs play during a debut ceremony for the 6-month-old twin panda cubs, at the Ocean Park in Hong Kong.



Odisha, India
An Olive Ridley turtle lays eggs as the mass nesting of the turtles begins on Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district in the eastern state of Odisha, India.



Khan Younis, Gaza
A Palestinian boy wanders between makeshift shelters for displaced people.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters