



My eyes were glued to the long stretch of paddy fields and villas. There were various kinds of trees and plants growing on the marshy land. The cool breeze blew across my face and then I remembered where I was.

It was about 6.00pm., on December 8, 2006 and I was standing at the shady entrance of 'Vil Uyana', an eco friendly resort in Sigiriya with my family. There was a sandy road going through the area.

A little golf buggy came up to us and a man from the resort got down. There was a long wooden pathway leading to the road like a bridge, and he greeted us warmly, taking our luggage and leading us to

the vehicle.

We first went in to the reception and then to explore the environment. Away from the reception there was an open section with

mats and large cushions to rest on. To the north was a beautiful blue pool.

We then discovered a special place called the 'Sulang Pavillion' situated next to the pool. This pavilion made of wood was on stilts, in the middle of a man-made body of water. This open area was supplied with comfy white sofas and mats with fluffy cushions and roll pillows to rest on. This quiet place was a reading area and there were books and magazines placed on steel racks. 'Sulang Pavillion' was also an ideal place for bird watching. Once again I felt the wind sweep across my face and in my opinion this was the best place to

relax.

The restaurant on the first floor was an open area, giving a good view of the surroundings. On the far end of the restaurant there were paintings of elephants and stories of ancient times. The service rendered by the restaurant staff was excellent and the food served was delicious. I gazed at the breathtaking view of the magnificent Sigiriya rock, which was visible at a distance.

We finally gathered our stuff and went to our villa. There were four kinds of Villas namely, Paddy-field Villas, Water Villas, Forest Villas and Marsh Pavilions.

A room boy led us to our paddy-field villa through a wooden pathway and a marshy paddy-field. When we got to our villa I felt like I was in paradise! We had our own private plunge pool and balcony with

lounge beds. The room was huge and air-conditioned, with all modern amenities and facilities including, cable TV.

As we were tired, we rested that day and the following morning had fun getting into the pool. Our father took us to a Handicraft Village nearby where we saw many paintings, masks, statues made of wood and bags and purses made of animal skin. We had the opportunity of visiting the gym, spa, and the *Sulang pavilion* and left 'Vil Uyana' the following day with lots of wonderful memories.

The trip to 'Vil Uyana' this vacation was indeed a memorable, fun-filled and unforgettable experience!

Ravini Abeywickrama
(Grade 7)
Bishops' College

I'm a lonely scarecrow



I'm a scarecrow. I am very old but brave. I stand in the middle of a paddy-field. The farmer keeps me there to chase away birds. He made me with two pieces of wood. He dressed me in an old shirt, a pair of trousers and a hat on my head.

When the breeze blows, I shake slowly. Oh! Sometimes I am so lonely as I chase the birds away. I have no friends, but I am proud that I am useful to the farmer and his crops.

Andreyra Fernando
(9 years)
St. Bridget's Convent

A flower garden



Nisali Silva (Grade 3)
Musaeus College

My house



Hiruni Pathirannehe (Grade 1)
Presbyterian Girls' School, Dehiwala



At the playground

Reshani Abayasekara
(6 years)
St. Bridget's Convent

A poem for the week

Growing up

I look at my newborn cousins,
Cute, cuddly and blooming.
I was once so little,
I was rosy-cheeked and crawling.

I look at my elder sister,
In her twenty-something and pretty.
After finishing school I'll be like her,
Twenty-something and witty.

I look at my loving mother,
Hard-working, loving but stern.
I'll come to that age, but to work that fast
I will have to learn.

Dear old grandma's over there,
She's wrinkled, kind and sweet.
One fine day I'll be that old,
'Tis sad, but still pretty neat!

Piumi Wijesundara
(13 years)
Ecole International,
Digana

Space Shuttles

A space shuttle is a special plane that can fly in space. It does not take-off on a run-way, but takes off with some booster rockets which are attached to it. There is one big red one and three more smaller ones attached to the shuttle.

After take-off the smaller booster rockets detach and fall off into the sea. Then finally the large booster rocket falls off leaving the space shuttle to continue its journey into space.

A space shuttle could

be used in many ways. It can launch a satellite or can bring back ones that need repair. The satellites are tucked away in the space shuttles' giant compartment. A robotic arm takes out the things inside the shuttle. The space shuttle is also used to transport astronauts to space stations.

I would like to travel on a space shuttle. Would you?

Sohan Meegahage
(Grade 4)
Wesley College

My pet



My pet is a dog. Its name is 'Gingi.' It is black and white in colour. It is a female dog. Gingi is eight years old. She likes to eat rice and meat. She likes to drink milk too. Gingi stays at my grandfather's house. I love Gingi very much.

Sarindi De Silva
(Grade 2)
Musaeus College



My Christmas gift - A bus

Afzal Azhar (7 years)
Royal College,
Colombo



At the beach

Fathima Fareek
(Grade 4)
Muslim Ladies
College

Nature



Harshani Meepegama
Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda