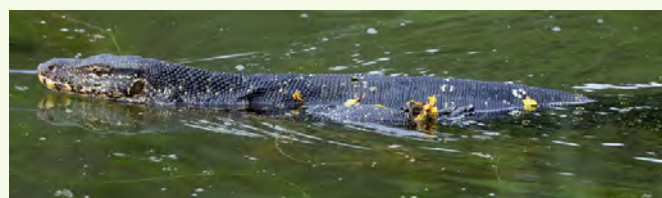
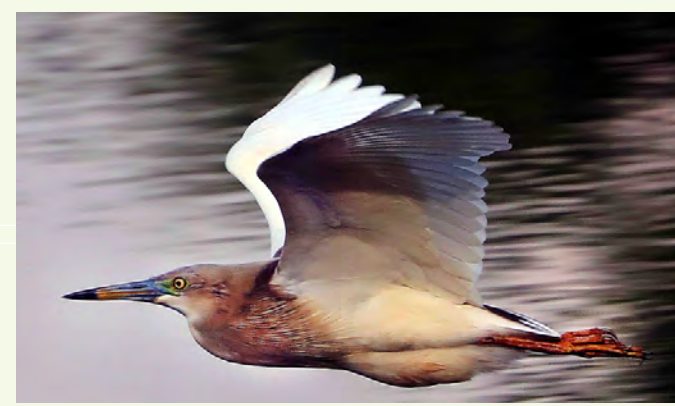
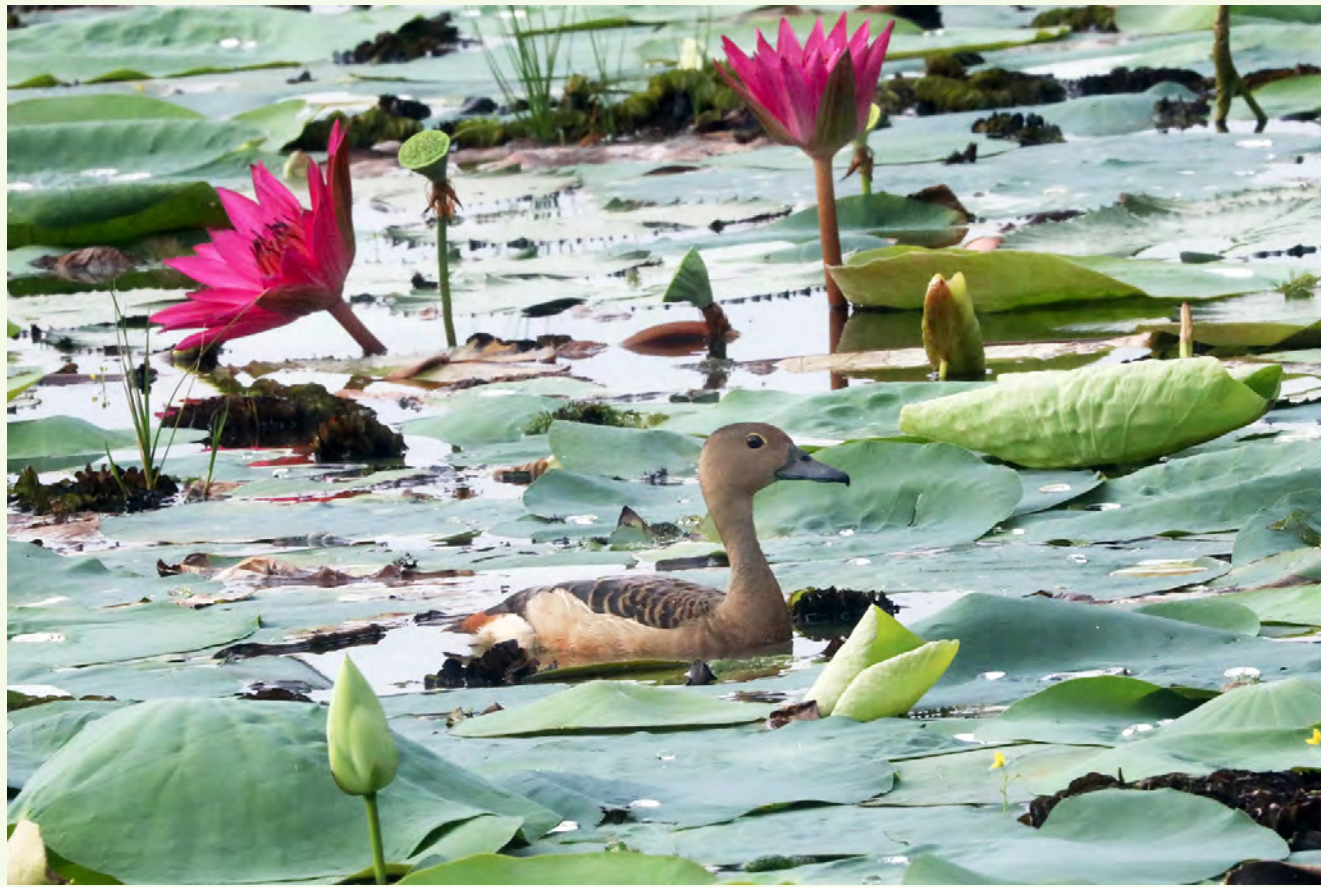


The Funday Times
this week is on
broadsheet format
as you can see.
Keep reading
and stay safe.

FUNDAY TIMES

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www.fundaytimes.lk



We invite you to send in photographs taken by you,
of Nature and Environment in and around your home.
Please email your photos to us on
fundaytimes1@gmail.com.
The best photos will be published in Funday Times.
Good luck!

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Thalangama Lake

The curfew and lockdown have brought some compensation to our environment. Seen here are beautiful pictures showing the serene environment of Thalangama Lake early in the morning. This lake is situated on the outskirts of Colombo at Thalangama, Battaramulla and takes less than an hour's drive to reach. The lake is a man-made irrigation reservoir surrounded by the swamps of Thalangama Wetlands, which include lush paddy fields, ponds and marshes. The diversity makes it a favourable ecosystem for many species of fauna and flora to thrive.

It is believed that the ancient Thalangama tank was built by King Parakramabahu VI during his reign from 1412 – 1467 A.D.

It was supposed to be a bathing place for the elephants of the royal army and for irrigation of the surrounding paddy fields.

Today, Thalangama Lake is home to about 100 species of wetland birds and common garden birds such as Herons, Bulbuls, Swamp hens, Water hens, Kingfishers, Teals, Gulls, Swallows, Egrets and Storks amongst many others. Also seen here are numerous species of butterflies and dragonflies. There are also many Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys and reptiles to be seen here.

It is a great place for bird watching or just to observe nature at its best, right in the midst of Colombo's suburbs. Birds and other wildlife are abundant early in the morning and late evening.

Sri Lanka becomes a Republic

By D. C. Ranatunga

For nearly 50 years – 48 to be exact – Sri Lanka has been a Republic with its official name as the 'Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka'.

It was on May 22, 1972 that the country became a Republic changing its name from 'Ceylon' to 'Sri Lanka' – a name that had been used from the days of the ancient Sinhalese kings but changed after foreign powers took over the country after 1505. In fact, the name used earlier was 'Sri Lankadvipa', meaning the 'Island of Sri Lanka'.

Ceylon – as Sri Lanka was then known – gained Independence on February 4, 1948. Till then it was a Crown Colony in the British Empire for a little over 150 years after the British took over administering the country from the Dutch in 1796, who in turn had taken over from the Portuguese.

With the formation of the Republic, a President took the place of the Governor-General, ceremonial Head of State who

was appointed by the British monarch (Queen Elizabeth II) on the recommendation of the Government of Ceylon. The incumbent Governor-General William Gopallawa continued to be the Head of State as the first Non-Executive President under the new constitution. He was a nominee of the Prime Minister and not an elected President.

Looking back on how the Republic was born, it was the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Government (she was the Prime Minister) that decided to draft a new constitution. On a resolution by the Prime Minister, the members of the House of Representatives formed themselves into a Constituent Assembly at a meeting held at the Navarangahala in Colombo on July 19, 1970. The Speaker, Stanley Tillekeratne was elected as Chairman. Minister of Plantation Industry, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva was given the additional portfolio of Constitutional Affairs.

The signs of a new constitution started in June 1968 when the main Opposition parties in Parliament – the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) and the Communist Party (CP) – formed a 'United Front' and agreed to establish "a socialist democracy".

The United Front won the general election held on May 27, 1970 and a government was formed with Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike as Prime Minister.

At that time the country had a bicameral legislature with two lawmaking institutions – the House of Representatives and the Senate. The former referred to as the 'Lower House' comprised of 95 members, was elected by the people and six were appointed by the Governor to represent minority communities. The Senate – the 'Upper House' – with 30 members was a mix of nominated and elected members. Fifteen of them were elected by the House of Representatives and the other



Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike addresses the Constituent Assembly.

15 appointed by the Governor on the advice of the ruling party.

After the 1970 general election a 'National State Assembly' (NSA) was created in place of the House of Representatives. The same elected members at the 1970 general election continued as members of the NSA. On a decision made by the Government, the Senate was abolished in October 1971.

The bicameral legislature (two law-making institutions) became a unicameral (single

law-making body) thereafter.

On May 22, 1972, after prolonged discussions, a new Republican Constitution – the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – was adopted paving the way for the establishment of a Republic. Thereafter the Parliamentary system of government based on the British system – generally known as the Westminster model – which had been introduced just before Independence, ended.

The Pigeon Story

Once upon a time, there was a pigeon. This pigeon was very sad. An owl came along and had a conversation with the pigeon.

Owl: "Why are you sad?"

Pigeon: "I think I am going to lose my job."

Owl: "What is your job?"

Pigeon: "My job is to send postcards and letters."

Owl: "Why do you think you will lose this job?"

Pigeon: "Everyone is using email nowadays."

The owl went to see the Lion who was doing something on his computer. The Lion's son had fallen from the mountain and injured his head. One animal said to email the doctor but the lion could not. His computer had broken down from the previous night's storm. The pigeon then went out to find the doctor. After three hours, the pigeon and doctor arrived.

The pigeon's job was saved!



Binupa Welikanna (Grade 5)
Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Pannipitiya

Pros and Cons of Zoos

A zoo is a place where animals are kept in cages and people get the privilege to admire and study these animals.

Some pros of having zoos are that animals get to be studied and observed by people.

Zoos educate the public on the various species of animals.

Animals and birds that are endangered can be saved by zoos. Zoos provide a safe place for these endangered species.

On the other hand, zoos separate animals and birds from

their own kind. The animals stay trapped behind cages, unable to live freely in the wild. The animals and birds in zoos receive a small quantity of food, just enough to stay alive.

Zoos have advantages and disadvantages. A zoo may be a nice place for people but not as much for animals.

Aamina Gaffoor (10 years)
Royal Institute Girls'
Int. School

Vesak Full Moon Poya Day

Vesak is celebrated annually to commemorate the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha. Devotees visit temples to observe sil and take part in religious activities. While at night, the streets transform into a festival of lights with lanterns and pandals.

Dimara Thilakarathne (Grade 3)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Most loved teacher

My most loved teacher is Mrs. Gayni Livera. She is a very good and lovely teacher. She lives in Mundal. She always travels by bus to school. When I saw her for the first time I greeted her in French. All the children hug this teacher in school as she is kind and like a mum to us. We all had lots of fun with this great teacher. She is a good French, Elocution and Geography teacher in my school for a long period.

I never wanted to miss a kind teacher in my life. When time passed I had to part from her as I went to another school. But still she is my soul teacher.

Teachers are our second mother for everybody. So we must respect them from the bottom of our hearts.

I love her very much.

Nishith Fernando (12 years)
St. Thomas' Catholic
Int.College, Seeduwa

Being confident

I think what a lot of people think about confidence is, that you're born with it. You either are confident or you're not. Just like how some people are tall. You're either tall or short. But it's not like that, actually confidence is a choice. The really awesome thing about confidence is that you can just start acting like it, even if you feel like you don't have any. For example, I used to not be confident at all. But then one day I just started acting like it and then it made me feel good and then I actually started being confident without trying at all.

A big part of being confident is being brave, and you can't be brave unless you're scared.

So for those of you who are feeling scared about being confident, that's actually a big part of confidence, to be scared. That's normal. So go out there and just be confident. And if you don't feel confident just do it anyway.

It's just like when you're playing some kind of tournament. I used to act confident, though I'm a total loser and was having a total meltdown. Here's my secret. Just go out there and give it a try, no matter what! And good luck with that guys!!!

Aasia Mazeer (15 years)
Salahiya I. N. S.

Vesak



Danudi Wickramaratne (Grade 5)
Stafford International School, Colombo 7



My school sportsmeet

Najaa International School sportsmeet was held on February 27, 2020 at the S. D. S. Jayasinghe grounds. The chief guest was Mr. Riza, the principal of Amal International School. The guest of honour was the principal of House of Scholars International School. The head prefect of our school welcomed the chief guest with a bouquet of flowers.

There are three houses in my school. They are Olympus, Everest and Snowden. Olympus is green, Everest is blue and Snowden is red. I belong to Olympus House. There were many events at the meet. The Primary School kids had collecting balls race, obstacle race, rabbit hopping race etc. The Senior School children had races, relays, sack race etc. They were all great fun. The Everest team won most of the games. Everyone had fun participating in these events.

The drill display was fabulous. There was also an evening of entertainment by the Grade 9 and 11 children. Then there was the distribution of trophies and certificates. The Everest team was first, Snowden second and Olympus last. The Najaarians enjoyed the sportsmeet and played well for their teams.

Reema Ghazni (10 years)
Najaa Int. School, Mt. Lavinia

To Nature

You gave birth to all of us,
You were the mother of us,
You looked after us well, since our childhood,
You gifted so many fabulous presents for us.

Do you know you are so beautiful?
Do you know we love you so much?
Do you know you guide us always?
Do you know you are the queen of our world?

Sky touching mountains and green colour forests,
Blue colour oceans and silky soft waterfalls,
Heart-warming music and lovely pretty flowers,
You are full of all these fantastic items.

I don't know how to say, "I'm sorry" to you,
Because your children are destroying you,
I know you are very angry with them,
Therefore you punish us causing disasters.

I have something to tell you finally,
Can you forget all these things?
Then we can again remake our bond,
Then the world will be a better one.

Ama Lokuhewa (Grade 10)
Southlands College, Galle

A beach



Oneka Fernando (Grade 5)
Holy Family Convent, Colombo 4

Evening scenery



Yusuf Moulana (Grade 5)
Hejaaz Int. School Boys Section, Mt. Lavinia

With my mummy



Janumi Liyanage (7 years)
Southlands College, Galle

Children making Vesak lanterns



Anuji Nissanka (Grade 10)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

May 12

News in Pictures



Dubai, UAE
Burj Khalifa is illuminated to mark the 10 million meals Covid-19 campaign. The building was transformed into the 'world's tallest donation box' as part of a campaign to provide meals to low-income people.



Kathmandu, Nepal
A student is detained by police while protesting against alleged encroachment of the Nepalese border by India.



Manchester, England
Rita Tanner and Norris Cole on one of a series of Coronation Street stamps created to mark the show's 60th anniversary. First broadcast in 1960, Coronation Street is the world's longest-running television continuing drama, with more than 10,000 episodes featuring more than 5,000 characters.



Shanghai, China
Shanghai Disneyland has reopened its gates after being shut for months. Its reopening offers a potential model for other mass entertainment venues to open for business during the pandemic.



Morges, Switzerland
A teacher wears a face mask as she teaches pupils at a primary school. Swiss primary and secondary schools have reopened with half the usual number of students during the pandemic.



New York, USA
A coronavirus-themed display in the window of a home in Brooklyn.



Tokyo, Japan
A banner calls for people to stay at home to contain the spread of Covid-19.



Cardiff, Wales
Puppies Michelle, Doctor Hilary, Beverly, Stephi and Louise, who were named after local NHS workers and TV personality Dr Hilary Jones. The puppies are at their foster home in Cardiff. Their mother, Peaches, was handed in to Hope rescue centre in Llantrisant a few days before they were born.



Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
A resident in a locked down area receives food from a motorist.

Sources : The Guardian / Reuters

Scary Ghosts

By Manoshi de Silva

"Are ghosts real?" Vinuri asked her friend Ramila.

"I don't think so," replied Ramila, "my mother says that it's all in the imagination."

"But sometimes I feel scared when I think about it," said Vinuri. "Don't worry yourself thinking about these things," said Ramila, trying to console her friend, "even my grandmother says it's all nonsense!"

Vinuri didn't feel too scared after Ramila assured her that there is nothing to be afraid of. She even completely forgot about all this... Until one day...

Vinuri was sitting under a tree reading a book. The tree was a little away from her house and was near their fence. She didn't feel scared to stay there alone because it was still the evening and also because she was no longer afraid of ghosts, after her friend told her that there was no such thing.

Suddenly something took Vinuri's attention away from the book she was reading. She heard a rustling sound. It was coming from the garbage pile by the side of the road near their fence.

Some of her neighbours had a very bad habit of dumping garbage there. Although a few neighbours who cared about the environment had tried to stop this many times, this bad practice continued.

Vinuri heard her father talking against this many times. "We can't even go near our fence, because of the terrible stench."

There are mosquitoes and flies breeding there. Why can't people understand how bad it is to dump garbage everywhere!" he'd often say.

The rustling sound got louder. Vinuri felt a bit scared and wondered what it was. Just then she noticed some flimsy things floating around. Some were floating above the road and some also came into Vinuri's garden. Vinuri tried to get up and run. But because of fear, her legs felt numb and lifeless.

A few of 'the things' came floating towards her. Some of them were see-through and they looked quite light. "Surely, these have to be ghosts!" thought Vinuri, shivering in fear. They were rising up from the garbage pile and soon there were hundreds of them floating around.

A few of the ghost-like things came near her. "Who... What are you?" Vinuri managed to stutter. "Are you ghosts?" They came extremely close to her. "What are ghosts?" asked one of the floating things. "Ghosts come from the past to haunt people!" said Vinuri getting ready to run off.

"Well, we do come from the past and yes, we will be haunting people for a very long time!" said another floating thing. Vinuri took a step to run away. Then she noticed two pieces in the corners of each floating thing. They look somewhat familiar. Vinuri stopped.

"What are those?" she asked feeling more curious than scared this time. "Our handles!" replied the floating thing that spoke first. "People held us by these pieces, when they used us to carry things!"

It was only then that Vinuri recognized what the floating things were. They were discarded shopping bags floating around. "You are not ghosts!" she said resting her hands on her waist. "You are shopping bags!" "But we are coming from the past to haunt people, so we are ghosts!" insisted another bag that was floating near her.

"How can shopping bags haunt people?" laughed Vinuri. She felt very silly for being afraid of a bunch of polythene and plastic bags. "Well, we come from all over because we don't decay. People just throw us away after using us just once or twice. What they don't understand is that, plastic items can take over 400 years to completely vanish!" said a bag in a very matter of fact tone.

"Four hundred years?" gasped Vinuri. "Yes, if a baby was born on the day that I was thrown away, I'd still be there when that baby's great, great, great, great grand babies are born. Do you realize the destruction that plastic and polythene can do to the environment? We will haunt humans for many generations. Aren't we scarier than ghosts?" laughed a plastic bag, making Vinuri feel very scared.



Vinuri sat down feeling very worried and afraid for future of the world. "How horrible this is," she said, "people dump so much of polythene and plastic on a daily basis. You are definitely much scarier than ghosts, because the destruction that you are causing to this world is so terrible!"

Some of the bags that came out of the garbage pile started to dig into the soil. Some of them jumped into the drains. Vinuri understood that they were trying to pollute the soil and block the waterways. She knew that soon they would take over the earth and oceans and make all people and animals sick.

Vinuri went home feeling absolutely shocked. "What can we do to stop creating polythene and plastic ghosts?" she wondered.

"We can use a re-usable and washable cloth bag every time we go to the shop to buy things. Also we can stop using plastic water bottles and use a bottle that we can refill." Vinuri was surprised at how easy it actually was, to find other options to replace plastics and polythene.

"I must make an environment-friendly list on what I can do to reduce plastic and polythene usage at home and at school as well. I can call it my green list," decided Vinuri. "If we don't care for the environment, we'll all suffer by the time we become adults!" thought Vinuri. "By caring for the environment, I will become a silent hero of the earth!" Vinuri smiled feeling very proud of herself.

Since we are all working and studying from home due to the prevailing situation, please send your articles, art and entries by email to:
fundaytimes1@gmail.com
Take care and stay safe.

Funday Times is now online!
You can check out all your favourite
stories, news, events and competitions
and so much more by logging in to
www.fundaytimes.lk
You can send in your entries
for the online competitions & quizzes
through this site.

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 172 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of March 1, 8 and 15, 2020. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 172' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard.

Please get your entries certified as your own work
by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners
will receive brand new
Tomahawk Mountain Bikes
with the compliments of
Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years are eligible to participate. (Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: May 31, 2020



**COMPLETE CONTROL ON YOUR
BIKING EXPERIENCE**



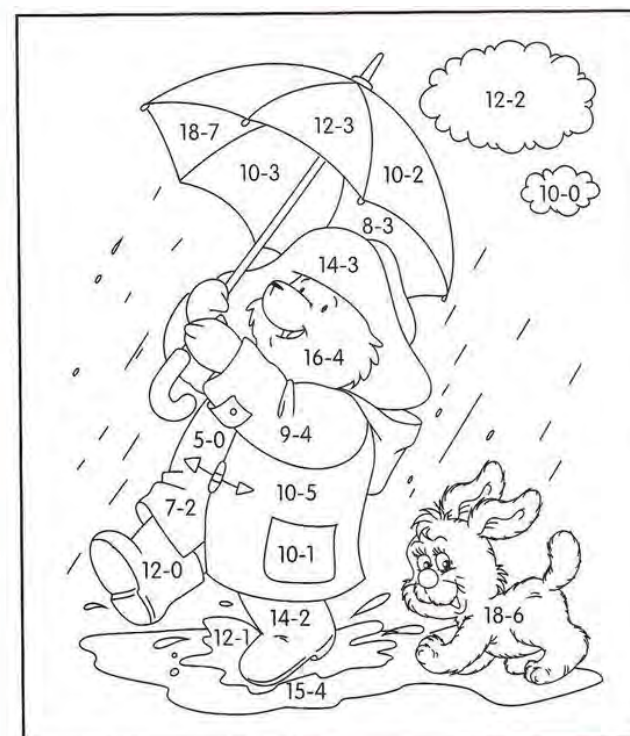
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1. Name the country and city where Duomo Cathedral is situated.
2. During which war did Florence Nightingale first look after wounded British soldiers?
3. How many terms did Sirimavo Bandaranaike serve as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka?
4. The Raj Ghat in India is a memorial to which famous Indian Leader?
5. Name three steps to take to avoid contracting the novel coronavirus disease.

1. Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?
Because she was stuffed.
2. What has ears but cannot hear?
A cornfield.
3. What did the left eye say to the right eye?
Between us, something smells!



Use the code and colour the picture.



5=red	7=purple	9=yellow	11=blue
6=green	8=orange	10=grey	12=brown

If you are interested in joining as a Sunday 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.**

Please email your reports of us on
fundaytimes1@gmail.com.

Name:
Date of Birth:
Address:
.....
Telephone:
School:
Parent's approval: Date:

Age Group : 9 years and below	Age Group : 10 – 12 years	Age Group : 13 – 15 years
Topic: My family	Topic : My hobbies	Topic: How I spent the curfew hours
Word Count : 150	Word Count : 150 – 200	Word Count: 200 – 250

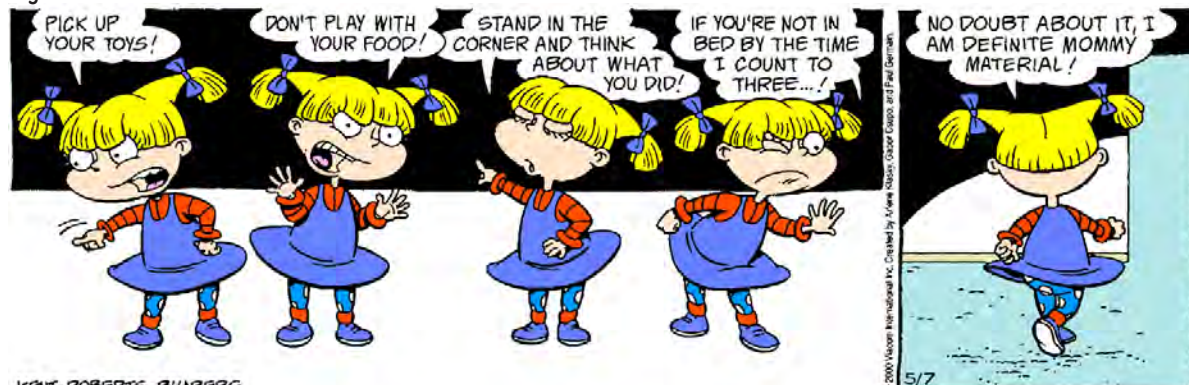
We regret we are unable to send prizes for the essays we give today. Please email your entries to us at fundaytimes1@gmail.com

The best essays will be published in Funday Times. We welcome your participation.

Ginger Meggs



Rugrats



Words for Mothers

Celebrating Mother's Day at the British Council

10 May 2020

The selfless, most
unmistakable, guardian
angel you'll ever meet —
Mom - *Priscilla Rambukkange*

If not (for) your selflessness,
I wouldn't be my own - *Vishaka Wijesinghe*

God chose his best angel to be
mother to me - *Dilendra Jayasinghe*

That potent lullaby powers the world through
endless complaints - *Gayashi Rathnayake*

The greatest love, beauty, and happiness
on planet earth, Mother
- Pyathi Movintha Dissanayaka