

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021



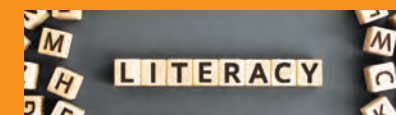
FUN DAY TIMES



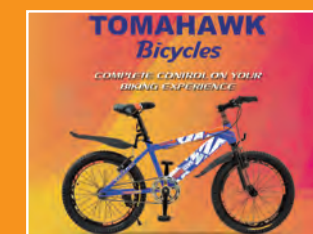
Surangi and her twin babies at Pinnawala



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From a Young Reporter

The Secrets of the Amazon

Lots of people think that the Amazon is a dangerous place. But there's more to it.

The Amazon is home to around 2,500 animal species and 40,000 plant species! The Amazon holds several secrets that many people are not aware of...

Did you know that there was once an ocean in the Amazon? Recently, some scientists wanted to test this, so they journeyed into the Amazon and found shark teeth in a vast land area. This proved their theory. But how did an ocean come into the Amazon?

Around 14 million years ago, the Andes mountains shifted due to a tectonic plate movement and allowed the ocean to flow in.



Geoglyphs

Years later, the mountains shifted back into their original position and the ocean was pushed out.

A tribe is a group of families or a community linked by bloodline or religion. A civilization is an advanced state of culture and social groups.

The Amazon once contained a civilization with over 1 million people! This civilization failed over time and scientists are still puzzled why. It might have been due to a sickness.

Scientists have found large geometrical designs called Geoglyphs, carved into the ground by these civilizations. It may have been a farming method they used.

The name Amazon was given by soldier Francisco de Orellana. Orellana was captured by a fierce female group of warriors while exploring the rainforest. He referred to them as Amazonas, taken from the name given to fierce female warriors from Greek mythology.



Amazon Rainforest



There are so many more undiscovered mysteries of this enchanting place.

The Amazon is a beautiful and wondrous place, isn't it?

Shanaya Randeniya (13 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo 7



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 (except Reeves Art) are accepted by email.

Please 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 No. 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 weekly competitions:

September 22, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

NOTE

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times e paper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

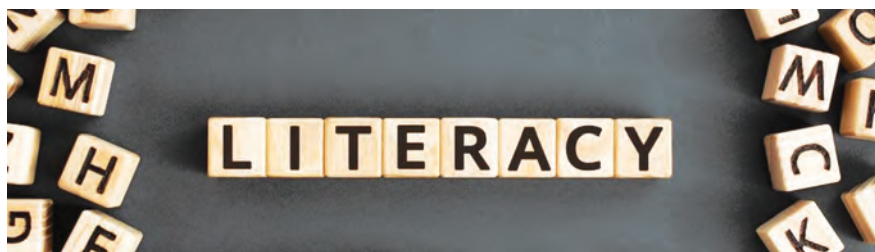


Nuha Nihad
4 years on September 8



Aadila Ahmed
8 years on September 6

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.



By Cecilia Hewavitharana

Literacy is generally considered to be a person's ability to read and write (in any language), and sometimes includes the possession of basic numeracy skills.

The current global literacy rate of people over the age of 15 years is 86%, so there are around 773 million people who cannot read anything from documents to the instructions on a box of medicines, which can have disastrous effects on their lives.

Countries with the lowest literacy rates

1. Somalia	5%	(1972)
2. Chad	22%	(2016)
3. Guinea	32%	(2014)
4. South Sudan	35%	(2018)
5. Niger	35%	(2018)
6. Mali	35%	(2018)
7. Central African Republic	37%	(2018)
8. Burkina Faso	41%	(2018)
9. Benin	42%	(2018)
10. Afghanistan	43%	(2018)

The origins of literacy

Writing originated around the late 4th millennium BC in the Mesopotamian region of Sumer, when trade and administration became too complex for people to depend on memory and they began recording transactions on stone tablets.



Sumerian Tablet

To put these figures into perspective, around 100 countries have a literacy rate of over 90%. (Sri Lanka's literacy rate was 92% in 2018.)

2/3 of illiterate adults are female. Why?

In certain countries and communities (most often with low levels of literacy or education), women are not allowed to learn, mainly because of attitudes that they should only be homemakers (which ironically requires literacy too). For example, the region of Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest overall literacy rates and the largest gender gaps.

Leaving aside the fact that literacy is the right of every human, there are some benefits to educating females:

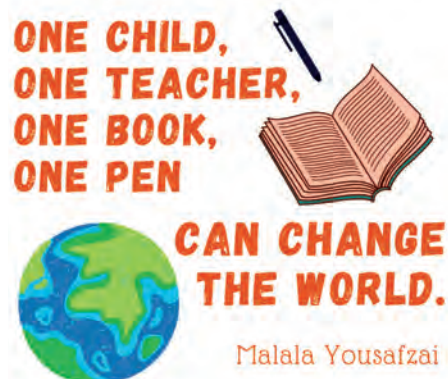
- Educating the female population increases a country's productivity, fueling economic growth. Some countries lose over \$1 billion every year, by not educating females up to the same level as males.
- A child is 50% more likely to live past the age of 5, if the mother can read.

FUN FACTS

- ♦ The world's most widely spoken languages are English, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, Standard Arabic, Bengali, French, Russian, Portuguese and Urdu.
- ♦ Visually impaired people use Braille (a system of characters made up of raised dots) to read and write.



Braille



Impact of COVID-19

Poverty is a huge contributing factor to illiteracy, which has increased after the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people who had access to literacy programmes have seen a halt to their progress because they cannot continue online, either because they do not have the technology (computers, smartphones, etc.,) or wi-fi or sometimes even electricity.

In many cases, distance-learning is not an option, if the people do not have computer or digital literacy, both of which require basic literacy first.

Tomahawk

Quiz
No.187

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 187 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2021. 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. 187' 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: September 30, 2021

mailto: Or email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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QUESTIONS — Quiz No. 187

1. What is the production and emission of light by a living organism called?
2. Name two groups of Indigenous Peoples who live in North America.
3. Which king first built the Dalada Madura that can be seen in Kandy today?
4. What is the Summer Paralympics and in which year did Sri Lanka first compete?
5. State how to differentiate between a maze and a labyrinth.



Panther Educational activities are specially designed to assist a child's brain development

Awakens A Child's Mind



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7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Find the Roald Dahl book characters.

G	E	O	R	G	E	F	V	E	D	C	W	B	X	Z
A	G	B	U	J	F	E	D	C	F	H	Y	H	F	L
F	M	T	M	W	F	L	Y	N	N	A	D	R	T	G
Q	D	M	R	T	A	I	J	W	T	R	D	H	V	P
Z	V	N	H	R	R	Q	W	X	K	L	H	B	G	F
C	D	R	O	L	I	U	I	Q	C	I	E	S	X	Z
Q	D	C	P	R	G	W	T	C	V	E	H	J	U	I
K	M	K	P	L	P	Y	C	T	T	Y	J	A	O	L
M	C	D	Y	S	X	Z	H	I	F	B	V	M	H	A
J	R	G	V	B	W	I	E	C	R	Q	J	E	R	D
Q	F	F	H	B	D	T	S	E	P	R	D	S	V	L
N	M	J	O	B	R	C	E	H	W	Z	D	G	U	I
K	O	P	L	X	W	Q	S	T	I	W	T	E	H	T
E	R	T	Y	D	G	Y	H	B	G	F	T	R	E	A
W	I	L	L	Y	W	O	N	K	A	A	S	E	D	M

Matilda	Charlie	Willy Wonka
BFG	Mr Fox	Mr Hoppy
George	James	Witches

We regret that we are unable to announce winners this week since we are working from home. Stay safe.



Or

email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Let's read with Room to Read!

Dear Children,

Today's story is called 'A Different Kind of Flower.'

Rafa is a big and colourful flower. But no one wants to be her friend. The other flowers stay away from her. But something happens one day that makes Rafa the most famous beautiful flower of the forest.



The Clever Tortoise

Author : Debby Lukito Goeyardi
Illustrator : Vannia Rizky
Translator : Room to Read

These storybooks are published by Room to Read, who believes that *World Change Starts with Educated Children.*

This book was originally published by Room to Read Indonesia where the Literacy Cloud – Room to Read's digital library first started.

This week's trivia
Why don't the other flowers in the garden want to be friends with Rafa?

Send your answer, to
literacylk@RoomtoRead.onmicrosoft.com
and stand a chance to win a storybook by Room to Read! One lucky winner will be chosen every week and the prizes will be given at the end of the series.

Let's begin...

Rafa is a Rafflesia flower. She is different from the other flowers in the garden. The forest orchids have leaves, but Rafa does not. Rafa has big petals. She waves her petals at the forest orchids. But they do not want to be friends with her. The roses smile arrogantly because they have such a pretty red colour. Rafa is red as well, but she is also covered in white dots, like warts! Rafa makes a very strong smell. The daffodils close their noses against it. But Rafa is proud of what she can do! None of the flowers are very kind to Rafa. But Rafa doesn't mind. Rafa greets the butterflies and bees. But they only approach flowers with a pleasant fragrance. So Rafa just waits for her loyal friends. Who are they? One fly approaches. Five flies come closer, then hundreds of them appear! The flies greet Rafa joyfully. People take photos with Rafa. Wow, Rafa is famous! She is a different kind of flower, and she is very glad to be one!

-The End-



Access the full story with illustrations via Room to Read's **Literacy Cloud**.

<https://literacycloud.org/stories/532-a-different-kind-of-flower/>

Cartoon Time!

Hey Kids! We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what's more they will be your own cartoons. So, here's a chance for you to try your hand at producing your very own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption. It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes). The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times. So good luck to all you cartoon fans!

Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything. They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Jokes

Why didn't the lamp sink?

It was too light.

How do you know when a bike is thinking?

You can see its wheels turning.

What do you call a droid that takes the long way around?

R2 detour.

What time is it when the clock strikes 13?

Time to get a new clock.

What building in your town has the most stories?

The public library.

August 31

News in Pictures



Toronto, Canada
An infant black squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) which is a melanistic subgroup of squirrels with black coloration is seen foraging.



Delhi, India
A woman waits with her children under a flyover for a Covaxin COVID-19 vaccine as part of a vaccination drive organised by Seeds. The NGO normally specialises in providing relief after flooding and other natural disasters.



Rota, Spain
Afghan refugees disembark from a US air force aircraft at the Rota naval base after an evacuation flight from Kabul. Spain has agreed to host up to 4,000 Afghans who have been airlifted by the US to airbases in Rota and Morón de la Frontera in southern Spain.

Houma, USA
Power lines lay across the road in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in Louisiana.



Masaya, Nicaragua
A three-day-old Bengal tiger cub is cared for at the National Zoo. The female is the fourth tiger cub to be born in captivity in the country.

California, USA
Flames consume multiple homes as the Caldor fire moves into the resort community of South Lake Tahoe, California.



Leticia, Colombia
Members of the indigenous Yussy Monilla Amena community from the Colombian Amazon during the PreCop of Biodiversity convention in Amazonas.



Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Army buglers take part in a military parade in Ala-Too Square to celebrate the country's 30th anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union.



Kabul, Afghanistan
Maj. Gen. Chris Donahue, commander of the US Army 82nd Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corps, is the final American service member to depart Afghanistan as he boards a C-17 cargo plane at Hamid Karzai international airport.

Source: The Guardian

August 31

US military leaves Afghanistan after 20 years

The last American military flight has left Kabul airport in Afghanistan, marking the end of 20 years of US troops being present in the country.

The final flight left shortly before midnight on Monday, meeting US President Joe Biden's commitment to withdraw troops by August 31.

US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, has said: "The military mission is over. A new diplomatic mission has begun."

The flight also marked the end of a huge evacuation effort that began on August 14 soon after the Taliban took over the country.

But Mr. Blinken said that while the US had ended its diplomatic presence

in Kabul it would continue to help Americans, and Afghans with US passports, to leave Afghanistan if they want to.

Meanwhile Britain's Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has also said the international community will "push as one voice" for the safe passage of Afghans who want to leave Afghanistan.

British troops also left Afghanistan over the weekend and more than 15,000 people had been evacuated by the UK from Afghanistan since August 14.

But it's thought that around 1000 eligible Afghans, including those who



worked for the UK government, and up to 150 British people were unable to get on evacuation flights.

The Taliban has promised those with authorisation will be allowed to leave the country if they want to.

Redheads gather in Netherlands for special day

People with red hair gathered from all around the world to celebrate their fiery locks!

Hundreds of redheads from around the world gathered at a festival in the Dutch town of Tilburg on Sunday to celebrate their hair colour and their community!

The group - of all ages - come together every year for a three-day gathering of people with this unique trait. At the festival redheads meet and chat and do activities - including trying to identify their own special shade of red and hair texture!

Even though the festivities were

pared down for COVID safety reasons, people said that by gathering together they felt a sense of belonging.

They even wore stickers to show which country they came from. Organiser Bart Rouwenhorst said: "With hundreds and hundreds of redheads together, that's a special feeling for people.



For example, we have an Egyptian redhead who said, 'In my home country, I am the only redhead in the city, but here, I see my family, my worldwide family.'

Hatchling: Giant dragon puppet flies over Plymouth

Take a look at this giant dragon puppet called The Hatchling.

The part-puppet and part-kite flew off the coast of Plymouth as part of an outdoor performance. People gathered to see the puppet, which is taller than a double-decker bus, take to the city's streets over the weekend.



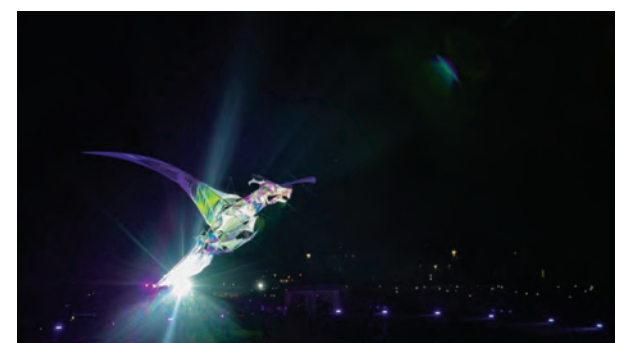
The Hatchling puppet flew over Plymouth Sound, a two day theatre performance, on Sunday night. The dragon puppet turned into a kite, and flew from the coast and across the sea.

Audiences gathered at the event to watch the giant puppet take to the skies in a world first. The Royal Navy

helped the organisers fly the kite over Plymouth.

Over 250 local people from across the city joined the cast of the performance.

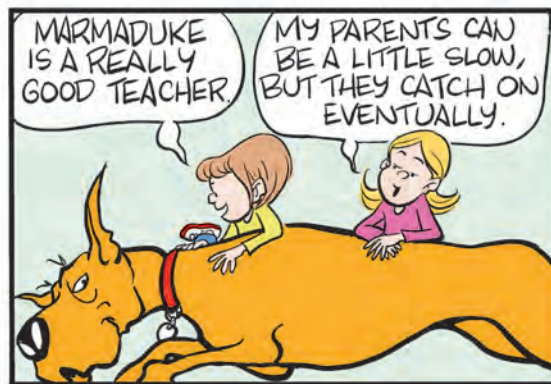
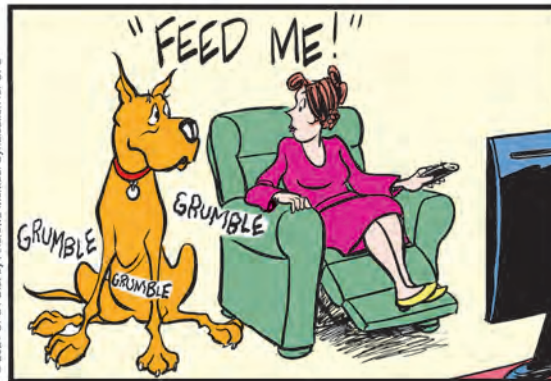
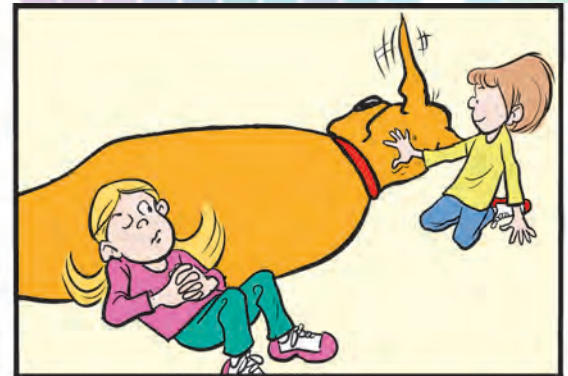
Crowds gathered over the weekend and saw the dragon hatch from an egg on Saturday.



In the evening the dragon was put to sleep to with a peaceful lullaby sung by a local acapella group.

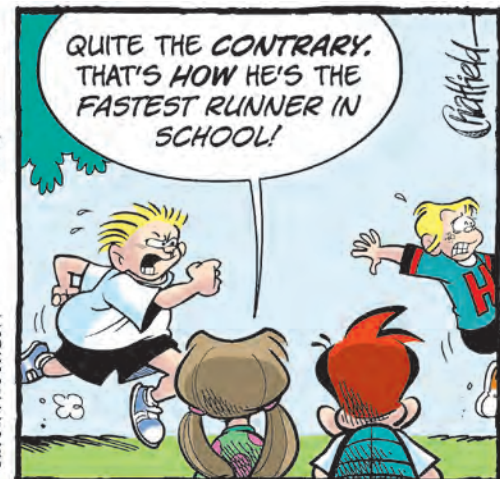
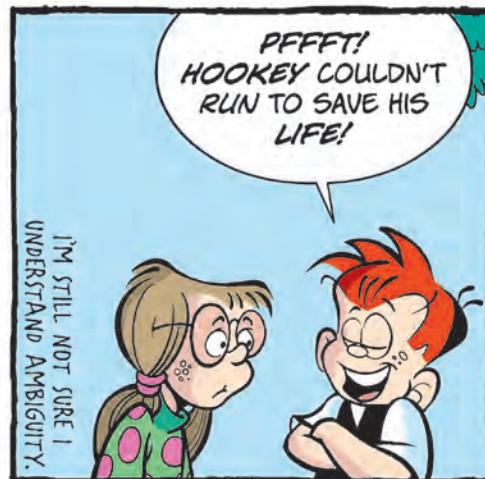
Following this world premiere in Plymouth, The Hatchling will perform at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next June, leading a procession of more than 5,000 performers.

Source : CBBC Newsround



DOG GONE FUNNY SAN DIMAS, CA
ANGIE COSTANZA'S FIFTH GRADE CLASS WAS STUDYING BONES AND MUSCLES. ANGIE'S FATHER IS A BUTCHER AND GAVE HER A HUGE BEEF LEG BONE TO TAKE TO CLASS. THEIR GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER, **TICTOC**, ESCAPED THE HOUSE, **RAN** TO THE SCHOOL, **FOUND** THE CLASSROOM AND **STOLE** THE BONE **OFF THE SCIENCE TABLE!**

Ginger Meggs



Rugrats

