

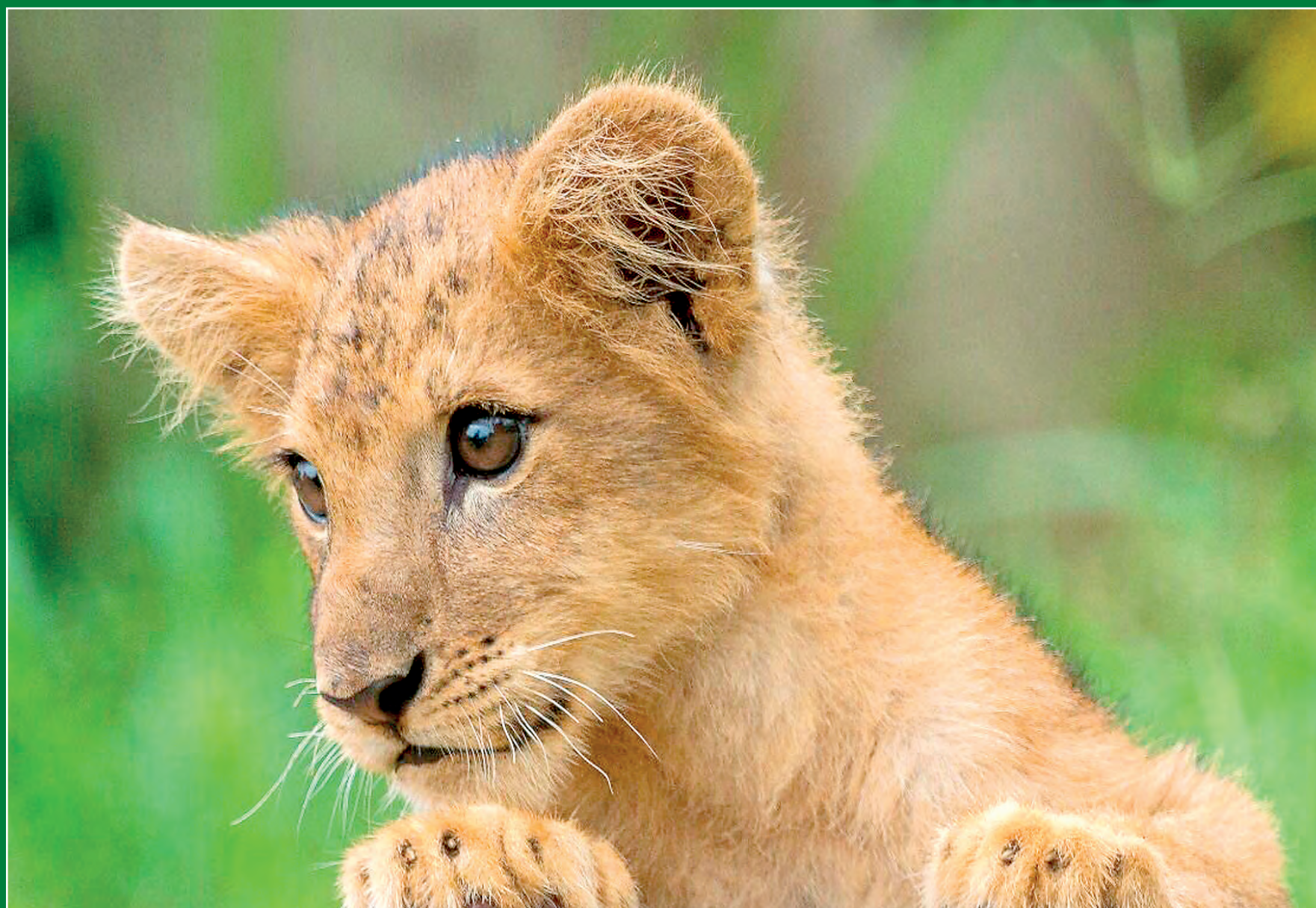
the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 2022



FUN DAY

TIMES



Dora the new lion cub at Ridiyagama

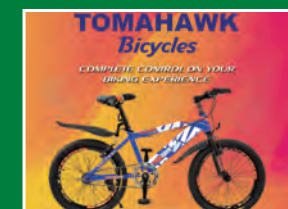
Pic. by Rahul Samantha Hettiarachchi



FUN STUFF
PAGE 2




STORY
PAGE 3



COMPETITION
PAGE 4

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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 (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:
March 9, 2022

Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

KIDS IN COLOUR

Kids in Colour together with Reeves Art Competition is conducted monthly. A topic is given for each month. Three winners from three age groups will be selected. Winners will be announced on the second Sunday of each month and all winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Reeves.

Please note that all paintings should be certified by a teacher or parent, refer page 2 for further details.

All paintings should be on A4 size paper. Please write Reeves Art Competition at the back of your entry, together with your name, date of birth, address, telephone no., and school.

Topic - Independence Day
Closing Date : February 28, 2022

With REEVES

Colours For Young Artists

Mail to:
 Kids in colour with Reeves Art Competition
 Funday Times
 C/O The Sunday Times
 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2
 P.O Box 1136 Colombo

Winners of Reeves Art Competition please contact us in order to collect your prizes!

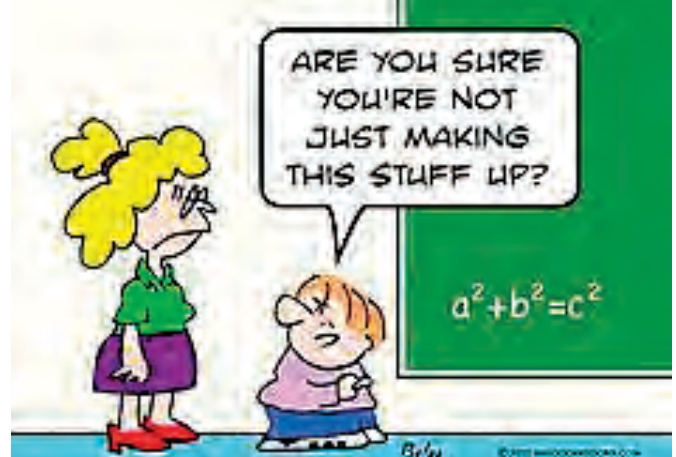
Wax Crayons • Oil Pastels • Paint Sets • Colour Sets • Water Colours • Oil Colours • Poster Colours • Powder Paints • Brushes

Ninehearts (Pte) Ltd. 758/1, Baseline Road, Colombo 09. Contact: 0112 663500 / 2 687541 / 077 387039. Email: photoproducts@ninehearts.com

NOTE

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.

Maths Humour



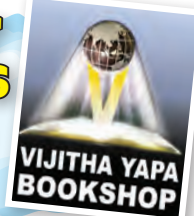
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST MAKING THIS STUFF UP?

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

Book Competition

<p>9 years and below</p> <p>Making friends at school Senuri Gunawardana Methodist College, Colombo 3</p>	<p>10 – 12 years</p> <p>Helping family at home Shamindi Perera St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7</p>	<p>13 – 15 years</p> <p>Should there be Wi-Fi at every public place? Ifadha Deen Leeds Int. School, Galle</p>
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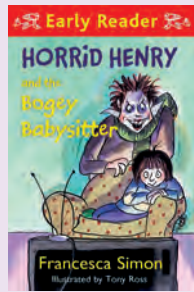
Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below
Word Count: 150
Topic: My favourite subject
Win: Horrid Henry and the Bogey Babysitter by Francesca Simon

Horrid Henry hates babysitters – and he knows exactly how to make sure they never come back.

That is, until he meets Rabid Rebecca, the toughest teen in town.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 10 – 12 years
Word Count: 150 – 200
Topic: Your favourite radio programme
Win: Five Have a Mystery to Solve by Enid Blyton

After strong currents force their rowing boat ashore, the Famous Five find themselves stranded on forsaken Whispering Island, a strange and unwelcoming place.

When the group decide to explore, they soon make a startling discovery. Could there be any truth in the stories about the mysterious island after all?

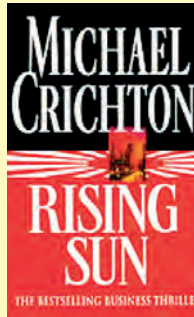


Age: 13 – 15 years
Word Count: 200 – 250
Topic: Why is it important to learn your Mother Language?
Win: Rising Sun by Michael Crichton

On the 45th floor of the Nakamoto Tower in downtown L.A., a grand opening celebration is in full swing at the new American headquarters of the immense Japanese conglomerate.

On the 46th floor, in an empty conference room, the dead body of a beautiful young woman is discovered.

The investigation begins... and immediately becomes a headlong chase through a maze of intrigue.



The chats over the short wall

By Manoshi de Silva

In the small house across the lane opposite Chamil's house, lived a small boy around his age and they were good friends. Every evening when Chamil cycled down the lane, he'd stop by the short wall of the boy's house and have a chat with him. The boy would give him Lovi fruits plucked from the big tree in his garden and Chamil would give him a few toffees he had bought from the small wayside shop.

But to Chamil's great dismay, the boy and his family left for another house, because they were staying on rent. Although Chamil did speak to the boy over the phone after he left, he missed their little evening chats over the short wall.

The small house was closed for weeks. But after sometime the gates were unlocked and some men came and cleaned the house and garden.

"Has someone taken this house on rent again?" Chamil peeped over the short wall and asked one of the workers.

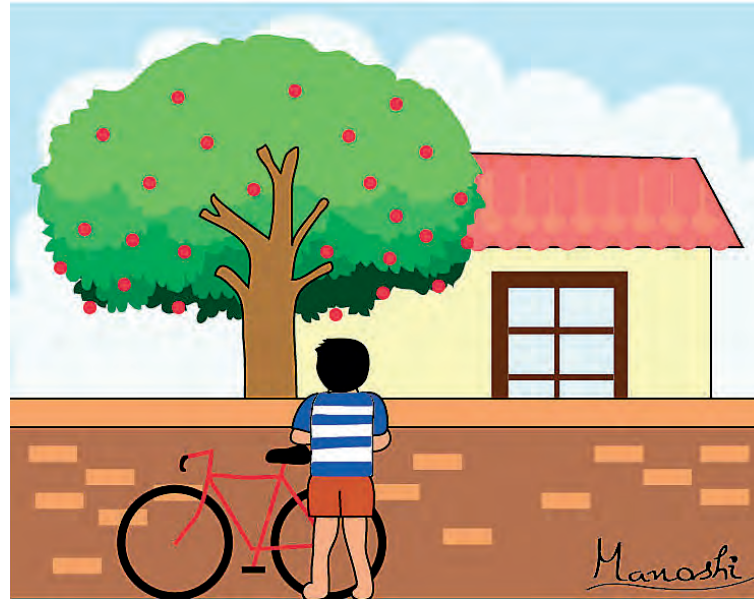
"Yes, they will be here next week," replied a worker who was busy whitewashing the walls.

"That's good," thought Chamil, "at least I'll have a friend to chat with in the evenings."

After a week or so, a truck came and unloaded furniture. Chamil cycled up and down but couldn't see anyone else other than the movers who were busy carrying furniture into the house. The next evening when Chamil was cycling, he looked at the house again. The curtains were closed but there was still no one to be seen.

Chamil went near the short wall, ready to say 'hello' and to make friends with the newcomers. He stood there and looked around. Suddenly out of nowhere a huge dog jumped at him, barking fiercely. Chamil almost fell off his bike but the wall prevented the dog from coming near him. The dog kept his paws on the short wall and continued to bark.

"Who is it Flash?" asked a deep voice and a smart looking elderly gent walked out with the help of a crutch. He had a deep scar across his face.



"He looks as fierce as the dog!" thought Chamil cycling off as fast as he could. "He looks like he has got into a lot of fights. He looks like trouble!"

"I wish a kid moved into the small house across the lane," sighed Chamil. "But it turned out to be an unfriendly gent and an unfriendly dog!"

"Don't be rude Chamil!" said his mother, "maybe you'll make friends with them."

"Never!" sulked Chamil. "That dog won't even let me go near the wall. So much for the happy chats I had with my friend over the short wall, when he was there."

That evening Chamil looked at the small house while cycling. The garden was messy and not swept. The ripe Lovi fruits were perishing under the tree. "What a waste," thought Chamil. The dog was not to be seen. "I wish I could have some Lovi fruits," thought Chamil. He went near the wall and looked up at the tree. The red fruits looked like rubies.

"They don't seem interested in Lovi," he thought. "No point letting these go to waste," he thought leaning his bike against the short wall. He tried to balance himself on the bicycle, and tried to reach for a branch. But it was not as easy as he thought it would be. Suddenly the dog came running to the garden out of nowhere, barking like crazy. Chamil lost his balance and fell on top of the short wall and then into the gentleman's garden.

"This is my end!" thought Chamil, closing his eyes and thinking that

the dog would shred him into pieces. But someone shouted "Flash, sit down!" and the dog sat down at once. Chamil looked up in surprise. The gent limped towards him with his crutch. "This time it's definitely my end; he will hit me till I break into pieces!" thought Chamil.

"Are you okay Putha?" asked the gentleman in a kind tone, stretching his hand towards Chamil. He grabbed the gent's strong hand and got up. Chamil's knees were wounded. "Wait here. I will get something for that," said the gent helping Chamil to sit on the bench

under the Lovi tree. The dog sat there like a statue. Chamil was too surprised to say anything, by the unexpected turn of events.

The gent came back with some water and medicine. He washed Chamil's wounds and put some ointment. "We used this when we got wounded during the war," he smiled.

"The war?" Chamil stared at him.

"Yes, I am a retired soldier and Flash is a retired police dog that I adopted."

Suddenly the limp and the scar across the gentleman's face made sense to Chamil. He felt shy for wrongly judging him. "If you want Lovi ask me the next time, Putha. Don't do dangerous things like this again!"

"I won't do anything like this again Sir. Thank you!" said Chamil. The gent plucked and gave a handful of Lovi for Chamil to take with him.

After that day, whenever Chamil cycled down the lane, he'd always stop by the short wall. Just like he did before, during the time his friend was there. Flash too stopped barking at Chamil as he got used to the boy.

The gentleman would give Chamil Lovi fruits and tell him stories about the war. Chamil would stop by the short wall and listen to the war adventures in awe. Some days he'd even help the gentleman to sweep and clean his garden. And so the chats over the short wall continued between Chamil and his new friend, the war hero, every evening.

Tomahawk

Quiz No.192

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 192 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2022. 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. 192' 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: February 28, 2022

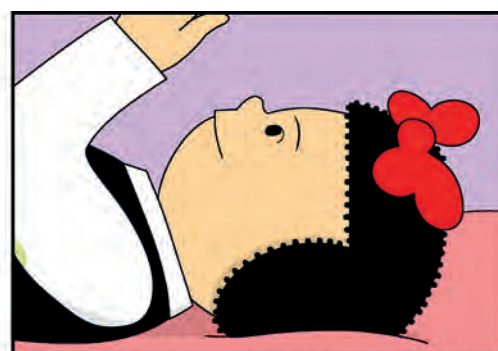
mail FUNDAY TIMES Or email fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 192

1. Name one of the first places on earth where the New Year dawns.
2. What is the most stable shape that an arch can have?
3. What is the largest freshwater lake in the world and what is its nickname?
4. When is International Day of Education commemorated and what is the theme for 2022?
5. Who is the author of the 'Little House' book series and what was the author's first rejected autobiography titled?



Arctic Fox

Not far from the North Pole, the world is frozen for thousands of miles. Suddenly a snowy mound wiggles and reveals two dark eyes. The lump is transformed into the furry white body of a lone arctic fox. The canine casually shakes the blanket of snow off her thick coat — the key to her survival. But warm fur alone might not keep this fox alive during the polar winter, when temperatures rarely get above zero degrees Fahrenheit. Until spring arrives, this arctic fox will rely on some freeze-defying strategies, making it a champion of the cold.



Built for the Arctic

Arctic foxes live on the land and sea ice within the Arctic Circle. Winter in the Arctic is unlike winter in most parts of the world. From October to February, the sun never rises to shine warmth and light.

Luckily, these small foxes have some useful adaptations for living in the icy Arctic. Their thick fur coat keeps the fox's body at a toasty 104°F. Their long, fluffy tails act like a blanket, keeping the fox warm when it wraps the tail around its body to sleep.

Their feet also have a layer of thick fur, like built-in snow boots. This helps muffle an arctic fox's footsteps, making it harder for prey to hear them. And their white coats make it difficult for predators such as wolves, polar bears and golden eagles to spot them among the ice and snow.

Finding food

When it's not trying to keep warm or avoid predators, an arctic fox is on the hunt for food. They prefer to eat small rodents called lemmings, but when times are tough they'll eat whatever they can find: insects, berries and even the droppings of other animals. Sometimes an arctic fox will follow a polar bear on a hunting trip and eat the bear's leftovers.

If a fox can't find food, or if the weather gets really bad, it can dig a snow den and hunker down for up to two weeks. As long as a fox is warm, it can slow down its heart rate and metabolism, which helps the animal save energy so it doesn't have to eat as much. It's sort of like how bears hibernate, but for a shorter period of time.

Common Name – Arctic Fox

Scientific Name – *Vulpes lagopus*

Type – Mammal

Diet – Omnivore

Group Name – Skulk, leash

Average life span

in the wild – 3 – 6 years

Size – Head and body: 18 to 26,75 inches

Weight – 6.5 to 17 pounds

Once the animal emerges from its den, it'll try to hunt again. With food in its belly, the arctic fox has a better chance of making it through another long, dark winter.

FAST FACTS

- An arctic fox can smell a seal den a mile away.
- Arctic foxes change the colour of their fur with the season. In winter they are white (blue-grey), blending with the snow. In summer they change to brown or grey.
- Arctic fox dens are used for generations — some are as old as 300 years.
- These foxes have small ears. That reduces heat loss because less is exposed to the cold.



Source: National Geographic Kids



February 16

19-year-old Zara Rutherford becomes the youngest woman to fly around the world solo

Most 19-year-olds are still trying to perfect their driving skills. But Zara Rutherford had her eyes set a little higher. The British-Belgian teenager wanted to be the youngest woman to fly around the world solo. On January 22, 2022, Rutherford fulfilled her lifelong dream when she successfully landed her two-seat ultralight aircraft back at the Kortrijk-Wevelgem Airport in Belgium,

where she departed from 155 days ago.

Rutherford's historic flight broke Shaesta Waiz's five-year-old record. The Afghan-American pilot was 30 when she completed the solo around-the-world excursion in 2017. The teenager is also the youngest person to make the epic journey in a microlight plane and the first Belgian to do so.



Zoo welcomes first giant anteater baby in 85 years



This cute little pup is the first giant anteater to be born at Dudley Zoo, in Birmingham, for 85 years!

The baby - who doesn't have a name yet - was born on January 17 and keepers say it is "healthy and alert".

Its parents Lyra and Bubbles surprised keepers when they found out they had had a baby, but said it was "fabulous news".

Giant anteaters are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, and their numbers are declining in the wild,

mostly because of habitat destruction.

The zoo is part of a special breeding programme, which they say helps to protect endangered and at-risk species.

In the wild, giant anteaters can be found in South and Central America and can measure up to 2.1m long.

For now the pup will stay close to mum Lyra, and will hold on tight to the fur on her back for up to 10 months, to help it stay warm and safe.

Pokémon: Rare un-cut sheet of first edition cards up for auction

A super rare uncut sheet of Pokémon cards has gone up for auction.

The sheet was made in 1998, and is made up of 99 Pokémon cards in total, which were printed out, but never cut up into individual cards and sold.

It contains 16 holographic - or shiny - cards including Charizard, Mewtwo, Blastoise and Venusaur.

The sheet is up for sale on the auction site Goldin, and current offers are at \$37,000 (around £27,000).

The auctioneers describe it as: "a historic sheet of uncut Pokémon treasures; this is an incredible and prestigious display piece of immense rarity that is sure to be the



crown jewel of the winning bidder."

This particular sheet of Pokémon cards is extra special for a few reasons.

The sheet is part of the Pokémon TCG's 1999 Base Set, the first set to be printed outside of Japan in English by makers Wizards of the Coast.

As well as this, the cards are also first edition, shadowless and feature some holographic cards.

Sources : Dogo News/ CBBC Newsround

Reading Development Tips by Room to Read

Phonics instruction teaches the relationships between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language. Children's reading development is dependent significantly on their understanding of the alphabetic principle - the idea that letters and letter patterns represent the sounds of spoken language. "Decoding" is the act of sounding out words using phonics.

The goal of phonics instruction is to help children learn the alphabetic principle and that there is an organized, logical and predictable relationship between written letters and spoken sounds. Learning that there are predictable relationships between sounds and letters allows children to apply these relationships to both familiar and unfamiliar words, which helps them to read with fluency.

- A message by Room to Read to support reading development and a habit of reading among primary grade children.



February 16

News in Pictures



Vilnius, Lithuania

Children play on the Norwegian army main battle tank Leopard 2A4NO during the exhibition of military equipment at the Lukiskes Square. The exhibition of military equipment was organized in commemoration of the 104th anniversary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania. Lithuania celebrates the anniversary of the 1918 restoration of independence.



Michoacán state, Mexico
Monarch butterflies at El Rosario sanctuary, the winter home of Monarch butterflies.

Kabul, Afghanistan

Afghan boys look over a metal barrier at people receiving food supplies during a distribution of humanitarian aid for families in need.



Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dancers perform during the Navam Perahera festival at the Gangaramaya temple.



Petropolis, Brazil

A drone image of a mudslide at Morro da Oficina after pouring rains.

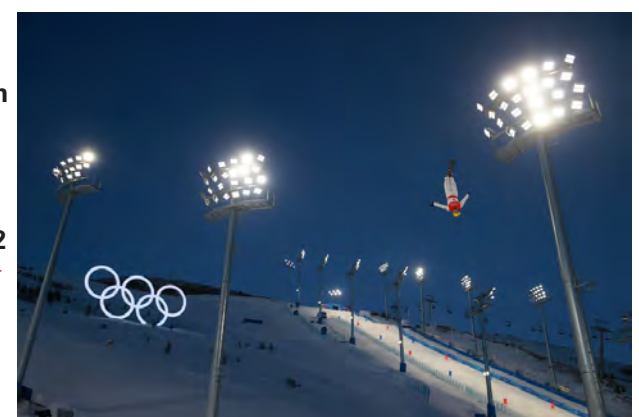


Wisbech, UK

Mia Hansson works in the Cambridgeshire town on her full-size replica of the Bayeux tapestry, which has so far taken her almost six years to stitch.

Beijing, China

Guangpu Qi of China in action during a practice round for the men's freestyle skiing aericals final at the Zhangjiakou Genting Snow Park at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games.



February 15



Konya, Turkey

Boats pass through a path cleared by fishers on the frozen Lake Beysehir.



Novosibirsk reservoir, Russia

People at the Igloo festival "City of the Eskimos" on the ice of the Novosibirsk reservoir.

Source : The Guardian