

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 22, 2022

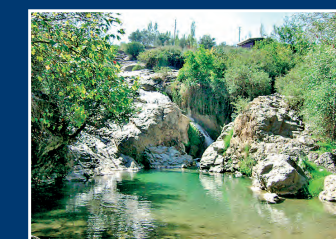
FUN DAY TIMES



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A queue to enter school

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

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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:
June 8, 2022

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










The annual New Year Festival of the Miracle Angel Pre-School at Kaldemulla, Moratuwa was held at the school premises recently. The festival consisted of New Year games and rituals.

Pix. by
Kithsiri de mel

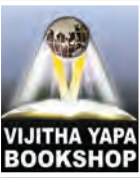



Aaron De Sylva
 3 years on May 20

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.

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 on entry. Please fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.

Read-a-Book for May

9 years and below
Aamina Fasly
The Secrets Club by Chris Higgins

10 – 12 years
Aamina Rushdy
Rusty Goes to London by Ruskin Bond

13 – 15 years
Sajali Perera
Les Miserables by Victor Hugo

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :




Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

A beautiful Vesak

By Manoshi de Silva

Yuwin loved going to his grandparents' house in the village.

He went there during school holidays and on long weekends as well. He always looked forward to it, so when his father said that they were going there for the Vesak holidays, he was thrilled.

Things were getting difficult in the country and Yuwin heard his parents talking about how things were going up in price.

"We are lucky that we have enough petrol to go and come back!" said Yuwin's father who was driving. Yuwin's family was well off because his father was a wealthy businessman. "Yes we are lucky that we can still afford a lot of things, but it must be quite hard for Samarapala's family!" said his mother.

Yuwin felt worried. Samarapala Uncle was his grandfather's immediate neighbour. His son Indika was Yuwin's good friend. Samarapala Uncle had his own pottery workshop. Yuwin loved to go there and watch them make clay pots and other clay items like vases and ornaments. "It can't be all that bad for them," thought Yuwin. "They can sell the things they make and earn enough money!"

After having tea with his grandparents, Yuwin went to see his friend next-door. Indika was happy to see him but he looked tired and busy. "Indika what have you made this time for Vesak?" asked Yuwin. He remembered the lovely lanterns Indika made last year for Vesak. Indika was so creative.

"I couldn't make anything this year!" sighed Indika, sounding sad. "We have to work extra hard now because we can't afford to buy a lot of things! I hardly have time after doing my school work nowadays, because I have to help my father in the pottery workshop!" he said looking sad.



"My father now travels into other towns as well, looking for shops to sell what we make. He has to spend a lot of money on transport and what we make by selling our pots barely cover the cost. So we work extra hard to make more things. That's why I have no time now," explained Indika.

Every year Indika used to make a beautiful lantern for Yuwin as well. Both their gardens looked so beautiful on Vesak day. But this year Yuwin had no lantern to decorate his grandparents' house. "We can buy a few lanterns from the nearby town," thought Yuwin. "I can buy one for Indika as well!"

Yuwin walked inside the pottery workshop. Indika's father and mother were busy making pots and their hands were covered in clay. They looked very tired but they were happy to see him. On the side of the workshop were hundreds of clay lamps stacked on top of each other. "Why are there so many clay lamps?" asked Yuwin. "They were made for an order," replied Indika.

Yuwin felt happy. "You'll make a lot of money selling all this!" he said. "Not really," said Indika sounding sad. "This order was cancelled yesterday and now we don't know what to do with these. None of the shops will buy such a lot at once. It was a waste of our labour!"

Yuwin felt very sad for his friend and his family. That night Yuwin told his father about this. "Is there some

way we can help them?" he asked earnestly. "Well we could buy them all and hand them over to our village temple for Vesak. The entire temple can be decorated beautifully with them!" replied his father and Yuwin felt very happy.

The next day, the day before Vesak, Yuwin went with his father and bought

all the lamps. There were more than enough to light up the entire temple. The two of them along with Indika, went to the Village temple and handed them over to their 'Loku Hamuduruwo'.

That evening Yuwin was happy to see so many clay lamps brightening up their temple premises. So many people poured coconut oil and lit the oil lamps, including Yuwin's family and Indika's family. Once they came home Yuwin talked to Indika. "The only thing that I forgot was to buy two lanterns for our two houses. But now it's too late. All the shops must be closed now. How beautiful our houses look during Vesak every year. But this year it looks so dark and empty!"

"Don't worry," smiled Indika. "I kept enough oil lamps for our two houses separately. They have slight defects in their shape so they cannot be sold or donated to the temple. But they are good enough to make our gardens beautiful!" Yuwin was very happy. "Let's light them now!" he said and both of them lit the oil lamps. They kept a row on Yuwin's grandparent's garden wall and on the porch of Indika's house.

Both of their houses, although decorated in a very simple manner, looked very peaceful and beautiful. "This has got to be one of the best Vesak days of my life!" smiled Yuwin. "It is indeed a very simple but beautiful Vesak!" smiled back Indika, who was also feeling very happy.

King Midas

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

The phrase, “the Midas touch”, is a popular expression used to describe someone’s ability to make a financial success out of anything they do and is often associated with luck, but it has its roots in a grim, cautionary tale for the greedy.

Midas was a king of Phrygia in Greek mythology, who was able to turn anything he touched into gold.

According to the original myth, King Midas was hospitable to Silenus, a satyr and companion of the god Dionysus, who had lost his way. So Dionysus rewarded him with a wish. Midas wished for the ability to turn everything he touched into gold. He soon regretted his request after he nearly starved to death because he turned his food into gold too. Dionysus directed him to bathe in the Pactolus River to wash away his power. In some versions, Midas died of starvation.

In Nathaniel Hawthorne’s 1852 retelling of Greek myths, Midas attempts to pacify his daughter, who was upset that the roses had lost their fragrance after being turned to gold, and accidentally turns her into gold. In this version, Dionysus also tells him that whatever he had turned to gold would be reversed to its former self after being put into the Pactolus River.



Midas accidentally turns his daughter in to gold

The main moral of the story: one should not be greedy, as having all the wealth in the world can be pointless.



Midas bathing in the Pactolus River



Fun Facts

- ◆ Phrygia was a kingdom in Anatolia (also called Asia Minor), which makes up the majority of the Asian section of modern Turkey.
- ◆ The Pactolus River (running through Sardis in modern Turkey) contains deposits of gold, which are said to be because of Midas.

References: Britannica, Encyclopedia.com

Map: Gordion Archaeological Project, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology



Pactolus River

The fly away Kite

An old woman made a kite. It was a marvelous kite. Most probably the best kite she has ever made! It gleamed red as a rose and yellow as butter. All the children wanted the kite. The kite was very proud. Maybe... a little too much.

One day a bad idea struck the naughty kite. 'Life is so boring! There must be an adventure.' So, the little naughty kite flew away!

The old woman was very sad to see it flying away. Her grandson was the saddest.

Now... back to the kite. The naughty kite was flying over fields, trees, mountains, houses and even clouds. He flew for hours and hours. But he missed something. As soon as he was about to give up on his journey, he got stuck in a thorny tree.

He shouted for help with all his might, but no one seemed to hear him. Days and nights passed by. Still, no one seemed to notice him. He burst into tears. All the kites he saw, had small children flying them. He could not bear the pain. He was lonely, tired, sad and even hungry. Months and years passed by. Now he was weak. He had no friends or family. One night he got wet in the heavy rain. Now there is a bright silver lining even in the darkest cloud. Because of the wind he was able to escape.

What a tragedy! Then he fell in to a muddy puddle.

By the morning it stopped raining. The sun was shining cheerfully again. An eagle dived at the kite and snatched him from the muddy puddle. He kept the poor kite in its nest for its children to play with. The poor kite wriggled for all it is worth. The kite was too scared to fly on its own again. It was strangely silent but the trees were annoyingly whispering to each other. He was scared. He kept asking himself a million times 'Why did I do this?'

The sky became gloomy and dark, it was night and still nothing showed up. He waited and waited but NOTHING twitched. 'This is certainly NOT a nice adventure. Not good at ALL' he sobbed sadly. Suddenly it struck to him that he might end up in a trash-bin as he was really dirty. He wondered about all the happy kites soaring through the air like the kings and queens of the sky.

What a miracle! A little boy found the kite and brought it down. Guess who it was! It was the old woman's grandson, the owner of the kite! The boy shouted in delight. He ran back to his cottage with



the kite, washed it and showed it to his grandmother. His grandmother cried in tears of joy.

"My Kite! My Kite! My hard work has come back! Oh, little one this kite is yours now."

Her grandson quickly took the kite to the park and flew it. The kite was beaming in happiness.

Merry little kite! Merry little grandson! Merry little Grandmother!

They had lots of adventures and mysteries to solve together and that is another story!

Mumudi Gajadeera
(Year 4)

Horizon College, Malabe

From a Young Reporter

Recycling food

Today, there is a lot of food wastage going on in the world. The global food supply per person is around 580kg. Of this, at least 50kg goes to waste.

But, while you may not be able to stop wasting food entirely, you can recycle it. However, you can only recycle organic products such as fruit or vegetables and not meat. You can easily make a compost box at home, using an ordinary wooden box with some soil inside. Then you can dump all your food wastage in it. The nutrients from the food, makes the soil rich and fertile, and thus ideal for planting trees and other vegetation.

You can also change food into electricity! At some recycling power plants, waste-eating bacteria are left to feed on the waste. Whilst doing this, Methane gas is released due to contact between the bacteria and waste.

This gas is then trapped and later collected and used to make electricity. This new technology can reverse the use of other materials used to produce electricity, such as coal. It is estimated that 100kg of waste can produce electricity for about 18 homes!



If everyone did this, there would be nearly no food wastage at all, and crops would be grown with organic fertilizer.

Aaminah Ahamed
(11 years)

**Ilma International Girls' School,
Colombo 5**

Scientists grow plants in moon soil for the first time

May 17, 2022

Scientists have grown plants in soil collected from the moon - for the first time EVER!

Researchers planted a type of cress in samples of lunar dust gathered during Nasa's Apollo landings.

They were surprised to find that the seeds started sprouting after just two days!

Scientists think that this could be an important step towards making long-term stays on the moon possible in the future.

Researchers used small samples of dust collected during the 1969-1972 Apollo missions to grow a type of cress called thale cress.

The plant belongs to the same family as cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts.

A liquid nutrient was then added daily to the seeds to feed the plants.

Scientists couldn't believe the results when the cress started growing.

"Every plant - whether in a lunar sample or in a control - looked the same up until about day six," said a scientist of the project.

While scientists found that plants do grow in moon soil, they don't grow as well as plants grown in soil from Earth.

After nearly a week, the cress in the moon soil started growing more slowly



and the roots stopped developing properly.

But the scientists say the fact they grew at all is good news and could make the possibility of astronauts growing food on the moon in the future a reality!

CBBC Newsround

Ukraine Wins Eurovision Song Contest

May 17, 2022



On Saturday, Ukraine's Kalush Orchestra won the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest with its song "Stefania". The group, which mixes hip-hop with Ukrainian folk music, was a popular favorite following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Eurovision Song Contest, often called simply "Eurovision", is one of the most popular song-writing contests in the world. It's famous for unusual music and performances. Except for 2020, Eurovision has been held every year since 1956.

This year, 40 countries took part in Eurovision, including some countries outside Europe, like Israel and Australia. Each country is allowed to enter one song. The song is performed live by a singer or a group from the country. The performances are carried on TV, radio, and the internet.

This year, the Russian invasion of Ukraine made Eurovision even more political than usual. Because of its invasion, Russia wasn't allowed to take part this year. The show was held in Turin, Italy, and opened with 1,000 musicians performing the song Give Peace A Chance".

NewsForKids

Ukrainian bomb-sniffing dog gets a medal

May 16, 2022

The ongoing Russia Ukraine conflict has produced an unlikely hero — a Jack Russell Terrier named Patron. The two-year-old pooch is credited with detecting over 200 Russian explosives since the war began in February. On May 8, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy honoured Patron and his owner, Mykhailo Iliev, with a presidential medal for their service to the country.

"I want to award those Ukrainian heroes who are already clearing our land of mines. And together with our heroes — a wonderful little sapper [combat engineer], Patron who helps not only to neutralize explosives but also to teach our children the necessary safety rules in areas where there is a mine threat," Zelenskyy said during Sunday's ceremony (SES of Ukraine)



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy honoured Patron and his owner Mykhailo Iliev for their service to the country.



DOGO News

May 17

News in Pictures



London, England

Queen Elizabeth II, with Prince Edward, uses a card machine at Paddington station during a visit to mark the completion of the Crossrail project.



Cannes, France

A young guest poses in front of photographers on the red carpet before the screening of 'Final Cut' ahead of the opening ceremony of the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.



Mumbai, India

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders' workers celebrate the launch of Udaygiri, an advanced stealth frigate warship.

Buffalo, New York

Mourners light candles at a makeshift memorial outside Tops Friendly Markets. A gunman opened fire at the store on Monday, killing 10 people and wounding another three. The attack was believed to be racially motivated.



New foundland and Labrador, Canada

Busts of Britain's Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth II constructed with wool in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, during a three-day Canadian tour by Prince Charles and Camilla Duchess of Cornwall.



Antalya, Turkey

A full moon rises at the evening hours in above the city of Antalya. Dramatic total lunar eclipse coincided with a super moon, when the moon is at its closest point to Earth and reflects a red and orange light.



Dungeness, England

An RNLI lifeboat brings ashore, 45 people picked up in the Channel in bad weather.

Sapporo, Japan

An Ezo red fox or kitakitsune and her cub out on the city streets.



Pathum Thani, Thailand

The Wat Phra Dhammakaya temple is decorated with 210,000 LED lights in a ceremony to mark the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha. People from around the world joined the virtual ceremony via Zoom.



May 16

Source : The Guardian