

FUN DAY TIMES



Greater Flamingos at the zoo

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

WINNERS!

BOOK COMPETITION

PAGE 2



TEA

PAGE 3



REPORT

PAGE 4



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 15, 2022

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



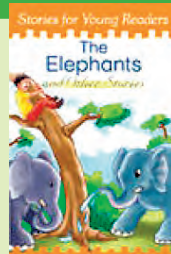
Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My parents

Win: The Elephants and Other Stories for Young Readers

Fascinating folktales with fine illustrations make this series a perfect beginning for a child's library. A collection of delightful stories that children will love!

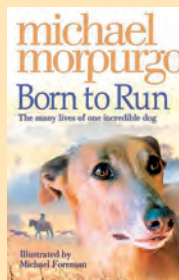


Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: The importance of biodiversity

Win: Born to Run by Michael Morpurgo



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: How I spend a rainy day

Win: Five go to Smuggler's Top by Enid Blyton

Visiting the old house at Smuggler's Top is thrilling – there are hidden passages and underground tunnels to explore.

Then not one, but two people disappear from the house and the children notice a mysterious signal out to sea. What secret is Smuggler's Top about to reveal?



For Best Mate, being rescued is only the start of his adventures. From unwanted burden to favourite companion, and from pet to champion race dog, this remarkable greyhound proves that it's not just cats who have more than one life.

Cast aside, kidnapped or living rough on the streets, Best Mate can always find a way to survive. But will he ever find a real home?

Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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.

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.

Rugrats



Book Competition

May 1

9 years and below

My favourite leisure time activity
Samadhi Herath
Matale Int. School

10 – 12 years

My best friends at school
Lily Herath
Matale Int. School



April 17

9 years and below

My favourite book
Savain Perera
Gateway College,
Negombo

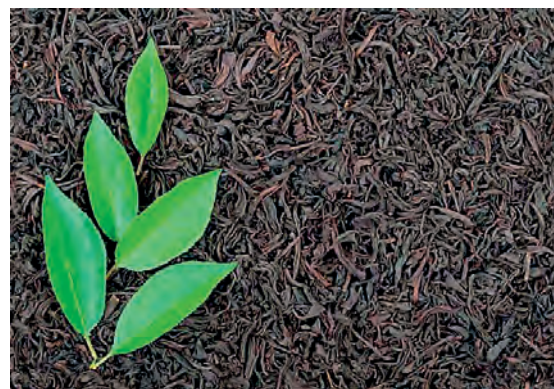
10 – 12 years

The importance of learning English
Ifthikar Rahma
Springfield College, Kandy

13 – 15 years

The Festival of Easter
Vilara Wijenayake
Royal Int. School,
Kurunegala

TEA



Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Tea is the most consumed drink in the world, second only to water. Made from the leaves of the *Camellia sinensis* plant, its consumption dates as back as far as 2,700 BCE, first as a medicinal drink and then as a daily drink by the 3rd century. It has also become a vital part of many cultures around the world.



In addition to the health benefits from consumption, the production and processing of tea provides millions of poor families with their livelihood. The industry is also the main source of export revenue for some of the poorest countries in the world.

The beginning of Tea

According to Chinese legend, while the Emperor Shennong, was resting under a *Camellia* bush, a leaf fell into his cup of boiled water. As he had an extensive knowledge of herbs, he was certain

the plant was not dangerous, so he took a sip of it and found it to be very refreshing.

As far back as 1824 the British brought a tea plant from China to Ceylon. It was planted in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya and is considered to have been the first non-commercial tea plant in Sri Lanka.

In 1867, Scotsman, James Taylor, planted 19 acres of tea in the Looecondra Estate in Kandy, starting the first commercial tea plantation which marked the birth of the tea industry in Ceylon.



Robert Fortune

The Tea Heist

In 1848, Robert Fortune, a Scottish botanist, travelled to China on a mission from the British East India Company to steal the secrets of the production process of tea, along with some high-quality plants. Under the guise of an official who had journeyed from afar to see the method of making the famous tea, he succeeded. This paved the way for tea production to flourish outside China.

Classification of Tea

Tea is classified by its place of origin – either a region (such as Ceylon, China or Japanese tea) or a district/province (such as Uva from Sri Lanka or Darjeeling from India).

Tea is also classified by the size of its final product: Large, leafy grades are flowery pekoe (FP), orange pekoe (OP), pekoe (P), pekoe souchong (PS) and souchong (S).

Smaller, broken grades are broken orange pekoe (BOP), broken pekoe (BP), BOP fanning, fannings and dust.

Tea, Thé and Chai

The words for tea in most languages around the world are similar to each other – *ti* (Samoan), *tea* (Maori), *té* (Spanish), *thé* (French), *teh* (Indonesian), *chá* (Chinese), *chá* (Portuguese), *chai* (Hindi), *chai* (Swahili), *çay* (pronounced chai - Turkish), *shay* (pronounced shai - Arabic) and *shah* (Somali).

There are a few exceptions, however, such as *herbata* (Polish) and *arbata* (Lithuanian).



Japanese Tea Ceremony
(called *chadō*,
chanoyu or *sado*)

Tea and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The production and processing of tea contributes to 4 of the 17 SDGs: no poverty, zero hunger, gender equality (by empowering women) and life on land (by sustainably using terrestrial ecosystems).



Tea and Climate Change

Tea can be produced only under very specific conditions and is easily affected by any changes in them. Therefore, only a few countries are able to produce tea.

Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns in these countries (with increasing floods and droughts), as a result of climate change, are already reducing yields or the quality of them, thus lowering incomes and endangering livelihoods.

Tea production and processing itself also adds to the carbon emissions, which need to be reduced, while also adapting to the changes in climate.

International Tea Day

In 2019, the UN General Assembly announced May 21 as International Tea Day, to raise awareness about the importance of and challenges facing tea production, as well as to help expand demand, especially in tea-producing countries (that have relatively low consumption per capita) and to address the declining per capita consumption in traditional importing countries.

From a Young Reporter

Biodiversity Day 2022

“Building a shared future for all life”

The International Day for Biological Diversity also known as World Biodiversity Day is celebrated currently on May 22 for the promotion and awareness of Biodiversity issues to the world.

Importance of Biodiversity Day

Currently there are 8 million species living on Earth. Humans and animals depend on the eco-systems even though human activities have a huge impact on the eco-system. The wellbeing and proper functioning of the eco-systems help the lives of the species on our planet. The decline in biodiversity can impact our lives.

Humans negative impact on biodiversity has reached an unparalleled scale. About 75% of earth's habitat and 66% of the aquatic habitat have been significantly affected by human acts. Approximately 1 million animals and plant species are now threatened with extinction.

This year, the International Day of Biodiversity is celebrated under the slogan of “Building a shared future for all life”.

From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water, security, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back.

About half of the world's GDP about 44 trillion USD is dependent on natural resources, while nature provides at least \$125 trillion worth of services annually.



How can we preserve, safeguard Biodiversity?

- We can plant local flowers, fruits and vegetables.
- Take shorter showers.
- Respect local habitats.
- Stop deforestation.

We should contribute to our environment because when the biodiversity has a problem, humanity has a problem too.

Dilunika Edirachcharige (13 years)
Alethea Int. School



Fun Fact

The first International Day for Biodiversity was celebrated 28 years after the mission Apollo 17 had travelled the Earth's orbit.



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday 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 Coupon

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

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

MIT's desalination device turns seawater into drinking water with a push of a button

May 24, 2022

Water scarcity is one of the world's biggest challenges.

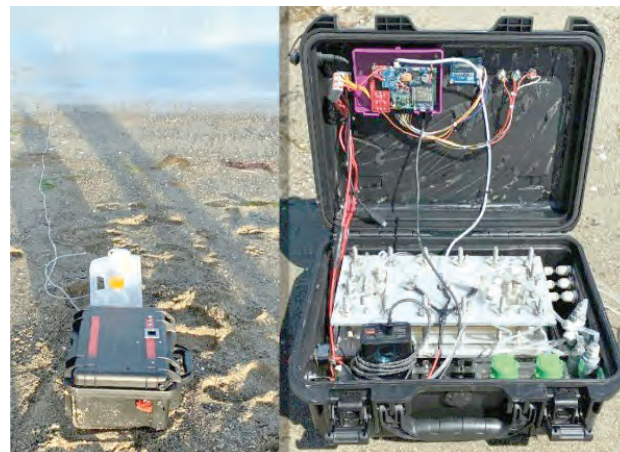
The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one in three people globally do not have easy access to clean water. Desalinating ocean water could help. But the currently-available devices are too energy-intensive and expensive to deploy on a large scale. Now, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers have developed a portable desalination machine that is both affordable and sustainable.

Unlike conventional portable desalination units that need replaceable filters, the MIT machine uses electricity to remove the salt and other particles from the ocean water.

More importantly, the suitcase-sized device needs less power to operate than a cell phone charger. It can also be powered by a small, portable solar panel that costs less than \$50. The lack of filters and the low electricity requirements makes the machine extremely cheap to operate.

The researchers assert that their invention can deliver drinking water exceeding WHO quality standards with a push of a button. A smartphone app allows the user to control the unit wirelessly and receive real-time data on power consumption and water salinity. It also sends out a notification when the water is drinkable.

The MIT team is now exploring ways to bring their portable machine



A working prototype of the MIT desalination device

to market. They believe it will benefit residents of small islands or those fleeing natural disasters. It could also be very useful for sailors on cargo ships and soldiers on long-term military operations.

DOGO News

Elizabeth Line

May 24, 2022

London's newest line opens on Tuesday May 24. The Elizabeth Line is 73-miles (118km) long.

It runs from Essex in the east to Berkshire in the west, cutting underground through central London.



Throughout most of its construction it was known as Crossrail but was renamed Elizabeth Line in 2016 after Queen Elizabeth II. The line was nearly named the Churchill Line, after the wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill, but Prime Minister Boris Johnson preferred it to be named after the Queen.

Queen Elizabeth unveiled a plaque to officially open the line named after her on May 17, just weeks before her Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



CBBC Newsround

Rare Asiatic cheetah cubs born in captivity in Iran

May 19, 2022



The birth of three rare Asiatic cheetah cubs in Iran is being hailed as a victory by conservationists worldwide. The May 1, 2022, announcement by Ali Salajegheh, head of Iran's Department of Environment (DOE), marks the first time the critically endangered cheetah subspecies has reproduced in captivity.

The adorable male cubs were born at the Touran Wildlife Refuge in the Semnan province, east of Tehran. The newborns and their mother were instantly whisked away to the intensive care unit for monitoring. One cub died on May 4, but the other two have been steadily gaining weight since birth and appear healthy thus far.

The mother cheetah, named Iran, was rescued from wildlife smugglers in December 2017 when she was eight months old. She was introduced to the cubs' father — Firouz, a male Asiatic cheetah captured from a local national park — in 2021.

DOGO News

May 24

News in Pictures

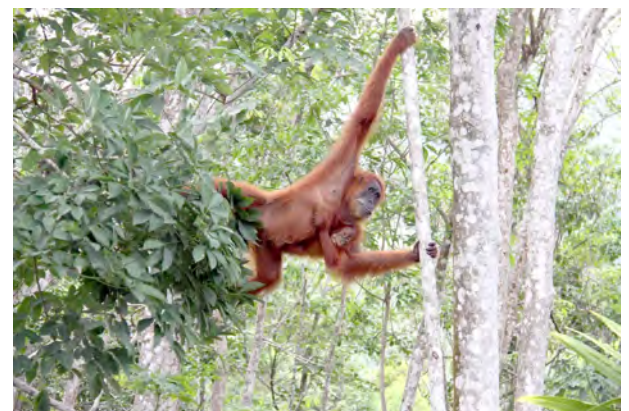


Nusa Dua, Indonesia
Students take part in an earthquake and tsunami evacuation drill during an event marking the United Nations global platform for disaster risk reduction, in Bali.



Versailles, France
Guests wearing baroque-style costumes walk in the Hall of Mirrors at the Château de Versailles palace during the Fetes Galantes fancy dress evening. The theme was the royal wedding of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI. The annual ball aims to recreate the baroque splendour of the dazzling court feasts held to show off the wealth and power of France's longest-reigning monarch. For tickets costing more than €500, guests can wander through the private apartments of the chateau.

Irlanduba, Brazil
Edileuza Pereira da Silva carries a plate of fish for cooking outside her home, flooded by the rise of the Negro river in Amazonas state. The Amazon region is being hit hard by flooding, with 35 municipalities facing their worst floods in years, and the water level is expected to rise over the coming months.



Sumatra, Indonesia
A mother Sumatran orangutan with her baby, at the Mount Leuser National Park. The Sumatran orangutans, one of the rarest mammals and protected by Indonesian wildlife laws since 1931, encounter various human-induced environmental problems, including deforestation, threatening their existence.



London, England
The Queen sits in a buggy during a visit by members of the royal family to the Chelsea Flower Show.

May 23

Digha, India
A crowd gather on a beach in Udaipur before a cloudburst. The national meteorological department predicts the monsoon rain is likely to arrive a week early because of the effects of cyclones Asani and Karim.



Arizona, USA
People wait in line to be processed by Border Patrol staff after crossing through a gap in the barrier with Mexico.



Real, Philippines
People throw buckets of water on to a smouldering ferry, At least seven people were killed and dozens plucked to safety.

London, UK
Emma Soulsby puts the finishing touches to a floral installation called The Guardsman outside a shop on Piccadilly Road, for the Belgravia in Bloom festival.

Source : The Guardian