

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2022



# FUN DAY TIMES



**Learning to grow plants**

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

**WINNERS!** 

**POETRY**  
**PAGE 2**



**READING**  
**PAGE 3**



**EVENT**  
**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:**

**September 28, 2022**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

**Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)**



**Age groups:**  
**6 – 10 years**  
**11 – 15 years**  
**Word limit: 100 Words**

## Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

### 6 – 10 years

#### Unknown land

Where the grass is green,  
There are no brass rings,  
There lives an adorable bunny,  
And a place where bees make honey,  
A place where humans don't use money,  
A place nobody lives,  
Not a human or a beast.

**Yonal Batuwita**  
**St. Joseph's College, Colombo**



### 11 – 15 years

#### My home town

Calm and quiet the town I live,  
Trees and rivers all green,  
Hot weather throughout the year,  
Little rain in between,  
Fresh fish and green vegetables  
bring the seller,  
Clean air to breathe all free,  
Natural beauty beats no other,  
With mountains and lakes  
fill the scenery,  
Early morning the rooster crows,  
To start the day fresh and fit.

**Mohamed Haathim**  
**Mukaramamah Int. School**

**Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.**



### NOTE

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

**Win super books from**



**Age: 9 years and below**

**Word Count: 150**

**Topic: My favourite storybook character**

**Win: Good Old Secret Seven by Enid Blyton**

Strange things are happening at Torling Castle. There is someone hiding in the ruined tower, making the resident birds very unsettled. Who is in the castle and what are they doing there?



**Age: 10 – 12 years**

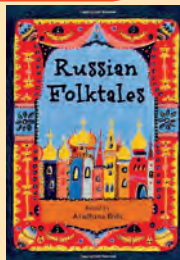
**Word Count: 150 – 200**

**Topic: My favourite author**

**Win: Russian Folktales retold by Aradhana Bisht**

Riddles have to be solved, perilous worlds ventured into, heroic feats performed, disasters averted before the prince, princesses or even ordinary folk can live happily ever after...

Sometimes dark, often funny, heart-warming and full of adventure, this book brings you some of Russia's best loved folktales.



**Age: 13 – 15 years**

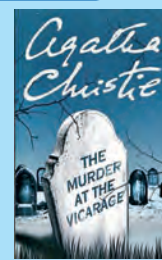
**Word Count: 200 – 250**

**Topic: The pleasures of reading**

**Win: The Murder at the Vicarage by Agatha Christie**

A careless remark for a man of the cloth, comes back to haunt him, when Colonel Protheroe is found shot dead in the Vicar's study.

This first Miss. Marple mystery, tests all her powers of observation and deduction, as she soon discovers the whole village seems to have had a motive to kill the Colonel.



## Book Competition

**9 years and below**

*Eating healthy*  
**Pethmi Thennakoon**  
Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

**10 – 12 years**

*Gardening as a hobby*  
**Tamara Chand**  
Logos College

**13 – 15 years**

*The scene at a bus stop*  
**Dananga Karunarathne**  
Lakdasa De Mel College, Kurunegala



# The Magic of Reading

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Reading can transport us across time and space, and books have been our magic carpets for centuries. So, here are a few people whose work has swept millions away to different places and times.

**William Shakespeare** (1564 – 1616) English playwright and poet widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. His plays include ‘Macbeth’, ‘Hamlet’ and ‘The Merchant of Venice’.

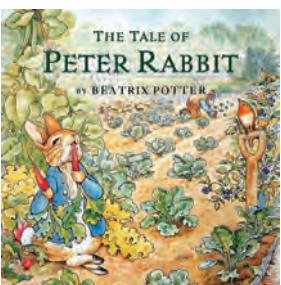
**The Brothers Grimm** (Jacob: 1785 – 1863, Wilhelm: 1786 – 1859) The German academics who published folktales which they collected during their travels. These include ‘Hansel and Gretel’, ‘Rapunzel’, ‘Cinderella’ and ‘The Frog Prince’.

**Jules Verne** (1828 – 1905) French novelist who laid the foundation for the science fiction genre. His novels include ‘Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea’, ‘Journey to the Centre of the Earth’ and ‘Around the World in Eighty Days’.



**Robert Louis Stevenson** (1850 – 1894) The Scottish novelist best known for ‘Treasure Island’, ‘Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde’ and ‘Kidnapped’.

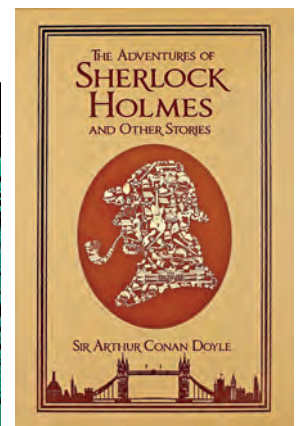
**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** (1859 – 1930) British writer and physician, known for creating the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes.



**Beatrix Potter** (1866 – 1943) English writer, illustrator, natural scientist and conservationist, best known for her children’s books featuring characters inspired by the animals around her. Her best-loved story is ‘The Tale of Peter Rabbit’.

**Enid Blyton** (1897 – 1968) English children’s, writer, best known for the ‘Famous Five’, ‘Secret Seven’ and ‘Five Find-Outers’ books.

**E. B. White** (1899 – 1985) American author of many popular children’s books, including ‘Charlotte’s Web’, ‘Stuart Little’ and ‘The Trumpet of the Swan’.



**Antoine de Saint-Exupéry** (1900 – 1944) French writer and aviator best known for the fable and modern classic, ‘The Little Prince’.

**Hergé** (1907 – 1983) Belgian cartoonist best known for creating ‘The Adventures of Tintin’, a series of 24 comic albums.

*“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”*  
~ Frederick Douglass  
American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer and statesman.



**International Literacy Day** has been observed annually on September 8, since 1967, after it’s declaration by the UNESCO.

The aim of it is to remind people of “the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights”.

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

The global literacy rate of people over the age of 15 was 87% in 2020, so there are around 773 million people who cannot read or write.

Once a person has grasped the basics of reading, good books can help them the rest of the way. The best example is Abraham Lincoln: born into poverty, he was self-taught and later became a lawyer, legislator, U.S. Congressman and finally the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

## The First School for the Visually Impaired



Valentin Haüy

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Valentin Haüy (1745 – 1822) witnessed a group of blind people being mocked and decided to open a school for the blind, to improve their lives.

In 1785, he established the National Institute for Blind Youth in Paris, the first school for the blind in the world. He discovered that blind people could decipher embossed letters and successfully taught blind children to read, opening up whole new worlds to them.

In 1819, Louis Braille (1809 – 1852) attended this very school (where he later taught as well) and went on to create the universally accepted writing system for the visually impaired, called ‘Braille’, in 1824 (aged 15) while still a student.



Top: Louis Braille;  
Bottom: Braille writing system

## Growing plants

Kids of Little Angels AMI Montessori participated in a programme on how to grow plants conducted by the Department of Agriculture. The Kotte Grama Niladhari was also present. The kids enjoyed a hands-on demonstration and were each given a plant to take home.



### Preparing the pots



Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

## Happy Birthday



**Samijan Sanjeev**  
10 years on September 11



**Nuha Aamina Nihad**  
5 years on September 8



**Aadila Ahmed**  
9 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.

# Dr. Samuel Johnson

**Samuel Johnson (born September 18, 1709; died December 13, 1784) was a famous writer. After publishing a famous dictionary, he was given a doctorate, which is why he is often called "Dr Johnson". He wrote some of his own stories, but more often he wrote criticisms about what other people had written. He said a lot of witty, amusing things, which are still remembered today. We know about some of the funny things he said because his friend James Boswell wrote a book about him.**

## Life

Samuel Johnson was born in Lichfield, Staffordshire. His father had a bookshop, but he was very poor. Samuel went to school in Lichfield. When he was nineteen he went to the University of Oxford, but he was so poor that he had to leave without taking a degree. A few years later he married a woman 21 years older than he was. They went to live in London, where he tried to make a living by writing but for many years he was very poor.

It was not until 1762 that he became famous and the government gave him a pension of three hundred pounds a year. He started a club (called "The Club") which included a lot of famous people like the painter Joshua Reynolds and the writer Oliver Goldsmith. Johnson was now so famous that he was given an honorary doctorate (the title of "Doctor") from Trinity College, Dublin in 1765, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford in 1775.

James Boswell and Johnson spent some time in Edinburgh and they travelled a lot to the Scottish islands. Johnson died in 1784 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

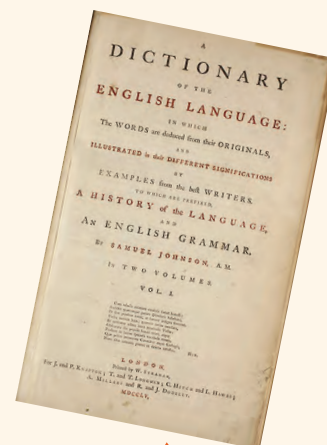
He said, sarcastically, that a patron was someone who stands on the river bank watching a man drowning and then, when the drowning man is saved, asks him whether he can help.

The letter made Lord Chesterfield look very silly.

## Johnson's 'Dictionary of the English Language'

There were very few dictionaries in Johnson's day, so it was a lot of work for him. Nowadays, a dictionary is made by a team of people. Dictionaries, like encyclopedias, should just give facts. But Johnson sometimes explained words in his dictionary in a way that showed his opinions.

Although it shows his personal likes and dislikes, the dictionary still became to be famous. Johnson defined 43,000 words. It was the first time a dictionary had been published that gave examples of how the words had been used by well-known writers.



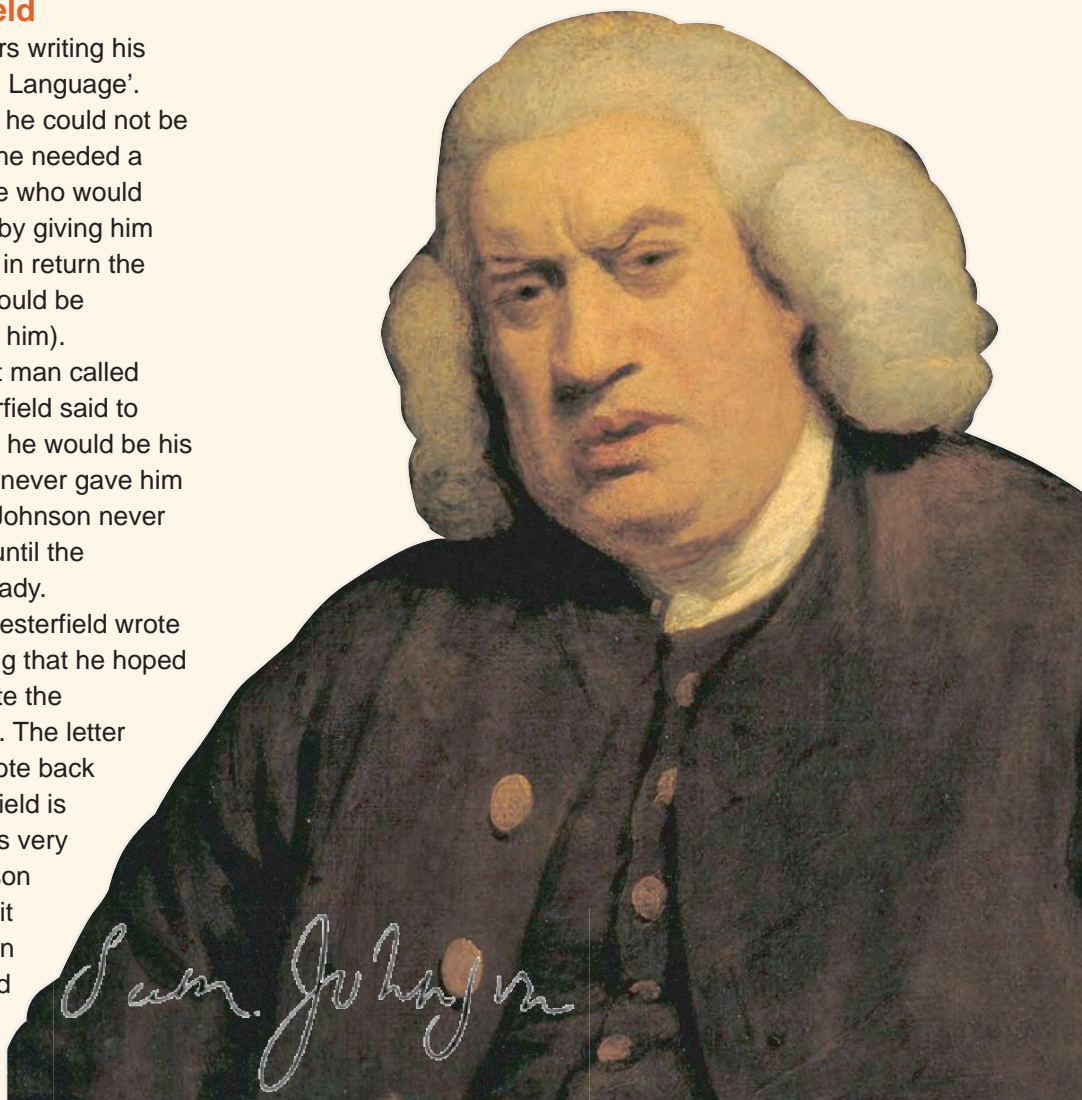
**Dictionary of the English Language**

## Letter to Lord Chesterfield

Johnson spent several years writing his 'Dictionary of the English Language'.

While he was writing it he could not be earning money, so he needed a patron (someone who would sponsor him by giving him money, and in return the dictionary would be dedicated to him). An important man called Lord Chesterfield said to Johnson that he would be his patron. But he never gave him any money, and Johnson never heard from him, until the dictionary was ready.

Then Lord Chesterfield wrote to Johnson saying that he hoped he would dedicate the dictionary to him. The letter that Johnson wrote back to Lord Chesterfield is very famous. It is very sarcastic. Johnson said to him that it would have been nice to have had help when he was needing it.



Source: Kiddle

## The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

September 6, 2022

On September 11, 2022, Americans will mark the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the deadliest terrorist attacks in US history. The unprovoked act of violence was planned and executed by members of the Islamic extremist organization al Qaeda. The tragedy resulted in the deaths of 2,977 innocent people and altered life as we knew it forever.

### What happened on September 11?

On September 11, 2001, nineteen terrorists split into four groups, each with a trained pilot, and took control of four commercial flights. They included United Flight 93 from New Jersey, American Flight 77 from Washington DC, United Flight 175 and American Flight 11 from Boston. The aircraft were headed cross-country to Los Angeles or San Francisco. This ensured they had enough fuel to cause the maximum possible damage.

Passengers aboard the airplanes knew they had been hijacked shortly after takeoff. However, the rest of the world remained unaware of the situation until 8:46 AM (EST). That's when American Flight 11 was seen heading towards New York City's tallest buildings — the World Trade Center's (WTC) Twin Towers. Before anyone could react, the aircraft struck the North Tower, creating a massive impact hole from the 93<sup>rd</sup> to the 99<sup>th</sup> floor.

Experts initially thought the crash was caused by pilot error or airplane malfunction. However, that notion changed when United Flight 175 crashed into WTC's South Tower at

9:03 AM (EST). About half an hour later, at 9:37 AM (EST), American Flight 77 hit the Pentagon in Virginia. Shortly after that, United Flight 93 crash-landed in an empty field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

It was evident that the US had suffered a series of well-orchestrated terrorist attacks.

### Aftermath of the attacks

The intense fires, caused by the crashing of the well-fueled airplanes, weakened the steel support trusses that attached the WTC twin towers' 110 floors to the building's exterior. This, together with the aircraft's initial impact hole, caused both towers to crumble into a giant heap of cement and steel in less than two hours. While the estimated 18,000 people in the WTC complex had been safely evacuated by then, many first responders were not as lucky.

While the Pentagon building survived the crash, the aircraft's initial impact killed 184 people. The death toll would have been even higher if the brave passengers and crew aboard United Flight 93 — destined for the US Capitol building in Washington, DC — had not forced the aircraft to crash in Pennsylvania.

### What has happened since?

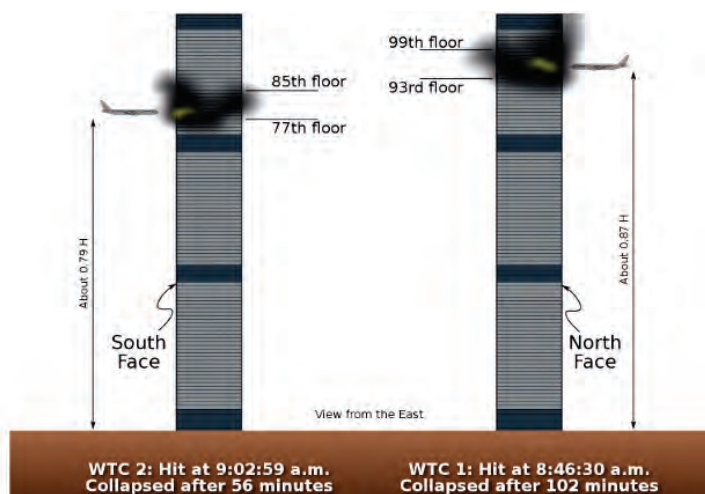
"Ground Zero," as it is now called, boasts four new towers. The flagship is the gleaming One World Trade Center, or "Freedom Tower."



Standing at a symbolic 1,776 feet (541 metres) high, it is the tallest building in New York City and the entire Western Hemisphere. Adjacent to the Freedom Tower lies an elegant memorial featuring twin reflecting pools with names of all the 9/11 victims etched into the bronze-paneled edges. The National September 11 museum built alongside, features several artifacts from the tragic day. The Pentagon has built 184 illuminated stainless steel benches to honour the 125 government employees and 59 crew members and passengers of American Flight 77 who died.

In Somerset County, visitors can view exhibits commemorating the 9/11 tragedy at the Flight 93 National Memorial. They can also hear recordings of messages left to loved ones by the passengers and crew before it crashed.

September 11, 2001, was one of the darkest days in US history and will never be forgotten. However, it has also made Americans more resilient and determined to live without fear. This September 11 — or Patriot Day in the US — take a few minutes to honour the thousands of innocent lives lost on that fateful day.



The World Trade Center Twin Towers collapsed after the airplanes struck them.



The Twin Tower memorial in New York City

Source : DOGO News

**September 6**

# News in Pictures



**Aberdeen, Scotland**

Queen Elizabeth II greets the newly elected leader of the Conservative party, Liz Truss, at Balmoral Castle where she will be invited to become prime minister and form a new government. The Queen broke with the tradition of meeting the new prime minister at Buckingham Palace due to mobility issues.



**Busan, South Korea**  
A wave caused by Typhoon Hinnamnor hits the waterfront.

**London, England**  
Boris Johnson delivers a farewell address before his official resignation at Downing Street.



**London, England**

Barristers stand together during a strike outside the Supreme Court.



**Moxi, China**

Rescuers transfer survivors across a river following an earthquake in Luding county, Sichuan. Dozens of people were reported killed and missing in an earthquake that triggered landslides.

**September 5**



**Kolkata, India**

Children with special needs greet nuns of the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa, after a prayer meeting to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death.



**Kuwait City, Kuwait**

A B-52H Stratofortress assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, flies over Kuwait City. The force flew the mission amid tensions with Iran in the wider region as negotiations over Tehran's nuclear deal hang in the balance.

**Mogadishu, Somalia**

A mother and father sit with their baby, who is being treated for severe acute malnutrition at the Banadir maternity and children's hospital. Extreme drought has destroyed crops and pushed up food prices, leaving 7 million people at risk of famine.



**Gries, Switzerland**

Members of the Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS) organisation check measuring equipment on the Gries glacier.

Source : The Guardian