

My birdie

One day I was going to sing carols in school. So we got dressed and went down to the car.

Just then under the gate we saw a little bird lying down and it was half dead. Its leg was hurt and ants were all over him. We thought of coming back home and see what we can do.

So we came back home from school. We cleaned him and put him in a tall box and we gave him food. Little by little he got bet-

ter but he still could not fly. So still we are keeping him with us. Yesterday we took him to the balcony and gave him a bath. We are going to keep him till he gets better. I hope he gets better so he can find his family.

I love my birdie.

**Malithi De Silva
(8 years)**

St. Bridget's Convent



National flower of Sri Lanka

The 'Blue Water Lily' that blooms in water is our National flower. Sinhalese call it *Nil Manel* and its scientific term is 'Nympha Stellate.' It blooms in the spring season. It has long roots which are rooted in mud. Its stem is 10 inches long and most of it is submerged in water. Water lilies bloom in blue, purple, red and yellow. Leaves of the yellow flower are under water.

Water lilies all over the world bloom in the morning as well as in the night. Some flowers are one foot long. The largest water lily blooms in the Amazon forest and its name is 'Victoria Regia.' Its petals are six to seven feet long.

The inner surface of the flower is pink mixed with purple, and the outer surface is white in colour. Water Lily is the flower of July.

People who come to worship the Tooth Relic can see Water Lily sellers. This attractive flower has a pleasing scent. The scent of the Water Lily fills our senses with a Buddhist fervour. Its petals infused in water makes medicine. It cleans and soothes the eyes. This flower was declared our National Flower in 1986.

**Chamodi Perera
(11 years)
Sirimavo
Bandaranaike
Vidyalaya, Colombo**

What is history?

History is a study of what took place in the ancient past as well as the recent past from which we can understand how mankind and animals behaved and how it has contributed for the well-being of mankind today.

We can study the behaviour from what has been recorded by historians and Mahawamsa, the inscriptions and sculptures and rocks. The study of fossils – (marks on rocks and mud), ancient ruins have confirmed the advanced technical knowledge and behaviour of humans in the past eras.

This knowledge has assisted us to model our lives and improve the technical skills to meet today's challenge.

All what takes place today is recorded in CDs, micro-chips, which some day will assist the future people to study the behaviour pattern of people living today.

**Shamana Bangsajayah
(Grade 6)
Buddhist Ladies College**

Peace



**Shavinka Motha (9 years)
St. Bridget's Convent**

Independence Celebrations



**Hiruni Cooray
Bishop's College**

How I spent my holiday

During my Christmas holidays I went to Kandy to my cousin's house. In Kandy I had a lot of fun playing.



We planned to go to Nuwara Eliya and then to Bandarawela on Christmas day.

After packing we went. We had a picnic lunch near the Nuwara Eliya lake. We went on a boat ride and a horse ride. At about six o'clock we had a piece of cake and left for Bandarawela.

We took many photos of the wonderful scenery. We reached Bandarawela at 8.15 p.m. We had our dinner and went to bed at my cousins' grandma's house.

The next day we went to see the waterfall at Ella. After a heavy lunch we came back to Kandy. I was very happy but tired.

The next few days I stayed at Kandy. This is the way I spent my Christmas holidays.

**Shalini Sivanandan (9 years)
Wycherly International School**

School library

The library plays an important role in the fields of education. One can never imagine a school without a library. The library is a treasure house of knowledge.

A good number of books on different subjects are available in a school library. Beside books, periodicals and magazines are also available in a library. Both the teachers and

students need a good library in order to keep their knowledge fresh and up to date. A student derives benefits if he uses the library well. He can enrich his knowledge on various subjects and languages. One cannot get anything and everything from classrooms or from prescribed texts.

Human knowledge is so vast. A well-equipped library can

provide ample chance for acquiring knowledge.

A student can't buy all the books and periodicals he needs. A good library helps him in this regard. The importance of a good school library can't be neglected.

**Rusietha
Balachanthiran
(13 years)
Belvoir College
International**

Nature



Priscilla John (14 years)
C.P.M. Faith School

Underwater



Janitha Chathuni
Good Shepherd Montessori House of
Children, Kotahena

My house



Dilmin Ratnayake (6+ years)
Vidura College

A rainbow



A Poem for the Week

Create your own little poem and send it in to us. This competition is open to age groups from 4 – 14 years. The poems will be judged according to the age of the competitor.

Please remember that the poems you send should be your own original composition and not copied from anyone or anywhere. Entries should be in your own handwriting and clearly certified as your own creation by a teacher or parent.

Word limit: 100 words
Please write 'A POEM FOR THE WEEK' at the top of your entry. The winner will receive a book voucher for Rs. 500.

Running Bear

When Polar Bear stays out too late,
He wakes in a dreadful state.
The bedroom mirror never lies...
He needs to take some exercise.

So off he jogs at quite a pace,
Determination grips his face.
But soon he finds that with his weight,
It's easier to polar skate.

Using ice for their assistance,
Joggers cover twice the distance.
But look out Bear!
I think you 'oughta'
Stop! Before you reach the water.

Oh dear! I bet the sea is freezing.
Polar Bear has started sneezing,
No matter what that mirror said,
It's healthier to stay in bed!

**Rushdiha Ikram
(12 years)
Bishop's College**

Abhishek Dharmawardane
(7 years)
D.S. Senanayake College