



# FUN DAY TIMES



Art by  
Nulara Ekanayake (9 years)

Wish you all  
Peace and Joy  
this Christmas!



**FUN PAGE**  
**PAGE 2**



**STORY**  
**PAGE 3**





# Christmas

Photo  
booth

**Rare 'Christmas Star' will appear in the sky for 1<sup>st</sup> time in 800 years**

**BELIEVE  
IT OR NOT**



Four days before Christmas, the sky will offer a sight that hasn't been seen since the Middle Ages and may have inspired one of the Bible's most

famous stories. The two largest planets in the solar system, Jupiter and Saturn, will be so close to one another in the sky on December 21 that they will appear to be fused into a single point of light. The last time this is believed to have been witnessed was in the year 1226.

**HISTORY  
CORNER**

**'Influenza permitting': What happened when Christmas went ahead during the Spanish Flu pandemic.**

In 1918, the First World War came to an end, but the world was already battling another enemy that would claim more lives than the war itself. The so called 'Spanish Flu' is estimated to have infected a third of the world's population and killed anywhere between 50 and 100 million people. It was one of the most devastating pandemics in history and struck in three successive waves.



**December 24, 1918: Christmas decorations being put up at the Eagle Hut, a YMCA centre in London for American servicemen. Most events did go ahead over the Christmas period. People were determined to celebrate the first peacetime Christmas in four years.**



**October 1918. Female workers at Cadby Hall food factory making Christmas puddings for troops fighting in the First World War.**

a virus that has devastated the world. Once again, difficult decisions have to be made about seeing loved ones, attending public events, and shopping safely. Now we have something no one had in 1918: a vaccine that works. It has not been rolled out fully yet, but it is coming. This won't all be over by Christmas, but if we hold our nerve now, it will be over soon.

Even before the war had ended, it had become a running joke to end every promised engagement with the phrase "influenza permitting" – people never knew when the flu would strike and prevent them from keeping their promises.

One hundred years later we are facing another Christmas in the grip of

**Christmas lights around the world**



**For 20 years, members of the Burkman family have been perfecting the holiday display at their Frisco home, which this year is aglow with 70,000 lights.**



**The Grapevine Santa House, which belongs to Louie Murillo, is covered in hundreds of Christmas decorations. The homeowners decided to use their Christmas display to encourage people to donate to local nonprofit GRACE.**



**The extravagant gardens bring the Victorian notion of pleasure gardens to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with giant fairy-light baubles in the stables and lawns of gently glowing tiny orbs.**



**Soak in the yuletide scenes at the Flower Dome in Singapore where the highlight is a replica of Gouda City Hall, an iconic landmark in the Netherlands visited by locals and tourists for the annual Christmas light-up.**





# Christmas Cookies

**A**chchi promised Natalie and Noel, that she would do something fun with them this year, for Christmas and that was to bake Christmas cookies at home with them. So that morning with Christmas carols playing in the background, both Natalie and Noel helped their grandmother to make the cookie batter.

Once the batter was made, *Achchi* rolled it out evenly on a big board and they started to cut small circles using bottle lids. "Look like we have made too much of batter," smiled *Achchi*. "Even half of this would have been more than enough for us!" "Don't worry *Achchi*. Even if there are a thousand cookies, they won't last for too long!" laughed Natalie, winking at her younger brother.

Soon the whole house was filled with the sweet smell of the baking cookies. Because there were a lot of cookies to be baked, they had to put them in the oven in several batches. A little while after the first tray was taken out, Noel took a bite from a cookie, almost burning his mouth. It was very fresh and crunchy and tasted absolutely delicious. Noel was thrilled.

Just then the phone rang and their mother rushed into the kitchen, full of smiles. "Here's some good news," she said beaming, "we have won the Christmas raffle by the youth club this year!" "Yay!" cheered the kids jumping up and clapping wildly. "What is the gift, *Amma*?" "They said it was a hamper of goodies. *Thaththa* will bring it when he comes home in the evening!"

When the children's father came home that evening, he carried with him a big gift box. It was beautifully wrapped in red and green paper and ribbons. The children grabbed the box from him and kept it on the table. Then they hurriedly removed the shiny wrapping and opened the box. Sealed in a transparent package was a whole lot of Christmas cookies.

"Cookies?" Noel and Natalie laughed. The cookies looked different than their home baked ones. They were in different shapes of bells, Christmas trees and stars. The hamper smelled of cinnamon and strawberry. "They are in different flavours!" exclaimed Natalie after

munching on a few. "And they taste yummy too!" said Noel.

The kids were excited the next day as well, because their *Punchi* was coming to spend Christmas with them. She came that afternoon and carried a big plastic container. "What is in that big box *Punchi*?" both the children wanted to know. "This is for you two!" she said handing it carefully. The children opened it in excitement. "Oh!" said Noel. "Cookies again!"

"Why did you say 'again'?" asked *Punchi*, feeling confused. Natalie laughed and explained how their house was flooded with cookies this Christmas.

That evening the kids sat with their *Punchi* and wondered what they could do with all these cookies. Clearly there was much more than they could all eat. "We could sell them!" said Noel jokingly. "How about sharing them?" suggested *Punchi*. "Yes, Christmas is all about sharing!" chimed in *Achchi*. "How about sharing them with someone who has never got to bake them or receive them as a gift?" "But everyone we know either makes them or buys them!" said Noel.

"Well, the Children's Home would really welcome some of it!" said the children's mother. "The kids there don't get nice goodies like this, unless someone donates or shares with them."

"That's a lovely idea," said *Punchi*, "they would love to receive some yummy cookies!" The kids agreed as well. There were too many cookies and they were more than willing to share some of it.

So, the next weekend Natalie and Noel took a small amount out of the hamper for themselves and filled it to the brim with some of their home-made cookies and *Punchi*'s cookies. They closed the lid tightly to preserve the freshness and tied the handle with shiny ribbons. Then they went with their father to hand it over to the Children's Home. The two kids handed the hamper to the warden



at the Children's Home. A few children who were playing nearby looked at it with sparkling eyes. They were very happy to hear that they would be having cookies for tea for a few days.

Although it was Christmas season, the Children's Home didn't look too different compared to other days. There was no Christmas tree or shiny decorations to be seen. Only a few handmade paper decorations were pasted here and there. The children stared at Natalie and Noel with their innocent eyes and beautiful appreciative smiles for the gift hamper they received. Natalie felt heavy in her heart.

"*Malli*, we should come here again with a nicely decorated Christmas tree and a box of decorations for them to hang around!" said Natalie.

"I was thinking of the same thing. I don't think we can have a party or any gathering this year for safety reasons. But maybe we can send them a special Christmas treat or maybe some small gifts," said Noel. "*Thaththa*, can we please do something like that?" asked Natalie eagerly looking at her father. "Of course!" agreed their father. "That is the way to celebrate Christmas. After all Christmas is all about sharing and caring!"





# Tomahawk

**Quiz**  
No.178

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 178 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of November 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2020. 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. 178' 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: December 31, 2020**



@TOMAHAWKBICYCLEOFFICIAL

245 B, GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 04  
BAMBALAPITIYA - 011 250 7307



@TOMAHAWKBICYCLES

## QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 178

1. Name the current leader of the National League for Democracy in Myanmar.
2. Name five endangered animals.
3. Puttalam is well-known for many reasons. Name three.
4. What nationality was the famous footballer Diego Maradona?
5. Who was elected to become the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America?



Or



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



Panther Educational activities are specially  
designed to assist a child's brain development

Awakens A Child's Mind



Email: [sales@panther.lk](mailto:sales@panther.lk)  
[www.panther.lk](http://www.panther.lk)

#249 Hospital Road, Kalubowila | 011 4377029  
#96 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 | 011 4377025



We regret we are unable  
to publish winners this  
Sunday since we are  
working from home.



Or



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

## 7 – 9 AGE GROUP

### Christmas Word Search



tinsel  
sack  
lights  
Rudolph  
glitter  
angel  
stocking

presents  
Santa  
tree  
sleigh  
Christmas  
twinkle  
star