



FUNDA DAY TIMES



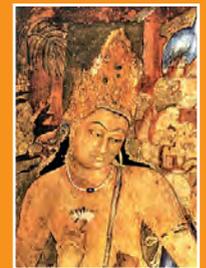
Wish you all a
peaceful Vesak!

Lanterns for Vesak

Pic. by Indika Handuwala



STORY
PAGE 4



LANDMARKS
PAGE 5



PAGES 6 - 7



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.

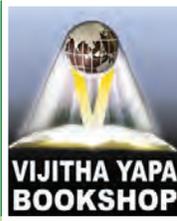
Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:
Full Name (including Surname),
Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone No. and School.

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 9, 2021

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



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.

[mail](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com) Or [email](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com) fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

.....

Date of birth :

.....

Address :

.....

.....

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

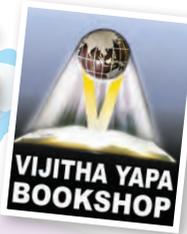
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Read-a-Book for April

9 years and below
Arianna Jayewickreme – *Town Mouse and Country Mouse (Ladybird)*

10 – 12 years
Vilara Wijenayake – *Bulging Brains (Horrible Science) by Nick Arnold*

13 – 15 years
Chamathka De Silva – *To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee*



Win super books from

Age: 9 years and below
Word Count: 150
Topic: The Vesak Festival
Win: Big-Eyes the Enchanter by Enid Blyton

Big-Eyes is planning a wicked spell made of moonshine, starlight, the roots of mountains and much more, but when he misses his chance and messes up the magic, he gets his comeuppance for his evil plotting

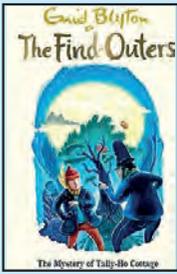
With extra tales from Jinky the jumping frog, the naughty sailor doll and cheeky Trit-Trot the pony, there's plenty of fun and frolic to be had.



Age: 10 – 12 years
Word Count: 150 – 200
Topic: Celebrating Vesak at home
Win: The Find-Outers – Mystery of Tally-Ho Cottage by Enid Blyton

Buster has sniffed out a mystery! The Lorenzos of Tally-Ho Cottage have disappeared along with a priceless painting, but they left behind their treasured poodle.

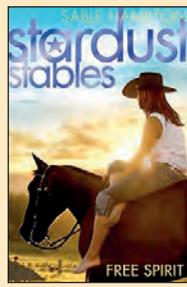
It's up to the Find-Outers to discover what's really going on...



Age: 13 – 15 years
Word Count: 200 – 250
Topic: The significance of Vesak
Win: Stardust Stables – Free Spirit by Sable Hamilton

Happy-go-lucky Kellie is thrilled when she and her horse Dylan, are hired to work on a new movie. She looks just like the lead actress Jemma Scott, and loves perfecting new tricks with Dylan.

But when Jemma falls ill, the entire shoot is at risk unless Kellie can step into her shoes...



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



<p>9 years and below My favourite place in Sri Lanka Aaisha Ashroff Ilma Int. Girls' School</p>	<p>10 – 12 years The second term at school Hana Yusuf Ladies' College, Colombo</p>	<p>13 – 15 years Your thoughts on Press Freedom Sachini Ayodhya Ashoka College, Horana</p>
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May 18

News in Pictures

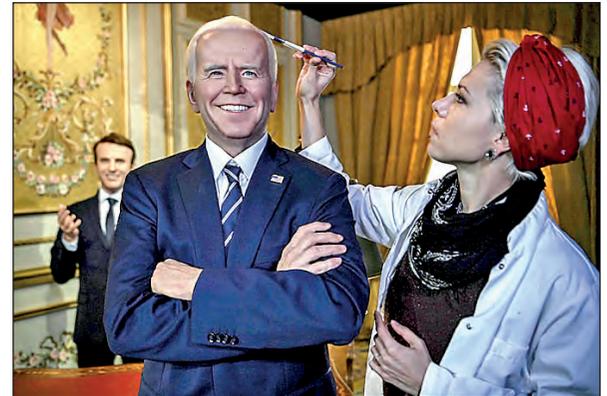


Gaza City, Gaza Strip
Palestinian children who fled their homes due to Israeli air and artillery strikes take refuge at a United Nations-run school.



Washington, D.C., USA
A robin eats a newly-emerged brood X periodical cicada. Trillions of brood X cicadas are emerging in the mid-Atlantic region of the USA.

Fnideq, Morocco
Spanish security forces launch tear-gas canisters across a border fence as Moroccan migrants rally in the northern town of Fnideq in an attempt to cross into Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta. At least 5,000 migrants slipped into Ceuta on May 17, a record for a single day, Spanish authorities said.



Paris, France
A make-up artist applies the finishing touches to the wax statue of President Biden as it is unveiled at the Musée Grévin.

May 17



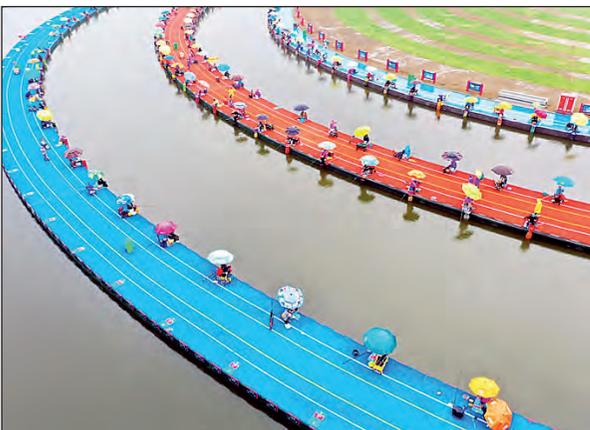
Gaza Strip, Palestine
A streak of light appears as Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepts rockets launched from the Gaza Strip. Israeli warplanes bombed Gaza overnight, said witnesses in the Palestinian enclave, from where armed groups have launched rockets into the Jewish state.



Bangkok, Thailand
People eat lunch seated individually in the food court at a city office building. Bangkok has eased COVID-19 dining restrictions from take-aways only, to now allowing one patron per table of four, spaced according to social distancing guidelines.



Nanning, China
A beautiful rainbow over the ASEAN business district after heavy rain in the city.

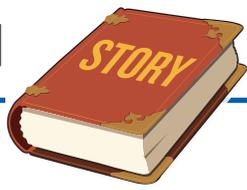


Jiangsu Province, China
Aerial photo shows the China Sihong Hongze Lake International Dayuan Pond Fishing invitational tournament in Suqian, Jiangsu Province.



San Anselmo, California, USA
A honeybee pollinates a flower on a lamb's ear plant. California's governor, Gavin Newsom, unveiled his ambitious budget proposal that includes a record \$11bn towards environmental related causes including funding to create a habitat for threatened bees that play a vital role in pollinating the state's crops.

Source: The Guardian



The Vesak Project

By Manoshi de Silva

Dinuth lived in an apartment. There were a total of 25 houses, including his, in this block of flats. All of these houses had kids of different ages. Although there were certain limitations in living in a flat, school holidays and national holidays were always fun. The kids got together and organized things and celebrated together.

But the situation was very different now. There were strict healthcare guidelines imposed. Everyone had to wash their hands at the entrance and wear facemasks. The children were not allowed to play together or visit each other's houses. People kept away from each other and did things separately with their own families.

The Vesak celebration was coming soon. Dinuth remembered how the flat housing kids got together and made a huge lantern and even a small Pandal a few of times, on the small common front lawn. They even collected money and held a *Dansala* on one occasion.

But now they were not allowed to gather and work closely like they did before. Last year also there were no decorations or lanterns at all, except for a few strands of coloured bulbs hung by a few houses and a big Buddhist flag at the entrance of the flats.

Dinuth met his immediate neighbour Lasitha, as he was climbing down the stairs. They made sure to keep a proper distance between them and that their facemasks were properly worn, before stopping to talk with each other.

"I wish we could do something for Vesak," said Dinuth. "Yes, it looks like we won't be able to make our usual big lantern this year as well," sighed Lasitha.

"No! Let's do something for Vesak!" insisted Dinuth.

"But we are not allowed to gather or work together," reminded Lasitha, "there are over 30 kids in our flat and that's a lot!" Dinuth nodded in agreement. "But I am sure that we can think of something to do," he said.

"How can we do anything when we can't even get together to plan?"



asked Lasitha walking away looking sad.

Dinuth went home and looked at the calendar. It was a week before Vesak. "What can we do without gathering or working together?" he wondered. Making a big lantern or Pandal was out of the question. Even organizing a *Dansala* was not possible. Dinuth sat by the window and kept on thinking for a very long time.

Finally Dinuth came up with an idea which he liked very much. He gave a call to Lasitha immediately. "I know how all the kids in the flat can get together and celebrate Vesak this time!" he said in excitement.

Lasitha sighed, "Dinuth, we can't get together, you know that."

"That's true," agreed Dinuth, "but we don't have to get together and work closely to do this."

"First you say we can celebrate together. Then you say that we don't do it together!" Lasitha sounded confused.

Dinuth laughed and explained his idea. "You know that there are five floors of housing in our flats. And each row has five houses. What if each house puts a lantern according to the colours of the Buddhist flag, in front of their balconies? It would collectively look like a big Buddhist flag to the road!"

"That's brilliant!" said Lasitha in excitement. "The top floor should put a row of blue lanterns, the next yellow and so on!"

"Exactly!" said Dinuth. "But how can we make the lanterns without getting together? Not everyone is equally talented."

"Let's stick to the basic 'Atapattam' shape," said Lasitha, remembering the simple lantern which was easy to make.

"Let's decide on a specific small size. That way it will be easier to make and won't cost much as well," said Dinuth.

"But how can we tell everyone about this? Remember, we can't have any meetings," said Lasitha. "Let's call and tell two houses each and ask them to call another two houses. That way all the flats will be covered in no time," said Dinuth and Lasitha agreed.

Since the kids in the flat couldn't do any group activity for a very long time, they all loved this idea. As it was a simple and inexpensive thing, even the parents didn't have anything against it. So during that week the word was spread and the kids in the flats made one small lantern each, according to the given size and colour.

Each house in the flats looked identical from the outside. So when the lanterns were hanged in the balconies of each house, it looked very neat and organized. By evening, all the houses lit their lanterns. The rows representing the colours of the Buddhist flag illuminated and lighted up all the flats. And just as Dinuth predicted the building looked like a Buddhist flag when seen from the road outside.

Everyone in the flats was happy, especially the children. After having a quiet Vesak the previous year, the kids didn't expect much this time as well. But without breaking any rules or health guidelines, they had managed to work individually and bring about a beautiful result collectively.

Dinuth remembered the words said by the *Loku Hamuduruwo*, when Dinuth had called to inform him about their Vesak project and seek his blessings. *Loku Hamuduruwo* praised the children and said that it was admirable how the children had worked individually and contributed to this group project. "It's just like this, when each person becomes a good citizen individually, it contributes to the whole society as a whole, making it glow collectively as a good community!"

Ajanta Caves

Located in Aurangabad, in the state of Maharashtra, the Ajanta Caves are one of the oldest UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. The carvings and paintings at Ajanta date back to the beginning of the era of classical Indian art. These caves are some of the most mesmerizing ones in the country, especially with paintings that take us back in time all the way between the 2nd century BC and 6th century A.D.



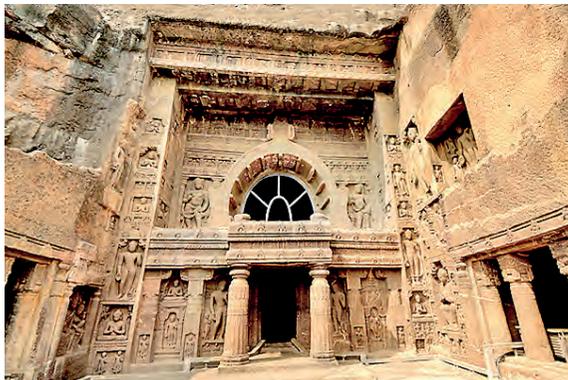
Jon Smith ▲

History

The caves in Ajanta were discovered in 1819, when Jon Smith, who belonged to the 28th Cavalry, accidentally chanced upon the horse-shoe shaped rock while hunting a tiger in and around the Deccan Plateau region.

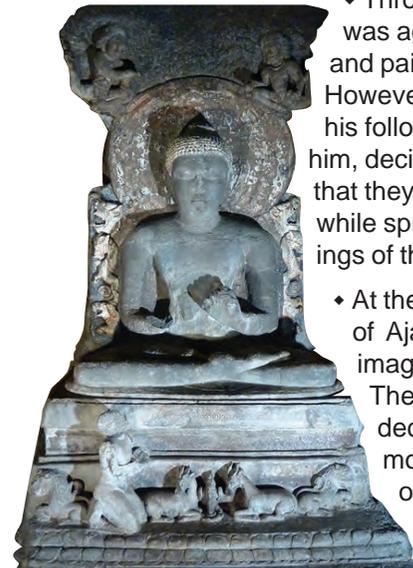
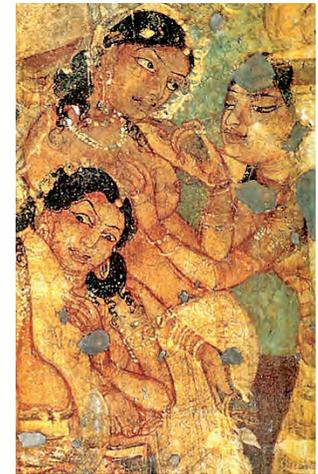
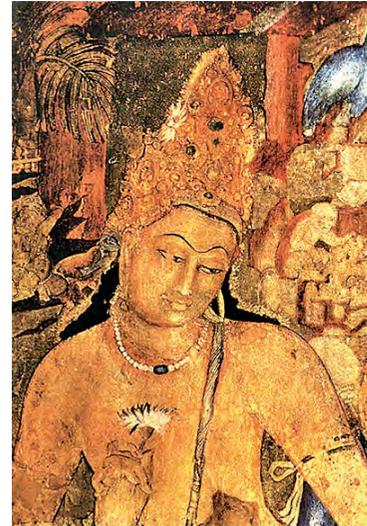
Interesting Facts

- ◆ It was soon found that there were approximately 30 caves in the cave complex out of which one part of the complex was developed during the Satvahana period and the other was done during the Vakataka period.
- ◆ The caves are numbered in order from east to west. The caves 9, 10, 19, 26 and 29 were what are called “chaitya-grihas”, meaning prayer halls. They were built in the first phase in the Satvahana dynasty. The rest of the caves were monasteries.
- ◆ The second period of construction was carried out during the rule of Emperor Harishena of the Vakataka dynasty. Close to 20 cave temples were simultaneously built which resemble the modern day monasteries with a sanctum in the rear end of the structure.



- ◆ It is believed that several Buddhist monks spent a significant amount of time at the Ajanta caves during the monsoons as they were forbidden from travelling during that particular period of the year. This was the time when the monks put their creativity and time to use and painted the walls of the caves.

- ◆ These caves are full of beautiful art, in the form of sculptures and paintings. All the paintings depict the life and times of the great Gautama Buddha, the monk prince who undertook a journey to spread the wisdom of Buddhism in the world. They also speak of tales from the Jataka.
- ◆ Apart from the stunning paintings and sculptures, there were also huge Buddhist mounds like stupas built, massive pillars, intricately detailed carvings on the ceilings and walls made big news, giving the Ajanta caves the status of a heritage site.



- ◆ Through his life, Lord Buddha was against the idea of sculpting and painting images of him. However, after Buddha’s death, his followers who wanted to worship him, decided to paint his images so that they had something to hold on to while spreading the faith and teachings of the Buddha.

- ◆ At the entrance of the first of Ajanta caves, stands a tall image of the Buddha. The doorway to the cave is decorated with auspicious motifs. Though the caves are over 2,000 years old, the Buddha statues had been added close to 600 years later.

Sources: Mocomi.com & India.com

Famous Landmarks Quiz - 26

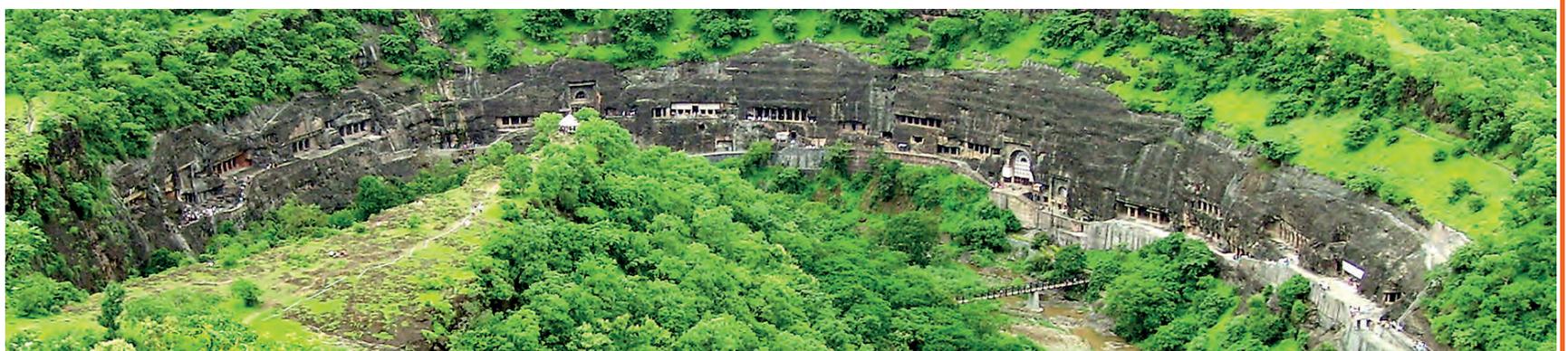
Q: What do the paintings in the Ajanta Caves depict?



Famous Landmarks Quiz - 25



► Esther John,
Wellawatte



My cat

My cat's name is Whiskers. She is a playful cat. She is sometimes good but sometimes bad.



Whiskers colours are black, yellow and cream. I play with her a lot. She runs everywhere in the house. She goes to the street and comes back. She loves to eat cat food.

I love my cat and she loves me too.

Ranuja Horadagoda (Grade 3)
S. Thomas' Preparatory School,
Colombo 3

Please remember that ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry. Articles should not exceed 200 words. Art should be on A4 size paper. Remember to write the date that you send your entries.



My principal

My school is Methodist College, My school principal's name is Ms. Hiranya Fernando. Her office is in the upper school. She is a past pupil of our school. Now she is the principal of our school.

She is very beautiful and majestic. She has a beautiful smile and beautiful hair. She has a lot of work to do at school. She comes to our classes. She advises us to be proud Methodists.

Senuri Gunawardana (Grade 2)
Methodist College, Colombo 3

Mother Nature

Everywhere I look, I see you
You follow me to the end of the world
You are the most beautiful thing
I've ever seen
Your beauty can turn into great danger

I am a creation of you
I respect you the most
You're a person that everyone loves
No matter where I am,
I know I am never alone

No matter how many people
try to hurt you
You are stronger than anybody
You can stand up against a whole army
We all are creations of you

You're an amazing view
from a mountain top
You're a calm river flowing downhill
You're tall trees in the woods
This is your beauty

The bloom of beautiful flowers
in the season of spring
The hot shiny sun, up in the sky
for summer
The countryside ablaze with colour
in autumn
Winter brings in Christmas hopes

Mother Nature you are
an astonishingly incredible gift...

Risandi Rajapaksha (13 years)
Lyceum Int. School, Nugegoda

Myself

My name is Zaina Fazlim. I am seven years old. I live in Mount Lavinia. I go to Muslim Ladies' College. I am in Grade Three.

I have an elder sister and she is nine years old. I love to draw and colour. My favourite colour is pink. I love myself.

Zaina Fazlim (7 years)
Muslim Ladies' College, Colombo 4

My country

My country is Sri Lanka. It's called the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'. It is an island. It is a very beautiful country. Many tourists come to Sri Lanka to visit the beauty of Sri Lanka. My country is small but it is a popular country.

There are many rivers, mountains, forests and waterfalls in my country. Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Malays and Burghers live in my country. There are many ancient and historical places in Sri Lanka. I love my country.

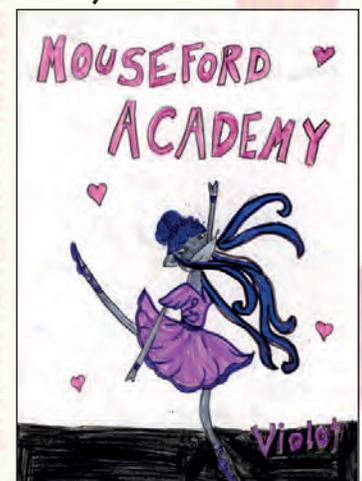
Senuk Fernando (Grade 6)
D. S. Senanayake College, Colombo

Birth of Prince Siddhartha Gauthama



Esandu Welagedara (8 years)
Lyceum Int. School, Nugegoda

My favourite storybook character



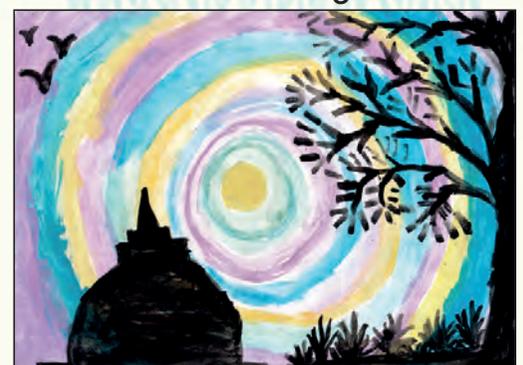
Kaysey Kolonne (11 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

Lankan paradise



Sandul Kulasekera (14 years)
Royal College, Colombo

A moonlit night



Eshalie Buvanija (6 years)
Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo

Celebrating Vesak



Nithya Perera (14 years)
Holy Family B. M. V., Wennappuwa

Forest



Senuji Sooriyakumar (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kandy

My house



Gawri Madhushika (6 years)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Vesak Festival with COVID-19



Sandil Nethusha (8 years)
Sussex College, Kuliyaipitiya

Myself

My name is Sathini Sahansa. I am eight years old. My school is Holy Family Convent. I live in Wennappuwa.

My pet is a dog. My hobby is painting. I like to eat rice. I like to drink milk. One day I want to be a doctor.

Sathini Sahansa (Grade 3)
Holy Family Convent, Wennappuwa

Vesak

The biggest miracle in this world is the birth of Lord Buddha. I'm sure you all know of the Vesak Full Moon Poya Day. On Vesak Poya, the moon is at its nicest.

So why do we celebrate Vesak? It is a very special celebration of Buddhists. In the East Asian tradition, a celebration of Buddha's birthday typically occurs around the traditional timing of Vesak. The Buddha's awakening and death are celebrated as separate holidays that occur at other times in the calendar as Bodhi Day and Nirvana Day.

We celebrate the Birth of Prince Siddhartha, Prince Siddhartha becoming Lord Buddha and attaining Nirvana. This Vesak Poya is on May 26 and 27. It is a very amazing celebration. We make Vesak lanterns and decorate our houses with different lights so the Vesak night becomes really beautiful. We also used to light up some lamps during Vesak night too.

On Vesak Day, devout Buddhists and followers alike are expected and requested to assemble in their various temples

before dawn for the ceremonial and honourable hoisting of the Buddhist flag and the singing of hymns in praise of the holy Triple Gem : The Buddha, the Dharma (his teachings) and the Sangha (his disciples).

Devotees may bring simple offerings of flowers, candles and joss sticks to place at the feet of their teacher. These symbolic offerings are to remind followers that just as the beautiful flowers would wither away after a short while and the candles and joss-sticks would soon burn out, so too is life subject to decay and destruction.

Devotees are expected to listen to talks given by monks. On this day, monks will recite verses uttered by the Buddha 25 centuries ago, to invoke peace and happiness for the government and the people. Buddhists are reminded to live in harmony with people of other faiths and to respect the beliefs of other people as the Buddha had taught.

Dehansa Kulathunga (11 years)
St. Thomas' Girls' School, Matale

A person I'd like to meet

Say you told me I can meet whoever I want, but only one individual. Who do you think it would be? A celebrity? Well, no; I'd like to meet the Editor of a certain newspaper, namely the Sunday Times.

With newspapers, I have two habits: read the week's paper that same week, without delay; notice the byline (which says who wrote the article) of the article I read.

In the Sunday Times the Editor usually writes only the Editorial and the Political Commentary that divides the two middle pages of the main section. It always comes with the byline 'By Our Political Editor' – not a name, unlike the usual.

Before I began reading that column, I didn't care about the name. But once you read those articles – if you can understand the formal language, which I at first found difficult – you begin understand that the writer is not just anybody; it is somebody who has insight, experience and yet is an ordinary Sri Lankan!

I want to meet this Editor to learn how he writes such lengthy articles with such depth, to know how he manages to read so many sources in one week, to know who he is! To me, it's as big a mystery as a mystery could be!

Ifadha Deen (15 years)
Leeds Int. School, Galle

Tomahawk

Quiz No. 183

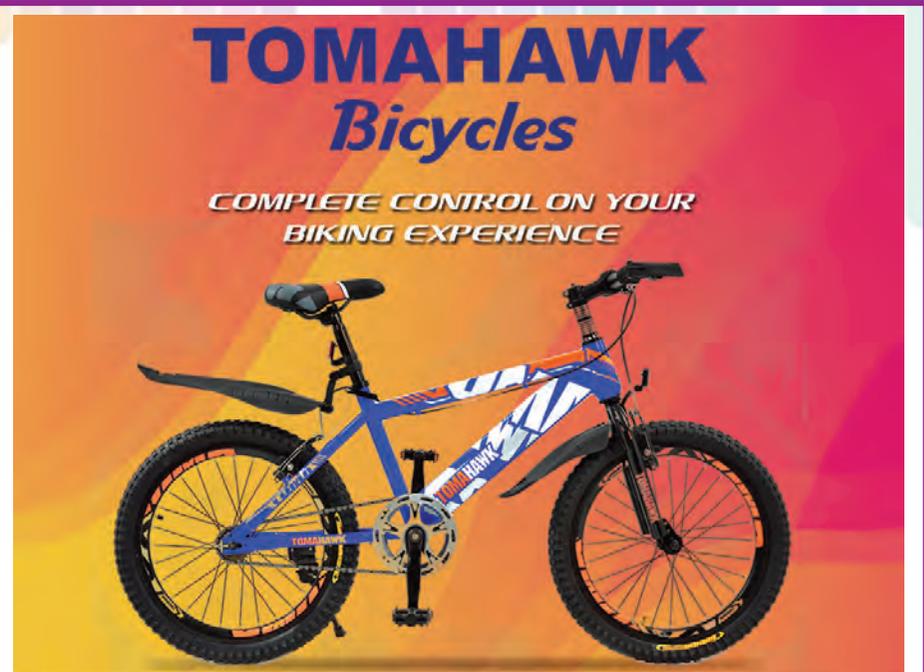
Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 183 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of April 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2021. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 183' seen at the top of this page and 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: May 31, 2021

mailto: Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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QUESTIONS — QUIZ NO. 183

1. Where is the Sistine Chapel located and what is it famous for?
2. Name a popular game played during Easter.
3. The 250th Birth Anniversary of Beethoven was commemorated with a sculpture exhibition. Where was this exhibition held?
4. Who is Charlie Chaplin and what was he famous for?
5. What do triangle shaped traffic signs mean?



DOG GONE FUNNY ST. PETERSBURG, FL
 JERRY PELL'S SHIRANIAN (SHIH TZU/POMERANIAN MIX), OSHI, LIKES TO PUSH THE CAR'S WINDOW BUTTON TO OPEN THE WINDOW AND RIDE WITH HIS HEAD OUT. IF JERRY LOCKS THE WINDOW, OSHI GIVES HIM 'THE LOOK' UNTIL HE UNLOCKS IT.