

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 11, 2022



FUNDA DAY TIMES



Commonwealth Essay Competition award winners

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

WINNERS

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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:

December 28, 2022

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

BRITISH COUNCIL

Age groups:

6 – 10 years

11 – 15 years

Word limit: 100 Words

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

6 – 10 years

The peacock

Perched on a rock,
The peacock sits and watches,
Big black eyes look all over,
Curved legs touch the ground,
Its wings are wonderful
with green and blue.
Suddenly, a scream was heard,
Sh! Sh! Some bushes moved,
As a snake slithered across the field,
The peacock turns its neck,
And grabs the snake as its prey.

Shaili De Silva
Methodist College, Colombo



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.

11 – 15 years

Books

Books are a source of absolute joy,
There are books for every girl and boy,
Stories of adventures, stories about magic,
Stories about comedy,
Stories that are tragic.
There are novels for adults and teens,
They're stories kids can't understand,
nor know what they mean,
Books help you to improve your writing,
So you can write essays as fast as lightning.
People read and become knowledgeable,
And then everyone is so dependable,
So why not pick up a book every day?
Instead of lazing the time away?

Sheiza Samidon
Ratmalana

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: A fun Christmas party

Win: The Secret Seven by Enid Blyton (Collection 3)

In these thrilling mysteries, the Secret Seven investigate the disappearance of a young girl, uncover a secret in an abandoned house and find a surprising intruder in their new meeting place.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: What I wish for Christmas

Win: The Christmas Star by Eva Ibbotson

Enjoy this collection of three wonderfully festive stories for the whole family from one of England's best-loved storytellers, with illustrations by the award-winning Nick Maland.



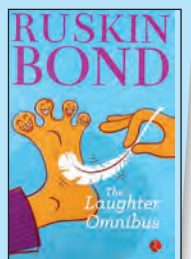
Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Some Christmas traditions

Win: The Laughter Omnibus by Ruskin Bond

This rib-tickling anthology of funny stories, humorous articles and comic verse by renowned humorists such as Stephen Leacock, Jerome K. Jerome and of course Ruskin Bond himself, are guaranteed to make you smile, chuckle, giggle and laugh out loud!



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



Book Competition



9 years and below

A visit to the zoo

Maryam Abbas

Royal Institute Int. School,
Nugegoda

10 – 12 years

An enjoyable day at school

Sheneshi Silva

Ladies' College, Colombo

13 – 15 years

How rainfall occurs

Himaya Silva

St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

In our online issue this week:

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- **Page 6** – Crafts
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

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.



Dressing up

By Manoshi de Silva

Tin Tin the squirrel and his friend Stripy, were staring from the top of a mango branch, at the house below. The little girl and boy who lived there were going for a party and they were both dressed really well. “Will you look at those clothes!” said Tin Tin. “I wish that we too had clothes like that,” sighed Stripy.

“Hey Stripy, we should also get clothes like that,” said Tin Tin. “You’d look fine in a frock, like the one the little girl is wearing.” “And you’d look so smart in a shirt and trouser!” said Stripy. “But from where can we get clothes?” “I know!” shouted Tin Tin, “Mrs. Tailor-bird knows how to stitch. She neatly stitches together two leaves to make herself a nest. Let’s ask her to help us.”

So the two squirrels went to meet Mrs. Tailor-bird. “What nonsense is this?” shouted Mrs. Tailor-bird. “Whoever heard of squirrels wearing clothes?” “We’ll give you some nice fruits,” said Stripy and Mrs. Tailor-bird finally agreed. “But you’ll have to give me the cloth to stitch. I don’t have any cloth with me,” said Mrs. Tailor-bird.

“From where can we get cloth?” asked Stripy. Tin Tin thought for awhile. “Mr. Crow flies all over the city. I am sure he’ll be able to get us some cloth to get stitched by Mrs. Tailor-bird!” So Tin Tin and Stripy went and met Mr. Crow. “What a joke!” laughed Mr. Crow, after listening to the two squirrels. “You should only do what suits you and wearing suits doesn’t suit you!” giggled Mr. Crow laughing at his own joke.

“Let’s go visit the children’s house below,” said Tin Tin after all their plans failed. “There might be pieces of cloth that we can give Mrs. Tailor-bird.” So, the next day the two squirrels entered the children’s room through a window. “Oh look Tin Tin!” shouted Stripy, “look at these wonderful clothes!” There were two dolls, dressed in a frock and a suit on the table and they were the same size as the squirrels.

Suddenly the little girl came into the room. The two squirrels scampered

through the window. Stripy accidentally knocked a cup of tea which was on the table, spilling it all over the dolls. The squirrels were quick and the little girl did not see them. But she saw the dolls soaked in tea. She picked up the two dolls quickly but their clothes were already stained.

The little girl removed the dolls clothes and washed them. Then she hung them on the clothes-line in the garden, to dry. “Look! Look!” shouted Tin Tin, “the clothes are on the line. Let’s go and grab them!” The two squirrels removed the clothes from the line and took them to the mango tree.

Tin Tin and Stripy dressed up in the dolls’ clothes. They were a perfect fit for both of them. “Looking beautiful, my Lady,” said Tin Tin and bowed at Stripy who was dressed in a pink frilly frock. “And you look very smart, Sir!” giggled Stripy bowing back at Tin Tin.

“What nonsense is this?” shouted a Mynah bird attracting all the neighbours to the mango tree. “You are just jealous!” shrugged Tin Tin. “We are not jealous. You two look silly. Clothes don’t suit us animals and birds!” said Mr. Crow, and all the others agreed except the two stubborn squirrels.

Suddenly the sky turned grey. “It’s going to rain!” shouted the birds and they all flew away, as big rain drops started falling. The two squirrels started running towards their homes. But the clothes were heavy and it was not easy for them to move fast like they usually did.

“Help!” shouted Tin Tin and Stripy stopped to look behind. Tin Tin’s clothes were tangled in a small branch. Stripy had to come back running in the rain to rescue him and she was also soaking wet in her frilly frock. They slipped and tumbled as they ran into a hollow



branch to take cover from the rain.

The two squirrels were already fed-up of their clothes. They struggled to get out of the dolls’ clothes but it was not easy. So they had to stay shivering in the wet clothes, feeling cold as ever, until the rain stopped.

Finally when the rain stopped, the two squirrels went to meet Mrs. Parrot, to get her help to remove the clothes. Mrs. Parrot carefully removed the clothes with her sharp beak. All the other birds gathered around and wanted to know, from where the two friends got their fancy clothes. When Tin Tin told them that they were the dolls’ clothes that they had grabbed from the clothes line, all the bird shook their heads in disapproval.

“You should never take things that belong to others without their permission. The little girl must be searching for them all over!” said Mr. Crow. “You should also never do things that don’t suit you, just because you see someone else doing it,” said Mrs. Parrot. “Look at the unnecessary trouble you two created for yourselves!”

The two squirrels had learnt their lesson. They were cold, tired and feeling very silly. They promised to leave the clothes back where they found them. “We should never do meaningless things like this again,” said Tin Tin to Stripy. “Yes, it only gets us into trouble,” agreed Stripy. “We should also not be stubborn, and listen to others when they give us good advice!”



Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2022

WriteCraft Creative Writing Academy records highest number of wins at this year's Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition.

Over 30 young writers from the WriteCraft creative writing academy bagged the Gold Finalist, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards at the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, the world's oldest and most prestigious essay writing contest.

31 out of the 35 children who participated from WriteCraft this year walked away with medals.

The contestants ranging from ages nine to 17 participated in the Junior and Senior categories, with one Gold Finalist, 3 Golds, 9 Silvers and

18 Bronze awards.

Of the record number of 26,322 entries from around the world, only 154 from the junior and senior categories made it to the Gold Finalist list this year.

Qadijah Irshad, the founder and creative writing coach of WriteCraft is a foreign correspondent, who has been teaching creative writing for the past two decades in Sri Lanka and overseas.



Pic. by Eshan Fernando

For more information on WriteCraft, please contact +94777373736 or email: writcraft.uk@gmail.com

British Council event at Nuga Gama



British Council held a series of events at Nuga Gama, Cinnamon Grand on December 3, 2022. Pictured here are youngsters enjoying 'Storytelling through Puppetry' by Sulochana Dissanayake.

Pix. by Eshan Fernando

Christmas Cover 2022

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover.

We invite our readers to send in their paintings for the Christmas Cover Competition.

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative. **All entries should be on A4 size paper.**

Please write Christmas Cover at the back of your picture, along with your **Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number (if any) and School.**

All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will not be considered for the prize.

The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue. The winner will also receive a prize. **This competition is open to children between 4 - 15 years of age.**

Good luck and happy painting!



**Closing Date :
December 15, 2022**



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Book Competition



9 years and below

A visit at the zoo

One day I went to the zoo and saw animals like the lion, tiger, deer, elephant, zebra, giraffe and cheetah. They were eating their food. One time when I went to see the cheetah it was eating its food.

A few hours passed and I was thinking that my mother hadn't still come to pick me up from the zoo. Then I got a call from my mother saying, "Darling, I will get late." I said ok! I will carry on.

I played with the small animals and I saw some birds in the pond. The birds were colourful. The giraffe had a long neck. The zebra and the monkey were playing together. I saw a beautiful peacock and I was able to manage to get some peacock feathers for my bookmark. I will keep it carefully.

When my mother came, I quickly said 'Bye' to all the animals and I waved my hand at the zoo. I loved my visit to the zoo that day.

Maryam Abbas (8 years)
Royal Institute Int. School

10 – 12 years

An enjoyable day at school

My class trip took place on October 21, 2022. We were ready to go on the trip. I was very excited until a shower of rain came down. We were all scared that our class trip would be cancelled as we were supposed to walk, but our teacher with the help of our sectional head organized the school bus. We got into the school bus and we sang songs until we came to the museum.

We arrived at the museum and we each got a ticket of our own. When we went in, firstly we saw Charles Darwin's Human Evolution, how chimpanzees turned into man.

Next we saw gems, sapphires and precious stones. We also saw prehistoric people made of cement. The statues looked like real people. After that we were taken to the reptile section. Real dead snakes and cobras were stuffed and kept there. There were dead spiders, butterflies, ants and many other insects. Afterwards we saw the bird paradise. We saw lots of stuffed birds such as parrots, owls, eagles, peacocks etc.

Then we saw the real king's throne, crown and sharp golden sword. They were placed inside a large glass box.

We also saw rusty swords, old pistols, knives, pocket knives and many weapons used in the kings' time. There were face masks too. Green, yellow, black scary devil face masks with pointy noses and horns. We also saw ancient coins.

We were taken to see the dinosaur bones and the whale skeleton. There were read dead turtles and tortoises. There were animals made of cement. The hyenas, deer, cows, goats were like real animals.

After that we saw a gigantic spinning Earth with the interior. There also was a village place with farmers with cows and goats. One farmer was whipping two bulls and the village women were willowing grain.

There also was a paddy storage (Vee-bissa) and a man was sitting in it with some hay on his lap. His wife was giving him hay from below. There was also a little door, inside a woman was pounding paddy. They were gorgeous. They looked like real people in a village. I got a vivid knowledge about history.

That was an enjoyable day for me at school. I enjoyed my class trip.

Sheneshi Silva (11 years)
Ladies' College, Colombo 7

13 – 15 years

The winning essay 'How rainfall occurs' was published in the Funday Times Kids World pages on November 27, 2022.

Gupshup Goes to Prison by Arefa Tehsin

"Khalid's cat Gupshup has run away to the grounds of a prison.

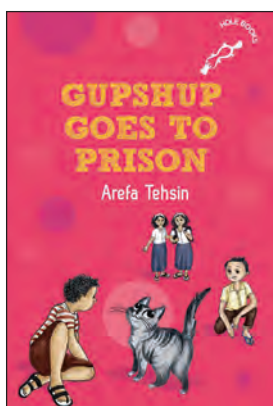
An open prison, it is called, but everyone knows that prisons are full of horrible people. Or are they?

How on earth will Khalid get Gupshup home?"

Usually, a prison is a place where criminals are locked up. This story is about an open prison where prisoners are not locked but free to move in and out.

The Pallekelle Open Prison Camp in Sri Lanka is one such open prison. It prepares prisoners for day-to-day existence in the community.

Over the years it has grown into a sprawling rural village, where there are no boundary walls or cells. Residents work and participate in leisure time activities. Many cultivate private plots of land and sell their produce.



Competition

Win a copy of 'Gupshup Goes to Prison'.

Write your own short story about your pet or an animal you like.

Age group: 7 – 10 years

Word count: Maximum of 300 words

Please include the following details:

Full Name (including Surname), Date of Birth, Address, Telephone No. and School.

All competition entries should be certified as your own work.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Tissue Paper Wreath

You will need:

- Circular wreath form – cut from recycled cereal box or a paper plate
- Lots of green tissue paper squares
- White glue
- Paint brush
- Pencil with eraser
- Embellishments – pompoms, sequins, etc.
- Ribbon or string for hanging



Use the paintbrush to spread a small amount of white glue on to a section of the wreath (work on about 1/6 of the wreath at a time). Use the eraser end of the pencil to shape each square of tissue paper as shown.

Use the eraser to help you place your tissue paper squares on to the wreath form, and continue to work section by section until the entire wreath form is full and covered.

Add optional embellishments – pompoms make great holly berries,

sequins and glitter add sparkle, and large buttons make nice 'ornaments'.

Add a ribbon for hanging, and the wreath is ready to be displayed or gifted!



Source : Internet

Fun Recipe

Coconut Yule Trees

Ingredients

- 3 cups sweetened shredded coconut
- 2 cups icing sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup half-and-half cream
- 1 teaspoon almond or vanilla flavouring
- 2 to 4 ounces chocolate
- Marshmallows or mini-marshmallows
- Vanilla frosting, green sugar and assorted sprinkles

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine the coconut, icing sugar, butter, cream and vanilla. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto a waxed-paper lined baking sheet. Refrigerate, covered for 1 hour. Shape into Christmas trees and return to baking sheet and keep chilled.
2. In a microwave, melt chocolate and stir until smooth. Spoon over or dip mini-marshmallows in chocolate to make the trunks. Allow excess to drip off. Place on waxed paper; let stand until set.
3. Decorate trees as desired with frosting, green sugar and sprinkles.



How to make green sugar

Place some castor sugar into a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Put a few drops of green food colouring onto the sugar. Close the lid and shake vigorously until blended. Different coloured sugar can be made with this method.



2022 Earthshot Prize winners announced

December 7, 2022

Boston — Last Friday, Britain’s Prince William announced the winners of this year’s Earthshot Prize. The prize is meant to encourage new ideas and rapid action to help protect the planet. Each prize-winner won \$1.2 million for their efforts.

The Earthshot Prize is a 10-year project that aims to find “solutions to the biggest environmental problems the planet faces”. The hope is that those solutions can be shared and repeated around the world. Every year, five prizes are awarded. Below are this year’s prize-winning projects in each category.

Protect and Restore Nature

Kheyti won the prize for protecting and restoring nature with its “Greenhouse-in-a-box” idea.



The company provides a simple, large greenhouse to small farmers at a low cost. The greenhouse helps protect crops from

insects and other pests. It also helps the crops survive extreme weather conditions.

Kheyti is already working with 1,000 farmers across India. The company says the greenhouses allow farmers to use 90% less water and produce seven times as much food. Kheyti hopes to get its greenhouses to 50,000 farmers by 2027.

Clean Our Air

Charlot Magayi won the prize for cleaning the air. After her daughter was burned by a charcoal-burning stove, Ms. Magayi developed a safer, cleaner stove, called the Mukuru Clean Stove.



Ms. Magayi developed a stove that uses a fuel that’s cheaper and pollutes far less than charcoal stoves. Currently, over 200,000 of her Mukuru Clean Stoves are being used in Kenya. In three years, Ms. Magayi hopes to increase that number to 1 million.

Revive Our Oceans

The Revive Our Oceans prize was won by the Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network (QIWRN). Over the last four years, QIWRN has trained 60 indigenous women to help protect the environment. The women learned to use modern tools like drones. They also shared important history and

information that’s been passed down for years among their people.

Australia has faced many climate challenges in recent years, from bushfires and flooding to damage to the Great Barrier Reef. QIWRN believes training indigenous women as environmental rangers can help not just in Australia, but in threatened areas around the world.



Build a Waste-Free World

A London-based company called Notpla (for “Not Plastic”) won the prize for building a waste-free world. They’ve created a plastic substitute from seaweed. Unlike most plastic, their products break down naturally with no microplastics.

Notpla believes their products can help end the plastic pollution that’s filling landfills and polluting oceans. This year alone, the company has made one million Notpla takeaway food boxes, replacing similar plastic-coated boxes. By 2025, the company hopes to increase that number to 25 million.



A Notpla-coated takeout box holding a hamburger. The packet holding the ketchup is also made out of Notpla.

Fix Our Climate

The Earthshot prize for working toward fixing our climate went to a company called 44.01. 44.01 has come up with a way to turn polluting carbon dioxide (CO₂) into a rock called peridotite. Once the CO₂ has been turned into rock, it can no longer be released into the atmosphere again.

Carbon Dioxide

One of the challenges facing the world as it fights the climate crisis is how to remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air, and store it so that it’s harmless.

Plants and trees do this naturally. But there’s so much CO₂ in the atmosphere that just planting trees and protecting forests won’t come close to solving the problem.

The method that 44.01 uses is fast, cheap and permanent. Over the next few years 44.01 aims to turn 1,100 tons of CO₂ into rock every year. By 2040, the company hopes to have turned 1.1 billion tons of CO₂ into rock.



December 7

News in Pictures



Edinburgh, Scotland Cybermen patrol the National Museum of Scotland before the opening of the 'Doctor Who Worlds of Wonder' exhibition.



Shanghai, China An installation of 500 paper giant pandas designed by the artist Han Meilin to raise awareness of the importance of protecting endangered animals.



Soham, England Christmas lights put up by Helen and John Attlesey, who have decorated their house to raise money for East Anglia's children's hospices.



Bursa, Turkey Riders from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan compete during the final match of the Kokboru competition at the 4th World Nomad Games.



Harbin, China A digger builds a 16-metre-high snowman by the Songhua river.



Lofoten Islands, Norway The Northern Lights captured in a panoramic view of the Lofoten Islands.

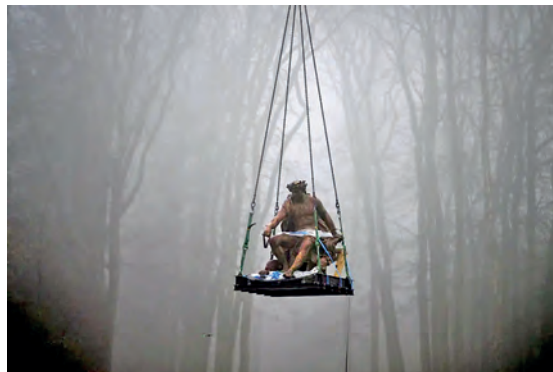


Bad Mitterndorf, Austria Revellers prepare for the Saint Nicholas parade (Nikolospiel) in Styria. This traditional performance was added in 2020 to the list of UNESCO's Austrian intangible cultural heritage.

December 6



Salisbury, England A crane is used to manoeuvre a 32ft Norway spruce from Longleat Forest, at Salisbury Cathedral. The tree will remain in place until Candlemas (February 2).



Versailles, France The sculpture group 'Apollo on his Chariot' is lifted by crane during restoration work. 'Apollo on his Chariot' was created by Jean-Baptiste Tuby after a drawing by Charles le Brun and is inspired by the legend of the sun god.



Los Angeles, USA Angela Bassett accepts the career achievement award onstage during the Critics' Choice Association's 5th annual celebration of Black Cinema and Television at Fairmont Century Plaza in California.

Source : The Guardian