



FUNDA DAY TIMES



'Hairspray' by Bishop's College

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

WINNERS!

POETRY
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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 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:
March 1, 2023

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




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.

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



Butterfly
 Butterfly, butterfly, fly so high,
 Where do you go? Where do you live?
 Where do you go to lay your eggs?
 You have such an adventure,
 Fly so far to find your food!
 Help no need, you find your way,
 And best of all
 children love to play with you !

Himaya Warnakulasuriya
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7


Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

 Or 

11 – 15 years


So you want to write a poem
 So you want to write a poem,
 You do? Is that true?
 Writing poems is usually
 Easy to do.
 Sun rhymes with fun,
 Dew rhymes with shoe,
 And other words too.
 Breezy is easy,
 It rhymes with queasy,
 Pet sounds like net
 That one's no sweat.
 Many a word will rhyme with day,
 Like hay and say,
 And even bouquet.
 But then there are tough ones,
 Like apple and stronger,
 Although you can rhyme them,
 It may take you longer.
 This poem is finished,
 This poem is penned,
 This poem is over,
 So this is the end.

Aaminah Rushdhy
Ilma Int. Girls' School



Age: 9 years and below
Word Count: 150
Topic: My best friend at school
Win: Sindbad the Sailor & Ali Baba & Forty Thieves

A world full of adventure, mischief, magic and bravery – that's what these stories present before us. From popular tales to lesser known ones, these stories are vividly retold in a comic format to enchant young readers.



Age: 10 – 12 years
Word Count: 150 – 200
Topic: An interesting radio programme
Win: The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

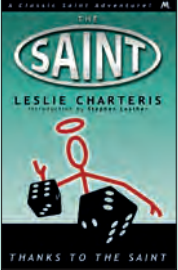
The inhabitants of Mars have attacked Earth! Cities and countryside are razed to the ground as dreaded aliens unleash their fiery power. A flaming spaceship hits the earth and out come strange creatures ready to devour everything in their path.




Can the earth be saved? Find out in this thrilling story of the time when two worlds fought the most destructive war ever.

Age: 13 – 15 years
Word Count: 200 – 250
Topic: Some women scientists you admire
Win: Thanks to the Saint by Leslie Charteris

The Saint has become better known – but that just increases the number of people who seek out his help. In these short stories Simon Templar has a chance to show off his skills.





Write at the top of your Essay
 ■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



Book Competition

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 9 years and below Back to school Senuri Gunawardana Methodist College, Colombo | 10 – 12 years New resolutions for 2023 Vihansa Wijenayake St. Paul's Girls' School | 13 – 15 years Hopes and expectations for 2023 Dananga Karunarathne Lakdasa De Mel College, Kurunegala |
|---|---|--|

This article is part of a continuing series on the history of Sri Lanka

The British Envoy's meeting with the King



1 The Nayakkar clan of India, who were relatives of King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe, were friendly with the officers of the British India Company in Madras.

According to one of their suggestions, the king sought British help to chase away the Dutch from Sri Lanka. The king sent an envoy to Madras stating that he hoped to meet a British delegate to discuss matters.



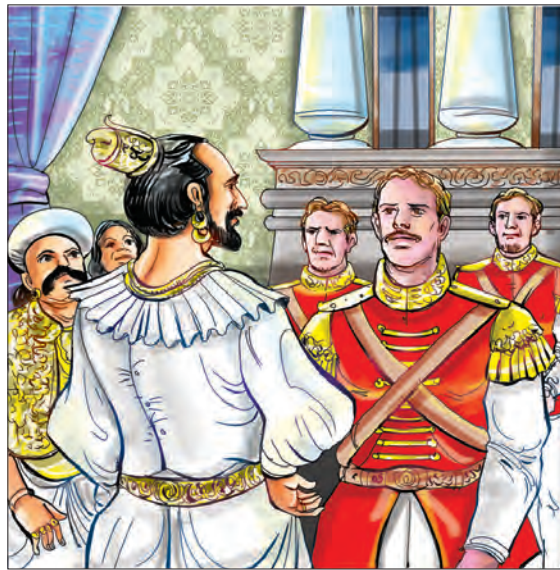
2 By this time, the British had come to a peace agreement with the Dutch. As such, the British did not like to break the agreement openly.

Yet they were keen on obtaining half of the cinnamon trade in Sri Lanka. Therefore, they did not want to antagonize the King of Kandy.



3 The British sent an envoy to Kandy once again to find out from the king what kind of assistance he would render, if one day, they went to war with the Dutch. This envoy was a member of the Council in Madras, John Pybus by name.

In 1762, Pybus reached Trincomalee. From there he was taken to Kandy. He found this journey to be very difficult. The nobles of Kandy were proud. Pybus was hungry and not happy. He did not like the kind of ritual and the form of welcome extended to him by the chiefs of Kandy.



4 The Nilames did not send food to the men on the ship anchored in Trincomalee. Yet, the British thought it improper not to meet the king, having come all this way. Therefore they participated in the discussions with the Nilames.

The king asked them what kind of assistance the British would give to chase away the Dutch. The envoy said he was unable to give an answer to that question. But he inquired if help was extended, what help the British would get in return. The king was displeased with this utterance. However, he took care not to show his displeasure.



5 Pybus on the other hand, declared that if the British extended help, they expected to settle down and get engaged in the cinnamon trade in the towns of Kottiyar, Batticaloa or Chilaw.

The king said if the British extended their support in war against the Dutch, he was prepared to give even more than what they expected.

To be continued....

By Halaliye Karunathilaka
Edited and Translated
by Kamala Silva
Illustrated by Saman Kalubowila

History Quiz - 2



Tanulya Ruwanpura,
Nugegoda

History Quiz - 3

Q: Name the British envoy who met with King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe.



Or

email fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Independence Day celebrations



Independence Day celebrations were held at Asian International Montessori School, Thalawathugoda on February 3, 2023. Pix. by Indika Handuwala



'Hairspray' the musical



'Hairspray' by students of Bishop's College middle school will be staged on February 17 & 18, 2023 at the Bishop's College Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Over 60 students will be taking part in this production directed by past pupil Dmitri Gunatilake.

This musical comedy addresses a variety of themes that are relevant to today's audience.

Tickets priced at Rs. 2500/-, 2000/- (Downstairs) and 1000/- (Balcony), will be available at the Bishop's College Auditorium from 8.30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pix. by Eshan Fernando



9 years and below
Back to school

We couldn't enjoy our best school days due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. During those difficult days, we missed a lot of important school activities such as concerts, sportsmeets, Children's Day, Teachers Day and the school birthday. Not only that, we had many dark days in 2022 such as internal conflicts, protests and the fuel crisis. Finally 2022 was over and we had our school holidays.

When school started I was promoted to Grade Four. On my first day of school I met my new class teacher, met my new friends and most interestingly I played with them, with their playful faces. We had a lot to share with each other. Our teachers welcomed us warmly. I didn't feel that time had moved that fast.

We have great wishes and thoughts and I wish that everyone will be successful in 2023. We have hope and faith.

Senuri Gunawardana (8 years)
Methodist College, Colombo 3

Book Competition
10 – 12 years
My resolutions for 2023

Washing away unwanted habits from us and cultivating new and positive habits and disciplines as a part of life, is necessary. Resolutions are actually a set of commitments that we make when a new year starts.

My main resolution for 2023 is reading more books during my free time. I have heard that reading is a good habit. It makes a full man. So this year I have decided that I would spend some more time in reading books and improve my interest and knowledge.

I would also like to learn something new, using the internet. This year I plan to be more organized and finish my work on time and not keep any

pending work assigned to me because as a student, time is very precious.

These are some resolutions that I made for 2023. They are, getting early to bed and to rise early, getting organized, learning something new, exercise regularly, eat healthy food, helping others – especially needy people, reducing unproductive use of time and always being happy.

I hope my New Year resolutions will not only help me eliminate my bad habits and make good habits but will also make my future bright and make me successful in all my future endeavours.

Vihansa Wijenayake (12 years)
St. Paul's Girls' School

Gupshup Goes to Prison by Arefa Tehsin

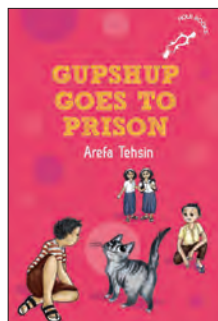
"Khalid's cat Gupshup has run away to the grounds of a prison.

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 a short story or essay 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

13 – 15 years
My hopes and expectations for 2023

The calendar year changed from 2022 to 2023, presenting us another 365 chances to live a new year with newfound enthusiasm. As the clock strikes midnight and welcomes the New Year, most of us try to build our daily lives around our goals but barely anyone tries to commit to the process of achieving those goals. So, this year I am not making big resolutions that I won't be able to stick to.

I am a school student and my O/L exam is in the near future, I hope to get better grades this year. I look forward to be more organized and study effectively to make my goal a reality.

I also hope to reduce my screen time in surfing social media. Instead, I expect to engage in reading more. It will also be a good impact on my health.

This New Year, I aim to live each day as it comes, learn from it or sometimes let it be, commit to growing myself and cultivate loving relationships. Furthermore, this year, I will choose to play around my strengths and nurture myself to learn new things while slowly leaving behind habits like procrastination that would no longer serve any purpose.

Here's to 2023 I shall create and remember.

Dananga Karunaratne (14 years)
Lakdasa De Mel College, Kurunegala

Black Bear

Balanced on a rock in the middle of a river, a black bear lowers her head to the water and ... chomp! A wriggling salmon is no match for her strong jaws. She's spent the summer eating berries and roots — now she's eating all the salmon she can catch to gain as much weight as possible. She needs enough stored fat for her body to make milk for newborn cubs in winter.



Common Name:

American black bears



Scientific Name:

Ursus americanus

Type: Mammals

Diet: Omnivore

Group Name: Sleuth, sloth

Average Life Span in the Wild: 20 years

Size: 5 - 6 feet long

Weight: 200 to 600 pounds

All you can eat

Black bears live throughout most of North America, including northern Mexico. They typically live in forests and are excellent tree climbers, even sleeping in trees during the summer. They're also found in mountains and swamps.

Despite their name, black bears can be blue-gray or blue-black, brown, cinnamon, or even sometimes (rarely) white.

In addition to eating berries, roots and salmon, black bears also prey on deer, moose, insects and sometimes even carrion (dead animal flesh left behind by other predators). They're not picky eaters, since their goal is to store up as much body fat as possible before their winter hibernation.

Nap time

In late November and early December, black bears head to their dens to sleep away the winter, or hibernate.

Their body temperature and heart rate are lowered, and their breathing slows down while they live off the huge amounts of body fat they stored up during the summer and fall. This way, they don't have to leave their dens and hunt for food in the bitter cold.

Family bonding

Male black bears leave their dens around mid-March, but females stay a little longer. That's because they give birth around January and want to give their cubs time to nurse and grow bigger before heading back outside in spring.

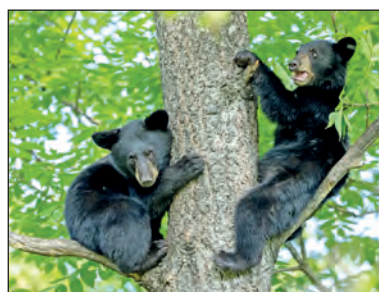
Black bear cubs stay with Mom for one to three years while she teaches them how to live in the wild. Then, when they're ready, they head off to survive in the woods alone — until they start a family of their own.



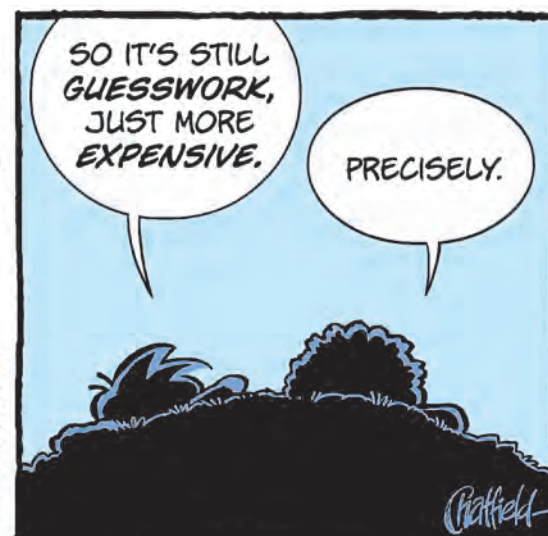
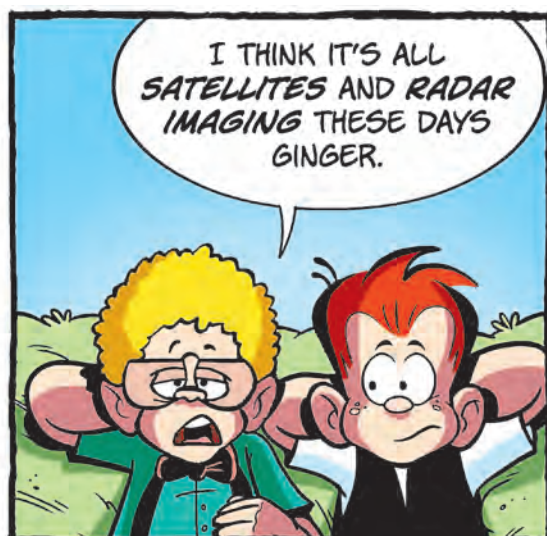
FAST FACTS

- Black bears are smaller than brown bears, often called grizzlies.
- Black bear cubs weigh less than one pound at birth. They gain 20 to 30 pounds in three months.
- Excellent swimmers, black bears can paddle at least a mile and a half in freshwater.
- A bear's claws can grow as long as a whiteboard eraser.

Source: National Geographic Kids



Ginger Meggs



Powerful Earthquakes cause widespread devastation in Turkey and Syria

February 7, 2023

A series of consecutive earthquakes have devastated large areas of Turkey and Syria and killed thousands of people. The first quake measured at 7.8 magnitude. It struck the south-eastern region of Turkey, bordering Syria, early morning on February 6, 2023. As the world was still digesting the news, the area was hit by two more large tremors. They measured at 7.5 magnitude and 6.0 magnitude, respectively.

At least 7,000 people have died. The numbers are expected to rise as rescuers look for residents trapped under the debris of flattened structures. Thousands of people have been injured, and tens of thousands have lost their homes.

Is Turkey prone to earthquakes?

Turkey is no stranger to earthquakes. The country sits on the Anatolian Plate between two major faults. They are the North Anatolian Fault and the East Anatolian Fault. The land masses are constantly bumping into each other. The friction sometimes causes the two plates to get stuck to each other. When they come apart, they release a large amount of energy. This results in earthquakes or tsunamis.

Why have the recent earthquakes caused so much damage?

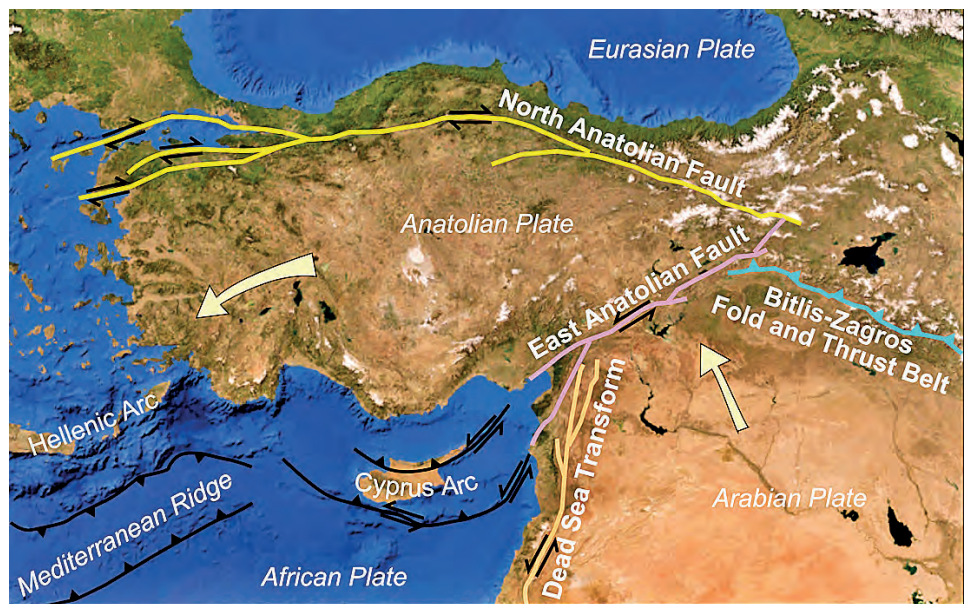
The 7.8 magnitude earthquake is the biggest to strike Turkey this century. Most quakes this size occur underwater. But this one hit land. To make matters worse, its epicenter was close to densely populated areas. Additionally, the area is home to a lot of old buildings. They are not strong enough to withstand such large quakes.

What is the world doing to help the affected regions?

Governments worldwide are sending search and rescue crews, equipment, and medical aid to the region.



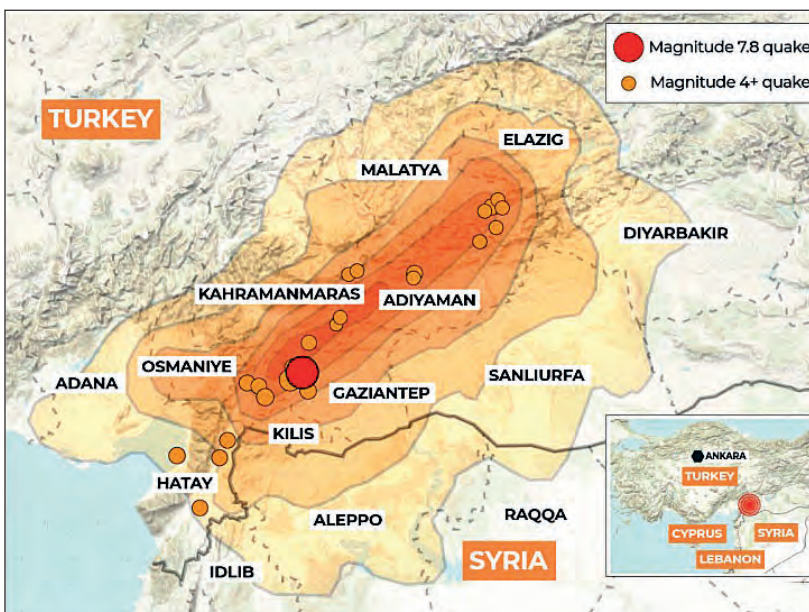
A series of massive earthquakes hit southeastern Turkey on February 6 and 7, 2023.



Turkey is situated between two major faults.

The US has dispatched expert teams to help look for survivors in the rubble. Medics have also been sent to assist local doctors with the injured. In addition, President Joe Biden also promised “any and all” aid needed to help the regions recover from the deadly natural disasters.

Our thoughts go out to the people of Turkey and Syria. Stay strong! The world is with you!



The earthquake hit near very densely populated areas.



The earthquakes have killed over 7,000 people in Turkey and Syria.

February 7

News in Pictures



Hatay, Turkey
An aerial view shows collapsed and damaged buildings after earthquakes struck near Turkey's border with Syria.



Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Cambodia's tourism minister, Thong Khon, welcomes Chinese tourists as they step off a plane, marking the end of a three-year block on travel due to COVID.

Amsterdam, the Netherlands
A woman takes a picture of a painting by Johannes Vermeer titled The Glass of Wine at the Rijksmuseum, which is hosting the biggest exhibition of the 17th century artist's work.



Los Angeles, USA
Logan Winter Rodriguez is dressed as Kang the Conqueror during a premiere for the film 'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania'.



Olievenhoutbosch, South Africa
Light beams out from a newly installed bottle globe inside a shack on an informal settlement in Centurion. The bottle globe provides daylight from a plastic bottle containing water and bleach that reflects sunlight. Scheduled blackouts, known as load-shedding, have burdened Africa's most industrialised economy for years.

February 6

Quebec City, Canada
Teams compete during the Quebec Winter Carnival ice canoe race. Dozens of teams participate in this race, in which they must cross the St. Lawrence River to the city of Levis on the other side and return to their starting point.



Jilin, China
On the third day after the beginning of spring, Jilin City in Jilin province witnessed a rare natural spectacle of heavy fog, snowflakes, rime and sun gathering.



Los Angeles, California, USA
Beyoncé performing at the Grammys, where she broke the record for the most Grammys ever won by an artist.



Chablais valaisan, Switzerland
The full moon sets behind the mountains, including the twin peaks of Les Jumelles.

Source : The Guardian