



# FUNDA Y

## TIMES



***At the Gangaramaya Navam Perahera***

Pic. by  
M. A. Pushpa Kumara

### KIDS' WORLD

PAGES 2 - 3



**STORY**

PAGE 4

**(ONLINE)**



**EVENTS**

PAGE 5



**CRAFT**

PAGE 6

### KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

**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.**

**All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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

**Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:**

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

**Closing date for weekly competitions:**

**March 15, 2023**



**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Events
- **Page 6** – Craft Corner
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

## My teacher

My teacher is Mrs. Rukshana Cassim. She is a Grade Four teacher. She is our teacher for Maths, E.R.A and Sinhala. Although she is also our class teacher, she doesn't teach us English and Religion. She is very kind but she can be strict at the same time. She has three sons.

She is a teacher at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. She is Sectional Head. Her class is Lower 3B. The classroom has 31 boys. Sometimes she takes our English, Link Language and S.M.S.B. (Sound Mind Sound Body) for her periods. She can speak Tamil, Sinhala and English. She speaks to all classes in every assembly.

She stays all night putting E.R.A. notes on her computer, even when the power is out, just for me and my classmates! She wears colourful gowns to school. She makes fun activities. She takes care of the boys in our class. She can be very polite.

She is the best Grade Four teacher in the world!

**Ranuk Jayasuriya (9 years)**  
S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia

**The Reeves Art Competition has been concluded in December 2022. We hope to start a new Art Competition as soon as possible. All further details will be published in the Funday Times in due course.**

## My cat

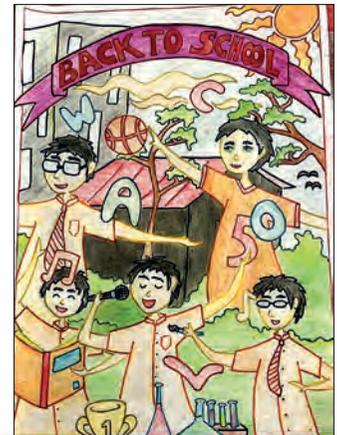
My cat has pink and purple patches on it, and looks very cute. It likes to lick its body often, and scratches all the books.

It meows a lot, and loves water too. It acts like a lion, and screams a lot.

It eats with me and always meows for meat. It also sleeps with me and the day ends.

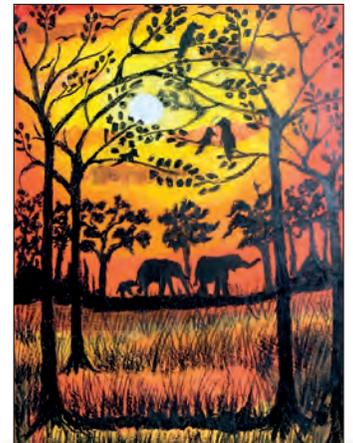
**Sameeha Najeem (9 years)**  
Ilma Int. Girls' School

## Back to School



**Dakshitha De Silva (Grade 9)**  
Ananda College

## Evening view of a forest



**Nulara Ekanayake (12 years)**  
Visakha Vidyalaya

## A storybook character I admire

I have read a countless number of books and come across several interesting characters but my favourite is Nancy Drew. Nancy Drew is the main character in the popular mystery series 'Nancy Drew' written by several authors and published under the pen name Carolyn Keene.

Nancy Drew is a fictional amateur sleuth. She lives in the imaginary town of River Heights, with her father Carson Drew and her housekeeper Hannah Gruen. Nancy and her best friends Bess Marvin and George Fayne have solved many mysteries together such as 'The Mystery of Shadow Ranch', 'The Mystery of Sky Jump', 'The Clue of the Broken Locket'

and 'The Sign of Twisted Candles'.

Nancy has many admirable qualities; she is brave, helpful and caring. She is a quick-thinker who can handle any situation without fear.

She even risks her life to help others. In 'The Mystery of The Ivory Charm', she does everything in her power to find Coye, an Indian boy who has been kidnapped and brought to the US and she later saves his life. This is a good example of her bravery.

Nancy Drew is a great role model for all children.

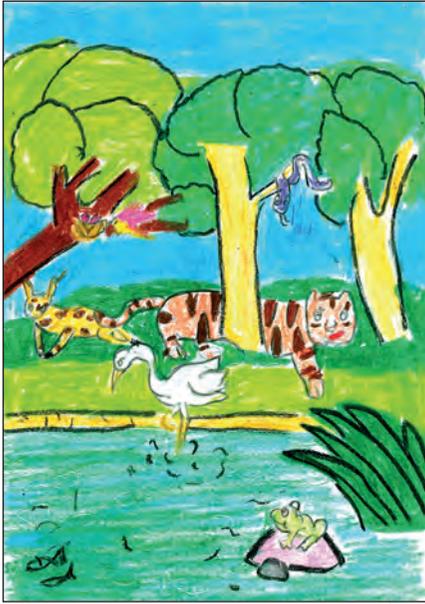
**Hajerah Hizbullah (13 years)**  
Ladies' College, Colombo

## Bluey



**Shreenithi Nagarathnam (11 years)**  
Belvoir College Int.

**Nature**



**Ashini (Grade 4)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**A rainy day**



**Ovindi Dewjani (Grade 3)**  
Kirillawala Primary School, Kadawatha

**Back to School**



**Ifthikar Rahma (11 years)**  
Springfield College, Kandy

**A wolf**



**Rashmindu Ariyaratna (Grade 4)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**Let us help needy people in our society**

Wealth is not distributed equally among all people in the world. Some people have more wealth and some others have very little. Also, some people are very poor, we call it acute poverty. So, wealthy people or people who have abundant resources should help the poor people in society.

All religions encourage us to help the needy people. We can help by giving money, clothes, stationery, housing facilities, water facilities and any other way. In Islamic religion 'Zakat' is a must. It means compulsory charity. Wealthy people must help the people in need.

We should also encourage it among school students. Some students may face difficulty to buy stationery so we must help them. We can reduce theft, robbery and other social problems by helping the poor. We can guide needy people to do a job too. We must encourage everyone to help needy people, for example, elders, widows and differently-abled people.

**Yusuf-ul-Haq (Grade 6)**  
Matale Int. School

**The ocean and plastic**

Once upon a time there was an ocean. One day this ocean discovered something that did not belong in the ocean. The ocean was confused, when suddenly that strange thing started to talk and it said, "Where am I?"

The ocean said, "You are in the ocean. What are you?" "I am plastic," it replied. Can you tell the story of how you got here," said the ocean.

The plastic said, "It's a long story. I was first picked up by a human and I was a water bottle. He took me home and kept me inside the fridge for about one day and he drank me. He lived by the ocean, he threw me and that is how I got here."

"Wow! That is a very long story. Are there more of you in the ocean?" "Yes," said the plastic. "Where?" asked the ocean. "Well you are the Indian Ocean, and there is plastic in all the oceans in the world. Humans are very bad, aren't they?" said the plastic.

"Look, a human is throwing a can! I'm going to create a tsunami," said the ocean. The human screamed, "Look there is a tsunami!" And that is how a tsunami was created.

Moral of the story - *Take care of the environment.*

**Senuth Rupasinghe (Grade 4)**  
St. Joseph Vaz College, Wennappuwa

**My ambition**

My ambition is to be a dress designer. I like dress designing because it makes me happy and it helps me relax. I like to design ballet dresses. This job makes me happy and also it makes other people surprised when they see the pictures.

My parents and teachers inspired me. Everyone cannot do this job. If you try hard, you can do it. I can earn dollars from this job. This designing art is coming from long ago. Charles Frederick Worth was the first dress designer.

I will do dress designing for my higher studies.

**Uvindi Akeesha (Grade 5)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**Myself**

My name is Sanuthi Vinaya Wickramasingha. I live in Kiribathkumbura. I am eight years old. I study at Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy. I am in Grade 3A.

My favourite food is pasta. My favourite colour is pink. My favourite pet is a rabbit. I love to play with my dolls. I like to wear dresses.

**Sanuthi Wickramasingha (8 years)**  
Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy



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.





## Overconfident Little Ant

By Manoshi De Silva

**L**ittle Ant came out of the ant-hill to help his brother carry a piece of bread. It was much bigger than the two ants and was a bit heavy. “We can’t carry this to the ant-hill,” said Little Ant. “It’s just not possible!”

“You should never give-up so quickly, Little Ant,” said their grandfather, who was nearby. “You must try and do it with courage. You must always believe in yourself!” The two small ants struggled and with some help from their grandfather, managed to carry the piece of bread home.

Later that day Little Ant went out with his brother for a walk. They saw a lot of interesting things on the way. What really interested them was a small pond by the side of a road. Both ants stopped to watch the fish swim in the small pond. “How do they do that?” asked Little Ant. “They are born with the skills to do so,” replied Little Ant’s brother. “Can we also swim if we try?” asked Little Ant. “Of course not! We’d drown,” replied his brother.

The two small ants headed back home, but Little Ant couldn’t stop thinking about the fish pond. “Didn’t our grandfather tell us that we should not give up and that we should always believe in ourselves?” asked Little Ant. “I think we should try to swim.”

“No, we shouldn’t!” shouted back Little Ant’s brother. “We can’t swim!”

By the side of the road was a shallow hole that was filled with rain water. “Watch this!” shouted Little Ant as he ran and jumped into the tiny puddle. Little Ant’s brother shouted in horror as Little Ant splashed and slowly swam across the puddle. He slowly crept out smiling at his brother who was extremely upset.

“You are lucky it was shallow. You could have drowned!” shouted Little Ant’s brother who was very angry. Little Ant giggled. “You are such a coward! Don’t be so scared. I managed to swim across it, didn’t I?” he laughed, mocking his brother.

“We are ants! We are not born to swim like fish!” said Little Ant’s brother. “I am going to tell everyone about this!”

“Please don’t do that,” begged Little Ant, “I promise that I won’t be naughty

again!” So with great difficulty he managed to stop his brother from reporting his naughty behaviour to the ant-hill.

A few days later, Little Ant and his brother went out in search of food. There was a nice smell coming from a table in a nearby house. Both ants climbed up the table. There was a lot of food set on the table. “Let’s take a few small pieces and go back to our ant-hill and tell everyone about this table,” said Little Ant’s brother.

“Alright, but wait a little,” requested Little Ant pointing at a glass filled with fruit juice. “What is that?” Little Ant’s brother was not interested.

“I need to find out what’s in it,” said Little Ant as he hurriedly climbed up the glass. He then licked a small drop and found it to be very sweet.

Little Ant shouted at his brother who was standing at the bottom of the tall glass, “Watch me swim in this sweet pool!” “No, don’t be a fool!” shouted back his brother, “You’ll drown!” “You said that when I jumped into the puddle as well. But I managed to swim out of it, didn’t I?” asked Little Ant arrogantly, and jumped into the glass of fruit juice.

Little Ant giggled and splashed in the juice. “Come out at once!” shouted his brother, “if you won’t, I will run back home and inform our family!”

This scared Little Ant as he knew he would get punished. So he swam to the edge of the glass to get out.

But getting out was not as easy as he thought it would be. The juice was thick and sticky, unlike water, and he just couldn’t get out of it. To make matters worse, the glass was slippery as well. He kept on slipping as he struggled to get out. “Help me!” he cried, “I can’t get out!”

Little Ant’s brother felt scared. “I told you not to do it! Now you’ve got us both in trouble. I’ll go home and get help. Maybe the others will be able to pull you out!” he shouted. “I can’t wait that long. I’ll drown!” wailed Little Ant. He was struggling and trying his best to stay afloat and his brother knew he had to act immediately to save Little Ant.



So he climbed up the glass of fruit juice quickly.

There was a plastic straw in the juice and Little Ant’s brother managed to get hold of it and push it towards Little Ant. “Here, grab this and climb out!” he shouted. Poor Little Ant was lucky enough to get hold of the straw in time and he managed to come out. He was drenched in juice and was full of tears.

“I am sorry,” he cried, “I could have drowned!” Little Ant’s brother was very angry. As soon as they went home, he told their grandfather what happened. Their grandfather was very angry too. “Why would you do such a foolish thing?” he scolded Little Ant.

“You told us that we should try and do things and always believe in ourselves!” cried Little Ant. “That’s why I thought I could do it!”

“Yes, what I said is true but that should only apply to things that are possible for us to do and things that are not dangerous!” replied their grandfather.

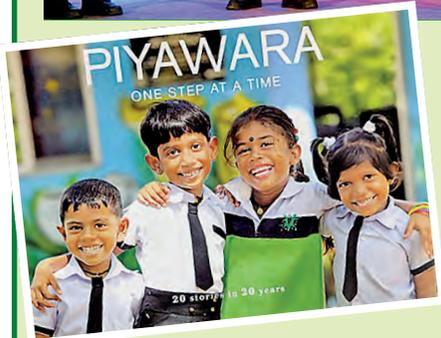
“You should be brave, but doing unnecessary things or things that can harm yourself or anyone else is not being brave. That is being stupid! We should not be overconfident but intelligent enough to decide whether it’s the right thing to do, before we do anything!” advised their grandfather and both Little Ant and his brother agreed.



The 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting in Sri Lanka was celebrated by the Puttalam Branch of the Sri Lanka Scout Association at St. Andrew's Primary School grounds with the participation of over 500 students from 20 schools in the Puttalam district.

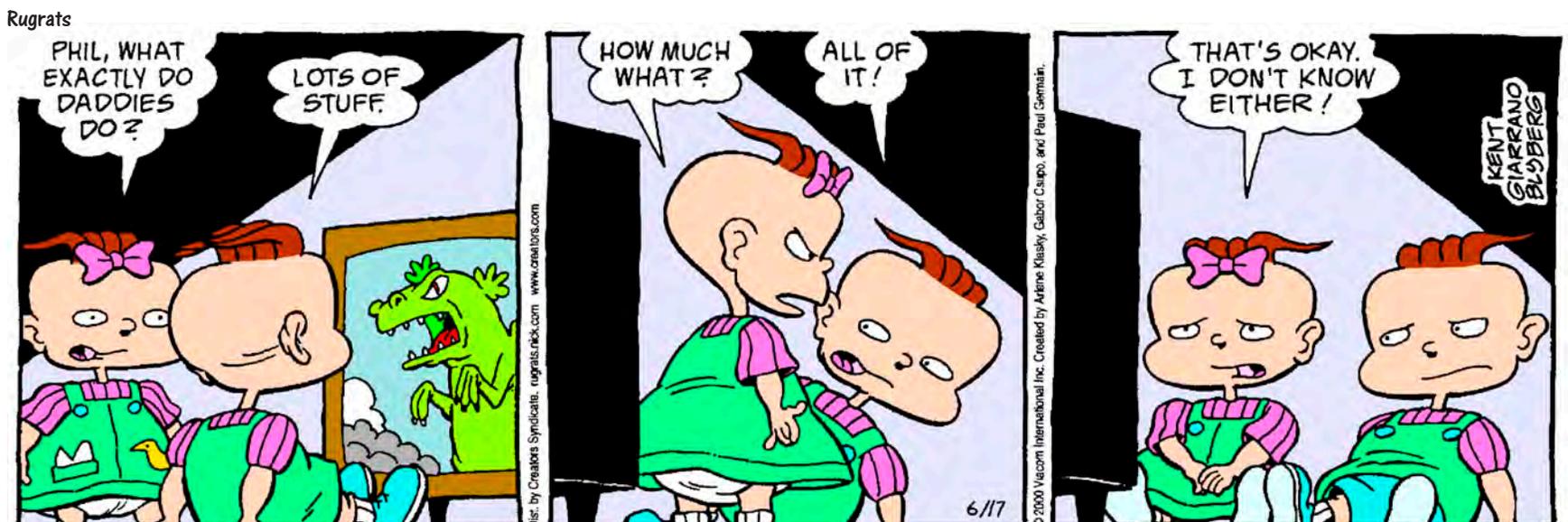


Pix. by Hiran Priyankara Jayasinghe



A highlight at the launch of 'Piyawara', a coffee table book authored by Kumudini Hettiarachchi was the performance by the children of the 'Ranwala Balakaya'. The book published by the Hemas Outreach Foundation details the 20-year journey of Piyawara Preschools islandwide.

Pix. by Akila Jayawardena



# Make a guitar

The guitar is one of the most popular instruments around the world, and different cultures have different variations. The Russian version called is the balalaika. In India it's called the sitar, and in Polynesia it's known as a ukulele.

Even though the designs are somewhat different, all the versions make music the same way: by plucking or strumming strings, which creates sound vibrations.

Try it for yourself!

### Materials

- Cardboard box like a tissue box, cereal box or shoe box
- Cardboard tube
- Scissors
- Rubber bands
- Duct tape



### Method

1. Cut a hole on the front of the box for the sound-hole and on top of the box to attach the guitar neck.



2. Make small cuts around one end of the tube.



3. Insert the bottom of the tube into the hole at the top of the box and attach the tube to the box with the duct tape.



4. Wrap rubber bands from the top of the tube to the bottom of the box, securing them in the cuts you made. Tape in place.

5. Now play along with your favourite song or create your own song.



- PBS Kids



## 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.**

### Read-a-Book Competition

Name : .....

Date of birth : .....

Address : .....

School: .....

Tel: .....

Finished book on : .....



Or

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



## Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words.

Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.



### Young Reporters Coupon

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Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



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## Why are they rewriting Roald Dahl?

February 21, 2023

**Books by popular children's author Roald Dahl are being changed, to make them more suitable for modern audiences.**

Roald Dahl is famous for his books including 'The BFG', 'Matilda' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

The changes include removing offensive references of characters' appearance such as "ugly" or "fat".

The Roald Dahl estate and book publisher Puffin decided to make these changes, so the books "can continue to be enjoyed by all today".

But many people disagree with changes, including UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Find out why the books are changing and what people think below.

### Why are Roald Dahl's books being changed?

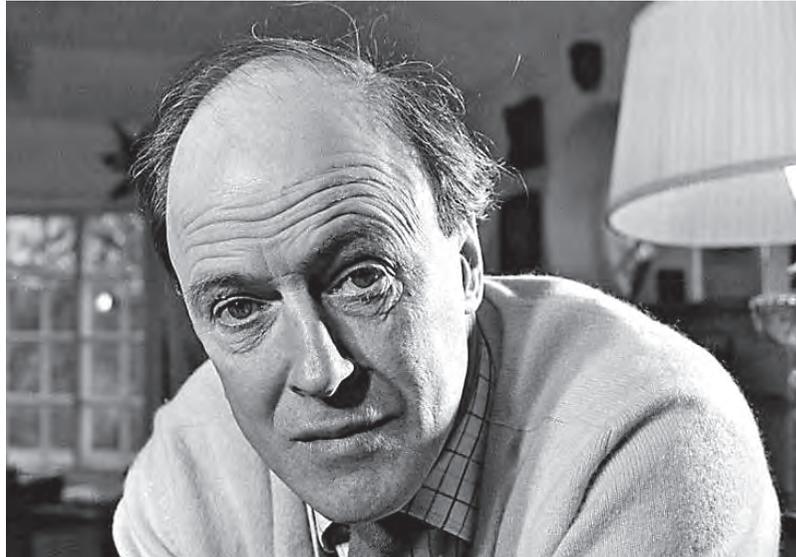
Roald Dahl wrote more than 20 children's books including 'The Twit', 'Matilda' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', many of which were then turned into films.

The changes are happening because the Roald Dahl Story Company worked with publisher Puffin and Inclusive Minds - a group working towards better inclusion and accessibility in children's books.

The books were checked by sensitivity readers, who look for any potentially offensive language.

### What are people saying about the changes to Roald Dahl's books?

A spokesperson for the Roald Dahl Story Company said it wanted "to ensure



that Roald Dahl's wonderful stories and characters continue to be enjoyed by all children today".

The review process has been taking place since 2020, and any of the changes were "small and carefully considered". The Dahl company said it wasn't unusual to review language when reprinting books.

There are disagreements about whether the books should be edited or not.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak criticised the changes.

A spokesperson for Mr. Sunak said: "When it comes to our rich and varied literary heritage, the Prime Minister agrees with the BFG that we shouldn't gobblefunk around with words."

'Gobblefunk' is a word Dahl invented, which means to play around with words and invent new words or meanings.

Author of 'His Dark Materials', Philip Pullman told the BBC Dahl's books "should be allowed to fade away," rather than be changed if they are seen to be offensive.

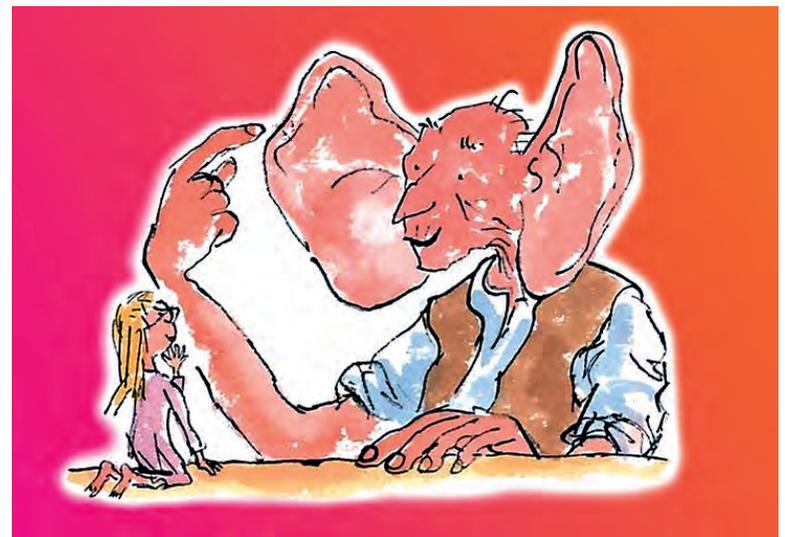
"If Dahl offends us, let him go out of print.

Read all these [other] wonderful authors who are writing today, who don't get as much of a look-in because of the massive commercial gravity of people like Roald Dahl," said Philip Pullman.

But others agree with the changes. Debjani Chatterjee is a poet and author, she said it's: "a very good thing that the publishers are reviewing his work".

She added: "I think it's been done quite sensitively. Take the word 'fat'. They've used 'enormous'. If anything, I actually think 'enormous' is even funnier."

Roald Dahl died aged 74, in 1990, and is still a most popular children's author.



Roald Dahl wrote 'The BFG'.



Roald Dahl's book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' was turned into a film.

### What has changed in Roald Dahl's books?

- Augustus Gloop, from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is now described as "enormous".
- The word "fat" has been taken out of every book
- Mrs. Twit, from 'The Twits', is now described as "beastly" no longer "ugly and beastly"
- 'The Twits' has removed the word "weird" from the sentence "a weird African language"
- "Crazy" and "mad" have also been taken out of the books

February 21

News in Pictures



**Al-'Ula, Saudi Arabia**  
A digitally created image of the first UNESCO World Heritage Site to enter the Metaverse – the virtual recreation of the Tomb of Lihyan allows visitors to experience Hegra’s history.



**Binche, Belgium**  
Festival participants known as *Gilles* wear traditional costumes during carnival celebrations. The Carnival de Binche is a popular historical cultural event that was named a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity by UNESCO in 2003.



**Khalifa Port, United Arab Emirates**  
Team Jumbo-Visma compete during the 5<sup>th</sup> UAE Tour, Stage 2, a 17.3km team time trial.

February 20

**Kyiv, Ukraine**  
US President Joe Biden meets Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy at the Mariinsky Palace during the US president’s unannounced visit to Ukraine.



**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
Members of the Mocidade Independente de Padre Miguel samba school parade on Avenida Marquês de Sapucaí, the Sambadrome, during carnival.



**London, UK**  
Richard E Grant, presenter of the BAFTA awards, takes a selfie with winners on stage at the Royal Festival Hall.

**Hatay, Turkey**  
A volunteer entertainer cheers children at a makeshift tent city for people displaced by the earthquake.



**New Orleans, USA**  
A ‘Mr. T’ float in the Krewe of Bacchus parade during Mardi Gras.



**Kawazu, Japan**  
A pedestrian passes kawazu-zakura cherry trees in bloom on the east coast of the Izu peninsula.

Source : The Guardian