

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 12, 2023

FUN DAY TIMES



A fun race

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

WINNERS
POETRY & ESSAYS
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(ONLINE)



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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 29, 2023

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

Little Bird

Little bird, little bird,
Flying in the sky,
Flying so high
To the top of the tree.

Little bird, little bird,
Your babies have hatched,
When they grow up,
Come and visit me.

Senara Mallawaarachchi
Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy



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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

The difference

Most of us live in bliss,
There is no entertainment we will miss,
We live in our comfort zones,
With all tech, TV, iPad and phones.

But the children in Africa, Afghanistan and Palestine are suffering,
With bombs and rockets keep on hammering,
We should stop and focus on their sadness,
Otherwise the human race will lead to utter chaos and madness.

It is our duty to reach out and lend a hand,
Because time vanishes like writing on the sand,
Take a stand and show you care,
Donate, spread the word and this message do share.

Aleena Munaff
Ilma Int. Girls' School

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My favourite game

Win: The Little Mermaid

The Little Mermaid desperately wants to be human. Find out what happens when the sea witch grants her wish.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A school sports meet I enjoyed

Win: Little Lord Fauntleroy by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Seven-year-old Cedric gets a shock when he is whisked away from the streets of New York to an English stately home. He gets an even bigger shock when he discovers he will inherit a great fortune and a title.

Cedric is daunted to meet the grandfather he has never seen before, who is mean and selfish. But Cedric – now known as Little Lord Fauntleroy – is a very unusual boy who takes it all in his stride...



Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: International Women's Day

Win: The Vendor of Sweets by R.K. Narayan

While the colourful sweetmeats are frying in the kitchen, Jagan immerses himself in his copy of the Bhagavad Gita. A widower of firm Gandhian principles, Jagan nonetheless harbours a warm and embarrassed affection for his wastrel son Mali.

Yet even Jagan's patience begins to fray when Mali descends on the sleepy city of Malgudi full of modern notions, with a new half-American wife and a grand plan for selling novel-writing machines. From different generations and different cultures, father and son are forced to confront each other, and are taken by surprise...



Write at the top of your Essay

■ **Book Competition** ■ **Essay Topic**



Book Competition



9 years and below

Sri Lanka's Independence Day
Thanansika Rajees
Jaffna Hindu Ladies College

10 – 12 years

An Independence Day
parade I have seen
Hiflur Rahman
Zahira College, Colombo

13 – 15 years

75 years of Independence in Sri Lanka
Nethmi Batuwita
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

Joyce Goonesekera
Montessori, Colombo 3
held their annual
sports meet at
Moors Sports Grounds
on March 3, 2023.
Tightrope Walkers,
Stacking Cups,
Clowning Around,
It's all about Balance,
Come get your
Popcorn, Ring the
Hats, were among the
many fun events the
kids participated in.



Pix. by
M. A. Pushpa Kumara



Gupshup Goes to Prison by Arefa Tehsin

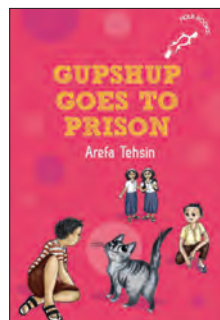
"Khalid's cat Gupshup has run away
to the grounds of a prison.

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.



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.



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Some WINNERS of 'Gupshup...'

- Suhanya Gamaarachchi, Nugegoda
- Yonal Batuwita, Kotte
- Senuri Gunawardana, Pannipitiya
- Kaveen Gnanaweera, Nugegoda
- Tania Chand, Colombo 6
- Saqeef-ul-Haq, Matale

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Famous People
- **Page 6** – Book Winners Essays
- **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.

The Rule of 72

Maths in Action 72

By R. N. A. de Silva

Those who have learnt about compound interest in their mathematics classes may have come across problems trying to find the number of years that it will take to double an investment.

'The Rule of 72' is a simple way to determine the number of years to double an investment given a fixed annual rate of interest. It is believed that the Italian mathematician Luca Pacioli mentioned about this rule in his book called 'Summa de Arithmetica' in 1494. He is also known as the 'Father of Accounting' as he introduced the concepts of the double-entry method in book-keeping.

The method is simple. Just divide 72 by the rate of interest. The result is an approximate number of years that it will take to double an investment, whatever the amount of investment is. Consider the following question.

If you have deposited Rs 100,000/= in a bank that pays an annual rate of interest at 6% on an automatic renewal basis, how long will it take for the total amount to be double the deposit?

The answer is $72/6$, which is 12 years. To understand how it works, you have to know the compound interest formula and the rules of logarithms.

If the initial deposit is P , the rate of interest is r percent and the number of years is n , then the amount accrued is equal to $P(1+r)^n$.

If the total is double the initial deposit, then $2P = P(1+r)^n$. This gives us $(1+r)^n = 2$.

Using logarithms, $\ln(1+r)^n = \ln 2$. According to the rules of logarithms, $n \ln(1+r) = \ln 2$.

If r is sufficiently small $\ln(1+r)$ is approximately equal to r . Therefore, $nr = \ln 2$. $\ln 2$ is approximately 0.69. As such, $n = 69/r$.

Therefore, the rule should be in fact the Rule of 69. But it is adjusted to 72, as 72 is a multiple of many standard interest rates such as 2%, 3%, 4%, 6% and 8%.

Because of all these approximations, the result is also an approximation, but it happens to be a reasonable approximation.

Rule of 72

$$\text{Time} = \frac{72}{\text{Interest Rate}}$$



Math Plot - 72

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to ndesilva@osc.lk

within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

John was born on February 29, 1896 and passed away on February 28, 1956. How many birthdays did he celebrate?

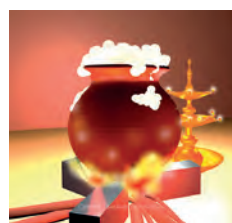
Math Plot 71 – Solution

The answer is 22.

The winner is **Vismaya Dhande** of **Stafford Int. School, Colombo**. Congratulations!



Avurudu Cover 2023



As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times Avurudu Cover. Would you like to send in a picture for our Avurudu Cover? If so, here's what you have to do. Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it to us by April 1, 2023.



The painting should be on A4 size paper. You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk. Please make your picture bright and colourful.

All entries must include your full details and should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.

The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times New Year issue.
The winner will also receive a book voucher.

Closing Date:
April 1, 2023

Wish you all happy painting!



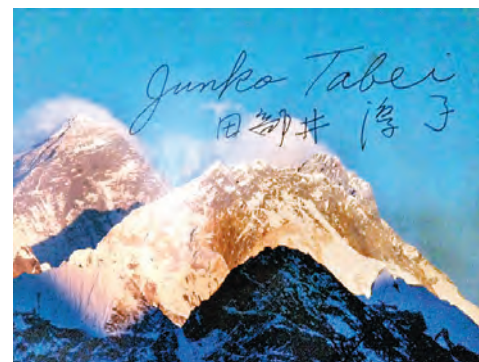
Or

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Junko Tabei

Junko Tabei was one of the most famous female mountaineers. She is best known as the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest. She achieved this milestone on May 16, 1975.

She was the thirty sixth person to climb Everest. She is also the first woman to summit the highest mountain on each of the seven continents. These seven mountains are collectively known as the Seven Summits.



Early Life

Junko Tabei was born Ishibashi Junko on September 22, 1939, in a small agricultural town in the Miharu, Fukushima prefecture in Japan. She was the fifth daughter in a family of 7 children. She was considered as a frail and weak child in the family.

She started going on a class climbing trip and began climbing mountains at an early age of 10.

Initial Career

She attended Showa Women's University and earned a degree in English and American literature from 1958 to 1962, where she was also a member of the mountain climbing club.

During college, Junko met a group of male students who were in an alpine club, which she wished to join.

In 1969, after her graduation, she initiated the Ladies Climbing Club: Japan (LCC). The club was the first of its kind in Japan with the club's slogan, "Let's go on an overseas expedition by ourselves".

Interesting Facts

- During college, she encountered a group of male mountaineers who were in an alpine club, which she wanted to be a part of. Some, male mountaineers made fun of Junko Tabei and refused to climb with her, others thought she was there to find a husband and was not interested in climbing.
- Junko then joined several mountain-climbing clubs and later formed the Ladies Climbing Club in 1969.
- In 1969, Junko Tabei founded the Joshi-Tohan mountaineering club for women only.
- Tabei's Ladies Climbing Club (LCC) contained a team headed by Eiko Hisano known as the Japanese Women's Everest Expedition (JWEE), which was formed to attempt to climb the summit of Mount Everest.
- On May 19, 1970, LCC decided to tackle Mount Everest after Tabei and Hiroko Hirakawa successfully summited Annapurna III.
- Junko Tabei was a recognized mountain climber in Japan by 1972 and she climbed mountains such as Mount Fuji in Japan and the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps.
- In the 1990 – 91 seasons, Tabei reached Antarctica's highest mountain, Mount Vinson.
- On June 28, 1992, she became the first woman to complete the Seven Summits after she reached the peak of Puncak Jaya in Indonesia.
- In 2000, she went on to become an environmental advocate and completed her postgraduate studies at Kyushu University.
- In 2016, she also led a group of young people affected by the Fukushima Tsunami disaster on an expedition to Mount Fuji.
- She was diagnosed with cancer in 2012, which caused her death on October 20, 2016.



Source: Easy Science for Kids

9 years and below**Sri Lanka's Independence Day**

My country Sri Lanka achieved Independence in 1948 on February 4th. In order to celebrate and remember the freedom we got from the British, we Sri Lankans celebrate the Independence Day every year on February 4th. It is celebrated all over the country with people hoisting the Sri Lankan flag and observing the celebrations on TV. The president hoists our flag and there are dances, parades and performances. Usually, the main celebration takes place in Colombo at Galle Face or Independence Square. The president also delivers a speech on this special day.

I love the parades. They train for the parades for many months. The soldiers smartly march like robots and we can see various interesting vehicles like the ones that carried bombs during the war and even boats. This year, we successfully celebrated the 75th Independence even amidst the economic problems. We should live in peace and harmony and celebrate our Independence as a family.

Thanansika Rajees (8 years)
Jaffna Hindu Ladies College

Book Competition**10 – 12 years****An Independence Day parade I have seen**

Independence Day in Sri Lanka is celebrated annually on February 4th. Sri Lanka gained Independence from the British on February 4, 1948.

The day is a national holiday in Sri Lanka. It is celebrated all over the country with flag-hoisting ceremonies, dances, parades and cultural performances.

The main celebrations take place in Colombo. Here the President raises the National Flag and delivers a speech at a nationally televised event.

On a Friday morning, my parents and I got into our car. I wasn't sure about our travelling destination.

We stopped in front of a huge crowd of people. I felt bored. We got down and walked our way through the crowd till we reached a place which was highly secured by police and army officers.

That's when I witnessed the first parade in my life. The military parade displayed the power of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Police and the Civil Defense Force.

When we came back home, I asked many questions about the parade. I could still see the parade in my mind.

Hiflur Rahman (12 years)
Zahira College, Colombo

**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**

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

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



Or



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13 – 15 years**75 years of Independence in Sri Lanka**

The story of our freedom struggle is very long. Independence Day reminds us of the dedication and suffering of our freedom fighters and leaders who gave Sri Lanka its freedom.

Sri Lanka's Independence Day also known as National Day is celebrated on February 4th after we received our Independence from British rule on February 4, 1948.

The National Flag is exhibited in public places and in front of houses. Schools, colleges arrange different cultural programmes. Children wear national suits and hold national flags in their hands. For example boys wear the National suit and girls wear *Lama Sariya*. Some pupils wear clothes like our National Heroes and deliver speeches about them. Our nation is grateful to our freedom fighters like Anagarika Dharmapala, Gongalegoda Banda, Veera Puran Appu and Veera Keppetipola Nilame. The national anthem and patriotic songs are sung.

Though Sri Lanka won her freedom, the country remained a dominion for the next 24 years before it was fully a republic status in 1972. The main ceremony of the National Independence Day celebrations is held at the Galle Face Green. There is a military parade, cultural programmes, fireworks and the President's flag-hoisting ceremony. Many foreign guests also witness the celebrations.

In conclusion, no matter how many years pass after 1948, February 4th will always stay as one of the most loved and celebrated holidays in our multi-cultural nation.

Nethmi Batuwita (13 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

International Women's Day 2023: What's it all about?

March 8, 2023 marks International Women's Day.

March 8, 2023

It's a day that celebrates 'the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women' whilst also calling for equality - where men and women are treated the same. No one government, country, charity or group is responsible for it.

When did International Women's Day start?

International Women's Day (IWD) has been marked for over 100 years with the first gathering held in 1911. More than one million women and men attended IWD rallies in Europe, campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination.

The United Nations officially recognised International Women's Day in 1977 and some countries recognise International Women's Day as a public holiday including China, Russia and Uganda.

The struggle for women's rights began long before International Women's Day was established.

For example, only since the suffragette movement in the early 20th Century did women get the right to vote in the UK.

The fight for women's rights

It's a struggle that's been ongoing since ancient times.



In Ancient Rome, laws - created by men - ensured that women had no public voice and no role in public life. This inequality between genders continued all the way up until the 19th Century, where an afternoon tea sparked a revolution...

Women's Rights Movement - How it all happened

Although quality of life may have improved for women, their rights and equality to men had not.

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an American rights activist, held the first Woman's Rights convention in New York, calling for changes to be made to the laws so that women could have an equal place within society. Things like the right to vote, or having control over their own money and property.

She finally forced changes in the law in America. People were beginning to take notice.

In 1869, the National Woman Suffrage Association was formed in the USA, with its main goal to make sure that women had the right to vote.

Countries all around the world began to see a rise in women's suffrage movements and in 1888 the International Women's Council was formed, to promote equality and human rights for women.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Clearly the suffrage movements in the UK were a huge source of change. These women chose to challenge the norms of society.

Women had very few rights at all, especially once they were married. Even Queen Victoria, the British monarch, didn't think that women should have anything to do with politics. A woman's place was at home.

Women get the vote at last

On February 6, 1918 an important law was passed which changed the UK forever.

It was called the Representation of the People Act 1918. It was an important law because it finally recognised the part women had played in the victory during World War I, and gave them a right to vote for the very first time.

Before this law, women weren't allowed to vote in general elections at all.

And so began the first real steps of change and a fight for equality that continues in modern society today.



March 7

News in Pictures



Stamford Hill, UK

Young Orthodox Jewish children in east London, dress up in costumes to celebrate the holiday of Purim, marking Jews' salvation from genocide in ancient Persia, as recounted in the Scroll of Esther.



New York, USA

New York's Empire State Building is lit with the red and white colours of the Turkish flag in a show of support after massive earthquakes hit the country's southern provinces last month.

Beijing, China

Minority ethnic delegates leave after the second plenary session of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People.



Winchester, UK

Space scientist Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock poses at Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium with a one-of-a-kind Barbie doll in her likeness, in celebration of International Women's Day and British Science Week. Aderin-Pocock has been recognised for her achievements in making space and science accessible to young girls. Her doll features a starry dress and comes with a telescope accessory, a nod to her work with the James Webb space telescope.



Salangpur, India

Confetti is blown on to celebrants marking Holi, the Festival of Colours, at a temple in the western state of Gujarat.

Narathiwat, Thailand

Monks walk around a giant Buddha statue as they perform religious rites to mark Magha Puja.



March 6



Yunnan, China

Parents take children to visit animal and plant specimens and learn about conservation in Kunming.



Lviv, Ukraine

Vitalii Ivashchuk, 24, a Ukrainian war veteran, using a bionic prosthesis from Open Bionics during a news conference at the Superhumans Center clinic.

California, USA

Guests attend AlienCon 2023 at the Pasadena Convention Center.



Source : The Guardian