

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 19, 2023

FUN DAY TIMES



Celebrating Holi

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

COMPETITIONS

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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:

April 5, 2023

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.

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Read-a-Book for February

9 years and below

Senuri Gunawardana

Shock for the Secret Seven
by Enid Blyton



10 – 12 years

Sheiza Samidon

House at the Corner
by Enid Blyton

13 – 15 years

Hikma Manajir

The Dog Who Changed the World
by Robert Leeson

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

Tomahawk Quiz 202



Esandi Ranasinghe

Winners of the Tomahawk Quiz collected their bicycles from the Tomahawk Bicycle Mall in Bambalapitiya recently.

Tomahawk Quiz 203



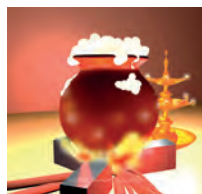
Lavarnaesh Shankar

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Competition /Event
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- **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.

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 Avurudu issue.

The winner will also receive a book voucher.

Closing Date:
April 1, 2023

Wish you all happy painting!

mail Or email fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

International Day of Forests (IDF) has been celebrated on March 21 since the United Nations General Assembly declared the day in 2012, with the aim of raising awareness on the importance of forests. The theme for 2023 is 'Forests and health', to highlight the vital role that forests play in the health of humans and the planet.



21 March International Day of Forests



To mark the occasion, let's look at some of the ways that forests impact the world:

Fighting Climate Change

One of the main drivers of climate change is carbon emissions. Trees naturally absorb carbon thereby cleaning the air.

Home to many

Roughly 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity call forests their home and around 50% live in tropical rainforests. In addition, over 300 million people live in forests.



Providing medicines

Indigenous and traditional cultures have sourced their medicines from the forest for centuries and approximately 25% of the pharmaceutical medicines in use today have been derived from rainforest plants.

Aside from all the many tangible benefits of forests, they add so much colour and beauty to the world in a way that is unparalleled by any other ecosystem on Earth.



Protecting against extreme weather

With the progression of climate change, extreme weather events (such as cyclones, floods, landslides, droughts and forest fires) become increasingly frequent, and different trees have a plethora of traits that help mitigate the effects of such events. Well-established roots hold the soil together and absorb stormwater before it can cause too much damage; temperatures are lowered through the gradual release of vapour from leaves; harmful UV rays are filtered by tree canopies; wildfires can be slowed by fire resistant bark; and powerful root systems (such as those of mangroves) along the coastlines can reduce the impact of cyclones.

Supplying a variety of food

Throughout history, humans have foraged in forests for food ranging from mushrooms sprouting along the forest floor to coconuts growing dozens of feet above.

Sustaining jobs

While jobs such as logging, carpentry and woodworking very obviously depend on forests, there is a wide variety of jobs that have a not-so-obvious reliance on forests. Tour guides, nature photographers and forest rangers are some examples. Overall, the livelihoods of more than 1.6 billion people depend on forests.

Saving electricity

Trees in urban areas can lower temperatures by up to 8°C and reduce electricity costs by minimising or completely ridding people of the need for artificial cooling.



Fast Facts

- An estimated 420 million hectares of forest have been destroyed globally since 1990.
- According to the Global TreeSearch database, there are around 60,000 tree species in the world. A little over 8,000 species have been listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (December 2019).
- More than half of the world's forests are contained in only 5 countries – the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and China.

Source : un.org/fao.org

Tomahawk

Quiz
No. 205

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 205 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issues and e-papers of February 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

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. 205' 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.

One lucky winner
will receive a brand new
Tomahawk Mountain Bike
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: March 31, 2023



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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 205

1. Who was the first Ceylonese to be appointed Governor General of then Ceylon?
2. When is World Wetlands Day annually celebrated?
3. What was the magnitude of the first earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria recently?
4. What was Lord Robert Baden-Powell famous for?
5. Name five Roald Dahl books that have been made into movies.

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7 - 9 years



- ▶ Chiran Peiris, Moratuwa
- ▶ Nazrath Imthiyaz, Colombo 14
- ▶ Lochana Wimalasooriya, Ragama
- ▶ Esandi Ranasinghe, Piliyandala
- ▶ Hiranmia Sivalingam, Trincomalee

Winners please call
Funday Times on
2479333/2479337
and arrange
to collect your prizes.

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Unscramble the letters



r e h o s



n w c r o



g l a f



m i l e



z i z p a



e h e p s



b a r e z



e b e



Or


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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.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



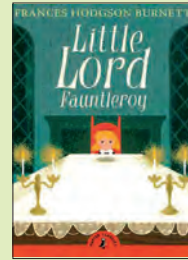
Age: 10 – 12 years

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...

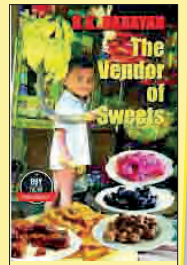
Age: 13 – 15 years

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...



Immy Kids International Montessori held a colourful Holi Festival celebration.



Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

From a Young Reporter

Are men and women treated equally in society?

This question is commonly discussed all around the world and includes several arguments. Gender inequality is the discrimination of men and women in which both men and women are not treated equally.

In my opinion, no country in the world has achieved gender equality. If we look at the world even today, in many places, women are not given equal rights in comparison to men. Women are never encouraged or supported to pursue their dreams. Most of the time, they are not encouraged in situations when they want to do something for themselves. They experience further inequality because of their appearance, class, age, dressing style and strength.

Society is more biased towards men, because most of the time everyone thinks that women lack physical strength and whatever they do is less time consuming and there's no effort in it. Most of the time people think that a woman needs to have the

support of a man in order to survive in this world. Some families do not encourage women to engage in sports because some people have the mindset that it's only meant for boys.

Most of the time, the Asian society believes that having daughters and giving birth to a baby girl is not useful and it causes stress and contains a lot of expenses in comparison to having a baby boy. Women are further judged for having male friends, going out to work, not engaging in household work, for being straight-forward and having a social life.

Whatever the society thinks about women is a myth because there are many successful women out there, like: Gunjan Saxena who had a dream to be in the Air Force and was the one and only woman who went forward and fought in the Kargil wars, Mary Kom who aspired to become a boxing champion – she fulfilled her dream, even as a mother of two she didn't give up on her dreams, Malala Yousafzai – a Pakistani woman

who faced many terrorist attacks, is considered a hero because she fought for the education rights of Pakistani girls, Jessica Watkins an American NASA astronaut – is the first black woman who will complete an international space mission.

In fact even men are discriminated against and are expected to be manly all the time due to which they fear to expose their emotional side. Most of the time men are supposed to take the complete burden of earning for their family without any assistance given by family members. Most places in India think that having a baby girl is inauspicious for the family and think they would not support their parents in their old age.

Hence, I conclude that men and women are not treated equally in the society and all we can hope is that gender inequality converts into gender equality in the upcoming years.

Hikma Manajir (15 years)
Springfield College, Kandy



Malala Yousafzai



Jessica Watkins



Mary Kom



Gunjan Saxena



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



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval:

Date:

Oscars 2023: Hollywood's biggest awards night

March 14, 2023

The biggest film awards ceremony of the year has taken place in Hollywood. The Academy Awards (or Oscars) gave most of the big prizes to sci-fi film 'Everything Everywhere All At Once' which was named Best Picture.

It proved to be a night where many records were broken, so here are some of the highlights.



Sci-fi film 'Everything Everywhere All At Once' won the most Oscars of the night

First Asian Best Actress Winner

Michelle Yeoh became the first ever Asian woman to be awarded Best Actress at the awards.

She was the star of 'Everything Everywhere All At Once' which won seven awards in total.

When she won the award she said in her speech that "dreams do come true."

The star of Marvel's 'Shang-Chi' also said she wanted to inspire young people from Asian backgrounds to do their best:

"For all the little boys and girls who look like me watching tonight, this is a beacon of hope and possibilities," she said.



Michelle Yeoh won Best Actress for her role in Sci-Fi film 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'

Pinocchio wins Best Animated Film

The Best Animated Film category was a closely fought one this year with 'Turning Red', and 'Puss In Boots' both nominated for the top award.

But it was the slightly creepy animation of 'Pinocchio' which won the award.

It retells the classic Italian story which has been made into films a number of times since it was written in the 1800s.

'Pinocchio' was made using a method called stop frame animation, when filmmakers take hundreds of still photos of the miniatures and move them a little bit between each photo - like 'Wallace and Gromit'. When they're all stuck together it makes the characters move.



'Pinocchio' tells the tale of a wooden puppet who comes to life

Best Costumes for Black Panther

Although fans of 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' may be disappointed it didn't get any of the biggest prizes, it did win an award for its incredible costumes.

Ruth Carter designed the outfits for both the 'Black Panther' films and has won an Oscar for them both times. It means that she is the first ever black woman to win two Oscars in the history of the ceremony.



Many of the costumes in the 'Black Panther' films are inspired by traditional African clothing

Avatar: The Way of Water wins Visual Effects Award

'Avatar 2' may have sold billions of pounds worth of cinema tickets but it didn't do as well as it may have hoped at the Oscars.

It had been up for the big award, Best Picture, which it didn't win but it didn't go away empty handed.

The spectacular underwater sequences using CGI (Computer Generated Images) were given the Best Visual Effects award.



'Avatar: The Way of Water' was up for four Oscars

First Indian film song wins Oscar

The Oscars also awarded Best Song to a film made in India for the first time. 'Naatu Naatu' is from a film called 'RRR' which is in Telugu (a language from part of India).

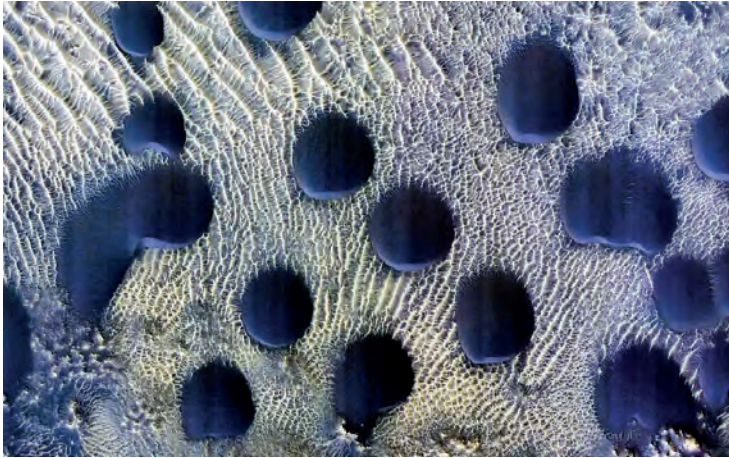
Although songs by Indian songwriters have won before (including 'Jai Ho' from 'Slumdog Millionaire') it's being called a historic moment because the song is from a film made in India, rather than elsewhere.

'Naatu Naatu' won Best Original Song



March 14

News in Pictures

**Mars**

An image from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter shows circular sand dunes on the surface of the planet.

**Blantyre, Malawi**

An injured man is carried to safety. The unrelenting Cyclone Freddy that is battering southern Africa has killed more than 50 people in Malawi and Mozambique since it struck the continent for a second time on Saturday night.

**London, UK**

Shire horses spread seeded soil around the moat beside the Tower of London with a chain harrow. The process is part of a long-term transformation of the moat into a biodiverse landscape, one that will be rich with wild flowers.

**Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

Merapi volcano spews hot lava, as seen from Turi, Sleman.

**Wehrheim, Germany**

Icelandic stallions play at a stud farm near Frankfurt.

**USA**

Best Supporting Actor – Ke Huy Quan, Best Lead Actress – Michelle Yeoh ('Everything Everywhere All at Once'), Best Lead Actor – Brendan Fraser ('The Whale') and Best Supporting Actress – Jamie Lee Curtis ('Everything Everywhere All at Once'), at the 95th annual Academy Awards.



March 13

**London, UK**

Quinten Massys' An Old Woman, which became known as The Ugly Duchess, here reunited with her male pendant, An Old Man, on rare loan from a private collection in New York. The two works have been shown together only once in their history. The 'ugly' nickname came after she inspired John Tenniel's illustrations for Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland' (1865).

**Gaza City**

Children sit at the doorstep of a house, painted in vivid colours as part of an initiative by a Palestinian artist, in the Zeitun district.

**Wawonii Island, Indonesia**

Farmers, whose lands were illegally taken by the mining company Gema Kreasi Perdana, looking at a nickel mining site operated by the firm on south-east Sulawesi. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of nickel, a critical component used in electric vehicle batteries.



Source : The Guardian