

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 14, 2023

FUN DAY TIMES



Celebrating Vesak

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

WINNERS 

POETRY & ESSAYS

PAGE 2



STORY

PAGE 3



MATHS

PAGE 4

(ONLINE)

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 6 - 7

Follow us on
www.fundaytimes.lk



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:

May 31, 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

Path of Truth and Wisdom

Ding – dong – Ding – dong,
Chimes the temple bell,
All the birds are singing a song,
Many sweet flowers I can smell.

Now is the divine dawn of Vesak,
On this day we erase darkness,
Be the light and be the good luck,
The way to pave the path to happiness.

A day to conquer yourself,
And a day to destroy all your sins,
Find faith, wisdom in myself,
You will be happy and peaceful ever since.

Mumudi Gajadeera
Horizon College Int., Malabe



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 Night Watcher

The storm is coming,
No place to hide,
For she will seek shelter, under the dark skies,
The strong winds blow,
No place to call home,
Yet, she's patient,
To reach her hidey hole.

Hours pass,
The winds still blow,
Yet, the night owl perches on a rugged stone,
It raised its eye, it stared with greed,
For it was a wolf about to make a move,
The night owl knew,
She made a dashing move,
Away from the devil,
Trying to grab her through.

Abigail Thomas
Stafford Int. School



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

Win super books from



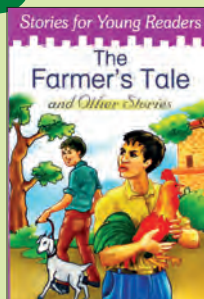
Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My mother

Win: The Farmers Tale and other stories

Fascinating folk tales with fine illustrations make this series a perfect beginning for a child's library. A collection of delightful stories that children of all ages will love!



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: Celebrating Mother's Day

Win: Summer Term at St. Clare's by Enid Blyton

Schooldays at St. Clare's are never dull for twins Pat and Isabel O'Sullivan and their friends.

New girl Carlotta is hiding something. Sneaky Prudence finds out her secret and tells everybody. How will the class react? There's mischief at St. Clare's!



Age: 13 – 15 years

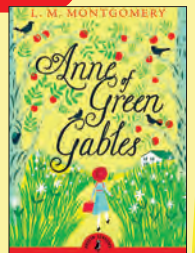
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: The origins of Mother's Day

Win: Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are in for a big surprise. They're waiting for an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables – but a skinny red-haired girl turns up instead.

Feisty and full of spirit, it's not long before Anne Shirley finds herself in all kinds of trouble. But soon it's impossible to imagine life at Green Gables without her...



Book Competition



9 years and below

Celebrating the Sinhala and Tamil New Year

Esandi Ranasinghe
Musaues College, Colombo 7

10 – 12 years

New Year Games I enjoy

Onithi Herath
Royal Int. School,
Kurunegala

13 – 15 years

What you know about Easter

Senuli Rathnasekara
St. Bridget's Convent,
Colombo 7

Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

On Mother's Day

By Manoshi De Silva

Holding her mother's hand, Liyana slowly walked to the bench, under the guava tree. She was finding it hard to walk with her injured foot, which was caused by a nasty fall a few days ago. "Sit here and wait till I water the plants," said her mother, walking towards the garden tap.

Liyana heard a chirping sound. It was coming from somewhere not too far away. She turned her head and looked around at the trees and branches. Finally she looked down and saw a small baby bird on the ground. It was flapping its wings and chirping loudly.

"Oh a baby bird!" shouted Liyana forgetting her swollen leg for a moment and hurrying towards the little chick. She gently picked it up. It was too small to fly away although its body was well-covered with feathers. "Amma! Amma!" shouted Liyana and her mother came running towards her. "Are you alright?" she asked, worried that something had happened to the little girl.

"Look! It was on the ground under the tree!" said Liyana showing the chick to her mother. "Has it fallen from its nest?" Liyana and her mother went near the guava tree and looked around for a nest. The branches were sparse and there was no nest to be seen. "How did it get here?" the girl asked her mother.

Liyana's mother examined the chick for any injuries but it was fine. "It's a fledgling," she said, "that means it's starting to learn how to fly. Fledglings are taken out of the nest by most birds even when they can't really fly. But we can't leave it on the ground, a cat or crow might harm it!" "Amma, can we please keep it?" asked Liyana, "we can get a small cage for it."

"But that would be a very wrong thing to do," said Liyana's mother. "If the chick is injured or has no mother, then we can look after it and release it once it's fully grown and knows how to survive on its own. But otherwise we must return it back to its mother!" "But Amma..." pleaded Liyana, "We can give it good food."

"Liyana, can you remember the day you fell and injured your leg?"

asked her mother. "What happened then?" "The aunty who works in the shop nearby saw me and helped me to get up. Then she called and informed you." replied Liyana. "What if that Aunty took you in, locked you up and kept you? Would any amount of tasty food make you happy?" asked her mother. "Oh no, that would be horrible!" answered Liyana.

"Well this is the same. If this chick's mother is here, she will still search for her baby and it will also search for its mother. So we have to find the chick's mother and reunite them!" said Liyana's mother and Liyana agreed at once this time.

Liyana and her mother heard a bird crying from the rambutan tree which was a little way away from the guava tree. "Look, it's an adult bird that looks just like this chick!" shouted Liyana. When the mother and daughter went closer, the bird flew up to a higher branch but continued to cry. The chick too started to cry after hearing the bird. "This must be the mother for sure!" said Liyana.

"Look, there's a nest on that rambutan branch," said Liyana's mother. She helped Liyana to gently place the chick on the branch near the nest. "Now let's go away and watch what happens," said Liyana's mother. They both went behind a tree and watched carefully. The bird flew near the chick, observed it and then flew away.

"Why did she fly away?" Liyana was worried. "Don't worry, if she's the mother, she will never abandon her baby!" said Liyana's mother. "Not just humans but most baby animals and birds are cared for and looked after by their mothers." The bird returned after awhile and the chick opened its mouth flapping its wings. The bird fed its baby by putting some food into its beak.

"Oh she's feeding her baby!" said Liyana, "can we pet the chick, once the mother goes to find food again?" "No Liyana, we should not interfere or handle it unnecessarily."



That might frighten the mother and prevent her from coming back. That can even make the chick lose its fear of humans, which will be unsafe for it once it grows up!" replied her mother.

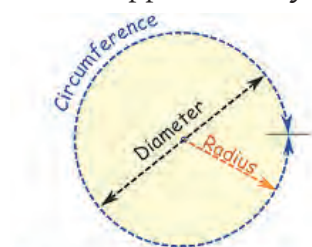
Liyana and her mother watched the bird feeding its chick for a long time. The chick wobbled and hopped from branch to branch clumsily, flapping its wings and trying to fly. "That is how it must have fallen off the branch!" said Liyana's mother. "If it falls down we should keep it on a branch again, but other than that, we should not disturb them and let nature do its thing!"

"Look how happy the chick is with its mother!" said Liyana, "Amma, today is 'Mother's Day', isn't it?" "Yes," smiled Liyana's mother, "and we made it very special for the little bird's mother by helping them!" "I wish I could make it special for you," said Liyana sounding sad. "Oh but you just did Liyana! By listening to my advice and agreeing to return the little bird, you made me very happy. Obedience is one of the best gifts you can give me any day," smiled her mother.

"But I wanted to take you out for an ice cream today. With my swollen leg, it's just not possible," said Liyana sounding very sad. "I'll tell you what we can do," smiled Liyana's mother, "let's buy a small ice cream tub from the shop next door and eat it at home." Liyana smiled, "Great idea, Amma! But it's my treat for you. I even saved up some pocket money for today!" They held hands and walked towards the house. "Happy Mother's Day, Amma!"



The immeasurability and the practicality of π makes it one of the most widely known and used mathematical constants. It is the ratio of any circle's circumference to its diameter and it is approximately equal to 3.14159.



$$\frac{\text{Circumference}}{\text{Diameter}} = \pi = 3.14159...$$

It is an irrational number as it cannot be expressed as a ratio of two integers. Its decimal representation never ends and also it does not have a repeating pattern.

Consider the following ratios:

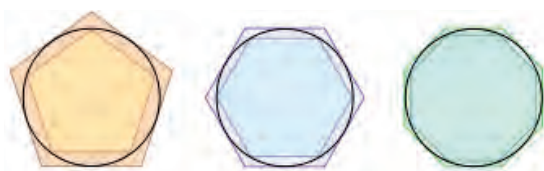
$$1/3 = 0.333333.....$$

$$3/11 = 0.27272727....$$

$$1/7 = 0.142857, 142857, 142857,$$

Try to find the value of π using a calculator. You will find that there is no pattern.

For thousands of years mathematicians have attempted to compute its value to a high degree of accuracy. Around 250 BC, the Greek mathematician Archimedes created an algorithm to approximate the value of π using polygons. He computed upper and lower bounds of π by drawing a regular hexagon inside and outside a circle and increasing the number of sides ultimately reaching a 96-sided polygon. Thereby he showed that the value of π lies between 223/71 and 22/7.



Thereafter, many mathematicians extended the number of decimal places through tedious calculations.

In the 20th century, Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan developed efficient ways of calculating π , which were later incorporated into computer algorithms.

The first 100 decimal places of π are 3.1415926535897932384626433832795 028841971693993751058209749445923 078164062862089986280348253421170 679...

A Google employee from Japan has set a new world record in 2019 for the number of digits of π calculated. Emma Haruka Iwao who works as a cloud developer advocate at Google, calculated π to 31.4 trillion digits. She used 25 virtual cloud-based computers for this calculation which took 121 days. If printed out, it would fill a library of several million books.

There are many methods used to calculate π and you can try with this simple formula that Leibnitz suggested:

$$\pi = 4 \left(\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \right).$$

π occurs in different areas of mathematics and also in various fields of physics and engineering and it is one of the most important constants that have been found.

March 14 is considered as the 'Pi Day' as the month is 3 and the date is 14 that makes up 3.14 which is the approximation that we always use. Albert Einstein's birthday happens to be March 14th. He was born in Germany on March 14, 1879.



Math Plot - 73

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.

What is the smallest number divisible by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9?

Math Plot 72 – Solution

The answer is 13. It is not 14 as the year 1900 is not a leap year.

No winner this week as nobody was able to provide the correct answer.

Happy Birthday



Thameem Dilshan Ibrahim
10 years on May 8

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Winners Essays
- **Pages 6 & 7** – Coronation of King Charles III
- **Page 8** – Events

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.

9 years and below

Celebrating the Sinhala and Tamil New Year

When the cuckoo bird started singing songs, my sister and I were counting the days to visit our grandmother in Kandy. We all headed to our hometown on April 12th and on the way we went to *Loku Amma's* house. My grandmother was very happy to see us.

My father's mother and other relatives were eagerly waiting to welcome us. We had a very fun time with our cousins. Dishes and *Avurudu* meals were shared among nearby houses while we tasted them at home.

To mark the arrival of *Avurudu*, we boiled a pot of milk and ate milkrice prepared by my Grandma. We shared *Avurudu* gifts with happy hearts.

My Grandma performed '*ganu-denu*' with the well. She anointed holy oil on our heads marking the end of the festival.

Celebrating Sinhala and Tamil New Year each year brings a family reunion which makes our minds and hearts happy.

Esandi Ranasinghe (9 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo 7

Book Competition WINNERS

10 – 12 years

New Year Games I enjoy

When the bright sun moves from Pisces to Aries, the bright rays of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year falls on us. The most joyous part of New Year is the New Year games.

Tug-of-war, pillow fight and '*Olinda Keliya*' are a few of the fun games. There games can be enjoyed by everyone old or young.

The game I enjoy the most is '*Kopara Kopara Pipingya*' which can be played by a lot of people. I enjoy it because it shows the cultural background

of proud Sri Lankans. It is a very simple game that doesn't use much equipment and has no high competition and no discrimination for men, women or children.

By playing these games we learn leadership qualities and knowledge about our culture. Most importantly we learn what unity is!

I really enjoy these fun games as they teach me a lot!

Onithi Herath (12 years)
Royal Int. School,
Kurunegala

13 – 15 years

What I know about Easter

Easter is a festival celebrated by Christians, as the resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated, while it was a Passover celebration long ago.

Easter is the most sacred festival celebrated. Easter begins after Ash Wednesday and Easter is celebrated after 40 days of what is known as Lent. After 40 days of Lent, Christians celebrate a week known as the 'Holy Week' which begins from Palm Sunday. After that Easter Sunday is celebrated after three main days and events in that week. They are 'Maundy Thursday' – the Last Supper and the betrayal of Jesus, 'Good Friday' – the death of Jesus on the cross, and 'Alleluia Saturday' – the day Jesus lay silent in the tomb. These days are known as the 'Paschal Triduum'. Easter is usually celebrated between March 22 and April 25.

As every other festival, Easter has its own story. The story is as follows; Jesus was born on Christmas Day. When Jesus came to the age of 30, he began his public life and began to do many miracles like healing the sick, raising the dead, consoling the suffering and proclaiming heaven.

Soon, many people began to believe in him while a group of people called the Pharisees, who were the head of the church at that time, became jealous of Jesus as they were losing attention from the people. So, they began spreading lies that Jesus was possessed by evil spirits and was insulting God.

So, they punished Jesus by whipping him and crucifying him on the cross. Three days later Jesus rose from the dead as he had done no wrong and as a symbol to all mankind that there is eternal life after death.

Easter has many world-wide traditions and beliefs. Some Easter traditions are; Crack eggs in Jamaica, Make art with sawdust in Central America, Fly a kite in Bermuda, Make an omelette in France and Dress up as Easter Witches in Sweden. Hot Cross Buns in UK; Pashka in Russia; Tsoureki in Greece are some special Easter treats.

Easter was celebrated on April 9 this year.

Senuli Rathnasekara (14 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

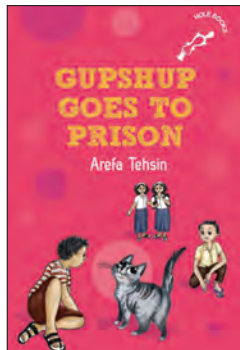
Gupshup Goes to Prison by Arefa Tehsin

"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 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



May 8, 2023

King Charles and Queen Camilla were crowned at London's Westminster Abbey on Saturday May 6. Coronation celebrations continued with thousands of street parties and lunches taking place up and down the country and a huge concert at Windsor Palace with performances from stars including Katy Perry and Take That.

Coronation guests

The day of the Coronation began with 2,200 people from 203 countries, including world leaders, foreign royalty and members of the Royal Family, arriving at Westminster Abbey for the service.

Seats filled up with guests in their best outfits, bright uniforms and hats.

Members of the Royal Family, other foreign royals and King Charles's sons – Princes William and Harry – were also inside the Abbey to witness the event.

The Prince and Princess of Wales took their places along with two of their children – Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis – to wait for the King.

The couple's eldest child, nine-year-old Prince George, arrived separately as one of the King's Pages of Honour.

King Charles's younger son Prince Harry was in the congregation, without his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex and their children.

A number of celebrities were also in attendance including singer Katy Perry, and TV presenters Ant and Dec who called it "a very proud moment."

The King's Procession

The procession set off from Buckingham Palace just before 10.30 a.m., and moved through the streets of London where crowds had gathered to catch a glimpse of the royal couple.

Outside the palace gates, there was a Guard of Honour, made up of around 160 members of the three armed services, with another 1,000 personnel lining the route.

In a break from tradition, King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla travelled in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach rather than the older, traditional and more uncomfortable Gold State Coach. The coach was made for Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 to mark her 60th year on the throne.

Some of the crowd had begun camping on the route earlier in the week to secure the best spot for the event and the royal couple waved to them as they passed.

The Coronation

As the King and Queen Consort arrived, church bells rang outside Westminster Abbey. The regalia was carried ahead of the King through the Abbey and placed on the altar as they were needed for the ceremony.

There were several stages to the two hour service.

First of all, the congregation at the Abbey pledged their allegiance to the King and proclaimed him the "undoubted King".



After taking an oath where he promised to do the duties of the monarch, the King was anointed with holy oil before being presented with the items of regalia.

They included the Royal Orb, representing religious and moral authority; the Sceptre, representing power;

Coronation of King Charles III

and the Sovereign's Sceptre, a rod of gold topped with a white enamelled dove, a symbol of justice and mercy.

Charles was then officially crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. He placed the 360-year-old St. Edward's Crown on the monarch's head before proclaiming: "God save the King" and trumpet fanfares sounded around the Abbey. The crown holds 444 separate jewels and gemstones, including sapphires, rubies, amethysts and topaz. The King sat on a special coronation chair, which included the 'stone of destiny' as he was officially crowned monarch.

Across the UK, ceremonial gun salutes were heard and bells pealed in celebration at churches. Camilla, was crowned Queen in a more simple ceremony soon afterwards, with Queen Mary's Crown being placed on her head.

The Coronation Procession

A different carriage, called the Gold State Coach, was waiting for the King and Queen as they left Westminster Abbey.

Only the monarch and spouse are allowed to travel in this carriage, which is covered in gold leaf, and has been used at every coronation since 1831.

The bells of Westminster Abbey were rung again as King Charles III and Queen Camilla left the Abbey.

The newly-crowned king and queen then took part in second, larger procession back to Buckingham Palace using the same route they had taken in the morning.

Members of the King's family followed behind in separate coaches.

The huge procession featured 4,000 UK armed forces personnel marching to music in step with each other. There were also troops involved from across the Commonwealth and the British Overseas Territories.

The National Anthem played several times as the King and Queen made their way back through the streets of London. Despite the torrential rain, the atmosphere was one of celebration as crowds cheered and waved flags as the procession went past.

The parade is thought to have been the largest of its kind for many years.

Royal balcony

Back at their official London home, it was time to greet the public from the Buckingham Palace balcony. Since the coronation of Edward VII in 1902, it's become tradition for the new monarch to appear and wave to cheering crowds.

The King and Queen were joined by other members of the Royal Family, including the Prince and Princess of Wales and their children.

On The Mall, people shouted "God Save the King" as they watched.

Flypast

A military coronation flypast then took place, watched by the Royal Family from the balcony. It was formed of helicopters and the Royal Air Force aerobatic team, 'The Red Arrows'. As the jets flew overhead they trailed their famous red, white and blue smoke.

A larger flypast had been planned but it had to be scaled down because of the wet weather. The King and Queen smiled and waved as the aircraft flew over the Palace. The display also went down a treat with the crowds, marking the end of a historic day of celebrations.



Flypast



King Charles III entering Westminster Abbey



Leaving Westminster Abbey



On the balcony of Buckingham Palace



Entrance of Prince and Princess of Wales and children



Entrance of Prince Harry



On the way from Buckingham Palace

Source: CBBC Newsround



Vesak celebrations held at Immy Kids International Montessori.

Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Vesak celebrations at Thewanuwaru Primary School in Puttalam.

Pic. by Jayarathna Wickramaarachchi



'Pindapatha Charika' to celebrate Vesak, was organized for a group consisting of 100 novice monks on May 3 at Gangaramaya Temple.

Pix. by Indika Handuwala

Ginger Meggs

