

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 28, 2023

FUN DAY TIMES



Little kids in Fancy Dress

Pic. by
Akila Jayawardena

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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.

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

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: 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:

June 14, 2023



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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.

My pet

My pet is a cat. Its name is Blacky. Blacky has a fat and fluffy body. Its favourite food is cheese.



I love my Blacky very much.

Thinaya Rathnayake (Grade 1)
JMC College, Maharagama

My visit to the Pola

I went to the Pola with my parents. I saw lots of people selling vegetables, fruits, coconuts and a lot of other things. Lots of people had bought vegetables and fruits carrying heavy bags. The people selling the items were shouting out to buy goods from them. There were also beggars begging there. My mother bought green leaves, vegetables and fruits. I watched many people buying fruits and vegetables.

The Pola is a place where people buy and sell daily needs. The Pola is a very busy place.

Yashan Ibrahim (7 years)
NSIS

The Wonderful Dragon

Once upon a time there was a girl named Lily. She had a wicked stepmother, since her mother died when she was four. The stepmother treated Lily very badly. So one day when her father went to work, Lily was chased out by her stepmother. She was chased to the woods.

There Lily saw a cave. She heard a roar coming from the cave. It was a Dragon! The Dragon was roaring in pain, there was a thorn stuck in his paw.

"Oh no, poor thing!" said Lily. The Dragon was in a lot of pain. Lily gently pulled out the thorn and the Dragon felt much better. Then Lily and the Dragon became friends.

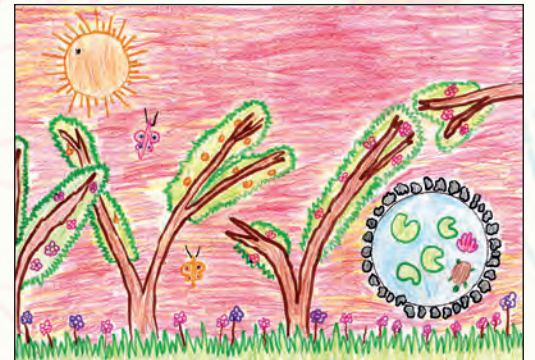
After all that, Lily said goodbye to the Dragon and went on her way home. Lily was not looking where she was going and fell from a cliff! But before she got injured, the Dragon quickly grabbed her and put her back on land.

Lily said, "Thank you" and the Dragon roared as if he was saying "You're welcome".

From then on Lily often visited the cave. The Dragon and Lily remained the best of friends forever!

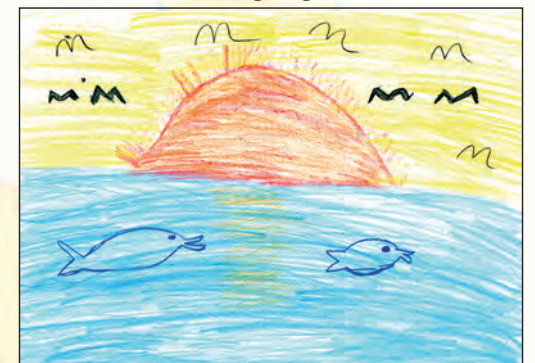
Shaili De Silva (10 years)
Methodist College, Colombo 3

A garden



Methuka Wijetilleka (Grade 3)
Vidura College, Nawala

The sea



Sendiv Disanayake (12 years)
Sheffield Int. School, Kotte

Flying kites



Adnan Irshad (10 years)
Lyceum Int. School, Nugegoda

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.



Or



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Rapunzel



Zafeena (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

A lake



Saqeef-ul-Haq (8 years)
Matale Int. School

Hill country scenery



Methupama Wijerathne (Grade 9)
Holy Cross College, Gampaha

Waterfall at night



Vidun Abeykoon
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Positive attitudes

The world we live in is filled with positive and negative energies. Everyone has different qualities, tastes and attitudes. Some have negative attitudes while some have positive attitudes.

According to me, we are all unique and we are perfect the way we are. We don't have to change ourselves for anyone. But the world we live in is kind of complicated and hard to explain.

To survive in this world we need to have a positive attitude. Almost everyone loves those who have positive attitudes because it brings out happiness and positive vibes make you feel confident. Positive attitudes can encourage people, give them hope, courage etc. Most people who have positive attitudes are very friendly, have lots of friends and socialize a lot.

Those who are always negative, keep spreading negative vibes around. It is a disadvantage for them as there is a possibility for them to be isolated in society. It doesn't mean that those who are negative are bad or that we shouldn't communicate with them.

Those who have a negative attitude can try not to be negative all the time or they can try to improve their attitudes.

Hikma Manajir (15 years)
Springfield College, Kandy

My motherland

Sri Lanka is my motherland. It is a beautiful country located in the Indian Ocean. Sometimes it is known as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'. My motherland has beautiful lakes, waterfalls, rivers and many attractive places. The capital city of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte. My country has nine provinces and 25 districts. We have a national flag and a national anthem. Our national anthem was composed by Mr. Ananda Samarakoon. Our president is Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe and our prime minister is Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena.

My country has four main nationalities, Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers. We have a national emblem and national symbols. They are the national tree - Na tree, national flower - Blue water lily, national bird - Ceylon jungle fowl, national animal - Giant squirrel, national game - Volleyball and the national gem - Blue sapphire.

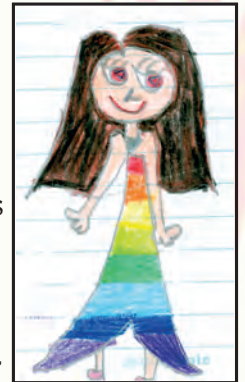
Tea, rubber and coconut are the main crops of Sri Lanka. A lot of foreign tourists visit Sri Lanka every year. I love my country very much.

Sineli Dewmini (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

My mother

My mother is very kind. She likes to make delicious food for me. My mother helps me to do my homework well.

I love my mother so much. Her name is Malsha.



Dinali Nikapitiya (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Myself

My name is Samadhi Ahinsa Jayathissa. I am six years old. I'm in Grade Two. My school is Sinhala Buddhist College, Matale.

I like to eat ice-cream. My favourite colour is red. My pet is a cat. I want to be a writer one day.

Samadhi Jayathissa (6 years)
Sinhala Buddhist College, Matale

The night sky

The night sky is dark,
The night sky is bright,
The moon is shining bright,
The stars are twinkling nice.
La, la, la, la...//

Bats and owls are flying,
The air is nice and fresh,
The little child goes to sleep,
And wakes next morning fresh.
La, la, la, la...//

Senara Mallawaarachchi
(Grade 2)
Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy



Edward Lear

The English humorist Edward Lear made famous the limerick form of verse and illustrated his work with amusing pictures.

The gentle, friendly man was always fond of children, and most of his writing was done for their pleasure.

Edward Lear was born on May 12, 1812 in Holloway in Middlesex, England. He was the youngest surviving child of the 21 children of Ann and Jeremiah Lear (his parents).

He was raised by his sister, Ann, who was 21 years older than him. When he was four years old, he left the family home and lived with his sister.



The Owl and the Pussycat

Edward Lear was often unwell. From the age of six he suffered from asthma and epileptic seizures. Later in life, he became partially blind, and battled severe depression.

In his teens, Edward Lear was becoming an accomplished artist. He got a job as a draughtsman by the Zoological Society. In the early 1830s, he was employed by the Earl of Derby to produce drawings of the birds and animals in his private menagerie.

When he was 19, his illustrations of the Family of Psittacidae, or Parrots, was published in 1830.

He became one of the best ornithological (bird) artists of his generation.

He also painted landscapes, especially during his travels. He visited Italy, Greece and Egypt, and he often spent his summers on Monte Generoso on the Swiss / Italian border.

He also visited India and Ceylon (as Sri Lanka was then known).

Lear was an excellent musician. He played flute, accordion, guitar and the piano. He composed music for poems – his own, and for the works of famous Victorian poets.

In 1846, Lear's 'A Book of Nonsense' was published. In 1871, his 'Nonsense Songs, Stories, Botany and Alphabets' was published. This book included his most famous work, 'The Owl and the Pussycat.'

Edward Lear is often credited with popularising the limerick. He created the word 'runcible', but nobody is sure what it means! He started to write a follow-up to 'The Owl and the Pussycat', called 'The Children of the Owl and the Pussycat', but he didn't get to complete it before his death.

He was friends with Alfred Lord Tennyson, and set some of his poems to music.

Towards the end of his life, Edward Lear settled in San Remo, in Italy. In 1888, he died of heart disease at his villa. He is buried in the Cemetery Foce in San Remo.

In 1988, to mark the centenary of Edward Lear's death, the Royal Mail produced a set of commemorative stamps in the UK.

Limericks



*There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared!
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a
Wren, have all built their nests in my
beard!"*



*There was a Young Lady whose bonnet,
Came untied when the birds sat upon it;
But she said, "I don't care!
All the birds in the air
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!"*



*There was a Young Lady of Portugal,
Whose ideas were excessively
nautical;
She climbed up a tree,
To examine the sea,
But declared she would never leave
Portugal.*



*There was an Old Man
on whose nose
most birds of the air
could repose;
But they all flew away
at the close of day,
Which relieved that
Old Man and his nose.*

Edward Lear.



'Suriya Udanaya' the customary celebration of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year was ceremonially commemorated on April 10 by the students of York International School, Sapugaskanda. The colourful event consisted of traditional customs, games, food, dresses as well as fun competitions.

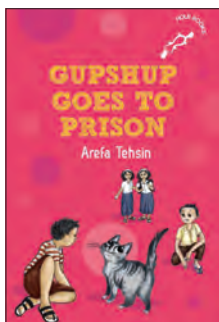
Pix. by Akila Jayawardena

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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FUNDAY TIMES **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.



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Walrus

Walruses have long tusks and a prominent mustache. These large marine mammals are found near the Arctic Circle. They are extremely social and snort and bellow loudly at their companions. During the mating season they are quite aggressive.

Walruses have wrinkled brown and pink skin, long, coarse whiskers, flat flippers, and lots of blubber on their bodies to keep them warm in the cold Arctic water. They can slow down their heartbeat to withstand the chilly water temperatures and to help them stay under water for as long as ten minutes.

Their long tusks are useful in many ways. They use them to pull their enormous bodies out of frigid waters, and seem to walk on their tusks. They also use their tusks to break breathing holes into ice from below. Tusks are found on both males and females and keep growing throughout their lives. These tusks are actually canine teeth and can grow to be about three feet (one metre) long.

Their whiskers are very sensitive and help the walruses find their favourite meals, such as clams, way down in the deep, dark ocean floor. Their whiskers are longest at the corners of their mouth.

Only Native Americans are currently allowed to hunt walruses, as the species' survival was threatened by past overhunting. Hunters in the 18th and 19th centuries captured walruses for their tusks, oil, skin and meat and now there aren't any walruses in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and around Sable Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Walruses have an air sac under their throat, which helps them float in the water so they can sleep!



COMMON NAME: Walrus

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Odobenus rosmarus*

TYPE: Mammal

DIET: Carnivore

GROUP NAME: Herd

SIZE: 7.25 to 11.5 feet

WEIGHT: Up to 1.5 tons

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: Up to 40 years



WALRUS FACTS

- There are two sub-species of walrus
- The scientific name for a walrus is 'Odobenus rosmarus'. That's Latin for 'tooth-walking sea-horse'!
- Walrus tusks can be over 90 cm long!
- Thick layers of blubber protect walruses from the cold
- Walruses weigh up to 1.5 tonnes! Even baby walruses are huge! These chunky critters, known as calves, can weigh up to 75 kg at birth – that's the same weight as some adult humans!
- Their huge size comes from a steady diet of molluscs, crustaceans and worms!
- Walruses can sleep in water!
- Walruses can live for up to 40 years
- These astonishing animals are very sociable, but can be aggressive. A walrus colony is a noisy place! These animals live in large groups, known as herds, which gather together on land.
- Indigenous Americans are the only people allowed to hunt walruses
- Walruses are very sensitive to changes in their environment. Despite their formidable size, they are easily spooked! In walrus herds, any sign of danger can cause stampedes as the animals flee land and head towards the safety of water.

Source: National Geographic Kids

Mount Etna erupts

May 23, 2023

Italy's largest volcano Mount Etna erupted on Sunday spewing ash onto Catania, the largest city in eastern Sicily.

Sicily is an island which is part of Italy, and is also close to the island of Malta.

Many parts of Catania have been covered in a layer of dark gritty dust, with images showing cars covered.

What happened when Etna erupted?

More than 50 flights in and out of the city had been cancelled after the

eruption spewed volcanic ash onto runways at the Catania Fontanarossa Airport – but resumed again on Monday morning.

Residents of the towns of Adrano and Biancavilla reported hearing loud booms coming from the volcano on Sunday, but there have been no reported injuries.

The 3,330 metre high volcano erupts several times a year, firing lava and ash high over the Mediterranean island, and experts are trying to work out how serious this eruption is.



Mount Etna is the highest active volcano in Europe and the largest of three volcanos in Italy. The volcano was listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site in 2013 and attracts thousands of visitors a year.

Chelsea Flower Show 2023

May 23, 2023

The famous flower show is back for another year, running from the May 22 - 27.

Catherine, Princess of Wales, hosted a children's picnic at a newly created garden at the show. A number of schools were invited to bring children along, which marks the first time in the

event's 110-year history that a children's picnic has taken place.

A children's choir also performed at the Chelsea Flower Show this year.

Visitors at this year's event will get the chance to enjoy a number of specially planted gardens highlighting different themes and trends.



▲ A children's choir



An impressive display of daffodils, featuring a range of different colours and sizes.

A huge peony coronation crown display. It comes after King Charles III's coronation on May 6.



Source : CBBC Newround

May 23

News in Pictures

**Versailles, France**

A guest wearing a baroque-style costume walks through the Hall of Mirrors during the 'fête galante' at the Palace of Versailles. The annual fancy dress ball recreates the splendour of Louis XIV's dazzling court feasts, which were held to show off the wealth and power of France's longest-reigning monarch.

**Narayanganj, Bangladesh**

Workers hang hundreds of sheets of cloth to dry on a bamboo frame at a dyeing factory. The drying process usually takes four hours, with each set of 200 pieces left to hang in temperatures exceeding 42°C (108°F). Workers use hats for protection from the heat while they turn the colourful fabrics frequently so they can dry evenly in the sun.

Shrewsbury, UK

A mass of silken webbing engulfs shrubs at Meole Brace retail park, believed to have been made by ermine moth caterpillars to protect themselves while they feed and pupate.

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

Security personnel with ballistic shields escort a vehicle carrying Imran Khan, the country's former prime minister, after he appeared before an anti-terrorism court.

**Canudos, Brazil**

Lear's macaws fly over a reserve near a biological station that is close to a wind energy complex. The windfarm, in north-east Brazil, is causing concern because of its impact on the endangered bird species.

**Lithuania**

A Romanian Air Force F-16 military fighter jet (top) and its Portuguese counterparts participate in a NATO air policing mission over the Baltic Sea.

May 22

Bangkok, Thailand

Foreign and Chinese tourists dressed in Thai traditional costumes rented from a clothing rental shop visit Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn).

**Cannes, France**

Lady in Red... Uma Thurman arrives for the opening ceremony of Cannes Film Festival.

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

The president of Mongolia, Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, speaks with the French president, Emmanuel Macron, inside a traditional yurt during a meeting at the government palace.

Source : The Guardian