



FUNDA DAY TIMES



Peacock Dance at Vel Festival

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



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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 this week's competitions:

September 6, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Famous People
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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.



Vel Festival celebrations were held on August 9 at the Sri Kailawasanathan Swami Kovil in Colombo 2.

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



The Colombo Public Library organized some fun games for kids at an event held on July 25 at the Colombo Mayor's House.

Pix by Akila Jayawardena



Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read-a-Book for July

10 – 12 years

Nivethikaa Yogendran

The Sinister Post
by F.W. Dixon

13 – 15 years

Abigail Thomas

Scavengers
by Darren Simpson



Manha Rishad
6 years on August 18



The wait was worth it

By Manoshi De Silva

Shane was enjoying some cookies with his friend Rizwan. Suddenly Shane stopped munching and stood frozen. “What’s wrong?” asked Rizwan. “Nothing, I had enough,” replied Shane. “But you said you love these! So why don’t you want anymore?” Rizwan was puzzled. “I’m full. You can eat the rest,” smiled Shane but he looked worried.

That afternoon for lunch, Shane’s grandmother had cooked his favourite dish; mushroom curry. “Please serve me some more,” Shane asked for a second helping but he only ate a couple of bites. He got up to empty his plate which was quite full. “Why are you not finishing your lunch, when your favourite curry is there?” asked his surprised grandmother. “I’m not hungry,” said Shane, looking troubled.

Shane went to his room and stared at the mirror. He checked his teeth. Lately, whenever he ate something, he felt something strange with his top, front tooth. He slowly touched this tooth with his tongue. It felt shaky. Shane started to sweat with fear. He gently touched it with his finger tip and he realized that his fear was real. The tooth was loose.

Shane sat in a corner in silence not knowing what to do. Would his tooth fall off? How was he going to smile with anyone ever again without his front tooth? He felt giddy with all these questions. So he decided to stay quiet about this. No one was going to know his secret. “Maybe it will stop shaking in a few days,” he tried to console himself.

There wasn’t any change during the next few days as the tooth continued to shake. Then one day as Shane was brushing his teeth, his worst nightmare became a reality. The tooth came off. Shane, who was shocked, looked in the mirror and checked his smile. The space between his teeth, caused by the fallen tooth, made him sob.

Shane’s grandmother noticed the boy crying and wanted to know what was wrong. He told her what had happened expecting her to worry.



But she just smiled calmly. “When you are around five, six years of age, it’s natural for the milk teeth to start falling!” she explained. “What? Do you mean that they’ll all fall off? Will I have to wear dentures like you?” Shane widened his eyes in disbelief.

“Silly boy!” laughed Shane’s grandmother. “Yes, they will all fall off, but it won’t happen at once. Your milk teeth will be replaced by new adult teeth and they won’t fall off like your baby teeth!” Shane was so relieved to hear that. So the gap between his teeth was not permanent.

Life without his front tooth was not easy. It wasn’t the difficulty of eating and drinking that bothered him the most. Being teased by others was the hardest part. It was not just his classmates, even his elder brother made fun of him whenever Shane opened his mouth.

Shane covered his mouth with his hands whenever he had to talk, because he was afraid of being teased. “I hate how I have become a joke!” Shane complained to his grandmother. “Everyone at school laughs at me!” “Not for long,” his grandmother smiled knowingly, “soon you will get a new tooth replacing the gap. Your classmates too will start losing their milk teeth one by one. Then it won’t be so funny for them anymore!”

Shane stared at the gap between his teeth every day, hoping to see a new tooth. But there was no sign. He went to school hoping that some other classmate would be in the same situation as him, by losing a tooth. But no one else did. So they continued to tease him.

Shane was so miserable with the way things were. “Don’t worry, things will get better soon,” his grandmother assured him daily.

Things took an unexpected turn one morning, when Shane checked his mouth for a new tooth. His other front tooth was shaking as well. “No... No... No!” grumbled Shane, “this can’t be happening to me! Here I was waiting for a new tooth and now another tooth is going to fall off as well!”

Things got more difficult for Shane when his second tooth fell. His elder brother would make fun of him, his classmates would laugh at him, even the uncle next-door teased him whenever he saw Shane. So Shane continued to cover his mouth with both his hands whenever he spoke. “You don’t have to feel so shy about this,” said his grandmother, “this is a normal thing for kids around your age.” “I hate this!” Shane started to cry.

“Listen darling,” said Shane’s grandmother. “Sometimes in life we lose things, to make way for better things. It’s hard when that happens. But the wait is worth it at the end, when something better comes our way!” she hugged Shane. “So don’t take all this teasing seriously. This hard time will pass, making way for something new and better!” Shane nodded, deciding to stay strong.

A few days later, Shane noticed something white on the top of his gap. It was the edge of his first new permanent tooth. Finally it was making its way, slowly, to fill the gap caused by the lost milk tooth. Shane knew that he would have a sparkly, white smile soon. How exciting this was! A few days later a couple of other kids at school started to lose their milk teeth as well.

Shane’s teeth started growing soon. Everyone stopped teasing him. Shane too made it a point not to tease the other kids who lost their teeth, because he knew how upsetting it was. Shane didn’t have to cover his mouth with his hands anymore.

How correct his grandmother was. The wait was definitely worth it.

Tomahawk Quiz No. 210

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 210 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issue and e-papers of July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 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. 210' 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: August 31, 2023



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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 210

1. What is Novak Djokovic famous for? Name three records he has achieved.
2. Name three important documents listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World register.
3. Who is the author of 'James and the Giant Peach'? Name two other books written by the same author.
4. Which UNESCO World Heritage Site is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest castle and presidential residence in the world?
5. Which five letters in the English Alphabet are used most frequently, according to research?

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7 - 9 years **WINNERS!**

- ▶ Marisa Fernando, Moratuwa
- ▶ Zain Ahmed Shakeel, Wattala
- ▶ Reuel Rambukkange, Kandy
- ▶ Onel Sudasinghe, Negombo
- ▶ Amal Maryam, Kalagedihena

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



Michelle Yeoh



Hong Kong Films

Yeoh made her big-screen debut in 1984, in the Hong Kong action-drama 'The Owl vs. Bumbo'.

Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh is a successful action movie star. She was known for performing her own frequently dangerous stunts. Praised for her acting, in 2023, she became the first Asian woman to receive an Academy Award for Best Actress, winning for her role in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' (2022).

Early Life

Yeoh was born Yeoh Choo Kheng on August 6, 1962, in Ipoh, Malaysia. Her family was wealthy. When she was young, Yeoh was involved in various physical activities, including basketball and swimming. However, she was especially interested in ballet. As a teenager, she attended the Royal Academy of Dance in London, England.

Yeoh gave up her dreams of becoming a professional ballet dancer after suffering a back injury. In 1983, her mother entered her in the Miss Malaysia pageant. Yeoh won, and she later appeared in a commercial with Chinese stuntman and actor Jackie Chan. This led to her signing an acting contract to make Chinese-language films with a Hong Kong production company. The production company suggested that she take the stage name Michelle Khan.

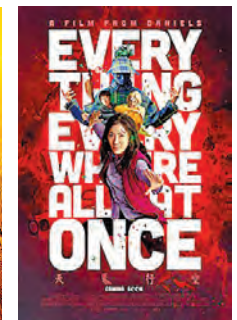
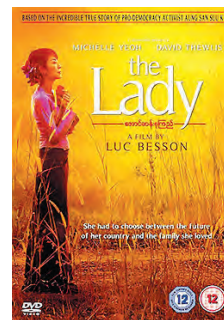
Although she was not involved in the fight sequences, their choreography and rhythm reminded her of dancing.

Hoping to gain an action role, Yeoh began intense training. In 1985, she starred in the martial arts movie 'Yes, Madam!' about two female police officers. A series of other action films followed for Yeoh. However, in 1988, she married film producer Dickson Poon and retired. After the couple divorced in 1992, she resumed her acting career.

In 1992, Yeoh starred with Jackie Chan in 'Police Story 3: Supercop' (also called Supercop). She completed a number of incredible stunts in the action-comedy film. That and subsequent films established Yeoh as a leading star in Hong Kong. However, she suffered a number of serious injuries during her career.

Worldwide Fame

In 1997, Yeoh became known to a wider audience with a role in the James Bond film 'Tomorrow Never Dies'. It was her first role



where she was hired for her acting, not her stunt work. It was also the first time she used the name Michelle Yeoh.

Yeoh attained global stardom with director Ang Lee's Chinese-language film 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' (2000). It was a box office hit and won several Academy Awards.

Yeoh then appeared in a series of English-language films. They included the drama 'Memoirs of a Geisha' (2005) and the action-adventure 'The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor' (2008). In 2011 she starred in 'The Lady', portraying Aung San Suu Kyi, an activist in Myanmar (Burma). In 2017, she appeared in the Marvel Comics film 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2.' In the romantic comedy 'Crazy Rich Asians' (2018) she starred as a determined mother who objects to her son's girlfriend. From 2017 to 2020 Yeoh had a recurring role on the TV show 'Star Trek: Discovery.'

In 2022, she earned rave reviews for 'Everything Everywhere All at Once', the first Hollywood film in which she had the lead role. In 2023, Michelle Yeoh won the Oscar for Best Actress at the 95th Academy Awards, for this film, becoming the first Asian woman to win the award. In this sci-fi comedy, Yeoh portrays a laundromat owner who must save the multiverse, or parallel universes. She also won a Golden Globe for the role.

Source: Britannica Kids



Paper Handprint Peacock

Materials needed

- Glue stick
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Cardstock paper
- Craft stick/Popsicle stick
- Wiggle eyes

Method

Step 1: Start by tracing an outline of your hands on the cardstock paper.

Step 2: Then, cut out the handprints (it's best to have different-sized hands for this project). These prints will represent your peacock's vibrant feathers.

Step 3: Next, cut out the peacock's parts, including its beak, feet, crest and body. You'll need to glue the handprint cutouts together by layering them, with the smallest hand on the top and the largest on the bottom.

Step 4: Then, glue the eyes, feet, beak and crest to your peacock's body. Keep the glue stick handy as you glue the peacock to the handprint feathers and add the craft stick to its back.

Now, you will have a colourful paper friend with which to play.



Paper Caterpillar

Materials

- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Cardstock paper (green, pink, black, blue, and yellow)
- Pencil

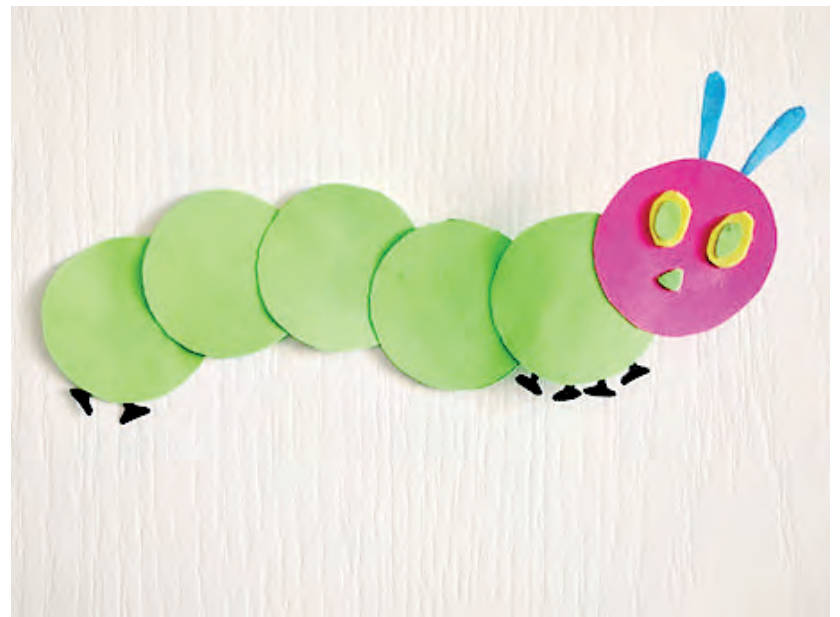
Method

Step 1: Firstly, cut five circles from the green paper and one from the pink paper.

Step 2: Then, draw and cut shapes for the eyes, ears, mouth and legs. Follow that up by gluing the green circles together to create the caterpillar's body and make the pink circle the head.

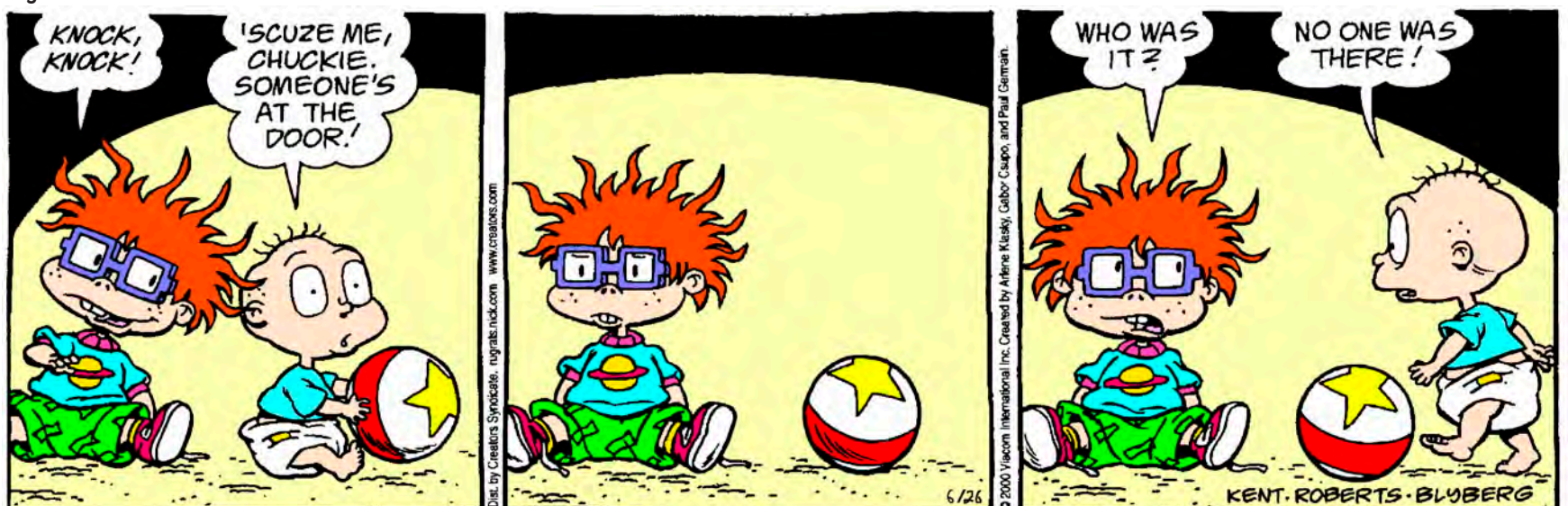
Step 3: Next, glue the features to the caterpillar's head. Lastly, you'll attach the legs to the body.

Let the caterpillar puppet show commence!



Source: sliceproducts.com

Rugrats



Deadly wildfires on Hawaii's Maui Island

August 15, 2023

Last week, three wildfires swept through the island of Maui in Hawaii. The fires have killed at least 96 people and destroyed over 3 square miles (8.5 square km) of land. Some of the fires are still burning, but the danger seems to have passed.

The wildfires began as small fires on Tuesday, August 8. Soon, extremely strong winds from Hurricane Dora caused the fires to grow out of control.

At times, the winds blew at speeds greater than 70 mph (113 kph). As a result, the wildfires spread much too quickly for fire fighters to contain them.

The government encouraged people to evacuate some areas, but often people didn't find out about the fires in time. The strong winds took out the electricity in some areas, making communication difficult.



Damage in Lahaina Harbour on August 8

The island of Maui has about 80 sirens that are used to warn people about dangers like this. But the sirens never went off. Many people only found out about the fires when they saw them. The wildfires moved so quickly that some people were forced to jump into the ocean to escape.

The historic area of Lahaina on the west side of Maui was hit worst. Lahaina is a popular tourist area and is home to about 13,000 people.

The wildfire destroyed over 2,700 buildings around Lahaina, most of them homes. The government has provided around 500 hotel rooms for people who were affected, but some people are still homeless. Because of chemicals spread by the fires, the water is dangerous to drink in places.

The Lahaina wildfire is the deadliest wildfire in the US since 1918.

So far 96 people are reported to have been killed in the fire, but that number is expected to go up. Many people are still missing.

There are several reasons the wildfires were so serious. To start with, Hawaii is extremely dry. That's partly because it's summer – Hawaii's dry season – now. But Hawaii is even drier than usual because of the climate crisis.

In many parts of the world, wildfires spread through forests of trees. But the wildfires in Hawaii burned through grasslands. About 25% of Hawaii is covered with grasses that originally came from Africa. These invasive grasses grow quickly and push out plants that grow naturally in Hawaii. The grasses created huge amounts of dry fuel to feed the fires.

The strong winds made it hard to use helicopters to fight the fires. On the ground, fire fighters often didn't have enough water to fight the fires because the heat had melted pipes, causing water leaks.

The wildfires are still burning in some areas, but they're mostly contained now. Still, they have caused a massive amount of damage. The government believes it will cost nearly \$6 billion to rebuild the area.

Many people are upset with the government. They feel like the warnings came too late, and there hasn't been enough help after the fire. Many local people are working together to solve problems themselves.

The government has promised to investigate the fire and the way it was handled.



A view of Lahaina from the air on August 9

Source: NewsForKids

Seventeen sets of twins to start at schools in Inverclyde

August 14, 2023

An area in Scotland has been given a new nickname after a bumper year of twins started Primary School.

Inverclyde is being called 'Twin-verclyde' after 17 sets of twins all joined Primary One.

And it's not the first time the area has gone twin-tastic - there have been 147 twin sets since 2013, an average of 13 each year.



In 2015, there were 19 sets of twins starting school.

The majority of those starting classes in 2023 gathered at St. Patrick's Primary School, Greenock, for a dress rehearsal ahead of their first day.

Graeme Brooks, from Inverclyde Council, said: "It has become an annual tradition in Inverclyde, or Twinverclyde as we've become known, to welcome our twins into Primary One.

Source: Dogo News

August 15

News in Pictures



Tokyo, Japan
People release doves during a visit to the Yasukuni Shrine on the 78th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.



Wagah, India
Indian border security force personnel feed each other sweets during the country's 77th Independence Day celebrations at the India-Pakistan border.



Quillacollo, Bolivia
Dancers at the Urkupiña festivity in Cochabamba.

Auckland, New Zealand
Spain fans dance outside the stadium before the semifinal match between Spain and Sweden during the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023.



August 14



Jiuquan, China
People visiting the sculpture 'The Son of the Earth', a huge sleeping baby set in the Gobi Desert in Gansu province. Measuring 15 m long, 4.3 m high and 9 m wide, it was made of red sandstone by artist Dong Shubing using 3D technology.

Ratnapura, Sri Lanka
An illuminated aircraft flightpath and the Milky Way were seen in the sky during the Perseid meteor shower associated with the comet Swift-Tuttle. The meteors are called the Perseids because they appear from the general direction of the constellation Perseus.



Cambridge, UK
Shire horses Bryn and Cosmo from Waldburg Shires stable harvesting the wildflower meadow at King's College, Cambridge, before turning and carting the hay on a traditional wain. The bales will be used to propagate more wildflower meadows across the city, and the hay offered to local farmers as winter feed for livestock.



Kinderdijk, Netherlands
Wild geese silhouetted above a wind pump in South Holland. About a third of the country is below sea level and wind pumps prevent the land from being flooded.

Singapore
Le Le, the first Giant Panda born in Singapore, eats food received on the occasion of his second birthday at the River Wonders - Giant Panda Forest exhibit in Mandai Wildlife Reserve.



Source : The Guardian