

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023



# FUN DAY TIMES



**Fun at a beach party**

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

**WINNERS!**  
**POETRY & ESSAYS**  
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**New** **KEKULU**  
**ART COMPETITION**  
PAGE 3



**LANDMARKS**  
PAGE 4

**(ONLINE)**



**PAGE 7**

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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.**

**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 27, 2023**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

**Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)**



**Age groups:**  
**6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years**  
**Word limit: 100 Words**

## 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.

### 6 – 10 years

#### My dream jobs

I want to be a baker,  
And make different kinds of bread,  
I'd also want to be a seamstress,  
And weave magic with my needle and thread.

I'd like to be a doctor,  
And cure all ills and injury,  
I'd also want to be a teacher,  
And teach maths and geography.

I'd love to be an author,  
And write different types of books,  
I want to be a policewoman,  
And capture thieves and crooks.

So much to learn and so much to see,  
I think and think what can I be,  
My mind full of questions for you and me,  
What will come for the grown up me?

**Safiya Rizaam**  
**Ecole International, Kandy**



### 11 – 15 years

#### The Nightingale's song

On the branches which sway in the night air,  
You sit and cheep a song fairly rare,  
And let the wind carry your notes to my ear.  
Which I delightfully like to enjoy and hear.

Your charming tune is a pleasant spell,  
It makes me brave and the world so well,  
Your melodious music enchants me with glee,  
Won't you share your secrets with me?

Your voice sounds solemn and very  
courageous,  
Your beautiful songs are madly gorgeous,  
You make the night seem merry and bright,  
Which makes me think everything's alright.

**Miron Roshanth**  
**Carmel Fatima College, Kalmunai**

**Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.**



Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

## Win super books from



**Age: 9 years and below**

**Word Count: 150**

**Topic: My favourite storybook**

**Win: The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl**



Every Saturday morning the Gregg Family goes off to shoot animals and birds. But the girl who lives next door hates hunting. Now it's made her so angry, she's put the Magic Finger on them all. And very strange things have begun to happen...

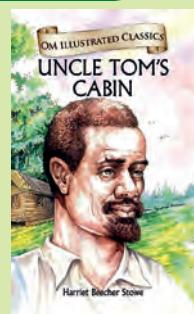
**Age: 10 – 12 years**

**Word Count: 150 – 200**

**Topic: Why I like to read**

**Win: Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe**

Uncle Tom is an elderly slave residing in a little cabin near his master's house. Tom proves to be popular, meek and obedient but Tom's master feels no qualms about selling him to a slave trader in order to pay a debt.



While living the life of slavery and exploitation, Tom sticks firmly to his beliefs and is admired even by his enemies...

**Age: 13 – 15 years**

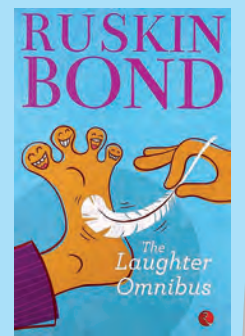
**Word Count: 200 – 250**

**Topic: The importance of First Aid**

**Win: The Laughter Omnibus edited by Ruskin Bond**

In this rib-tickling anthology, Ruskin Bond brings together funny stories, humorous articles and comic verse.

These hilarious encounters are guaranteed to make you smile, chuckle, snort, giggle and laugh out loud!



**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

## Book Competition



### 9 years below

*A village fair or 'pola'*  
**Zain Shakeel**  
Atamie Int. School, Wattala

### 10 – 12 years

*A machine I would like to invent*  
**Yonal Batuwita**  
St. Joseph's College, Colombo

### 13 – 15 years

*What you know about Nelson Mandela*  
**Nadithi Kulasekera**  
Ladies' College, Colombo





# Kekulu Kinder ART COMPETITION - 2023

## Application Form

Child's Full Name : .....

Date of Birth : .....

Permanent Address and Telephone Number : .....

Email Address : .....

Kindergarten Name and Address : .....

Kindergarten Principal's Name : .....

Phone Number : .....

Kindergarten Email : .....

District : .....

Kindergarten Principal's Signature : .....

1. Eligible only for children of 2 ½ to 5 years of age.
  2. Competition topic is 'Our Family'.
  3. Drawing can be submitted only on an A4 sheet using pastels only.
  4. Should be certified by the Kindergarten Principal, that the drawing is done by the child.
  5. It is mandatory to paste the application to the back of drawing.
  6. Certificates are given only for drawings where application form is filled correctly.
  7. The product wrappings and the drawing to be enclosed in an envelope without stapling together and sent to the following address before 30th November 2023.
  8. Address: Hettigoda Industries (Pvt) Ltd., No. 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana.
  9. It is important to have filled the application form correctly. If not, the drawing will be rejected.
  10. Any clarifications on the competition, please call Yuresh on 077 244 0442 or Isuru on 077 261 3255.
- It is mandatory to include a product wrapping from any of the following product categories, to partake in the competition.



Kekulu Baby Soap



Kekulu Toothpastes



Kekulu Baby Cologne



Kekulu Toothbrush



THE OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER



OFFICIAL PRINT PARTNER



OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER



Kekulu Baby Soap 5 in 1

\* Important Notice – To all Kindergarten Principals, please ensure that all drawings are submitted with the correct product wrappings to the above address before 30th November, 2023.



A fun Beach Party was organized by Immy Kids International Montessori recently.

Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

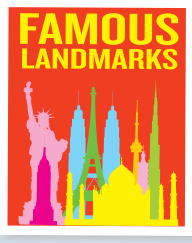


Nuha Aamina Nihad  
6 years on September 6

### In our online issue this week:

- Page 5 – Winners Essays
- Page 6 – Literacy Day
- Page 7 – Kids News
- Page 8 – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.



# London Eye

*The London Eye is a large metal Ferris wheel. It is also known as the Millennium Wheel and is one of the largest observation wheels in the world. It has 32 capsules that represent 32 London boroughs. It can carry 800 people in one single rotation. From there you can see up to 40 km in all directions. The wheel travels at a speed of about 0.6 miles per hour and an average ride takes 30 minutes. On average, it receives more visitors per year as compared to the Taj Mahal and the Great Pyramids of Giza.*



## Fast Facts

- The London Eye stands at the western end of Jubilee Garden, on the South Bank of the river Thames, between Westminster Bridge and Hungerford Bridge.
- The London Eye was originally planned as a temporary structure but in July 2002, it was granted a permanent license by Lambeth Council.
- It turned into a pop-up dining spot during London Restaurant Festival.
- It is also known as the Millennium Wheel as it was built to celebrate the Millennium.
- It is lit up in different colours to mark various special occasions. It was lit red, white and blue for Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding.
- The structure has a central hub and spindle connected to outer and inner rims by cable spoke. It has a diameter of 120 m and is 135 m tall.
- It was officially opened on New Year's Eve 1999 by Prime Minister Tony Blair. It was not opened for public use until March of 2000.
- Thousands of couples have proposed on this iconic landmark since its opening.
- Every year, around 3.5 million people, including tourists and London residents go on the London Eye.
- It took three and a half years to construct.



- Each capsule on the eye can hold 25 people. Every one of the 25 capsules weighs a bulky 10 UK tonnes.
- It is the largest Ferris wheel in Europe and the fourth largest in the world (as of 2018). At the time it was built, in 1999, it was the tallest giant wheel in the world.
  - It offered the highest public viewing point in London.
  - The 245-metre (804 ft) observation deck on the 72<sup>nd</sup> floor of The Shard is now the highest public view of London.
  - The London Eye was overtaken in height by the Star of Nanchang, which is 160 m high. On February 11, 2008 the Singapore Flyer overtook the Star of Nanchang, with 165 m.

Sources: Easy Science for Kids & Kids Encyclopedia Facts

## Famous Landmarks Quiz 44

**Q:** What is the London Eye and when was it officially opened?



## Famous Landmarks Quiz 43

Lakitha Wijerathna, Galle



## Book Competition



### 9 years and below

#### **A Pola**

Every Sunday, I wake up in the morning to go to the *Pola* with my grandpa.

Everyone shouts, 'Laabai! Laabai!' There are people selling fish, vegetables, fruits, toys, sweets and even pets. My favourite is the pet seller. I love goldfish. My grandpa buys me goldfish and ice-cream. I feel very happy.

We buy lots of things. The fruits and vegetables are fresh and tasty. I help grandpa to carry the bags. I hold my grandpa's hand tightly so I don't get lost.

Sunday is my favourite day of the week because I go to the *Pola* with grandpa.

**Zain Shakeel (7 years)**  
Atamie Int. School, Wattala

### 10 – 12 years

#### **A machine I would like to invent**

A machine I would like to invent is a locator for missing personal possessions like pens, pencils, keys, toys and rulers. I would like to name my innovation the 'Electronic Item Searcher'.

It would look like a barcode reader which would fit in a pocket of a pair of trousers. It will have a small screen which will point the direction of the missing item, like forwards, backwards, left and right. The electronic item searcher will have a small chip holder to insert a chip. Once a person inserts a chip, the device will find the missing required object in no time. The machine will be available in different colours so that the customer will have a splendid choice. The gadget will be easy to operate to satisfy any user. The price for it will range from 2,000 rupees and upwards, depending on the size and quality of the materials used.

This invention would be of great help to assist people in finding lost articles on a daily basis. It will save people's time and energy.

**Yonal Batuwita (11 years)**  
St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10

### 13 – 15 years

#### **What you know about Nelson Mandela**

*"It always seems impossible until it's done."*

This meaningful quote was said by none other than Nelson Mandela, who proved this saying, by his valuable service to mankind.

He was born in Transkei, South Africa on July 18, 1918 and studied law at University College of Fort Hare and University of Witwatersrand. Mandela married Evelyn Mase and had two sons and two daughters.

Mandela's activism began with his joining the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944 and helping form the ANC Youth League (ANCYL).

He spoke at the All-in African conference at Pietermaritzburg in 1961, where he warned that a national strike would be implemented if a national convention on a non-racial constitution was not granted. Accordingly, he led the national strike and an armed struggle and helped to establish *Umkhonto we Sizwe* (Spear of the Nation).

However, in 1964, Mandela and seven others were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. After 27 years in prison, he was released with the unbanning of the ANC. In 1993, he jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize with President

F. W. de Klerk. Mandela became the first democratically elected president of South Africa in 1994.

This exemplary personality rendered a huge service to grant emancipation to the black people. He proved his courage and wisdom by becoming the first black head of state.

Although he passed away on December 5, 2013, he will forever be remembered worldwide as a great leader who worked for the freedom of all, disregarding racial differences.

**Nadithi Kulasekera (13 years)**  
Ladies' College, Colombo 7



## 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](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



### Young Reporters Coupon

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone: .....

School: .....

Parent's approval:                      Date:

.....    .....



# International Literacy Day

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

**I**nternational Literacy Day has been observed annually on September 8, since 1967, following its declaration by the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in 1966.

Its aim is to remind people of “the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights”.

This year’s theme is “Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies”.

Literacy is generally considered to be a person’s ability to read and write (in any language), as well as the possession of basic numeracy skills. Globally, an estimated 763 million youth and adults lack basic literacy and numeracy skills.



**In recent times, additional types of literacy have been suggested as been necessary to survive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:**

- Digital literacy** – This typically refers to the ability to use technology for problem-solving and self-expression.
- Health literacy** – This means being able to understand the healthcare system, including medications, doctors and specialists, in order to avoid mishaps such as taking incorrect medications or not understanding the doctor’s instructions.
- Financial literacy** – This refers to the ability to understand and manage one’s finances, including navigating the murky waters of financial institutions and making the maximum use of one’s available resources.
- Media literacy** – This means being able to understand the messages conveyed through news programmes, television, radio, video games, movies, social media and any other media sources.
- Cultural literacy** – This refers to being able to understand other cultures as well as one’s own culture, in order to avoid misunderstandings, better communicate with others, and live harmoniously in society.
- Emotional literacy** – Emotional literacy means being able to understand and express your feelings, as well as recognize and respond to the feelings of others.



However, once a person is able to read, the possibilities ahead of them are endless. Countless people have used their basic literacy skills to learn on their own, known as self-education or autodidacticism and reached amazing heights.

Here are a few notable autodidacts:

**Abraham Lincoln:** Born into poverty, he was self-taught and later became a lawyer, legislator, U.S. Congressman and finally the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America.

**Mark Twain:** Known as the Father of American Literature, he left school at a very young age following his father’s demise, to work as a printer’s apprentice for a local newspaper, which allowed him to read the news while working. He educated himself on a wide variety of subjects including history, politics and botany.

“Frederick Douglass taught that literacy is the path from slavery to freedom. There are many kinds of slavery and many kinds of freedom, but reading is still the path.”

~ Carl Sagan

## WHO WE ARE invites Sri Lankan children

Join online showcase 'SRI LANKA SPEAKS'

The Virtual Spoken Word Slam 'SRI LANKA SPEAKS', organized by WHO WE ARE, a nonprofit organization based in Chicago, USA and founded by Sathimi Liyanage, a High School junior student from Sri Lanka studying there, will be held on December 29, 2023.

The mission of WHO WE ARE is to empower historically under-represented communities by amplifying their voices. The organization provides a platform that enables individuals from these communities to share their stories on a global scale. Through this platform, WHO WE ARE aims to foster inclusivity, representation and understanding, ultimately contributing to positive social change.

This platform provides a space where participants can share their stories whether it

is by reciting a story, singing a song or spoken poetry form.

The competition is for age categories 13 years and under and 14 – 18 years. Monetary prizes will be awarded to winners in each category and they will get recognition on the organization's platform.

All Sri Lankan children are invited to participate and avail yourselves of this opportunity to share your voice with the world.

WHO WE ARE would love to hear your poetry, stories, songs, speeches, monologues etc., in video or audio format in English medium for the organization's online showcase, SRI LANKA SPEAKS. There will be a judging panel and prizes will be on offer.

Submissions should be sent to [info@tellthemwhoweare.org](mailto:info@tellthemwhoweare.org) by October 27 and further details could also be obtained from the same email address.

**VIRTUAL SPOKEN WORD SLAM SRI LANKA SPEAKS**

**DECEMBER 29TH 2023**

let's tell them **WHO WE ARE**  
with poetry, songs, stories, speeches, etc  
SUBMIT VIDEO OR AUDIO FILE TO  
[info@tellthemwhoweare.org](mailto:info@tellthemwhoweare.org)  
by **OCTOBER 27TH**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT [INFO@TELLTHEMWHOWEARE.ORG](mailto:INFO@TELLTHEMWHOWEARE.ORG)

## Coast to Coast: Five year old could be youngest ever to complete walk

September 5, 2023

Five year old Ollie from Sunderland could be the youngest person to ever complete England's Coast to Coast walk.

The route is nearly 200 miles long, and spans from St. Bees in Cumbria, across the country to Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire.

He did the walk to raise money for the Great North Air Ambulance, after seeing a helicopter rescue and wanting to help.

### Ollie's expedition

Paul, Ollie's dad, walked the route with him. He described Ollie as "extremely determined".

Accompanied by his Dad, Ollie set off from the starting point on August 18, armed with a map, supplies and plenty of food and drink.



Their plan was to walk several hours a day, and stay at various campsites along the route.

The first few days were tough, due to Storm Betty providing 95 kmh winds and lots of heavy rain.

Ollie and his dad finally made it to Robin Hood's Bay, the walk's end point,

on Saturday.

Ollie ended the walk having raised £2,000 for the air ambulance charity – much more than his original £500 goal.

### What is the Coast to Coast walk?

It's a big, 185 mile long walk that stretches from the east coast of England to the west coast.

It takes a long time – people usually do it over two to three weeks, stopping at campsites or hostels along the way.

The fastest time it's ever been completed is just over 39 hours, by ultra-runner Damian Hall.

CBBC Newsround

September 5

# News in Pictures



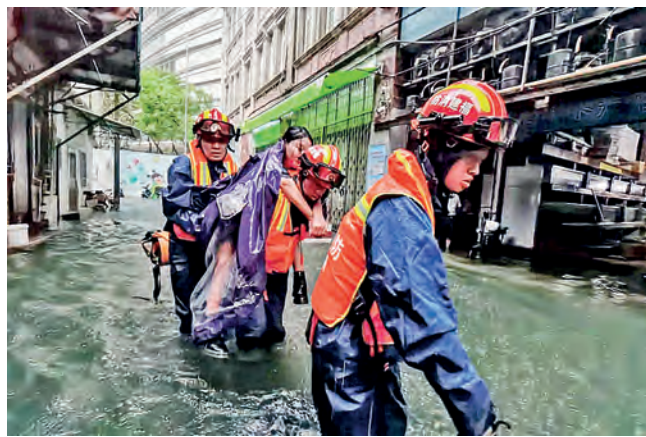
**Bird Photographer of the Year 2023 - Best Portrait, Gold Award winner Nicolas Reusens from Spain photographed the rare glistening-green tanager (*Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*) at the Mashpi Amagusa Reserve, in Ecuador.**



**Bristol, UK**  
The sun rises over colourful houses in Totterdown as forecasters are predicting a 'last dose of summer', with warm spells reaching 30°C on Tuesday in southern areas of England, and 32°C on Wednesday and Thursday in central and southern England.



**Kolkata, India**  
Nuns from Missionaries of Charity attend a special prayer on the occasion of Feast Day to mark the death anniversary of Mother Teresa at Mother House.



**Xiamen, China**  
Rescue personnel evacuate residents in a flooded area from heavy rains caused by Typhoon Haikui in southern Fujian province.

**Karbala, Iraq**  
Shia pilgrims mark the holiday of Arbaeen. The holiday marks the end of the 40-day mourning period after the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, Prophet Muhammad's grandson, in the 7th century.



September 4



**Kharkiv, Ukraine**  
Children attend their first day of school, at a metro station. Due to threat of missile strikes, lessons are either taught online or in the metro.



**New York, USA**  
A waning gibbous moon rises behind the Empire State Building, lit in red, white and blue to mark Labour Day weekend in New York City, as seen from Hoboken, New Jersey.



**Gianyar, Indonesia**  
A child passes a statue representing a Bornean orangutan named Jacky at Bali Zoo. Jacky, the oldest orangutan in Bali, has turned 46 and his birthday celebration also marks a campaign aiming to protect Indonesia's endangered orangutan species by addressing the issue of illegal logging in Gunung Palung National Park in West Borneo.



**Mumbai, India**  
Students with their faces painted as the Hindu goddess Kali take part in a cultural event ahead of the Janmashtami Festival, celebrating the birth of Krishna.

Source : The Guardian