

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2023



FUN DAY

TIMES



Beauty of the sea

Art by Lithuli Bandara (Grade 1)

**KIDS'
WORLD**

PAGES 2 - 3



LANDMARKS

PAGE 4

(ONLINE)

COMPETITIONS

PAGES 5 & 6

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

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.

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 this week's competitions:

December 13, 2023


In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Competition / Read-a-Book Winners
- **Page 6** – Kekulu Art Competition/ British Council Event
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **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.

'Sudu Amma'

(A Tribute to Mrs. Marie Musaeus Higgins)

You have always been a mother
Kinder to another
If you had not built our school
We would be in a puddle of drool

Because of your teaching and guidance
Today we all shine like diamonds
I wish you could come back to life once more
To show you Musaeus College's current splendour!

Thenaya Weerakkody (9 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

My ambition

My ambition is to become an Aeronautical Engineer. Aeronautical engineers design and develop aircraft like planes and helicopters.

I have to study Maths a lot to be an aeronautical engineer. I would like to help people by making aircraft.

My job will be interesting and I like it a lot.

Riyal Abdur Rahman (9 years)
President's College, Kotte

Baby deer



Devgee Kaththri Arachi (9 years)
Anula Vidyalaya, Nugegoda

My country

My country is Sri Lanka. It is an island near India. It is the shape of a mango. Our flag is the Lion Flag. I have visited the Lotus Tower.

Pragash Amshika (12 years)
Ramanathan Hindu Ladies' College,
Colombo

My sister

My sister's name is Menadi Sadinsa. She is nine years old. She studies at Sirimavo Bandaranayaka College.

Her favourite meal is rice and curry. She likes to drink faluda. She loves our parents, sister and relatives. I love my sister.

Methuka Thehas (12 years)
Isipathana College, Colombo

Two Ducks



Gagana Weththasinha (12 years)
Sheffield int. School, Kotte

My favourite storybook

My favourite storybook is 'The Little Mermaid'. It is the story of a mermaid princess called Ariel who loves to be human. One day Ariel sees a prince in the sea, struggling to swim but Ariel saves him and sings a song. When he wakes up, he tries finding the girl who rescued him. Meanwhile when her father heard what she had done, he becomes angry and scolds. Ariel cries about her bad luck.

So the evil sea witch cunningly plans and turns her into a human in exchange for her lovely voice.

If the prince doesn't give her the true love's kiss, the sea kingdom will belong to the witch.

Days pass and without her voice Ariel struggles. But her friends help and finally they kiss. Humans and mermaids become friends and everyone lives happily.

I like this story because it is about a friendly mermaid and has a happy ending.

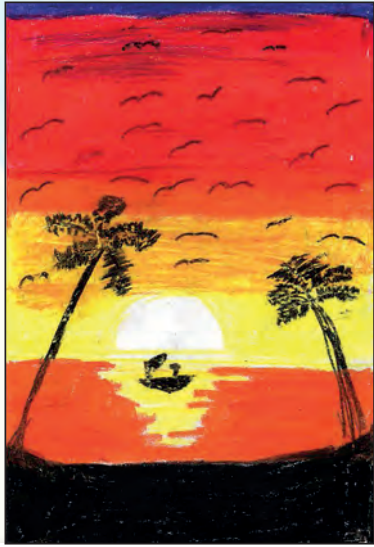
Thanansika Rajees (9 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

Happy Deepavali



Vasanthakumar Anjana (14 years)
Hindu Ladies' College

Sunset



Chanuli Thennakoon (Grade 3)
Vidura College, Kurunegala

From an overseas reader

What if?

What if we could swim?
What if we could fly?
What if we knew how to stop being shy?
The answers to these are simple you see,
Let's all learn them one, two, three,
Swimming just needs a few lessons,
Flying needs imagination,
To stop being shy, it may be hard,
But make some friends and you'll be in
the stars,
I hope my answers made sense to you.

Sara Ismail (10 years)
English Modern School, Doha, Qatar

Looking at light

Some types of light bulbs work by luminescence. Inside a bulb we find a wire filament which glows white hot to produce light. The bulb glass supports the wires connected to the filament. Light bulb filled with gas works by luminescence. Metal bars hold the bulb in the socket and in contact with electricity.

Aken Disanayake (Grade 4)
Wellington Int. College, Bandarawela

Let's Save Earth



Saqeef-ul-Haq (Grade 4)
Matale Int. School

My sister

My sister is Methupama. She is older than me. She is tall and very smart. She is 14 years old. She studies at Holy Cross College. She is good at studies.

My sister helps my parents in household work. She helps me also. We play together. She loves to play Badminton. Sometimes she works in my garden. Her ambition is to be an engineer. She wants me to study well. She loves me a lot. I love her also.

Nethupama Wijerathne (Grade 4)
Holy Cross College, Gampaha

My family

This is my family. There are four members in my family. They are father, mother, sister and me. My father and mother are teachers. My sister is small. I love my family.



Sarah (Grade 3)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Flying a kite



Tinuka Sasmitha (4 years)
Jayamaga Pre-School, Waskaduwa

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.



My pet

My pet is a dog. It is white and black. It has a long tail. It is cute. It likes to eat meat and fish. It likes milk even more. It runs fast. I love my pet very much.



Thehan Sunhitha (Grade 3)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Dragonfly



Chenuthi Bandara (Grade 1)
Vidura College, Kurunegala

Christmas Cover 2023

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in paintings for the Christmas Cover 2023 Competition.

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative. **All entries should be on A4 size paper.**

Please write 'Christmas Cover' at the back of your picture, along with your **Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number (if any) and School.**

All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will not be considered for the prize.

The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue. The winner will also receive a prize.

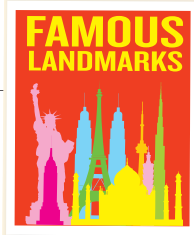
This competition is open to children between 4 - 15 years of age.

Good luck and happy painting!

mail to Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Closing Date :
December 15, 2023





The Spanish Steps



The Spanish Steps are a set of steps in Rome, Italy, climbing a steep slope between the Piazza di Spagna ('Spanish Square') at the base and Piazza Trinita dei Monti, dominated by the Trinita dei Monti church at the top.

The monumental stairway has a total of 135 steps (the slightly elevated drainage system is often mistaken for the first step). The Spanish steps were built in 1723 – 1725 by a design of the rather little-known architect Francesco de Sanctis and were financed by French diplomat Étienne Gueffier.

It was built in order to link the Spanish Embassy (the primary site of Spain's influence in Rome) and the Trinita dei Monti Church (under patronage of the King of France). The Spanish embassy was located in the plaza at the base of the steps, so the plaza became the Piazza di Spagna ('Spanish Square'). The name then carried over to the steps.

The Trinita dei Monti church stands at the top of the steps. With its twin towers it dominates the skyline.

At the end of the fifteenth century, only a small chapel existed on the hill. In 1495, French King Louis XII commissioned the erection of a new church, replacing the chapel. Construction started in 1502 and dragged on for decades. It was only consecrated in 1585 by Pope Sixtus V.

At the base of Piazza di Spagna you can find the Baroque fountain named Fontana della Barcaccia, 'Fountain of the Ugly Boat,' built in 1627 – 29 by Pietro Bernini. The fountain, with its characteristic form of a sinking ship, is said to be based upon a folk legend. The legend says that a fishing boat was carried away to this exact spot during the flood of the River Tiber in the late 16th century.

The obelisk that looms above the Spanish Steps is a 2nd century Roman copy of the Flaminian Obelisk (an Egyptian obelisk built 3,200 years ago), located in the Piazza del Popolo). The obelisk was originally located in the Gardens of Sallust. In 1789, it was moved to its current location by the request of Pope Pius VI.

At the corner on the right as one begins to climb the steps, is the house where English poet John Keats lived and died in 1821; it is now a museum dedicated to his memory, full of memorabilia of the English Romantic generation.



The site before the construction of the stairs in a late 17th century engraving by Giovanni Battista Falda.

On the opposite side of the Spanish Steps from John Keats museum are Babington's Tea Rooms that have been serving English tea for more than a century. The tea shop was set up, in 1893, by two English residents Isabel Cargill and Anna Maria Babington. Babington's Tea Rooms are now a bit of an institution and there are restaurant facilities as well.

This beautiful place is not only one of Rome's most popular gathering places, but the steps are also one of the longest and widest staircases in all of Europe. It is especially beautiful in spring, when pots of blooming azaleas are laid out on the Spanish Steps.

Throughout history, the Spanish Steps have been restored several times. Today, eating and drinking on the steps is strictly forbidden in order to keep the staircase clean. Already in the Renaissance period, the square was one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city and it still is to this very day.

The 1953 film 'Roman Holiday', starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck, made the Spanish Steps famous to an American audience. The Steps were featured prominently in the film version of 'The Talented Mr. Ripley' starring Matt Damon in the title role.

Source: JustFunFacts



Famous Landmarks Quiz 46

Q: Where are the Spanish Steps located and why were they built?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 45

Seja Damsuwi,
Galle



Win super books from



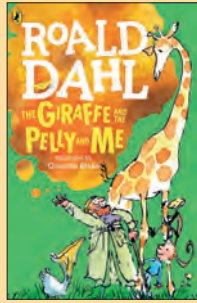
Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: Things you like and dislike about school

Win: The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl

Introducing the Ladderless Window-Cleaning Company! A giraffe with a neck so long she can reach the highest windows, a pelican with a bucket-sized beak, a monkey to do the washing and their new friend Billy.



Now the richest man in England has given them a job that could make all their dreams come true!

Age: 10 – 12 years

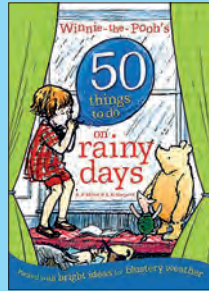
Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: An interesting incident or experience

Win: Winnie-the-Pooh's 50 things to do on rainy days by A. A. Milne & E. H. Shepard

The friends of the Hundred Acre Wood have 50 things to try on rainy days.

Join Winnie-the-Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and Owl as they build a rain gauge, find Eeyore's tail and take part in a scavenger hunt.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

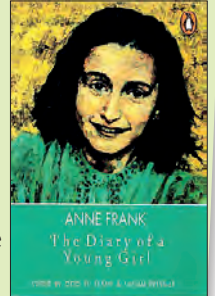
Topic: The Festival of Deepavali

Win: The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank

Thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family flee the horrors of Nazi occupation and go into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse in July 1942.

Over the next two years Anne vividly described in her diary the frustrations of living in such confined quarters.

The Diary of a Young Girl remains the single most poignant true-life story to emerge from World War II.



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 Coupon

Name:
 Date of Birth:
 Address:
 Telephone:
 School:
 Parent's approval: Date:

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



Or

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.

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.

Read-a-Book for October

9 years and below
Senuri Gunawardana
 Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

10 – 12 years
Yusuf-ul-Haq
 Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

13 – 15 years
Nivethikaa Yogendran
 A Little Princess by F.H. Burnett

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :
 Date of birth :
 Address :
 School:
 Tel:
 Finished book on :



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Storytelling at British Council Library, Colombo

The November storytelling session of the British Council Library, Colombo was held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 in partnership with ABooklk.

Storyteller Thabitha took the children on a journey of imagination and creativity with its personalized books. She read the book 'Thabitha and Alicorn the Flying Horse' which was a delight for the children.

The children got themselves engaged in fun activities along with an activity to colour themselves as a hero. The event was really exciting for all the children who joined that day, giving them happy memories with ABooklk. The children had the opportunity to think outside the box and be the Hero of their own story.

If you are interested in joining our events and activities please log in to <https://www.britishcouncil.lk/library/events>.



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.

Kenya Celebrates New Tree-Planting Holiday

November 16, 2023

On Monday, people across Kenya took part in the country's first national tree-planting holiday. The holiday was created by Kenya's president, William Ruto, to encourage people to plant trees as part of a plan to fight the climate crisis.

Kenya is famous for its beautiful forests and wildlife. But large areas of Kenya's forests have been cut down, either for the wood, to clear the land for farming, or both. And those trees would normally help absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that's a major cause of the climate crisis.

Currently, just 7% of Kenya is covered by trees. Mr. Ruto has a goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. He hopes that will help Kenya cover 30% of its land with trees.

The government says planting trees will reduce pollution, and help protect the country's food and water supply. Kenya has been seriously affected by the climate crisis. The country has been hit by a severe drought, and the area's rain patterns have been changing for the worse.

In early November, to help get Kenya's massive tree-planting effort started, the government declared November 13 a holiday – National Tree Growing Day. To prepare for the day, the government got 150 million seedlings (young trees) ready for planting.

The government created a special app to help organize the tree planting. The app is called JazaMiti, which means "fill with trees" in Swahili. The app helps people collect seedlings, find places to plant, and record their efforts. The app

will also help the government track how many trees have been planted in different areas around the country.

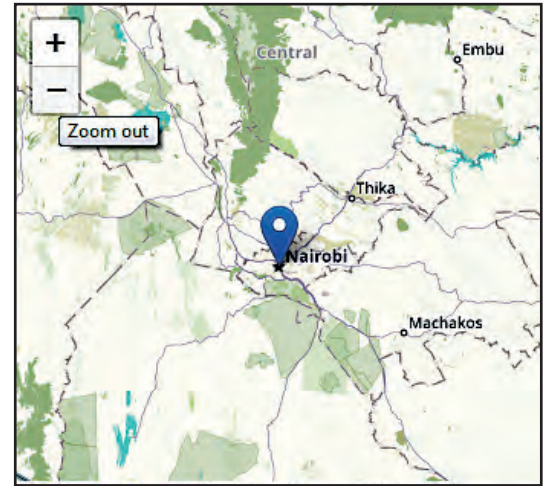
On Monday, people all over Kenya turned out in large numbers to take part in the holiday. In the capital, Nairobi, hundreds of people joined in, even though it was raining. Government leaders led planting efforts in different parts of the country. Workers, students, families, and other groups showed up to take part.

Mr. Ruto took part in a tree-planting event in Kiu Wetland in southern Kenya. "We will continue to protect our environment and ensure we leave behind a nation that the future generation will be proud of," he said.

It's not yet clear how many trees were actually planted. But the government had a goal of planting 100 million trees on Monday, and several hundred million more before the end of December.

Elizabeth Wathuti, who works to protect the environment, was very happy about the support Kenyans showed for tree planting. But she pointed out that it would be very important to continue to take care of the trees as they grow. "Tree planting is just the beginning," she said.

Though most Kenyans supported the event, some people were upset because the holiday was announced too late for them to be able to take part.



Two boys planting a tree as part of National Tree Growing Day



(Pic. by Guardian)

Still others have criticized the government for a decision Mr. Ruto made earlier this year. The country had a ban on cutting down older trees, and Mr. Ruto ended that ban.

Even so, many people were very excited about the tree-planting holiday. Some hope that it will happen every year.

News for Kids



People all over Kenya turned out in large numbers to take part in the holiday.

November 21

News in Pictures



New York, US
People gather as Saks Fifth Avenue unveils its holiday windows.



Uttarkashi, India
A picture taken with an endoscopic camera shows a worker trapped inside the under-construction tunnel, days after it collapsed in the Uttarkashi district of India's Uttarakhand state. Forty-one Indian workers are trapped in a collapsed road tunnel as workers attempt to create new passageways to free them.



Kaneohe, Hawaii
A military aircraft in the shallow waters of Kaneohe Bay after skidding off the end of the runway at the marine corps base in Hawaii. The aircraft is a Boeing P8 Poseidon, described as a military surveillance and patrol aircraft. According to the Hawaiian press, the crew of nine was onboard.



Guangzhou, China
The Canton Tower and skyscrapers are illuminated during a rehearsal for the Guangzhou international light festival in Guangdong.

November 20

Encantado, Brazil
Flood water engulfs a neighbourhood in Rio Grande do Sul state. Flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains in southern Brazil have killed at least six people over the past week, authorities have said.



Vancouver, Canada
Dancers from 'Butterflies in Spirit' dance group perform at the start of the Red Dress event of the Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week at Queen Elizabeth Theatre.



Rafah, Gaza Strip
A Palestinian medic cares for premature babies, evacuated from al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City, before they are transferred from southern Gaza to Egypt. Twenty-nine premature babies arrived in Egypt on Monday, Egyptian media said, after their evacuation from Gaza's largest hospital, which has become a focal point of fighting between Israel and Hamas.



Chandigarh, India
Devotees perform religious rituals as they offer prayers to the solar deity Surya during the Hindu festival of Chhath Puja

November 19

Vatican City
St Peter's basilica during a mass on World Day of the Poor



Source : The Guardian