



# FUNDA DAY TIMES



***A Kiddies Japanese Act***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

## WINNERS!

**POETRY & ESSAYS**  
PAGES 2 & 5



**EVENTS**  
PAGE 3



**MATHS**  
PAGE 4

**(ONLINE)**



**FAMOUS PEOPLE**  
PAGE 6





**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:**

**December 27, 2023**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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

## BRITISH COUNCIL

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

**6 – 10 years**

### Black Night

Going for a slow night walk,  
Having a talk,  
My dog biting his bone,  
And me, I go back home.

I go back to bed,  
And lay down my head,  
Outside there is the street light,  
And its yellow light is so bright.

The night turns to dawn,  
I start to yawn,  
I put my glasses,  
I see red roses.

**Hemliya Rajaweda**  
**Colombo Int. School, Kandy**



**11 – 15 years**

### Friends in life

Friendship is the pearl of life,  
Which blossoms like a poppy,  
Strengthening true bonds by time,  
And changing our perpetual lives.

Friends will always be true,  
Be through thick and thin with you,  
Comfort you when you are sad,  
Rejoice positively when you are glad.

When we are beaten with hardships,  
And drowned in the ocean of loneliness,  
True friends will be there to bring us,  
To a world of happiness and loyalty.

**Aysha Manaal**  
**Ilma Int. Girls' School**

Please write the date at the top of your entry.

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



Or



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

## Win super books from



**Age: 9 years and below**

**Word Count: 150**

**Topic: A letter to Santa Claus**

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

To the Gregg family, hunting is just plain fun. To the girl who lives next door, it's just plain horrible. She tries to talk them out of it, but the Greggs only laugh at her. Then one day the Greggs go too far, and the little girl turns her Magic Finger on them. When she's very, very angry, the little girl's Magic Finger takes over.



**Age: 10 – 12 years**

**Word Count: 150 – 200**

**Topic: Planning Christmas gifts for your family**

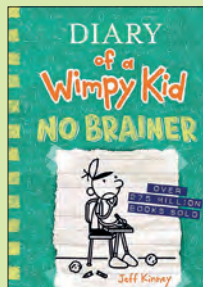
**Win: Diary of a Wimpy Kid – No Brainer by Jeff Kinney**

Up until now, middle school hasn't been a joyride for Greg Heffley.

So when the town threatens to close the crumbling building, he's not too broken about it.

But when Greg realizes this means he's going to be sent to a different school to his best friend, Rowley Jefferson, he changes his tune.

Can Greg and his classmates save their school before it's shuttered for good?



**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

**Age: 13 – 15 years**

**Word Count: 200 – 250**

**Topic: What Christmas means to you**

**Win: Goodnight Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian**

Timid, scrawny Willie Beech – the abused child of a single mother – is evacuated to the English countryside on the brink of World War II.

At first, he is terrified of everything, even of Mr. Tom, the gruff, kindly old man who has taken him in. But gradually Willie forgets the hate and despair of his past. He learns to love a world he never knew existed, a world of friendship and affection in which harsh words and daily beatings have no place.

Then a telegram comes. Willie must return to his mother in London. When weeks pass by with no word from Willie, Mr. Tom sets out for London to look for the young boy he has come to love as a son.



## Book Competition



**9 years below**

*My favourite teacher*  
**Seja Damsuwi**  
Southlands College, Galle

**10 – 12 years**

*If I were a teacher*  
**Aarathana Selvachandran**  
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

**13 – 15 years**

*World Habitat Day*  
**Nivethikaa Yogendran**  
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo







The 7<sup>th</sup> National Kayak & Canoe Championship was held at the Diyawanna Rowing Centre from November 30 – December 2, 2023.

Pix by Eshan Fernando



'Petrichor 2023', a musical concert organized by the Negombo South International School Piliyandala branch was held at the Maharagama Youth Centre recently.



Pix by Kithsiri de Mel



Kiddie Cove held their annual concert and graduation on November 19, at the Bishop's College Auditorium.

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara





## Archimedes and Pi

**Maths in Action 78**

By R. N. A. de Silva

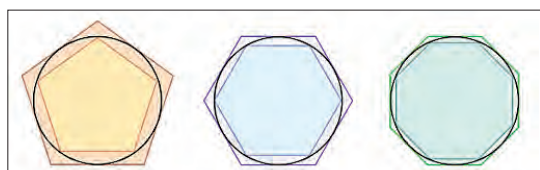
In the third century BC, Greek mathematician Archimedes calculated the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, which is known as  $\pi$ . The ancient Greeks strove for precise determination of  $\pi$ . However, Archimedes was the first to offer a theoretical calculation to obtain a close approximation of  $\pi$ .

The thought process used by Archimedes may be described as follows.

1. If you consider the area of a square as a close approximation to that of an area of a circle, then if a side is added to form a pentagon it gets closer.
2. If you continue in this manner, a circle can be thought of as a polygon with infinite number of sides.



Archimedes' method was to draw a circle and then draw regular polygons inscribed (inside the circle) and circumscribed (outside the circle). He argued that the circumference of the circle should be between the two perimeters of the polygons.



By doubling the number of sides of the hexagon to a 12-sided polygon and continuing to increase the number of sides, Archimedes was able to bring the two perimeters closer to the circumference of the circle. Thereby, he obtained the lower and upper limits for  $\pi$ . He found that  $\pi$  is less than  $22/7$  and greater than  $223/71$ . If you convert them approximated to four decimal places, the values are 3.1408 and 3.1429.

Archimedes knew that he had not found the value of  $\pi$  but only an approximation within those limits.

Many consider Archimedes to be a pioneer of calculus because of his thinking process.

$$\pi = \frac{\text{Circumference}}{\text{Diameter}} = 3.14159265\dots$$

### HOW ARCHIMEDES



### TRAPPED $\pi$

A lot of research has been done for the determination of the value of  $\pi$ .

Let me end with a simple infinite series found by Leibnitz in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

$$\pi/4 = 1/1 - 1/3 + 1/5 - 1/7 + 1/9 - 1/11 + \dots$$

#### Math Plot - 78

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to [rnades@gmail.com](mailto:rnades@gmail.com)

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.

**Your dad says that he will pay you Rs. 600/= an hour for the 6 seconds that you take to wash your hands before dinner. How much did you make for washing your hands?**

#### Math Plot 77 – Solution

The answer is 35.

The winner is Meroni David of Good Shepherd B.M.V., Colombo. Congratulations!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Netana Krause**  
5 years on December 10

## 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!



Or


[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)
**Closing Date :**
**December 15, 2023**




**9 years and below**

**My favourite teacher**

My favourite teacher is Miss. Sanuri Liyanagunawardhana. She is 31 years old. She lives in Galle. She teaches at Cambridge College, Galle Branch.

She teaches us English very well. She loves children with all her heart. She usually wears the Cambridge uniform. She even wears high heels. She doesn't like any make-up, she just likes her natural look. She has long, straight, black hair. She is tall and has a slim body. She is as beautiful as a queen.

One day my best friend got angry with me and I cried. My teacher told me, "There are plenty of fish in the sea." Then I made my mind up and now there are many friends for me. On the first day, my dictation marks were low. After that my teacher said, "Go back to the drawing board." I got good marks the next week. Now my dictation marks are so far so good.

My teacher is the same as my second mother. I love my teacher a lot.

**Seja Damsuwi (8 years)**  
Southlands College, Galle

**Book Competition**



**10 – 12 years**

**If I were a teacher**

I have often daydreamed about how I would be, if I were a teacher. Looking at the ones who teach me and the ones that I like, I would like to become a kind, yet strict teacher.

If I were a teacher, I would identify the specialty of each student and appreciate them. I would be an easy-going person so that the students feel comfortable when learning and never hesitate to ask about any doubts. I would help the students if they needed help and release their stress. While being a friend, I will also ensure that my students gather knowledge not by forced studying but logical understanding.

In my past years I have come across various teachers and

observed their characters. I would implement the methods by which they handled us that I liked, because understanding a student would be best done by viewing from their perspective and since I am a student now, I will take note of how I would like to be treated and do so when I'm a teacher.

My Mathematics teacher, Ms. Neela was an excellent teacher who taught the lessons in such a way that we scored the highest for Mathematics than other subjects. Thus if I were a teacher, I would become like Ms. Neela, clever and kind.

**Aarathana Selvachandran**  
(11 years)  
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

**13 – 15 years**

**World Habitat Day**

World Habitat Day is marked on the first Monday of October each year and is recognized by the United Nations to reflect on the state of towns and cities and on the basic rights of all, to adequate shelter. It reminds the world that everyone has the power and responsibility to shape the future of towns and cities.

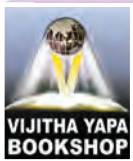
It was first celebrated in Kenya and now everywhere in the world. Every year, World Habitat Day is celebrated in a host city where the members of the United Nations give speeches and presentations, reflecting on and highlighting the issues faced by people across the world, the problems of rapid urbanization and impact on the environment and human poverty. There is usually a particular focus on urban areas and the homeless.

This year's World Habitat Day aims to convene various city stakeholders to discuss the ways cities can recover from negative economic shocks following the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme was, 'Resilient urban economies, Cities as drivers of growth and recovery.' It was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on October 2, 2023.

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award is one of the most prestigious human settlement awards, which recognizes individuals and institutions that have made outstanding contributions to urban development, improving the quality of urban life for all and provision of adequate, affordable and accessible housing. Up to five winners are selected and awarded at the global observance of World Habitat Day.

Thus World Habitat Day helps in improving the future of cities and mankind.

**Nivethikaa Yogendran (13 years)**  
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7



**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 Competition**

**Name :** .....

**Date of birth :** .....

**Address :** .....

**School:** .....

**Tel:** .....

**Finished book on :** .....



Or

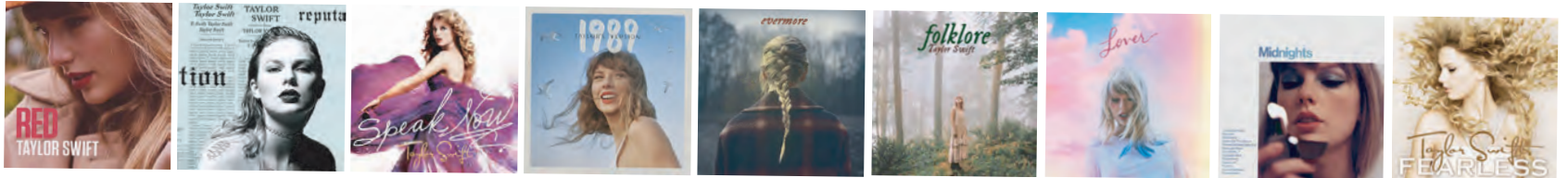
[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)





# Taylor Swift

*Taylor Swift is a pop and country music artist. She has won 11 Grammy Awards (so far) including Album of the Year for her record 'Fearless'. She is one of the most popular musical artists in the world today.*



Taylor Alison Swift was born in West Reading, Pennsylvania on December 13, 1989. She loved to sing as a young girl and was singing karaoke locally at the age of 10. When she was 11 she sang the National Anthem at a Philadelphia 76ers basketball game. She started learning guitar about that time. It was a computer repairman who taught her a few chords on the guitar when he was at her house helping to fix her parent's computer. From there Taylor practiced and practiced until she could write songs and play the guitar effortlessly.



It was the most downloaded country album in history at one time and had seven songs in the Top 100 at the same time. Three different songs from the album all had over 2 million paid downloads each.

Taylor was now a superstar. The success of 'Fearless' did not stop with commercial success and sales, the album also won many critical awards including Grammy Awards for Album of the Year, Best Country Album, Best Female Country Vocal (White Horse), and Best Country Song (White Horse).

Taylor's third album, 'Speak Now', sold over 1 million copies in the first week.

Taylor also knew she wanted to be a singer/songwriter from the start. At the age of 11 she took a demo tape to Nashville, but was rejected by every record label in town.

Taylor didn't give up, however, she knew what she wanted to do and wasn't going to take no for an answer.

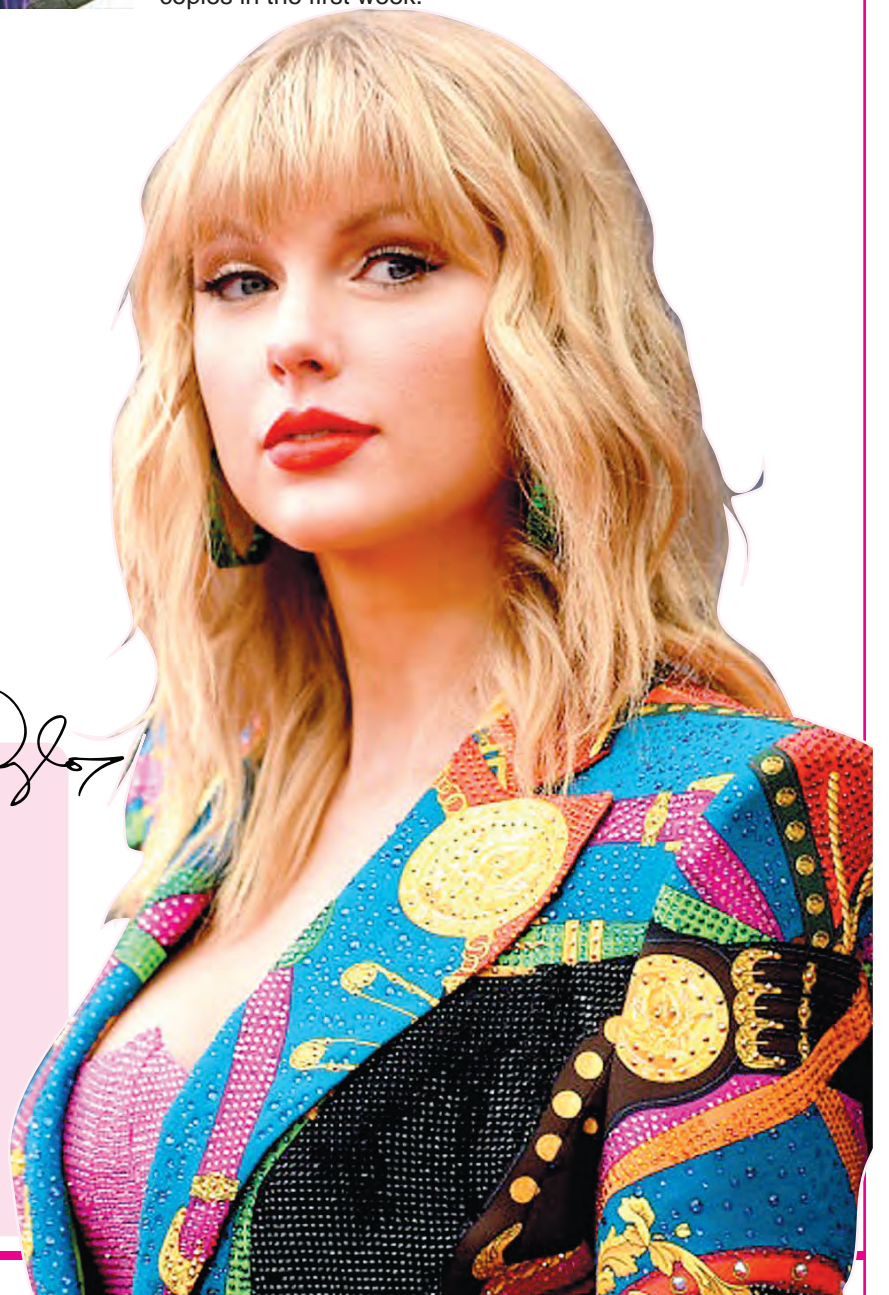
How did Taylor get her first recording contract?

Taylor's parents knew she was talented and moved to Hendersonville, Tennessee so she would be close to Nashville. It took a few years of hard work, but in 2006, Taylor released her first single 'Tim McGraw' and a self-titled debut album. Both were very successful. The album reached Number 1 on the Top Country Albums and was at the top of the charts for 24 weeks.

Taylor's music career did not slow down. Her second album, 'Fearless', was even bigger than her first.

## Fun Facts

- Taylor is known for her generosity. One of her favourite charities is the Red Cross. She also gave \$500,000 in 2010 to help victims of flooding in Tennessee. She is also a promoter of children's literacy.
- Her movie acting debut was in the romance 'Valentine's Day'.
- Taylor plays the voice of Audrey in the 2012 movie 'The Lorax'.
- She was on the 2010 season of 'Dancing with the Stars'.
- Her lucky number is 13.
- Swift's grandmother was an opera singer.
- Her musical influences include Shania Twain, LeAnn Rimes, Dolly Parton, and her grandmother.
- Taylor Swift has broken 58 Guinness World Records.
- Taylor Swift fans call themselves 'Swifties'!



Source: Ducksters





## A celebration of UK service dogs

About 7,000 people in the UK rely on a registered service dog, which can cost tens of thousands of pounds from training to continued support. In partnership with Dogs for Good, Support Dogs, Medical Detection Dogs and other charities, the Kennel Club charitable trust has

sponsored more than 30 dogs to become specially trained companions to adults and children coping with a range of medical problems and disabilities. The trust has partnered with photographer Rankin in an exhibition highlighting some of the UK's most inspiring service dogs.



Springer spaniel Albie, a bed bug detection dog, and handler Emma. Merlin Environmental took Albie to assess his potential and he now works at hotels, planes and trains across the UK.



Nova Scotia retriever Rhubarb, a college assistance dog, and handler Zoe. Rhubarb works at a further education college, focusing on shy, quiet or anxious students, meeting them one-on-one or with groups of students at lunchtimes and break times. Sometimes he will attend a classroom session to provide reassurance for learners.



Thunder, Wynter and Autumn, Siberian huskies. Thunder, centre, gives terminal illness support, slowing his breathing to match those that he is comforting, and provides them peace and companionship in their final moments. He can also signal when individuals are struggling with trauma and has an excellent track record for identifying early stages of pregnancy.



Staffordshire bull terrier Belle, a labour ward assistance dog and handler Ameer. Belle was there at the birth of Ameer's son and then again three weeks after birth when she required emergency surgery. Belle helps Ameer face daily challenges associated with her autism, anxiety, PTSD and OCD.



Black Labrador Albert, who gives chronic pain support, and handler Jemima. Dogs for Good matched Jemima with Albert after she became very unwell and was not able to attend school regularly. With the support of Albert, Jemima has now started a legal apprenticeship, allowing her to have the life she never expected and to pursue her dream of becoming a solicitor.



Yellow Labrador Mack, a guide dog, and handler Devante. Mack has completely changed Devante's life. Devante was diagnosed with an eye condition called retinitis pigmentosa as a child. He used to avoid going shopping or on public transport because he found it so stressful. Now, with Mack's help, he's free to live a better life.



Chihuahua/Jack Russell terrier cross Tilly, an emotional support dog, and handler Emily. Tilly is credited with saving her life. Tilly is a therapy dog and also visits care homes to brighten up residents' days.



Shiba Inu Rosie, Riot and Dennis, police therapy dogs, with handler Karen. The trio previously worked as Pets As Therapy dogs at Manchester hospitals. Following the Ariana Grande concert arena bombing, they have worked alongside Merseyside police. Outside their typical duties, they have worked on incidents including the Liverpool bombing and a series of murder investigations.



Newfoundland Storm, an emotional support swim and water rescue dog, and handler Pete. Newfoundlands is a non-profit organisation that offers emotional support to people who may benefit from swimming and interaction with Newfoundland dogs. They offer help for staff from frontline emergency services, military veterans, and those struggling with their mental health.



Yellow Labrador Bobbin, a bio detection dog, and handler Caitlin. Bobbin works for Medical Detection Dogs to smell diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's and bacterial infections at its training centre. Medical alert assistance dogs warn their clients when they are about to have a medical crisis. They typically give them a five to 10 minute warning to get somewhere safe, avoiding injury and hospitalisation and giving them back their confidence and independence.

Source: The Guardian





**December 5**

# News in Pictures



**Dubai, United Arab Emirates**  
Representatives of Brazilian Indigenous groups, at the UN Cop28 Climate Conference. The international summit, which ends on December 12, brings together stakeholders, including heads of state and other leaders, scientists, environmentalists, activists and others to discuss the implementation of global measures towards mitigating the effects of the climate crisis.



**Wallington, UK**  
Five-year-old Julia cuddles a free teddy bear at a toy adoption station. Research shows almost half of parents (46%) in Britain plan to spend less on their children's Christmas presents this year, and 47% believe their child would not mind receiving a pre-loved toy as a gift.

**Chennai, India**  
People use an ox cart to cross a flooded street after a heavy downpour during Cyclone Michaung. As the storm approaches North Tamil Nadu, several areas have experienced severe flooding.



**London, UK**  
Dancers perform a Christmas ballet, titled 'The Reunion', at Terminal 5 at Heathrow. The dance depicts the emotion of festive reconnections at the airport.



**New York, USA**  
Pro-Palestinian protesters fill the streets of Brooklyn and Manhattan as they march to demand justice for the people of Gaza and call on the US government to stop sending aid to Israel.



**Vienna, Austria**  
A teddy bear lies inside a toy CT scanner made by the Vienna Medical Association. About 60 medics participated in the campaign, which aims to allay children's fears of visiting the doctor or being hospitalized.

**Agam, Indonesia**  
Students at school as Mount Marapi spews volcanic ash in the distance.

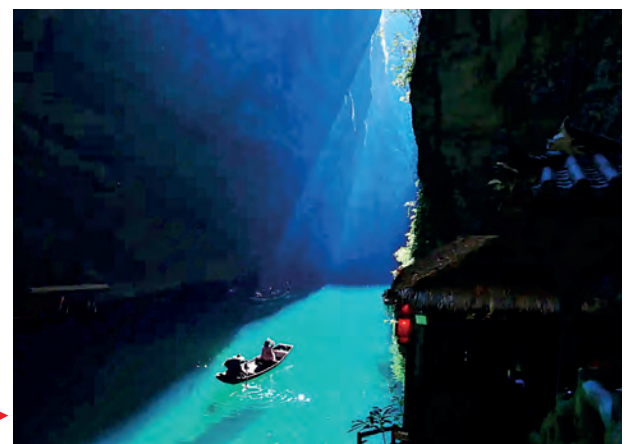


**December 4**



**Lidecko, Czech Republic**  
People take part in a St. Nicholas procession, a pre-Christmas tradition that has survived for centuries in a few villages in the eastern part of the country.

**Hubei, China**  
A tourist enjoys a view of Pingshan canyon, a tourist attraction famous for its limpid water.



Source: The Guardian