

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 11, 2024



# FUN DAY

## TIMES



**IORA DAY  
COMPETITIONS**

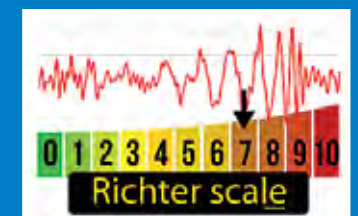
**PAGES 2 - 3**

**WINNERS!**

**POETRY & ESSAYS**

**PAGES 4 - 5**

**(ONLINE)**



**MATHS**

**PAGE 6**

**KIDS NEWS**

**PAGES 7 - 8**

***Kids having fun at GLF***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Follow us on  
[www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk)

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**Calling  
Funday Times  
Club Members  
and Readers**

IORA Day 2024 will be celebrated on March 10, 2024 at Galle Face Green in Colombo. Many interesting, ocean-related activities are being organized, leading up to that day.

Two-hundred (200) Funday Times Club members and readers will be selected on a first-come first-served basis to participate in the activities.

**If you would like to attend the main event, please call us or email us your full details.**

**If you are a club member, please state your membership number.**

**Telephone: 2479337 / 2479333**

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



## IORA Day 2024 Essay Competition



Hey Kids, Funday Times is organising an Essay Competition to create awareness about IORA Day 2024. This is apart from the IORA Day 2024 All-Island Art Competition (See Page 3 for more details).

Under the main theme for IORA Day 2024, 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations,' we give below three topics for the three age groups.

Please send in your essays with your full details to Funday Times by post or email. Remember to get your entries certified as your original work by a parent or teacher.

**A Family Dinner Buffet at Hilton Colombo will be awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winners.**

**Other exciting prizes and Book Vouchers will be awarded to all the winners!**

**Closing Date: March 1, 2024**

**Age group:** 9 years and below

**Topic:**

*Our Ocean - Our Life*

**Word count:** 150

**Age group:** 10 - 12 years

**Topic:**

*Protecting our ocean*

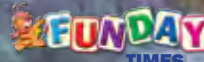
**Word count:** 150 - 200

**Age group:** 13 - 15 years

**Topic:**

*Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations*

**Word count:** 200 - 300



Or



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

**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:**

**February 28, 2024**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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



**Fun activities  
at the  
Galle Literary  
Festival 2024  
children's events,  
held on January 27  
at the Thomas Gall  
School in Galle.**

**Pix by  
M. A. Pushpa Kumara**

**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Book Winners Essays
- **Page 6** – Maths in Action
- **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.

## ***IORA Day 2024***

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education have combined to commemorate IORA Day in March this year with a major programme for schoolchildren which will include an art competition that will showcase the importance of the Indian Ocean.

Sri Lanka took over the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in October 2023 for the period 2023/2025. There are 23 member states and eleven dialogue partners in IORA. IORA Day is celebrated on March 7 every year.

The theme for IORA Day 2024 is a 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations' and will focus on educating and engaging future generations on the importance of ocean conservation and sustainable practices to preserve the oceans for the future.

Among the activities planned is a national level art competition for schoolchildren in association with the Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

Entries will be accepted from schoolchildren in three categories: Primary (Grades 1 - 5), Junior (Grades 6 - 9) and Senior (Grades 10 - 13).

Details appear in the children's publications of Wijeya Newspapers Ltd., and their online versions.

Several other ocean-related activities will be conducted with the participation of children island-wide, drawing awareness to the importance of ocean sustainability. These activities are also coordinated by the Sri Lanka Navy and other ocean-related agencies. Opportunities are to be provided for children to be taken out to sea on a short excursion.

Ahead of IORA Day, several awareness programmes are planned.

***The main event of IORA Day 2024 will be held at Galle Face Green in Colombo on March 10, with stalls displaying various ocean-related activities.***



## **IORA DAY ART COMPETITION 2024**

### **'SUSTAINABLE INDIAN OCEAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS'**



Currently, Sri Lanka holds the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and, plans are underway to hold the next IORA Day 2024 commemoration on 10th March, 2024.

As part of the activities, an Island-wide Art Competition among school children under different topics on the theme "Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations" will be held as indicated below, in association with the Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

### **CALLING ALL BUDDING ARTISTS ISLANDWIDE!**

Express your creativity and concern for the Indian Ocean through art!

We are inviting artists from all schools to participate in our art competition centered around preserving our beautiful Indian Ocean.



Prizes to be won and selected Artwork will be showcased in the IORA Day Art Exhibition



### **PARTICIPATION**

Participation rules are categorized as follows:



#### **Primary (Grades 1 - 5)**

Theme: Our Ocean - Our Life  
(Certificates/Prizes for Participation)



#### **Junior (Grades 6 - 9)**

Theme: Protecting Our Ocean  
(Certificates/Prizes for Winners)



#### **Senior (Grades 10 - 13)**

Theme: Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations  
(Certificates/Prizes for Winners)



Showcase Your Talent and share your message with a wide audience



Be an advocate for Sustainability and Inspire Positive Change



### **CONDITIONS**

- Open for all school children in Sri Lanka
- Must be done on size A3 Paper
- All submissions should be certified by the School Principal
- Each entry should be accompanied by an entry form as below.

### **SUBMISSION**

Submit your entry by registered post to reach before 16th February, 2024 with the completed entry form to:

**Director (Aesthetic Education)**  
Ministry of Education,  
Isurupaya,  
Pelawatte, Battaramulla.

Please indicate following on top left corner of the envelope:

IORA Day Art Competition 2024,  
Category :.....  
Province :.....



Selected artwork may be used for future programs both locally and internationally.  
Organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

## **IORA DAY ART COMPETITION 2024**

### **Entry Form**

Full Name: .....

Category: Primary (Grades 1-5)  Junior (Grades 6-9)  Senior (Grades 10 - 13)

School: .....

Province: .....

Home Address: .....

Name of the Parent/Guardian: .....

Contact Number of the Parent/Guardian: .....

Certification by the School Principal:

I certify that the above student is studying in Grade ..... of this school.

.....  
Signature of the School Principal



**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 body

I can see with my eyes,  
I can hear with my ears,  
I can speak with my mouth,  
I can smell with my nose.

I can touch with my hands,  
I can walk with my legs,  
I can breathe with my lungs,  
I can bite with my teeth.

I can sing,  
I can dance,  
I can run,  
I love all of me.

**Adeesha Jayasekara**  
Wesley College Primary,  
Colombo 6

**11 – 15 years**

### A football player's heart

A very big day,  
A very big match,  
Crowds cheering everywhere,  
Feeling, Thoughts and Fears,  
Come to my little mind,  
And make me nervous,  
Like never before.

One wrong kick,  
And the other team wins,  
One wrong shot,  
And the other team wins,  
What should I do?

There the ball comes for me,  
Now I should take my chance,

Dribble ball on the ground,  
Tackle the player down,  
Slid past that player and,  
There's the goal post,  
In which I must shoot.

No time for these thoughts now,  
I must make my biggest shot,  
So I run and shoot,  
The ball flies beautifully  
past the goalkeeper,  
The referee blows the whistle,  
And it's a 'Goal!'  
For my happy team,  
Which won.

**Senuli Rathnasekara**  
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

## Read-a-Book for January



**10 – 12 years**

**Liza Yogeshwaran**

*Summer Term at Malory Towers*  
by Enid Blyton

**13 – 15 years**

**Abdullah Halik**

*Hogfather* by Terry Pratchett

Please see Page 5 in the  
online edition for the  
Read-a-Book Competition

## Happy Birthday

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.

## NOTE

Please see Page 5 in the online edition for the winning Book Competition essays.

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



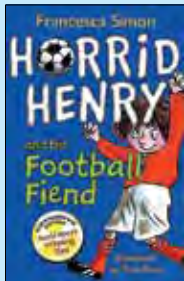
**Age:** 9 years and below

**Word Count:** 150

**Topic:** Back to School

**Win:** Horrid Henry and the Football Fiend by Francesca Simon

Henry's team Ashton Athletic have made it to a cup-tie against the mighty Manchester United. Henry's only chance to see the match live is to win Best Player in a school football competition where the first prize is two tickets to the game, but first he has to beat the best player in the school – and she's a girl.



**Age:** 10 – 12 years

**Word Count:** 150 – 200

**Topic:** A spectacular Independence Parade

**Win:** Five on Kirrin Island Again by Enid Blyton

Uncle Quentin is working on secret experiments on Kirrin Island – and he doesn't want anyone to visit, not even the Famous Five.

But someone wants to steal his ideas and ruin his plans.

George is determined to protect her father and save her island. She can't do it without the others – can they help her in time?



**Age:** 13 – 15 years

**Word Count:** 200 – 250

**Topic:** A famous woman scientist you have read about

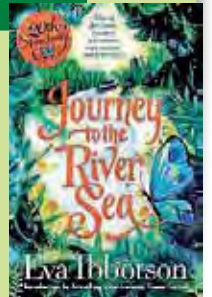
**Win:** Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

Maia, an orphan, can't wait to reach her distant relatives a thousand miles up the Amazon. She imagines great adventures with a loving family.

Instead she finds two spiteful cousins who see the jungle as the enemy.

But the wonders of the rainforest makes up for the disappointment of the twins and their parents.

And when Maia meets a mysterious boy who lives alone on the wild river shores, she begins a spectacular journey to the heart of an extraordinary new world.



## Book Competition



**9 years below**

*A letter to Santa Claus*  
**Methuka Wijetilleka**  
Vidura College, Nawala

**10 – 12 years**

*Planning Christmas gifts for my family*  
**Nithipriya De Silva**  
Musaeus College, Colombo

**13 – 15 years**

*What Christmas means to me*  
**Thehan Silva Jayasinghe**  
St. Peter's College, Colombo

Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



**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)

**Book Competition WINNERS**

**13 – 15 years**

**What Christmas means to me**

Christmas is an important tradition that holds great cultural significance and is rooted deeply in the Christian tradition. It commemorates the Birth of Jesus Christ and serves as a reminder of God’s love for human kind. Christmas symbolizes humility, faith, charity and the birth of a new hope.

For me, Christmas is a festive season that goes beyond mere exchange of presents, decorating Christmas trees or the festive lights. To me Christmas is a time for familial unity and connections, family reunions, family bonding and a time to renew our broken friendships. Christmas brings our loved ones together and their shared laughter, stories help us to bridge the gaps and distances that may have existed throughout the year.

The Christmas season beckons the altruistic spirit within us, fostering the emotions of love, kindness and empathy. Christmas is a time that we must extend a helping hand to the less fortunate and show simple gestures of kindness which would become a testament to the inherent goodness that resides in the Christmas season. Christmas is a wonderful experience that urges us to reflect on the beauty of shared experiences, warmth of familial embraces and understand the importance of customs and traditions.

In summation, Christmas, for me is a season that carries a transformative potential along with altruistic emotions that makes Christmas a sanctuary where love blossoms.

**Thehan Silva Jayasinghe (14 years)**  
**St. Peter’s College, Colombo 4**

**9 years and below**

**A letter to Santa Claus**

Dear Santa,

My name is Methuka. I am from Kotte, Sri Lanka. I am eight years old. My school is Vidura College, Nawala. I am promoted to Grade Four in 2024. I got highest marks for Environmental Studies and Mathematics.

My hobby is collecting Pokémon cards. I like to read ‘Wimpy Kid’ books. I can play the piano and sing songs. My future ambition is to be an astronaut. I have only one brother.

I would like to come and meet you, Santa and take a ride on your sleigh with the reindeer. I’d like to walk on snow and build a snowman.

Can you please send a pack of Pokémon cards for my brother and me, or a packet of sweets so I can share with my friends?

I hope you are in good health. If you come to my house at night, I will leave you cookies and milk. I wish you happiness.

Wishing you the best Christmas ever!

Yours lovingly,  
Methuka

**Methuka Wijetilleka (8 years)**  
**Vidura College, Nawala**

**10 – 12 years**

**Planning Christmas gifts for my family**

After the economic crisis, prices of items were getting higher and are still getting higher.

It is difficult to buy Christmas presents these days but I decided to be creative. I remembered the knitting yarn that my grandmother had given me. There were many colours: blue, bottle-green, yellow and magenta pink.

At school we had been taught how to braid together three strips of ribbon or wool and I thought I could use this skill to make bracelets. I made bracelets and am still making them.

But the Christmas cards...? On YouTube, my family had watched many ‘quilling’ videos.

Quilling is the art of making shapes using paper and a special type of needle. I could make quilling flowers and paste them on Christmas cards. I could write, ‘Merry Christmas!’ My cards would be appreciated.

Bookmarks would also be a great gift. I can do embroidery on a cross-stitch and a simple, heart-shaped, colourful stitch on a card that would look lovely... And my parents would like that!

From making these simple gifts, I feel that a homemade gift from a loved one for Christmas would be something special to cherish throughout your life.

**Nithipriya De Silva (Grade 5)**  
**Musaeus College, Colombo 7**

# Measure of the Magnitude of an Earthquake

**Maths in Action 79**  
By R. N. A. de Silva

A powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.5 struck Western Japan on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

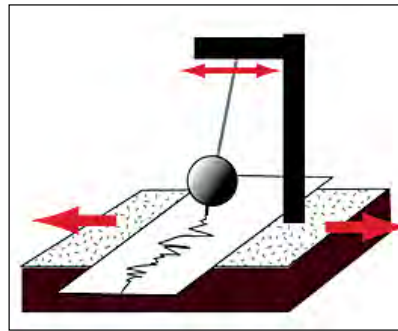
## What does 'magnitude 7.5' mean?

Earthquakes are sudden movements inside the earth, where tectonic plates move against each other, which leads to the release of energy. Over time, this energy becomes more than the earth can withstand and is released as an earthquake.

Magnitude is the size of the earthquake. This can be determined through the data obtained through a seismometer, which is an instrument that responds to ground noises and shaking.

The timing and recording devices within it provide a seismograph through which the following information can be obtained.

- The time of the earthquake
- The epicenter – which is the location on the surface of the earth of its occurring.
- The depth at which the earthquake occurred.
- The amount of energy released by the quake.



There are a number of ways of measuring the magnitude of an earthquake.

In 1932, American Charles Richter devised the first method for measuring earthquake size, which is known as the Richter Scale. The formula to obtain the Richter magnitude 'M' is  $M = \log(A/A')$  where A is the amplitude of the earthquake and A' is the amplitude of a standard earthquake with a magnitude of 0.

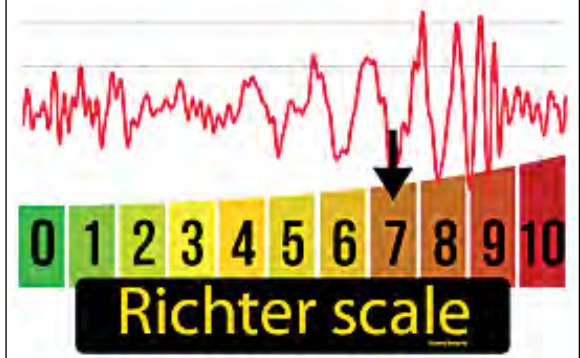
The energy released 'E' in joules can be found using the equation  $\log E = 4.4 + 1.5 M$

However, the Richter Scale tends to underestimate the size of large earthquakes. This has led to the development of the Moment Magnitude Scale, which is widely used nowadays. This scale was developed by Hiroo Kanamori of Japan and Thomas Hanks of USA in the late 1970s.

Given below is a general guideline about the magnitude of earthquakes and its effects.



A measurement of earthquake magnitude, based on seismic wave size



## Math Plot - 79

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.

**If a shopkeeper gives 25% discount, he still earns 25% profit.**

**Instead, if he gives only 10% discount then what is the profit percentage he gains?**

## Math Plot 78 – Solution

The answer is Rs. 1/=

The winner is **Shehan Fonseka** of **St. Peter's College, Colombo 4.**  
Congratulations!

Magnitude	Effects
Less than 3.5	Usually not felt.
3.5 to 5.4	Felt but generally causes no damage.
5.5 to 6.0	May cause damage over small regions.
6.1 to 6.9	Can be destructive up to about 100 km.
7.0 – 7.9	Considered a major earthquake causing serious damage.
8.0 or above	Great earthquake. Can be highly destructive.

## Lunar New Year: Year of the Dragon

Millions of people will be celebrating the Lunar New Year in February. It is one of the biggest events of the year for many East and South East Asian people and is marked by communities all over the world. Families and friends will get together to eat lots of yummy food, enjoy fireworks and wear special clothes to mark the occasion.

### When is Lunar New Year celebrated?

In 2024 the Lunar New Year is on Saturday February 10.

The celebrations begin the evening before, and last for 15 days.

The exact date of the Lunar New Year changes each year, as it is linked to the start of a new moon.



In some traditions, children get red pockets with money in them for good luck.

This is different to the 'Gregorian' calendar that is traditionally used in the UK, which starts on January 1.

Each year the date of Lunar New Year falls sometime between January 21 and February 20, on the date of the first new moon.

### What are the zodiac animals?



These are the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac.

In Chinese tradition, each year is represented by one of 12 different animals, which feature in the Chinese zodiac: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

Each animal has a year dedicated to them once every 12 years, in a cycle and this year marks the change from the Year of the Rabbit to the Year of the Dragon.

There are some differences in the zodiac animals across different countries, for example in Vietnam, they celebrate the

Year of the Cat instead of Rabbit and in Japan it's a Boar instead of a Pig.

### How is Lunar New Year celebrated?

Millions of people usually travel in the lead up to the New Year to spend time with family or friends and different communities have traditions that they celebrate.

Before the festivities begin, one tradition is to clean your house really well, to get rid of any bad luck, and get them ready for the celebrations.



Red lanterns are traditionally hung to mark the Lunar New Year.

Then, when New Year arrives, there is a tradition not to pick up a broom, in case you sweep the good luck out of the door!

In some countries, like China, schools and businesses can close for the first few days of the New Year, so that everyone can spend time with their families.



Performers dance on stage at a local fair in Beijing in China to mark the New Year celebrations.

People enjoy eating lots of delicious food during Lunar New Year, including dishes such as noodles, hot pot, dumplings, Niangao (New Year rice cake) or radish cake, fish and tangerines, which traditionally bring luck for the year ahead.

During Lunar New Year there are often parades and performances, with people dressing in traditional clothes, and performing traditional dances, like Lion dancing.

Fireworks are also set off, because it is thought that noise and lights will scare away any evil spirits for the coming months.

The festivities continue for two weeks and can finish with a special Lantern Festival to end the celebration period.

**February 6**

# News in Pictures



**Srinagar, Kashmir**  
▲  
A fisherman casts his net into the Jhelum River. The Kashmir valley received fresh snowfall after prolonged dry weather.



**Hatay, Turkey**  
People march on the first anniversary of the devastating earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria. Participants commemorated the victims at the time it struck, 4.17a.m., then, threw carnations into the Orontes River.

**Haworth, UK**  
One of Charlotte Brontë's 'little books' is displayed at the Brontës' Web of Childhood exhibition at the Brontë Parsonage Museum in West Yorkshire, focusing on the literary family's formative years.



**Mainz, Germany**  
A carnival float depicting Vladimir Putin driving a car with passengers Alice Weidel (left), leader of the AfD party, and Sahra Wagenknecht, who recently founded her own party, BSW.



**February 5**



**Mexico City, Mexico**  
▲  
Artists take part in a Carnival of Carnivals, featuring troupes from 10 municipalities, after the city's government issued a declaration proclaiming carnivals as intangible cultural heritage.

**Berlin, Germany**  
Greenpeace activists protest in front of the Brandenburg Gate on the first day of Berlin Fashion Week with a mountain of textile waste from a secondhand market in Accra, Ghana.



**Rafah, Gaza**  
▲  
Palestinian children wait to receive food from a charity kitchen.



**Los Angeles, USA**  
▲  
Taylor Swift accepts the Album of the Year award for 'Midnights' during the 66th annual Grammy awards at the Crypto.com Arena.



**San Salvador, El Salvador**  
▲  
President Nayib Bukele and his wife, Gabriela Rodriguez, wave to supporters from the balcony of the presidential palace after he was re-elected to another five-year term.

Source : The Guardian