

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 10, 2024



FUNDA Y TIMES



The beautiful sea

Art by
Dineth Jayandana (Grade 2)

WINNERS!

POETRY & ESSAYS
PAGES 2 & 5



OUR BEACHES
PAGE 4

(ONLINE)



REPORTS
PAGE 6

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

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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.

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:

March 27, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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

6 – 10 years



Books

There are so many books,
In the world!
There are reading books,
Text books, dictionaries,
Maths books,
And so many more.
Books give us knowledge so,
We must respect them.

Aradhana MS
Colombo Int. School

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

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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.

11 – 15 years

Ocean's song

Sun-kissed waves crash on the shore,
A symphony of foam and roar,
Emerald depths hold secrets deep,
Where sunlight dances, shadows creep.

Coral castles, vibrant hues,
Shelter creatures strange and new,
Schools of fish like silver streams,
Darting, flashing, chasing dreams.
Whales that sing in mournful tones,
Echoing through ancient zones,
Dolphins leap, playful and free,
Acrobats of the boundless sea.

Moonlight paints a silver sheen,
On the waves a calming scene,
Stars reflected, diamond bright,
Guiding sailors through the night.

Mysterious currents, ever strong,
Carry whispers all along,
Whispers of adventure, tales unfold,
Of shipwrecks and treasures bold.

Thurupathan Hamsaraj
Apple Int. School, Colombo 13

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

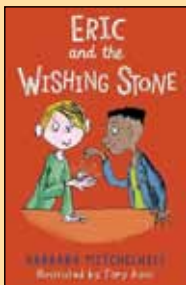
Word Count: 150

Topic: A holiday by the sea

Win: Eric and the Wishing Stone by Barbara Mitchell

Eric is just no good at tests and schoolwork. His mum isn't happy about it and decides he needs extra lessons with his grumpy teacher Mr. Hodgetts, much to Eric's horror.

So when a mysterious magic stone arrives, Eric hopes it can grant his biggest wish of all...



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: IORA Day 2024

Win: Five have a Mystery to Solve by Enid Blyton

After strong currents force their rowing boat ashore, the Famous Five find themselves stranded on forsaken Whispering Island.

When the group, decide to explore, they soon make a startling discovery.

Could there be any truth in the stories about the mysterious island after all?



Age: 13 – 15 years

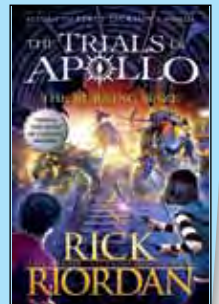
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: A famous woman who has impressed you

Win: The Trials of Apollo – The Burning Maze by Rick Riordan

Cast out by Zeus, Apollo is now a mortal teenager called Lester. He must endure a series of dangerous trials if he's ever to return back home.

In his latest mission he must journey through the Labyrinth to free an Oracle and defeat a vicious Roman emperor, all without any of his godly powers.



Write at the top of your Essay

Book Competition Essay Topic

Book Competition



10 – 12 years

My New Year Resolutions

Yonal Batuwita

St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10

13 – 15 years

Ushering in 2024

Nipunika Tharangani

Swarnapali Girls' College,
Anuradhapura

NOTE

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

New Year Cover 2024



As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times New Year Cover.

Would you like to send in a picture for our New Year Cover? If so, here's what you have to do.

Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it in to us. The painting should be on A 4 size paper. You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk. Please make your picture bright and colourful.



All entries should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.

The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times New Year issue. The winner will also receive a book voucher. Wish you all happy painting!

mail to  Or  fundaytimes1@gmail.com

**Closing Date:
April 1, 2024**

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



Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

.....

Date of birth :

.....

Address :

.....

.....

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

.....

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 February

9 years and below



Senuri Gunawardana

'I am Malala' by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb

13 - 15 years

Aysha Manaal

'What Katy Did' by Susan Coolidge

mail to  Or  fundaytimes1@gmail.com



IORA Day 2024 Competitions

Winners of the IORA Day 2024 All-Island Art Competition and Essay Competition will receive their awards at the IORA Day 2024 Commemoration on March 10, 2024 at Galle Face Green.

In our online issue this week:

- Page 5 – Book Competition Essays
- Page 6 – Young Reporters
- 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.

Rugrats



Beaches in Sri Lanka

The island nation of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean has so many perfect beaches. You can head straight from the airport to busy, beautiful Negombo; see stilt fishermen and discover bohemian surf chic along the south coast; look out for whales in Mirissa, or just relax on the long, sandy stretches in the east around Trincomalee.

Mirissa, Matara District



Mirissa beach is a popular beach, with a host of restaurants set up on the golden sands. In February and March Blue Whales migrate along the coast, and plenty of whale-watching trips depart from here to see them.

Nilaveli, Trincomalee District

The small beach resort of Nilaveli has a broad stretch of white sand lapped by turquoise waters. It all feels blissfully unspoilt. Boat trips out to Pigeon Island National Park give the opportunity to dive and snorkel among turtles and 300 species of fish over its coral reef.

Kosgoda, Galle District

The sight of thousands of newly hatched baby turtles frantically dashing to the ocean is an unforgettable sight.



There are many beaches in Sri Lanka where turtles nest, but Kosgoda on the west coast is a popular one to head to for. There's a small conservation centre and hatchery here and you can witness the release of baby green sea turtles during hatching season from November to May.

Kalpitiya, Puttalam District

Kalpitiya, on the west coast, is an excellent choice for water sports such as kite-surfing. The winds are strongest from May to September.



Between November and April, you can see a different life-form

enjoying the water: boat trips head out into the ocean to track thousands of dolphins frolicking off shore.

Arugam Bay, Ampara District

Arugam Bay on the east coast is a popular spot for surfing. The breaks here are widely considered to be Sri Lanka's best, and draw surfers from around the world from April through September.

Bentota, Galle District

The well-established west coast resort of Bentota is one of the more popular beaches for families, thanks to the many boutique hotels, restaurants serving fresh seafood and Sri Lankan curries, and activity outfitters offering everything from boat safaris to windsurfing and jet-skiing. The beach is pretty terrific too: a long strip of butter-coloured sand bordered by native flora.

Passikuda, Batticaloa District

Passikuda Beach in Batticaloa district is known for safe swimming, with calm shallow waters edging a crescent of white sand dotted with palm trees.

Further south along the beach is Kalkudah, a similarly blissful tract of sand, but much quieter than its northern neighbour.



Casuarina Beach, Jaffna District

Casuarina Beach is among the most impressive beaches in Jaffna. It is also known as Cashoorina and is located in Karainagar,



about 20 km from Jaffna town. The beach is located on the north side of Karativu Island, the peninsula's biggest island, that is joined to the continent over a highway.

The beach allegedly received its name because of the Casuarina trees planted beside the beach. The coast has shallow waters and is a safe area to have a dip.

Source : The Internet

Book Competition



10 – 12 years

My New Year Resolutions

New Year resolutions are goals that people set at the beginning of a new year to improve their lives. They can be related to activities such health, fitness, education or personal growth.

My New Year resolutions are, to keep in touch with my close friends who have left school and gone abroad through online platforms such as WhatsApp and Viber, and keep up my diving status.

My close friends Ranpath, Sasrutha and Kavindu have gone abroad one by one from our motherland Sri Lanka to the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

We used to send each other postcards but now we connect through social media, once a week. We discuss the weather, the trips we have gone on, and we share photos and videos to each other. We play games online together, such as Rock – Paper - Scissors and Chess.

And my other resolution is to maintain my level in diving.

I have started doing diving since last year and I was awarded a gold medal. This year I have decided to continue to improve my dives and to collect more medals and certificates.

In my school St. Joseph’s College, we have a swimming pool and we have three diving boards. Two springboards: 3m springboard and 1m springboard, and one platform with a height of 5m.

At first I was afraid but now I enjoy diving from these boards. For 2 – 3 seconds I feel like I’m flying, when I dive from these high boards. My favourite dives are back half-twist line-up, forward pike and sitting tuck line-up.

It is very good to make New Year resolutions because it can help us to make the New Year productive and organise ourselves.

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

13 – 15 years

Ushering in 2024

At midnight on December 31, New Year’s Eve lights up the world with excitement. It is like a symbol of making fresh starts for everyone.

As the year comes to an end, everyone gets ready for a big night of fun. It is like a big party that everyone in the world joins. It’s a special time when we say goodbye to the old year and welcome the brand new one with excitement.

The New Year is like a magical reset button. It encourages us to start fresh, try new things and brings more happiness into our lives. In the New Year, we look back at the things we did in the past year and learn from them.

Everyone puts on new clothes, congratulates one another and engages in many activities such as fireworks, dancing and singing competitions. It is a time for people

to put all of their bad experiences into the past and take a positive step into the future with their memorable experiences. Every one wishes their relatives and friends, happiness, health and prosperity in the coming New Year.

As the New Year starts, I promise myself to try new things, find happiness in small things, take care of myself and learn lots of new things. I’ll be kind to everyone and try to make people smile.

This year, I’ll work hard and have fun. I’ll explore new places, make new friends, face challenges and never stop trying. I try my best to keep and make this year a fantastic one.

I embrace this New Year 2024 with enthusiasm and positivity.

Nipunika Tharangani (14 years)
Swarnapali Girl’s College, Anuradhapura

Ginger Meggs



From our Funday Times Young Reporters

World Hearing Day 2024

World Hearing Day is an annual global advocacy event for raising awareness regarding hearing loss and promoting ear and hearing care, and calling for action to address hearing loss and related issues.

Each year, this event is celebrated on March 3, covering a specific theme on which the World Health Organization and its partners carry out activities based on this theme.

What is the theme of the World Hearing Day 2024?

The theme for World Hearing Day 2024 is "Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all!" This theme underscores the importance of addressing societal misperceptions related to ear and hearing care.



World Hearing Day is held on March 3 each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.

What can you do on World Hearing Day?

Host a concert / sport event and disseminate WHO awareness raising and advocacy materials.

Organize ear and hearing care training sessions for health care



providers. Invite local celebrities to be champions for your campaign.

Who started World Hearing Day?

It was first established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2007 and has since been observed globally.

The day aims to highlight the importance of early identification and intervention for hearing loss, as well as the prevention of hearing damage through public health measures and individual actions.

Nulara Ekanayake (13 years)
Visakha Vidyalaya,
Colombo 5

A visit to a vegetable farm at Nuwara Eliya

During the school vacation, I went on a trip to Nuwara Eliya with my family. During our stay, we went to a vegetable farm at Sandathanna.

It's a widely extended area with lots of vegetables. The people working there have made a lot of vegetable beds. We saw cabbage varieties, leeks and many other vegetables. They have grown potatoes in a different place. In this place, they grow potatoes and send to other places for sale.



People working there told me there are leopards also. We saw rabbits and fed them cabbage. They are so cute. I touched them. They are so fluffy and adorable.



There was a small pond and there were big fish. We fed the fish with fish food. When I was feeding the fish, a leech bit me. I was so scared and screamed loudly.

However, we spent a great time there.

Induni Handunneththi (12 years)
Musaeus 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



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

Thousand-year-old town found under London's National Gallery

March 5, 2024

Workers building a walkway beneath an art gallery in London have stumbled across evidence of an old Saxon town.

Ahead of their 200 year anniversary, The National Gallery ordered redevelopment of their museum in Trafalgar Square.

As construction workers dug beneath the gallery, they came across a number of artefacts and alerted archaeologists.

University College London continued the excavation and discovered evidence of an old Saxon settlement called Lundenwic.

Archaeologists already knew about the existence of Lundenwic, which was a 7th century Saxon settlement.

But they did not know how far the settlement reached, until now.



London's history can be traced back thousands of years to Roman times - this picture shows part of a Roman fort in London dating back to AD 120.

Senior archaeologist Stephen White, part of the Archaeology South-East team who led the excavation, said "the urban centre of Lundenwic extends further west than originally thought".

It was established about a mile west of the Roman town Londinium, which had been founded hundreds of years before, in 47 BC.

The archaeologists came across a fireplace hearth, which they were able to date to between 659 and 774.

London students were also given the opportunity to witness the archaeological dig in progress.



The National Gallery is a famous art gallery in London.



The Archaeology South-East team from University College London continued excavations near the gallery.

Stephen White said the excavations were made "all the more exciting" by involving "young people from this city."

National Gallery project director Sarah Younger said it was an "honour" for The National Gallery to be involved, adding the gallery's redevelopment will also "be part of the fabric and history of London for centuries to come".

Eight-year-old, the youngest to defeat a Chess Grandmaster

March 5, 2024

An 8-year-old has become the youngest player ever to defeat a grandmaster (GM) in classical chess. For those unfamiliar with the term, GM is the highest title a chess player can attain.

Ashwath Kaushik achieved the incredible feat on February 18, 2024, after beating 37-year-old Jacek Stopa in round four of an international chess competition in Switzerland. Kaushik went on to finish in 12th place, but his victory over Stopa was the talk of the tournament.



Leonid Ivanovic, who beat 59-year-old GM Milko Popchev at the Belgrade Open in January 2024, previously held the record.

At eight years and 11 months, the Serbian youngster was the first player under the age of nine to defeat a grandmaster in classical chess. Kaushik is five months younger than Ivanovic.

"It felt really exciting and amazing, and I felt proud of my game and how I played, especially since I was worse at one point but managed to come back from that," Kaushik told Chess.com.

Kaushik was born in India but moved to Singapore when he was just over a year old. He began learning chess at age four and was soon outplaying his family and friends.

March 5

News in Pictures



New York, USA
Members of Figure Skating in Harlem perform at the Central Park rink for a gala show.



Manila, Philippines
French urban climber Alain Robert, known as the French Spider-Man, climbs the GT Capital building. Robert climbed the 47 floors of the building. The police later arrested him.

Norway

As part of the state-sponsored programme to restore Arctic Fox populations, Norway has been feeding the animals for nearly 20 years, helping boost numbers from as few as 40 in Norway, Finland, and Sweden, to about 550 across Scandinavia today.



Norden, USA
Devon Phillips points to the doorway of an office blocked by snow at the Sugar Bowl Resort in California. A blizzard dumped more than 10 feet of snow and closed highways and most lifts at ski resorts.



London, UK
Members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution await the start of a service of thanksgiving to mark the 200th anniversary of the RNLI at Westminster Abbey.

March 4



Galápagos Islands, Ecuador
La Cumbre volcano erupts on Fernandina Island.



Kozushima Island, Japan
A helicopter conducts a rescue operation after a ship lost power and drifted onto rocks in rough seas. Twenty-four people were rescued and one person remains missing.



Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
A troupe member participates in the National District Carnival.



Paris, France
From left: Sir Paul McCartney, Paris Jackson, Sir Ringo Starr and Barbara Bach attend a Stella McCartney show at Paris Fashion Week.

Source : The Guardian