

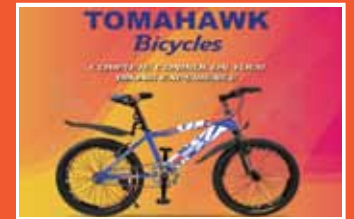
FUN DAY TIMES



WINNERS

POETRY & ESSAYS

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COMPETITIONS

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ONLINE



EASTER PAGE 5

KIDS NEWS

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Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations

Pic. by
M. A. Pushpa Kumara

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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 Number 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:**

May 7, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Age groups:

6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years

Word limit: 100 Words

6 – 10 years

A seed becomes a huge tree

I dug a hole and put a mango seed,
I covered it with soil,
I poured some water drops...
I kept some small stones around it.

Day by day it increased in
Height and number of leaves,
Its trunk becomes stronger,
And branches divide to different angles.

Years after, I came to see it,
Oh! No, that can't have happened,
Once in a blue moon it was a little plant,
But now it's a strong and huge tree.

There are tiny, winkly ants and ugly monkeys,
To eat the yummy saffron mangoes,
I'm sad but a bit glad,
As it gives food and shelter to animals.

**Seja Abeywickrama
Southlands College, Galle**

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

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



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 Library Family Membership.

11 – 15 years

Rain's Symphony

A whisper, a sprinkle, a soft embrace,
Tiny drops that barely trace.
Silver threads from a cloudy sky,
Softly it falls, a gentle sigh.

No thunder roars, no winds arise,
Just silver beads from misty skies.
Joining rivers, streams and tides,
In nature's dance, it flows and glides.

A rain drop falls, warm and bright,
Sparkling in the pale, gray light.
Earth awakens, fresh and bright,
Bathed in rain's embrace of light.

Puddles dance with tiny feet,
Rhythms pure and bittersweet.
Washing dust from weary streets,
A gentle rain, cool and sweet

It taps the leaves, it paints the ground,
A fleeting jewel, lost then found.
Kissing leaves and cooling stone,
A melody in whispers sown.

**Thenuri Keerthisena
Maliyadeva B. V., Kurunegala**

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

**Topic: What you know about
Earth Day**

**Win: The Naughtiest Girl
by Enid Blyton**

Elizabeth Allen is spoilt and selfish. When she's sent away to boarding school, she makes up her mind to be the naughtiest pupil there's ever been!

But Elizabeth finds out that being bad isn't as simple as it seems at Whyteleafe School.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 13 – 15 years

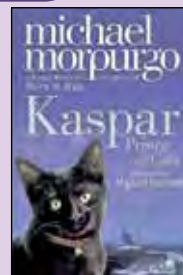
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: The Festival of Easter

**Win: Kaspar Prince of Cats
by Michael Morpurgo**

They say cats have nine lives, and that's certainly true of Kaspar. From the glamorous suites of the Savoy Hotel to the servants' quarters in the attic and from a crowded lifeboat to the hustle and bustle of New York City, Kaspar proves that no cat is too small for high adventures.

But this is no ordinary cat. He's Prince Kaspar Kandinsky – the only cat to survive the sinking of the Titanic.



Book Competition

9 years and below

The wild animal I like best

Rehan Ismail

Lanka Sabha Junior School,
Battamulla

10 – 12 years

The importance of water in our lives

Sadev Chandrasekara

Lyceum Int. School, Panadura

13 – 15 years

International Women's Day

Aysha Manaal

Ilma Int. Girls' School



**Win
super
books
from**

Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

**Topic: How I enjoyed the Sinhala and
Tamil New Year holidays**

**Win: Well Done Secret Seven
by Enid Blyton**

The Secret Seven are delighted with their new treehouse in Windy Wood. That is, until they discover that a stranger has been living there in secret!

But the gang's shock soon turns to concern when their uninvited guest is caught up in a dangerous mystery. Can the friends get to the bottom of things before it's too late?





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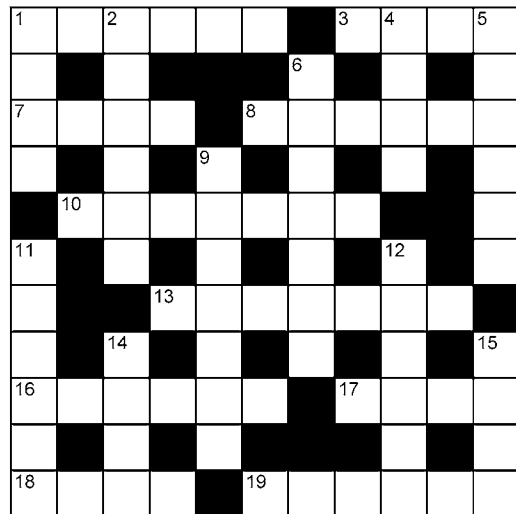


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Bandaragama. (Western Province)



LUMALA Crossword – No. 8



Across

- 1 A body organ
- 3 An animal with horns
- 7 Wipe with your tongue
- 8 Closer
- 10 Write this on an envelope
- 13 Sounds made by a sleeping person
- 16 Alive
- 17 Not willing to work
- 18 A water hole
- 19 A glass container

Down

- 1 Murder
- 2 Make up your mind
- 4 A rower pulls on these
- 5 A queen's special seat
- 6 A meal course
- 9 A household chore
- 11 Rest your head on this
- 12 Small child
- 14 Egg-shaped
- 15 A rubber cover for a wheel

Solution No. 7



Entries should be certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION

You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month. All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 8, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**. Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 8**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Closing Date: April 30, 2025



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7 – 9 years

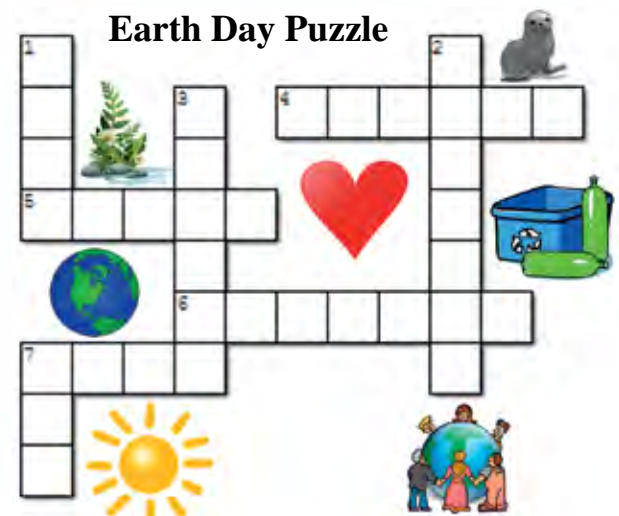


- ▶ Savenya Edirisinghe, Rajagiriya
- ▶ Lakiru Jayaratne, Malabe
- ▶ Bernard Lyoed, Rajagiriya
- ▶ Sara Raza Hussain, Dehiwala

Winners please call Funday Times on 2479333/2479337 and arrange to collect your prizes.

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Earth Day Puzzle



Across

4. We have flowers, fruits, vegetables and other _____ in our garden.
5. We live on planet _____.
6. Reduce, Reuse, _____.
7. Together we can _____ the Earth.

Down

1. We need to _____ and care for Earth.
2. Dogs and cats are types of _____.
3. Trees, birds and animals are all part of _____.
7. The _____ is so bright I have to wear dark glasses.

ANIMALS, SUN, PLANTS, EARTH, LOVE, NATURE, SAVE, RECYCLE

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Easter

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most important event in the Christian calendar, even though Christmas gets a lot more attention worldwide.

Background

The day Jesus was crucified is now commemorated as Good Friday, while the day he rose from the dead is celebrated as Easter Sunday.

In the Christian calendar, Easter comes after Lent, the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) that is traditionally observed by acts of penance and fasting in preparation for Easter. Lent ends nine days before Easter (on a Friday) and is followed by Holy Week: which includes Maundy Thursday, which marks the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples; Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion; and Holy Saturday, which marks the transition between His crucifixion and resurrection.



'The Last Supper' by Leonardo da Vinci



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

According to the Bible, Jesus was crucified on a Friday and was laid in a tomb (which was a cave), whose entrance was closed with a large rock and guarded by Roman soldiers.

On Sunday, the rock was found to be moved, and Jesus' body was missing.

Jesus was seen alive later that day and continued to appear for 40 days, before ascending to heaven.

Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after March 21 (an approximation of the calendar spring equinox). Therefore, Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25.

This year, Easter falls on April 20.

Easter celebrations today

The earliest record of an Easter celebration dates back to the 2nd century, however, commemorations of the resurrection of Jesus likely began before that. Over the years, the celebrations have evolved, creating a variety of Easter traditions around the world.

Decorating Easter eggs

A tradition in many parts of the world is decorating Easter eggs, which are supposed to symbolise the empty tomb of Jesus.

Early Mesopotamians used to stain eggs with red colouring to represent the blood of Jesus.

Eggs also symbolise new life in many cultures.



Preparing special food

A tradition that is common across the world is the preparation of special foods for Easter. Lamb is the preferred food in many cultures, while countries have their own special dishes for the occasion, such as Hot Cross Buns in the UK, *Colomba di Pasqua* ('Easter Dove') in Italy, *Reindling* in Austria and Germany, *Tsoureki* in Greece, *Paskalya Coregi* in Turkey and *Pashka* in Russia.



Bringers of Easter eggs

Depending on which part of the world it is, Easter eggs are said to be brought by foxes (Westphalia in Germany), cuckoos (Switzerland), bilbies (Australia) and bunnies (in many countries, particularly the USA).





Book Competition WINNERS

9 years and below

The wild animal I like the best

The elephant is a big animal. It is the largest land animal in the world. It is chubby and has a long nose called a trunk. It also has two large ears, four long, large legs and a small tail.

Elephants live in the jungle. Some elephants are tamed by people. Tamed elephants help people to drag and carry heavy logs, lift trees, and walk in peraheras such as the Kandy Dalada Perahera.

The elephant is a vegetarian. The female elephant is called 'Kenara' in Sinhala. Wild elephants live in the jungle and move about in groups. The elephants in the Wilpattu Wildlife Park in Sri Lanka are used to putting

their trunks inside visiting vehicles to take food and fruit out. They do not harm visitors. Foreigners love elephants. There are lots of elephants that live in Habarana.

Some wild elephants come out of the jungle and eat crops in cultivations in remote villages near jungle areas. They also destroy houses when searching for food in the villages. The tame elephants in the zoo play and dance to make the children and visitors happy.

The wild animal I like best is the elephant.

Rehan Ismail (7 years)

Lanka Sabha Junior School, Battamulla

10 – 12 years

The importance of water in our lives

Water is essential for all living beings. It covers about 71% of the Earth's surface and makes up around 60% of the human body. Without water, life would not exist. It plays a crucial role in sustaining life, maintaining eco-systems and supporting daily activities.

Water is vital for human health. It helps regulate body temperature, aids digestion and removes toxins from the body. Drinking enough water helps prevent dehydration. Additionally, water is crucial for agriculture. Farmers rely on water to grow crops and raise livestock, ensuring food production for the world's population.

Industries also depend on water for manufacturing, energy production and sanitation. Clean water is necessary for hygiene and disease prevention, reducing the spread of illness. Unfortunately, water scarcity and pollution threatens many regions making conservation and responsible usage essential.

Water is also needed for recreational activities, supporting health and well being through activities such as swimming, fishing and boating.

Protecting water sources and using water wisely ensures a sustainable future. Simple actions like reducing waste, preventing pollution and using water efficiently can make a significant difference.

Water is not just a resource; it is life itself. Without it, survival would be impossible, making its conservation a shared responsibility for all.

Sadev Chandrasekara (12 years)

Lyceum Int. School, Panadura

13 – 15 years

International Women's Day

Celebrated on March 8, International Women's Day commemorates women's fight for equality and their liberation from the shackles of chauvinism that have persisted throughout history. Due to universal suffrage movements, Women's Day originated from Europe and North America during the 20th century.

Over the years, International Women's Day addresses issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights and violence against women. It has become a widely observed day in many countries worldwide, with various traditions celebrating the significance of women's voices that have finally emerged and been heard.

Each year, the day carries a specific theme that highlights persistent challenges and calls for action. Though the shackles have loosened over time, they still persist, binding women in various parts of the world where they continue to face abuse, gender-based violence, workplace inequality and more. These struggles are acknowledged on this day, as a reflection of women's progress in society and a reminder of the battles still left to overcome.

There are several empowering women who have shaken the world with their intelligence, courage and wit. Malala Yousafzai for example, stood up for her right to education, despite enduring great suffering. Mother Teresa, with her selfless dedication to helping the poor and the sick, became a symbol of compassion and service. These are just a few examples of women who have left a lasting impact on the world, inspiring generations with their strength and determination.

In conclusion, Women's Day is not just a celebration for women but a gateway to gender equality. The courage and determination of women throughout history should stand as an inspiration to create a world for future generations, where women are appreciated to reach their fullest potential.

Aysha Manaal (15 years)

Ilma Int. Girls' School

Blue Origin sends six women into space

April 16, 2025

On Monday, the aerospace company Blue Origin launched its spacecraft RSS Kármán Line on a ten minute trip into space.

The spaceship carried the first all-female crew to go into space since Russian astronaut Valentina Tereshkova's solo mission in 1963.

The spacecraft took off from Texas on Monday morning for a flight that would last just 10 minutes and 21 seconds. That may not sound much like a trip into space, but the spacecraft reached a height of 66 miles (106 kilometres) above sea level. That is well above the Kármán line, which is generally considered the edge of space. The Kármán line is 62 miles (100 kilometres) above sea level.

Blue Origin is an aerospace company created by Jeff Bezos, who also created the online shopping giant Amazon. Blue Origin builds reusable rockets and other spacecraft.

The New Shepard system used in Monday's flight is designed for 'space tourism'. Space tourism is a new business area being built around the idea that rich tourists will pay large amounts of money for short rides into space.

Monday's flight carried six women into space. Each of the passengers is well-known in her field.



The passengers included (from left to right) Lauren Sánchez, Katy Perry, Aisha Bowe, Kerianne Flynn, Gayle King and Amanda Nguyen.

Though the six women were officially the 'crew' of the mission, the spacecraft flew completely automatically. None of the women had any duties on the flight. Each had her own seat and window.

After the rocket lifted the capsule into space, the women had a few minutes of weightlessness.

As the spacecraft returned to Earth, the rocket separated from the capsule. Three parachutes opened up as the capsule neared



Earth. This slowed the capsule down, allowing it to land gently in the desert in West Texas.

The women were extremely excited about their experiences. Ms. Perry said, "It is the highest high." She said she plans to write a song about it. Ms. King said, "It's such a reminder about how we need to do better, be better." Some of the passengers kissed the ground as they left the capsule.

Though the trip is historic in some ways, many people have criticized it. Some people felt it was a waste of money. Others say it was just a big advertisement for Blue Origin. Some people pointed out that over 100 women have already gone to space – not just for a joyride, but to do actual work.

But many people have also defended the trip, saying it sends an important message. Ms. Bowe says it's important for young people to get a sense of what's possible. She said in high school she was encouraged to get a job doing makeup. Instead, she earned two degrees in aerospace engineering. She says the mission "is bigger than the criticism."



Above, the capsule, which held the women, can be seen as the rocket is taking off.

Source : NewsForKids



April 16

News in Pictures



Britain, UK

A person views fields containing one and a half million tulips grown for Tulleys Tulip Fest at Tulleys Farm, Turners Hill, southern Britain.



Zamora, Spain
Penitents of the *Cristo de la Buena Muerte* (Christ of the Good Death) group take part in a Holy Week procession.



Shekhan district, Iraq

Members of the Yazidi community celebrate *Charshama Sor* (Red Wednesday) marking the New Year of the Yazidi, at the Lalish Temple, the main temple of the Yazidi religion.



Bahia state, Brazil

Catholics dressed in white sheets, light candles as they take part in the *Terno das Almas* procession in Igatu, a small isolated town in the mountains of Chapada Diamantina National Park. *Terno das Almas* is an ancient ritual that takes place every night during Holy Week when participants make a pilgrimage through various parts of the village, praying and singing for the souls of their dead.



Madrid, Spain

The traditional procession carrying the image known as 'Christ of the Halberdiers' to the royal palace before a procession on Good Friday.



Southern Israel

People pick buttercup flowers in a field near the Israel-Gaza border, in southern Israel.



Bhaktapur, Nepal

A devotee reacts as vermilion powder is applied on his face during the '*Sindoor Jatra*' Vermilion Powder Festival to welcome the arrival of spring and Nepali New Year at Thimi, in Bhaktapur.



Dolgellau, Wales

Dai Walker, a miner, (left) and George Frangeskides, the chair of Alba Mineral Resources, descend to the fifth underground level of the Clogau St. David's gold mine near Dolgellau. Fifty metres below the surface, the search for rare Welsh gold continues, spurred on by soaring prices on global markets.



Amuda, Syria

Yazidis gather to celebrate the Yazidi New Year in Amuda, Syria.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters