

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
AUGUST 10, 2025

FUNDAY TIMES



'Happily Ever After' on stage

Pic. by Priyanka Samaraweera

WINNERS!

POETRY & ESSAYS

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COMPETITIONS**

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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:

August 27, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: A visit to the zoo

Win: Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

A little girl called Fern rescues a tiny piglet and names him Wilbur.

But when Wilbur grows bigger, he is sent to a new home on a farm where he meets and soon becomes friends with Charlotte, a wise grey spider.

When Wilbur is faced with a dreadful fate, Charlotte must find a clever way to save him.



BRITISH COUNCIL

Age groups:

6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years

Word limit: 100 Words

11 – 15 years

Leopards – elusive cats



Leopards are spotted,
Their spots are called rosettes,
Why rosettes?
Because they're shaped like roses,
They're black and yellow in colour,
Different from each other.

Ferocious, cunning predators,
Speedy and quick hunters,
Leopards are unique,
Sleek and mystique,
With an incognito identity in the wild,
Their identity remains unseen.

This creature is endangered,
If we don't stop destruction,
Of forests and woodlands,
From today or tomorrow,
This creature over,
Never to be seen.

Nethmi Batuwita

St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

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.

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

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: The Esala Perahera

Win: The Naughtiest Girl Again by Enid Blyton

The Naughtiest Girl is back and this term she is trying to be good.

But someone wants to spoil things for her – and they are not going to let her forget how she got her nickname!



Write at the top of your Essay

■ **Book Competition** ■ **Essay Topic**

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: A view I will never forget

Win: Elephants Can Remember by Agatha Christie

Hercule Poirot stood on the cliff-top where many years earlier, there had been a tragic accident. This was followed by the grisly discovery of a husband and wife – shot dead.

But who had killed whom? Was it a suicide pact, a crime of passion or cold-blooded murder?

Poirot delves back into the past and discover that 'old sins leave long shadows'.



Book Competition



9 years and below

My favourite hobby

Rasandi Ranasinghe

Musaeus College, Colombo

10 – 12 years

What I enjoy most at school

Seja Abeywickrama

Southlands College, Galle

13 – 15 years

An exciting event

Vihanga Karunarathne

Lakdasa De Mel College, Kurunegala



25th Anniversary



Funday Times turns 25 years in August this year. To celebrate this milestone we are planning a grand competition in four segments, Essay, Art, Poetry and Photography, for our young readers. We thank you all for being with us through the years and hope you continue through the coming years as well.



Poetry Competition

Age Groups: 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years
Entries for Poetry Competition could be sent on **any topic of your choice**. The topic should be clearly stated on your entry.
Word Count: 100 – 150



Photography Competition

Age Groups: 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years
Topic: Nature and the Environment

Essay Competition

Age Group: 9 years and below
Topic: Reading as a hobby
Word Count: 150 – 200

Age Group: 10 – 12 years
Topic: Benefits of reading
Word Count: 200 – 250

Age Group: 13 – 15 years
Topic: What you find interesting in newspapers
Word Count: 250 – 300

Art Competition

Age Groups: 4 – 9 years, 10 – 12 years and 13 – 15 years
Topic: An interesting event
Art should be sent on A4 Paper
You could use any art medium such as paint, crayons etc.



Closing Date: August 10, 2025

Mail to  or
email fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Entries for all competitions should include your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School.
All entries should be certified by a parent or teacher as your own original work.
Winners will be awarded attractive prizes!

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Hi Kids,
Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.

FROM THE EDITOR



Or



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Competition Winners' Essays
- **Page 6** – Young Reporters
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- **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.

'Happily Ever After'

KinderCare Montessori School of Children held their graduation and annual concert themed, 'Happily Ever After' on August 2, 2025 at the Buddhist Cultural Centre in Colombo.

Pix by Priyanka Samaraweera

*Save our Elephants*

Environmental organizations, Animal Protection organizations and civil societies joined together at Galle Face Green on July 30, 2025, to protest against the killing of elephants.



Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Book Competition



9 years and below

My favourite hobby

All over the world, not only children but even grown-ups have various hobbies. Collecting stamps, collecting coins were popular in the past but now children have hobbies such as travelling, hiking, playing musical instruments, reading books, gardening and writing poetry.

Among the various interests I have, my favourite hobby is reading books. From my childhood, I have been fond of receiving books for my birthdays. Even after school hours, I used to stay at the library to spend my time in a useful way. I feel that what Stephen King said is true; "Books are a unique, portable magic".

By reading books we can receive a lot of knowledge and we can get information to write essays, stories and poems. We can reach faraway places, hunt for treasures and meet extraordinary characters through the imagination we inherit from reading.

Having thousands of benefits from reading, I am proud to say that I am a bookworm.

Rasandi Ranasinghe (9 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

10 – 12 years

What I enjoy most at school

There are many activities that I engage in at my school. Among these, what I enjoy the most is my Aesthetic subject – Traditional Dancing, where history, faith and legacy are taught in its sacred movement styles.

At our school there are many dancing styles to learn such as Kandyan (*Uda-rata*), Low Country (*Pahatha-rata*) and Sabaragamuwa. There are also separate *Vannam* and *Kasthiram* for each category that teaches us about the behaviour of animals. Additionally we can learn about, *kalagedi*, *lee-keli* and *raban*.

Although modern dancing styles are taught at my school, I take immense enjoyment in learning traditional dancing. We learn not only about how to dance but also about our nation's resilience, its timeless beauty and the proud history of my motherland Sri Lanka.

Dancing provides us with many opportunities to showcase our talents. I dance for every special occasion at my school. Dancing helps me to have good physical, mental and social well-being. Dancing gives me both magical and panic-filled moments full of excitement. It inspires me a lot.

Seja Abeywickrama (10 years)
Southlands College, Galle



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 :

13 – 15 years

An exciting event

Among the many exciting events that have touched my heart, the train journey to Ella remains one of the most enchanting experiences of my life.

It was a morning wrapped in soft sunlight, as we boarded the train in Kandy, unaware that we were about to witness a world unfolding like a painted scroll. As the train began its slow, steady rhythm, a cool breeze swept through the open windows, carrying with it the scent of wildflowers and distant rain. Rolling hills clothed in emerald tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see, and waterfalls leapt gracefully from rocky cliffs, glistening like threads of silver. The mist floated gently over the landscape, and for a moment, it felt as though we were gliding through the clouds.

Each curve of the railway revealed a new wonder; tiny villages nestled between the hills, smiling faces waving with joy and bridges suspended high above valleys. Inside the train, laughter echoed, strangers became companions and time seemed to slow down, allowing us to breathe in every detail of the journey.

When we arrived in Ella, the mountains stood like silent guardians, cloaked in mist. The journey was not just a trip along the tracks but through beauty, warmth and wonder – a memory etched in my soul, like poetry written across the hills.

Vihanga Karunarathne (13 years)
Lakdasa De Mel College, Kurunegala

From our Funday Times Young Reporters

Sri Lanka Scout Association Awards Ceremony 2025

The Sri Lanka Scout Association presented President's Scout, Baden Powell Rover Scout, District and Scout Group Awards at a glittering awards ceremony held at the Holy Cross College, Gampaha auditorium on July 19, 2025.

Chief Guest Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe, Deputy Minister of Labour presented the awards accompanied by



Mr. Ransiri Perera, President of the Sri Lanka Scout Association and other distinguished guests.

332 President's Scouts received their awards along with eight Rover Scouts who were presented the Baden Powell Award. District and Scout Group Awards for 2023 and 2024 were also distributed.

Assistant Chief Commissioners, Headquarters Commissioners, Asst. Headquarters Commissioners,



Colombo District Scout Award Winners



Bilal Ramzeen receiving his President's Scout Award.

District Commissioners, Scout officials, parents and invitees added colour to the ceremony.

Abdur Rahman Irshad (12 years)
Zahira College, Colombo 10

Farewell to a Principal - a pillar of success

On July 18, 2025 Sri Sanghabodhi National College stood still. Not in silence but in awe. Beneath the school pavilion and amongst the gathering were teachers, students, prefects, past pupils, retired educators and principals from neighbouring schools. All were there to honour the man who shaped a legacy - Mr. Luxman Wijerathna.

Before he stepped onto the ceremonial stage, a moment of deep grace unfolded. After years of restoration, the newly refurbished Buddhist Shrine Room was declared open. A gesture that felt less like a ritual and more like a blessing. In that sacred quiet moment, his farewell became something timeless.

They saw he was bold, stern. But those who walked beside him saw

something else - a quiet fire, a heart that carried a school's dream without ever asking for praise. He was the one who took Sanghabodhi's 83 year journey and turned it into a national story.

Vice Principal Ms. Shyamali Ranapuraarachchi opened the formal ceremony with a heartfelt welcome. This was followed by a soul-stirring performance. With elegant dance and a specially-composed song of tribute, the school expressed gratitude far beyond speech. The Junior Prefect Board Head Prefect offered up the students' voice - one full of admiration, memory and quiet understanding.

Among the distinguished guests were the Divisional Director of Education and the ASP of Nittambuwa, honouring the man who led not just with rules but with vision.



The event concluded with Deputy Principal Ms. Oluni Rathnayake's tribute. A final echo of all he gave. And though the curtains drew on his time, his dream walks on through every corridor, every classroom and every heart that once called him 'Sir'...

Shavini Aberathna (15 years)
Sri Sanghabodi National College,
Nittambuwa

**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:

.....

Commemorations mark 80 years since Hiroshima

August 6, 2025

Prayer services have been held in Japan on Wednesday morning as it marked 80 years since the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima in 1945.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba attended the ceremony on Wednesday, at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, along with officials from around the world.

World War Two ended with Japan's surrender after the dropping of the bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which took place days apart.

The bombs caused huge destruction and thousands of people died.

Today people still remember what happened and each year commemoration services are held to mark the events.

The centrepiece of the commemorations was at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, where doves were released during the service, symbolising peace.

Children and young people were part of a national service of prayer and commemoration where bells were rung.



Source : CBBC Newsround

Pet alligator joins her human family in the pool

August 1, 2025

Weather permitting, Krystian Kaulis a former circus artist, likes to go swimming with 'Mrs. Meyer' an American alligator, at an outdoor pool in Elmenhorst, Germany.

The fact that 'Mrs. Meyer' is a Mississippi alligator doesn't bother either of them.

Most of the time 'Mrs. Meyer' is just lazy. It's hard to imagine that she can move at lightning speed and, above all, snap with her 82 teeth.

While dangerous to most people, she's more of a cuddle buddy for the Kaulis family.

'Mrs. Meyer' has been their pet for over 40 years, performing in circuses around the world until 2016.

At 45, the female alligator is practically in her prime. Estimates suggest that these lizards can live to around 100 years in captivity and with proper care.

At the age of two, 'Mrs. Meyer' was purchased by 'alligator dad' Klaus Kaulis.



She lives in a converted insulated container with underfloor heating and a heat lamp.

'Mrs. Meyer' is content with two or three chicken legs, beef heart, trout, or even a rat per meal. And that only happens about once a week. In winter, she eats very rarely.

Klaus's son Krystian remembers; "Back then, when other children played with a teddy bear or... I was always with 'Mrs. Meyer'. 'Mrs. Meyer' was my XXL cuddle companion, my chat buddy, my buddy for homework.



So, I lay next to her and did my homework."

Naturally, the parents always kept a watchful eye on the odd couple.

Source: Reuters

August 5

News in Pictures

**Hiroshima, Japan**

A toddler walks toward a huge picture of the aftermath of the first atomic bombing at the city's Peace Memorial Museum. Wednesday (August 6), marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

**Warsaw, Poland**

Visitors view a blooming *Titan arum*, also known as the corpse flower, which has blossomed for the first time in four years, at the University of Warsaw Botanic Garden.

**Varanasi, India**

A cow stands in a flooded street, after heavy monsoon rains caused the water level of the Ganges River to rise.

**Kamchatka, Russia**

The Klyuchevskaya volcano erupts.

Kyrgyz steppes, Kyrgyzstan

A nomadic couple pose in front of their yurt.



August 4

Beijing, China

Humanoid robots vie for the ball during an exhibition football match before the World Humanoid Robot Games.

**Dhaka, Bangladesh**

People celebrate the first anniversary of the student-led protests that ousted the country's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

**Geneva, Switzerland**

A woman takes a selfie in front of artwork by Canadian artist Benjamin Von Wong entitled 'The Thinker's Burden', a 6 metre 'sculptural remix' of Rodin's 'The Thinker', created for the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations, in front of the United Nations offices.

**Porto-Novo, Benin**

Zangbeto, a Vodún also known as 'guardian of the night', performs during a Mask Festival.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters