

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 12, 2025

FUN DAY TIMES



Engrossed at the Book Fair

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

WINNERS 

POETRY & ESSAYS
PAGES 2 & 5



REPORT
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EVENTS
PAGES 4 & 7

ONLINE



STORY
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 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:

October 29, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Age groups:

6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years

Word limit: 100 Words

Who is there?

6 – 10 years

I can see two cute, frightened eyes,
Under a bush
Wiggling, waggling body and tail,
A fat ball
With long ears, halfway bent,
Pinkish, pinkish,
Round paws, so small
Shining in the sun,
Who is this cute one?

Want to take home,
To narrate stories, sing sweet songs,
Cuddle it with having a nap,
Dreaming a day, with only two of us.

Looking at the rainbows,
Flying over them
All look surprising,
Journey in the sky.

There comes a bark,
Knocking me down,
Oh, where's the little one?
Ran away in the woods,
I'm so sad, pretty little one.

Rasandi Ranasinghe
Musaeus College, Colombo



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

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.

The Writer's Sanctuary

11 – 15 years

Rain echoes its symphony on the cracked glass roof,
Water droplets fall stealthily onto the hollow ground,
Scent of damp paper and aromatic ink clings to the air,
As I survey the timeless writing room of my dream.

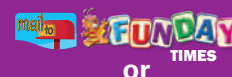
I trace my fingers through sheaves of rough parchment,
Laid bare to draft verses and stories to my heart's content,
A vintage typewriter here, and stacks of dog-eared notebooks there,
With bookshelves filled with first editions and priceless novels.

Walls scribbled with quotes and poetic verses,
Crumbled drafts tossed around like fallen leaves,
The cozy chair that holds me through late-night ventures,
Kept in direction of the ink-stained sky at night.

Is this real, or just a fading gleam, like always,
A dream I chase through endless nights and days?

Aysha Manaal
Ilma Int. Girls' School

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



OR
fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: Write a letter to a friend inviting her/him for your birthday

Win: Secret Seven Win Through by Enid Blyton



The Seven can't wait to get settled in their new meeting place – a hidden cave! It's perfect for Secret Society business and has space for all their things.

But when vital supplies are stolen the friends suspect an intruder. Who could it be and what are they up to? The gang are determined to investigate!



Age: 10 – 12 years

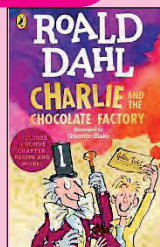
Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: My favourite activity

Win: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Charlie Bucket's life is about to change forever! Willy Wonka, chocolate maker extraordinaire, has hidden Five Golden Tickets in five bars of chocolate.

Any child who finds one will get the chance to visit his incredible factory – and Charlie's got his!



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Book Competition



10 – 12 years

My favourite author

Safiya Fizaam

Ecole Internationale, Kandy

13 – 15 years

International Literacy Day

Aksharran Ketheeswaran

Gateway College, Colombo

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: World Post Day

Win: Cat Among the Pigeons by Agatha Christie



Late one night, two teachers investigate a mysterious flashing light in the sports pavilion of Meadowbank School. There, they stumble upon the body of the unpopular games mistress.

The school is thrown into chaos when the 'cat' strikes again.

Unfortunately schoolgirl Julia Upjohn knows too much and she knows that without Hercule Poirot's help, she will be the next victim...

NOTE

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

From a Funday Times Young Reporter

World Postcard Day

Postcards: A beautiful blend of Art and History

World Postcard Day is celebrated worldwide on October 1, each year.

Postcards are not just small pieces of paper – they connect a country with the world.

An important milestone in the history of postcards in Sri Lanka was the issuance of the first postcard which was issued on September 1, 1872.

This 2 cent postcard was issued about three years after the world's first postcard and featured the portrait of Queen Victoria of England.

The cost of that first postcard was a small amount of money compared to the cost of domestic correspondence at that time. This was a new, more economical and faster means of communication within the country and allowed the public to send short messages at a lower cost than letters.

After 150 years, on September 1, 2022, the Sri Lanka Postal Department also issued a commemorative postcard to commemorate this special occasion.

The history of postcards goes back a long time. Long ago, postcards with beautiful paintings were very popular among people. Postcards showing tourist places, beautiful buildings, famous places, animals and festivals were popular all over the world.

Postcards continue to hold great importance. Postcards make a significant contribution to the promotion of the tourism industry.

A postcard is not only a photograph, but also a special gift with a handwritten message. Postcards also help show the beauty of a country to the world.

Collecting postcards is a very popular hobby in the world. Thousands of people collect postcards from different countries. Nowadays, old postcards have great value. They are like a window through which we can see the past. By collecting postcards, we can learn a lot about geography, history and art.

Even with digital and social media, the use of postcards is very unique. The feel of a handwritten message, the thoughtfulness behind sending a postcard, and the joy of receiving one through the mail are very special experiences.

Today, Sri Lanka uses very colourful postcards. Postcards showing valuable places in the country carry the pride of our country to the world. These



It is noteworthy that World Postcard Day coincides with World Children's Day and World Elders' Day on October 1st. Just as World Postcard Day commemorates connections and communication, Children's Day is dedicated to our future generation, children. So, both of these days are especially meaningful to children. Through the tradition of sending postcards, we can gain an understanding of the beauty and communication of the world.

It is important to provide everyone, big and small, with an understanding of postcards, to teach them the value of collecting stamps and postcards, and to provide the opportunity to send and receive a postcard. The joy of receiving and collecting postcards is very different from the experience of looking at a digital screen. Also, drawing on postcards or writing down your feelings is important for children's creativity and education. Postcards are small illustrations. So even in this digital age, many people enjoy using postcards.

Let's try to popularize the use of postcards that connect human hearts even more. Let's write a postcard to our friends and experience the joy of writing, mailing and receiving one. It's truly wonderful.

Thenuri Keerthisena (Grade 10)
Maliyadeva B. V., Kurunegala



postcards are very important in introducing Sri Lanka to foreigners.



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:

Colombo International Book Fair



Young readers at the Colombo International Book Fair 2025 held from September 27 – October 6, at the BMICH.

Pix by Eshan Fernando

Children's Day



Kids having fun at Children's Day celebrations sponsored by Cargills held at Viharamahadevi Park on October 1, 2025.

Pix by Akila Jayawardena

Book Competition



10 – 12 years

My favourite author

“Like so many children before and after me, Enid Blyton’s books played a crucial role in turning my nine-year-old self into a passionate reader.” – Cressida Cowell

Enid Blyton is one of the world’s bestselling storytellers. She had an extraordinary way of writing her books where children feel like reading more and more! Adults don’t need to persuade a child to read Enid Blyton’s books. Any child can be enchanted by her wonderful ‘spell’ and soon get transported into the dungeons of Kirrin Island or to having a midnight feast at St. Clare’s or marooned on a deserted Valley of Adventure and so much more.

I too have fallen for Enid Blyton’s magical ‘spell’ and have read a whole lot of her amazing books such as, ‘The Famous Five’, ‘The Secret Seven’, ‘The Adventure’ series, ‘The Five Find-Outers’, ‘Malory Towers’, ‘St. Clare’s’, ‘Noddy’, ‘The Enchanted Wood’, ‘The Naughtiest Girl’ and so many more. I love her stories more than any other writer. My favourite books are her ‘Malory Tower’ series.

Enid Blyton was born in East Dulwich, London. In 1920, she became a governess to four children. She later became a teacher and was very popular with her students because she was very creative and practical with her lessons. She had two daughters named Gillian and Imogen. In 1922, she published her first book called ‘Child Whispers’. She published over 700 books, translated into 40 different languages and over 400 million copies all around the world. Even in 2025 her books are still well-loved and popular.

Enid Blyton is my favourite author and always will be.

Safiya Rizaam (11 years)
Ecole Internationale, Kandy

13 – 15 years

International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day is a commemoration held on September 8 every year to promote understanding about the significance of literacy for every person, group and nation.

People should know about literacy to foster harmony, equal opportunity and social inclusion. Moreover, it lets every individual advocate for their rights and sustainably develop a country’s goals. In addition it assists children in logical thinking and making quick decisions, contributing to the building of strong cultures and nations.

Essentially, International Literacy Day is based on esteem and privileges, aiming to educate everyone. Improving knowledge through schools, reading often and getting involved in community programmes are great ways to improve literacy. Many reading events, workshops, classes and competitions like essay writing or spelling bees take place on this day.

This year’s theme is ‘Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era’, meaning using digital tools and modern technology to improve and broaden literacy for everyone. Over 190 countries worldwide are involved in this special day. Sri Lanka has also enhanced programmes like the Ceylon Bible Society (reaching more than 1,900 pupils in 2025 to boost their literacy skills) and the ‘Room to Read’ campaign, supporting readers. Famous professors such as Prof. Anuradha Seneviratna, a renowned teacher and literacy proponent, have inspired countless young learners across Sri Lanka.

In conclusion, World Literacy Day is a crucial reminder that literacy is not just about reading and writing but a chance for personal empowerment to develop a viable planet.

Aksharran Ketheeswaran (14 years)
Gateway College, Colombo

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

**FROM THE
EDITOR**

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.

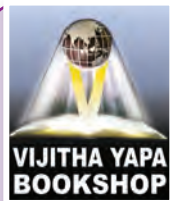
We also invite schools to send in their students’ work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

.....

Date of birth :

.....

Address :

.....

.....

.....

.....

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

.....

The Adventurous Seven: Sea Breeze Port Adventure

The Adventurous Seven which consists of myself Sofia, and my amazing friends, Aleena, Anna, Mirabel, Riya, Lisa and Elisa – are not any ordinary group of friends. Teens from Radiant Heights International in Oakwood, Emberland, we thrive on curiosity, laughter and endless mischief. Whether plotting small pranks, exploring hidden corners of the city or turning everyday life into a grand adventure, we seven are unstoppable – especially together.

That Wednesday, we were on a school trip. I groaned as I stepped onto the bus. Out of all the buses for students, we got the worst one. No lights, cramped seats, and a questionable smell that made me want to hold my breath the entire way.

“Ugh, why us?” I muttered, slumping into my seat. Aleena, of course, gave her signature grin, as if the worst bus in the world was the best thing that could happen today.

It didn’t help that inside the bus was pitch black. Everything went well until Aleena spotted a tiny grasshopper on the floor and in true Aleena fashion, decided to blow it away. The grasshopper almost jumped onto her face, making her scream and flail, while Riya shrieked in terror beside her. Mirabel sighed, and I tried to hold back laughter... but failed miserably.

Then came another classic Aleena move. She decided to wash her hands, out of the window. Unfortunately, it landed smack on a passing biker.

The biker swerved, shouting like we’d declared war.

Our driver quickly changed the route to avoid a proper confrontation.

By sunrise, we arrived at Sea Breeze Port. The salty breeze hit our faces and the sound of waves crashing against the rocks instantly lifted our spirits.

While walking along the bridge, Aleena spotted a stray sandwich someone had dropped. She lunged for it – but slipped on a loose plank, flailing wildly as the sandwich flew into the water. We erupted in laughter, helping her steady herself.

The bridge proved to be more mischievous than we expected. Lisa nearly toppled over a railing trying to help Aleena, and Riya lost her flip-flop to the wind, hopping on one foot while I tried to catch it. Even Mirabel, calm as ever, slipped on a damp board and landed in a puddle, making everyone roar with laughter.

Finally across, we reached the beach. Sand between our toes, waves splashing over our feet, mini sand ball fights broke out and a slightly competitive sandcastle-building session began. Aleena accidentally kicked over Lisa’s half-finished castle, causing a dramatic meltdown that left everyone giggling. The golden sunset painted the water like molten fire, and for a moment, everything felt magical.

Then came the final chaos. “Time to board the bus!” the teacher shouted. The girls bolted like someone had lit a fire under their feet. Sand squished between our toes, hair stuck to our foreheads, and Aleena’s high-pitched shriek echoed behind us. I led the charge, dodging waves and driftwood. Aleena clutched her hands like her life depended on it, Riya yelled about sand in her shoes, Lisa laughed hysterically, Anna rolled her eyes at everyone but



ran full speed, and Mirabel scolded Aleena for crying.

Finally, we reached the bus stop – but the bus was gone.

We were all exhausted. After all the chaos to board the bus, the bus was nowhere to be seen.

Then I spoke softly, “This... is chaos. But look at us – we’re together. Messy, tired, a little scared, but alive.”

Anna muttered, “Officially the worst trip ever.”

“No,” I said, catching my breath. “The best adventure ever.”

Aleena whimpered, “Forever lost!”

Elisa laughed. “Not lost. Just...making memories.”

In that moment, we realized the real adventure wasn’t the bus, the bridge or the chaos – it was sticking together through every mishap, laughing at every disaster and trusting each other no matter what.

We, The Adventurous Seven, sand-covered and exhausted, learned that, “Friendship makes every adventure unforgettable.” Even a missing bus couldn’t ruin the day, when we had each other.

Aaysha Ramshad (Grade 10)
St. Thomas’ Girls’ School, Matale

Cartoon Time!

Hey Kids!

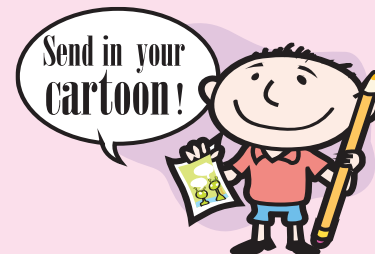
We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what’s more they will be your own cartoons.

So, here’s a chance for you to try your hand at producing your very own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption. It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes).

The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times. So good luck to all you cartoon fans!

Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything. They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.



Or



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Magical reading experience at Colombo British Council Library

The 'Harry Potter' series continues to enchant young readers 20 years on — and the recent book reading session in Colombo brought that magic to life.

Two decades after its debut, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' continues to captivate readers of all ages.

To celebrate the enduring magic of the series, the British Council Library in Colombo hosted an exciting interactive reading session for children and members.



Led by a UK-qualified teacher, the session brought the story to life through engaging narration, spells and fun activities. Children eagerly participated, their imaginations soaring as they embarked on Harry's first adventure at Hogwarts.



The event not only rekindled the joy of reading but also inspired a new generation of book lovers.

Building on this success, the library looks forward to organising more such interactive sessions — sparking creativity, curiosity and a lifelong love for stories.

Michael Morpurgo: inspires' young people to enjoy Shakespeare

October 7, 2025



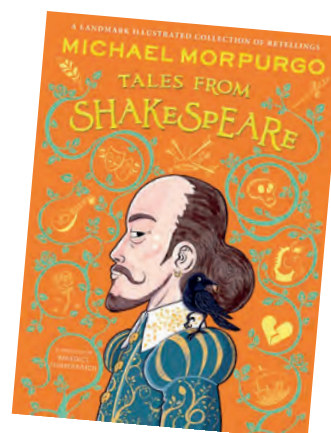
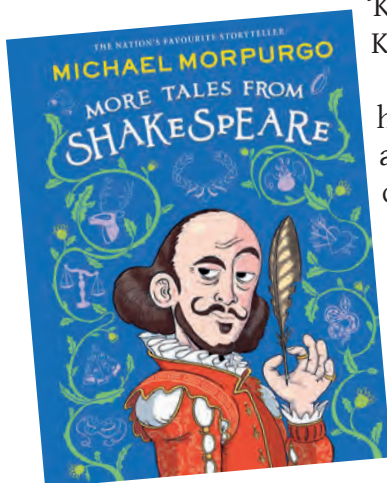
Michael Morpurgo: More Tales from Shakespeare.

Michael Morpurgo is one of the most famous children's authors and has written over 130 books, including 'War Horse', 'Private Peaceful' and

'Kensuke's Kingdom'.

Last year he released a new book called 'Tales from Shakespeare' and now, he is back with a second volume - 'More Tales from Shakespeare'.

He hopes it will inspire children to not just study Shakespeare but also enjoy the plays.



- CBBCNewsround

Trailblazing Primatologist, Dr. Jane Goodall, dies at 91

October 7, 2025



Dr. Jane Goodall, who transformed our understanding of chimpanzees, passed away peacefully in her sleep on October 1, 2025, at age 91. She was on a speaking tour in California, sharing her lifelong love for wildlife and conservation.

Born on April 3, 1934, in London, Goodall dreamed of studying wildlife in Africa from an early age. Her chance came in 1957, when she was invited to visit a friend's family farm in Kenya.

There, she met Dr. Louis Leakey, a scientist studying human evolution in Africa. Impressed by her interest, Leakey asked Goodall to study chimpanzees at the Gombe Stream Game Reserve in Tanzania. She readily agreed.

In 1960, at age 26, Goodall set up camp at Gombe with little more than a notebook, binoculars and a deep sense of wonder.

She spent the next 60 years there, conducting one of the longest continuous wildlife studies in history.

- DOGO News

October 7

News in Pictures

**Athens, Greece**

Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who was part of the Global Sumud Flotilla seeking to deliver aid to Gaza and was detained by Israel, gestures upon her arrival to the Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport, in Greece.

**Dunhuang, China**

Tourists ride camels at Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Spring scenic spot during the holiday for National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival in Gansu Province.

October 6

Hanoi, Vietnam

People ride motorbikes past shops selling decorations for the Mid-Autumn Festival. The festival, known as Tet Trung Thu, is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month and falls on October 6 this year.

**Karma Valley, Tibet**

Hikers in deep snow at Tangxiang camp in the Karma Valley, after a sudden heavy snowfall in the region. One hiker has died and hundreds of others have been rescued after sudden heavy snowfall in China's north-west and western mountain regions over the weekend.

**Cairo, Egypt**

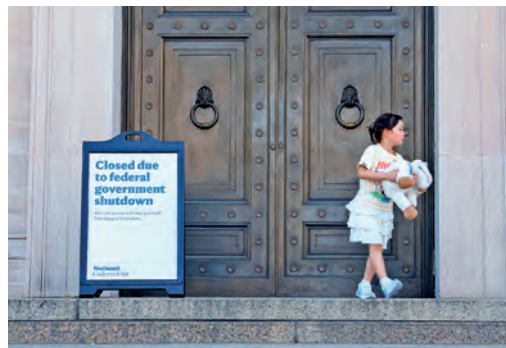
One of the four bronze lion statues at the end of the landmark Qasr El Nil Bridge connecting central Tahrir Square to the island of Zamalek (background). Delegations from Hamas, Israel and the US are due to convene in Egypt for talks.

Pampanga, The Philippines

A woman carrying a baby, prepares to ride a pedicab to cross a flooded street, intensified by rain caused by Severe Tropical Storm Matmo, in San Roque, Macabebe, Pampanga, Philippines.

**Panama City, Panama**

Pets receive blessings during a religious ceremony held in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, in Panama City, Panama.

**Washington DC, USA**

A child walks past the closed National Gallery of Art during the fifth day of a partial government shutdown in Washington.

**Greater Colombo, Sri Lanka**

A man collects pink water lilies to sell for religious offerings.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters