

FUNDAY TIMES



A Blood Donation Campaign

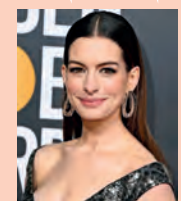
Pic. by Akila Jayawardena

WINNERS!
POETRY & ESSAYS
PAGES 2 & 5



STORY
PAGE 3

ONLINE



FAMOUS PEOPLE
PAGE 6

KIDS NEWS
PAGES 7 - 8



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:

November 26, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: Shopping with my mother

Win: Good Old Secret Seven by Enid Blyton

Strange things are happening at Torling Castle. There is someone hiding in the ruined tower, making the resident birds very unsettled.

Who is in the castle and what are they doing there? The Secret Seven are on the case.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

BRITISH COUNCIL

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



How Mama became a witch

Mama was sad, Mama was angry,
It's because Mama was hungry,
The little girl asked, "What do you want?"
And Mama said she wanted a plum,
So Mama bought a plum,
To eat it with tea.
She put the kettle on,
And made a cup of tea.
The little boy asked, "What's going on?"
Then Mama said the whole hungry story.
So the little boy said, "I want a plum and tea."
Mama went to the shop to buy a few plums,
She saw a man in green,
Who gave her some plums,
Mama took a bite from one of the plums,
Now she is the Wicked Witch of the East,

**Dhiyahemanshi Umapriyan
Ladies' College, Colombo**

11 – 15 years

The place we sought to stay

Beneath our feet, a breathing land,
A place we sought to stay,
But now colours fade, slipping away,
Our place we turned down.

Desperate cries, pleading our help,
Carried echoes, through wind and skies,
It's Mother Earth, crying for our help...

Flames flicker, embers rise,
We watch her burn with our eyes,
Ash on our skin, truth in our eyes,
Each malicious flame, flickers in our eyes.

We stared too long, too late to run,
No world to stay, no place to hide,
The fire we fed, would swallow us,
No place to stay...
A place we turned down...

**Mumudi Gajadeera
Horizon College International, Malabe**

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

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

NOTE

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

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A school picnic or outing

Win: Super Sleuth by David Walliams

When the world's greatest detective is murdered on board a transatlantic cruise liner, who could possibly solve the crime?

Enter amateur sleuth Dilly and her dog assistant Watson. But as Dilly attempts to unravel the mystery, she soon finds that her own life is in danger...



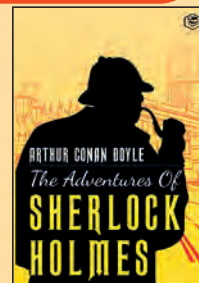
Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Television programmes that I like

Win: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of 12 short stories first published in 1892, featuring the consulting detective Sherlock Holmes. The Sherlock Holmes stories are considered milestones in the field of crime fiction.



Book Competition



9 years and below

A letter to a friend inviting her/him for your birthday
Joshlynn Hensman
Chundikuli Girls' College, Jaffna

10 – 12 years

My favourite activity
Stefan Steinwall
St. Peter's College, Colombo

13 – 15 years

World Post Day
Vihanga Karunarathne
Lakdasa De Mel College, Kurunegala

Quick Thinking

By Manoshi De Silva

Thamira went to his cousin Duneth's house, which was far away from Colombo. Both the boys were very excited because Thamira was going to spend a week at Duneth's place. Although Duneth's house was only a little away from the town, it was very village-like. It was a novel experience for Thamira, who lived in Colombo.

"There's so much of greenery here," said Thamira. "Yes, there are all kinds of fruit trees here. You wouldn't even know some of these fruits," smiled Duneth. "Also there are so many things you can do here, which I bet you haven't done in Colombo!" "Like what?" Thamira wanted to know. "Like flying kites in the paddyfield and bathing in the river," said Duneth. Thamira's eyes lit up. "But Amma and Appachchi won't allow us to bathe in the river alone!"

"Why not?" asked Thamira. "Are there crocodiles in it?" Duneth laughed and said, "There are no crocodiles in our village. But some parts of the river are deep and we are only allowed to go with an adult."

"Oh!" said Thamira, not sounding too happy. "We can go with Seeya, but he won't let us get into the water. We can only stay in the shallow area and bathe with buckets," said Duneth.

Thamira shook his head in disappointment. "There's no fun doing that," he mumbled, "Duneth, can you swim?" "No," replied Duneth. "Well, I can swim a little. We have a pool at school and I go for swimming lessons," said Thamira, "so there's no problem. Let's go to the river and have a little fun. There's no need to tell the adults." Duneth looked concerned but he nodded his head in agreement.

So, that evening the boys left to go to the river to have some fun. They lied to the adults at home and told them that they were just going for a hike. After walking through a small thicket, the boys reached the riverbank. Thamira's heart was pounding with excitement. He felt that this was way better than the swimming pool at school.

"Look, I saw a small fish," shouted Thamira, pointing at the water.

"Oh there are a lot of fish in this river," smiled Duneth. "This is just great!" said Thamira removing his t-shirt and placing it upon a rock. He then started wading through the water up to his waist. "Your shorts are getting wet," shouted Duneth. "It will dry by the time we walk back home," shouted back Thamira.

"Hey, don't go too far! It gets deep!" shouted Duneth. "Fear not! I can swim," grinned Thamira. "Why are you standing there like a lamp post? Get into the water," he said, splashing water towards Duneth. "No! I better not, because I can't swim," said Duneth who only walked in up to knee length. "Ok, then stand there and watch me enjoy," said Thamira floating and kicking his legs like a frog.

Thamira felt proud to show off his swimming skills to his cousin. After swimming a little further, Thamira wanted to see how far away he was. So he stopped and tried to stand on the riverbed like he did in the school swimming pool. It was only then that Thamira realised, that his feet couldn't reach the bottom.

The river was too deep.

Thamira panicked and started kicking his legs. He tried to shout to Duneth but ended up swallowing a lot of water. This made matters worse by making him cough. Thamira got very scared and realised that he was drowning. He started waving his hands and splashing water. "Help!" he managed to scream.

Duneth saw what was happening. Although he too panicked, he tried to control his fear. He remembered his grandfather's valuable advice on what to do in an emergency, "Step One – Stay calm! Step Two – Find the best practical solution."

"So how do I help him?" thought Duneth looking around. There were some thick vines growing on the trees nearby. He yanked and pulled out a long vine that was hugging a tree.

Duneth carefully walked on the rocks and got as close as he could to Thamira. The rocks were covered in moss and were very slippery.



Duneth knew that he had to be very careful or they'd both be in trouble.

Duneth tried to throw the vine towards Thamira. After a few attempts, he managed to throw it near Thamira, who grabbed it. Duneth slowly pulled it towards the rocks. When Thamira reached the rocks, Duneth carefully pulled him up.

After coughing for awhile, Thamira was feeling a little better. So they decided to go back home. "Please don't tell anyone about what happened," begged Thamira. "No, we have to tell them and get you to the hospital because if you have water in your lungs, it can turn dangerous!" said Duneth. "We will get scolded for sure. But it's better to get scolded than to fall sick."

The boys sure got a good scolding by the adults. After Thamira was checked at the hospital and released, they came back home. Duneth's grandfather said, "Although what you two did was very wrong, Duneth putha was very wise to think of a quick solution, rather than just panic and watch." "That's true," said Duneth's father. "So many people in our country drown and die because people panic and don't think of safe ways to help!"

"You should never bathe in unknown lakes and rivers. Even if you are a good swimmer, there can be so many unknown dangers like crocodiles and flash floods. Also, whenever you do go to swim, you should take some sort of floating device like a tube, and a long, strong rope with you, just as a safety measure," said Duneth's father. "The same is true for sea baths," said Duneth's grandfather. "There can be sea currents and other dangers."

So it's very important to keep your safety in mind, while having fun with your friends."

Christmas Cover 2025

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in their paintings for the Christmas Cover Competition.

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative. **All entries should be on A4 size paper.**

Please write Christmas Cover at the back of your picture, along with your Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number (if any) and School.

All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will not be considered for the prize.

Age Group: 4 - 15 years

The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue. The winner will also receive a prize. Good luck and happy painting!

Closing Date : December 12, 2025



Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Students from Playgroup to Year 6 of Horizon College, Malabe held a successful Blood Donation Campaign on October 22, 2025 with support from the Ragama Hospital Blood Bank.

Students, parents and staff participated in the event.

Pix by Akila Jayawardena

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Competition Winners Essays
- **Page 6** – Famous People
- **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.

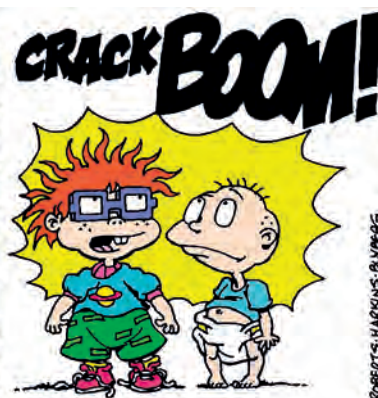


**Kashyapa Athauda
14 years on November 9**

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.

Rugrats



Book Competition



9 years and below

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

My dear friend Anne,
How are you? I am fine and hope you are doing well. I write this letter to invite you and your little brother, Adrien, to my twin brother Joshua and my birthday party. The birthday party will be celebrated on November 3rd, around 4 p.m., at our home, "Hensman Villa".

As you know, my granny will bake a delicious cake and ice it for us to celebrate the cake-cutting ceremony. After that we can go to the park which was built by my father during the COVID pandemic, to play on the see-saw, swing and slide. When we are tired, we can return to our home library and read storybooks.

Please do not forget to bring your little brother, as my twin brother is eagerly waiting to play with him. I am also looking forward to meeting you soon at our birthday party. We can all enjoy the evening together.

Your loving friend,
Joshlynn Hensman

Joshlynn Hensman (8 years)
Chundikuli Girls' College, Jaffna

10 – 12 years

My favourite activity

My favourite activity is reading books and I enjoy reading a lot! Among other activities, I enjoy it the most. I love reading fiction and mystery novels. The thrill of getting lost in a whole new world is unimaginable.

I love reading because it boosts my creativity and allows me to temporarily forget all my daily worries.

Books offer valuable lessons, insights and perspectives that help me grow mentally as a person. Reading exposes me to various skills such as writing skills. Reading is a calming and enjoyable way to relax during my free time.

Some of my all-time favourite books are, 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl, 'Famous Five' and 'Secret Seven' by Enid Blyton. These books have motivated me to do my studies and have captivated me with their engaging stories, memorable characters and thought-provoking themes.

The conclusion is that reading is not just an activity but a passion that enriches my life. I encourage others to read and enjoy books too.

Stefan Steinwall (11 years)
St. Peter's College, Colombo 4

13 – 15 years

World Post Day

Beneath the hush of dawn or the golden glow of evening, a letter travels, unseen, unheard and carrying with it the beating heart of a distant soul.

On October 9, we celebrate World Post Day, a day that honours this quiet miracle of human connection, born from ink, paper and enduring hope.

Since the founding of the Universal Postal Union in 1874, the humble post has bridged oceans and continents, threading together lives, cultures and dreams. Long before screens flickered with messages, a letter written by hand, sealed with care was the most intimate whisper across time and distance.

There is unmatched beauty in the weight of a handwritten envelope, in the scent of old paper, in the careful curve of

every word. It is love that lingers, memory that breathes. A message that waits patiently yet arrives just when it is most needed.

And behind every message stands the unwavering spirit of the postal worker walking through wind, rain or sun, carrying stories in satchels, delivering joy door to door.

World Post Day is not merely a tribute to a service, but to a sentiment that no distance is too great when hearts are willing. In every letter lies a promise, in every parcel, a piece of someone's world.

Let us celebrate the post; timeless, tender and true.

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



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:

.....



Anne Hathaway



Anne Jacqueline Hathaway (born November 12, 1982) is a famous American actress. She has won many awards for her acting, including an Academy Award, a British Academy Film Award, a Golden Globe Award and a Primetime Emmy Award. Her movies have earned over \$6.8 billion all over the world.

In 2009, Forbes magazine named her one of the most powerful celebrities. She was also one of the highest-paid actresses in the world in 2015. In May 2019, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Hathaway acted in many plays when she was in high school. Her first big role was in the TV show 'Get Real' from 1999 to 2000. She became a star after playing the main character in the Disney movie 'The Princess Diaries' in 2001. After that, she starred in more family movies like 'Ella Enchanted' (2004).

Later, Hathaway began to take on more grown-up roles.

She also starred in the miniseries 'We Crashed' (2022) and the romantic comedy 'The Idea of You' (2024). Hathaway has also won an Emmy Award for her voice work on 'The Simpsons'.

She is a board member of the Lollipop Theatre Network, which shows movies to children in hospitals. She also works for gender equality as a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador.



She was in the drama 'Brokeback Mountain' in 2005. Her biggest success during this time was the 2006 comedy 'The Devil Wears Prada'. She played an assistant to a powerful fashion magazine editor, played by Meryl Streep. For her role as a woman going through a difficult time in the movie 'Rachel Getting Married' (2008), she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress.

Hathaway also starred in successful comedies like 'Get Smart' (2008) and 'Bride Wars' (2009). She was also in the fantasy movie 'Alice in Wonderland' (2010).

In 2012, she played Catwoman in 'The Dark Knight Rises', which is her highest-earning film. That same year, she played Fantine, a poor factory worker, in the musical 'Les Misérables'. She won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for this role.

Since then, she has played a scientist in 'Interstellar' (2014), a fashion website owner in 'The Intern' (2015), and a movie star in the heist film 'Ocean's 8' (2018).



Source: Kids Encyclopedia Facts

Is seeing believing? AI Videos look extremely real

November 5, 2025

Over the last year or so, the quality of AI-generated videos has become so good that it's extremely difficult to tell whether a video is real or not. An English TV channel recently ran a show about AI. At the end of the episode, the "woman" presenting the show announced that she wasn't real.

Over the last several years, large tech companies have been pouring lots of effort into developing generative AI models. These are models that can create new works based on a short suggestion, called a prompt. The amazing power of these tools has raised concerns that many workers could lose their jobs to AI in the future.



Above, a screenshot from a video of AI "actress" Tilly Norwood. She's not real. The company that created her believes the technology could save movie makers money.

affect many different kinds of jobs in the future.

At the end of the show, the presenter revealed that she wasn't real, but was actually an AI creation. "I don't exist," she said. "I wasn't on location reporting this story. My image and voice were generated using AI." Channel 4 said the show was meant as a reminder of the power of AI and "how easy it is to hoodwink [trick] audiences" when

they have no way of knowing whether a video is real or not.

The Channel 4 show comes soon after the news of a new AI "actress" called Tilly Norwood. The company behind the AI-generated character says AI actors could save movie companies lots of money. The announcement has upset many people in the movie business.



The image above looks amazing, but the tailor is supposed to be cutting the cloth with scissors, but it's clear that the scissors, and the way he's holding them, aren't quite right.

The most famous of these tools is probably OpenAI's ChatGPT, which can very quickly write computer code, research papers, poems, and songs. It can also answer challenging questions, and do complex math. Now many large tech companies have their own versions of these text-generating models. And they are being used in all kinds of places. Google has even replaced its regular search tool with an AI model. The work created by AI tools can be impressive, but sometimes it has obvious problems.

AI models have been trained to create much more than just text. They can create music, artworks, realistic photos, and even videos. At first, the work created by these tools was

impressive, but it often had obvious problems, such as a person with six fingers.

But with time and lots of training, most of these problems have now been fixed. Several companies now offer cheap or free tools to create short realistic videos. These tools can now create images and videos so realistic that they can't be told apart from real pictures or videos.

This can create problems. After last week's Hurricane Melissa, fake images and videos spread quickly on social media. One video falsely suggested that the hurricane had blown sharks into local swimming pools.

Many AI videos are intended to be funny. But it's easy to see how the tools could be misused, and could lead many people to believe things that are not true. This could be especially powerful and dangerous in politics.

TV Show on AI Has Surprise AI Presenter

On October 20, the English news show *Dispatches* ran a special episode called "Will AI Take My Job?" The show aired on the TV network Channel 4. In it, a reporter named Aisha Gaban discussed how AI could

Deep Learning and Generative AI

AI tools are usually trained using "deep learning". In deep learning, computer programs sort deeply through huge amounts of information, allowing them to find patterns that humans often miss. These patterns get stored in a "model", which can then be used to apply those patterns in new and sometimes surprising ways. Generative AI uses these patterns to create new text, images, music, videos, or other media that didn't exist before.

Did You Know...?

Currently, there aren't any perfect methods for figuring out if a video is made by AI or not. Some companies put a mark on their videos to show it was made by AI. But the marks can be removed. If you aren't sure you can trust the source of a video, it's best to be cautious until you can confirm the information some other way.

November 5

News in Pictures

**Giza, Egypt**

A child looks at the golden coffin of ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun during the first day for visitors after the official opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), near the Giza pyramid complex, in Egypt.

**Sydney, Australia**

A Beaver Moon supermoon rises over North Bondi in Australia.

**Gaza City, Gaza**

Boys walk past the rubble of destroyed buildings.

Lahore, Pakistan

Sikh pilgrims attend celebrations to mark the birthday of their spiritual leader Guru Nanak Dev Ji.



November 4

Nablu, West Bank

Israeli soldiers check the identity cards of Palestinians entering their land to harvest olives during the annual olive-picking season.

**Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Hindu devotees sit together with oil lamps to pray to Lokenath Brahmachari, a Hindu saint and philosopher, as they observe the Rakher Upobash festival at a temple in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Windsor, UK**

Sir David Beckham is made a knight bachelor by King Charles III during an investiture ceremony. The honour recognises services to sport and to charity.

**Rome, Italy**

Ceremonial guards take part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Altar of the Fatherland, where the Italian Unknown Soldier is buried. Italy's National Unity Day and Armed Forces Day are celebrated annually on 4 November.

**Mayorga, Philippines**

People gather coconuts washed ashore by Typhoon Kalmaegi in Leyte province. At least five people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced after rains flooded swathes of the central Philippines.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters