



FUN DAY

TIMES



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Young Royalist marches on

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

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Avurudu Cover 2026

As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times Avurudu Cover. Would you like to send in a picture for our Avurudu 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 A4 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.

Closing Date:
April 5, 2026

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

FUNDAY TIMES
Or
 fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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:
April 8, 2026

Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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 fundaytimes1@gmail.com

KIDS IN COLOUR

Richard

Funday Times together with Richard is happy to launch a new Art Competition for our readers. A topic will be given each month. The paintings should be on **A4 size paper** and you could use any medium of your choice.

Three winners from two age groups will be selected each month. Winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Richard.

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

Please write your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School and paste it on the back of your entry.

Age Groups: 4 – 6 and 7 – 10 years

Topic for March: **Wildlife**

Closing Date: **March 31, 2026**

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Happy Birthday

Ruzaiq Junkeer
15 years on March 26

Dhanuki Yehansaa
4 years on March 23

Ayadh Abdul Malik
4 years on March 18





Young fans at the 147th 'Battle of the Blues' between Royal College, Colombo and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, held on March 12 – 14, 2026 at the SSC grounds in Colombo.

Pix by Eshan Fernando



Primary school students of Lumbini Vidyalaya, Colombo held a colourful perahera with several dance items that culminated with a *pirith*-chanting ceremony and *dharma deshanaya*, on February 13, 2026.

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Women in the History of Water

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

This year's theme of World Water Day, observed annually on March 22, is 'Water and Gender', which aims to highlight that water-related issues affect women and girls disproportionately more, due to entrenched gender roles, inadequate infrastructure, under-representation, limited funding, restrictive social norms and systemic inequalities.

In light of this and given that March 8 marked International Women's Day, let us look at a few women who have contributed to solving water-related issues around the world.

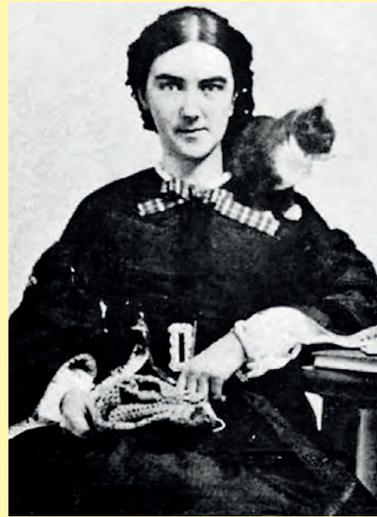


Ellen Swallow Richards

In pursuit of her interest in chemistry, Ellen Swallow Richards (1842 – 1911) got accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), becoming the first woman to be accepted to a scientific school in America.

Among her many achievements and contributions, she was appointed as the instructor for MIT's newly established sanitary engineering programme in 1890 and performed (along with her assistants) a water-quality survey of the inland bodies of water in Massachusetts.

This survey led to the first state water-quality standards in America as well as the first modern municipal sewage treatment plant.



Beth Koigi

Beth Koigi is a Kenyan entrepreneur who has found an innovative solution to water scarcity by drawing, filtering and mineralising water from air using atmospheric water generators.

These generators are deployed (through Majik Water, the company co-founded by her) in arid and semi-arid areas where water scarcity is at its highest.



Malin Falkenmark

Malin Falkenmark (1925 – 2023) was a Swedish hydrologist, best known for introducing the water stress index (also known as the Falkenmark water stress indicator) and the

concepts of blue and green water.

The water stress index measures water scarcity in relation to a country's population, while the concepts of blue and green water distinguish between water sources in the hydrological cycle, with blue referring to water from rivers, lakes and aquifers and green referring to water stored in soil and used by plants.



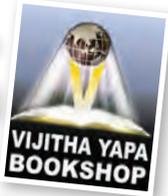
These women are only a few that have made their mark in history for their contributions.

However, many women around the world have been quietly finding solutions to the water-related issues in their communities and making waves, one drop at a time.



Sources: United Nations, American Chemical Society, Stockholm International Water Institute, Rolex Awards for Enterprise

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

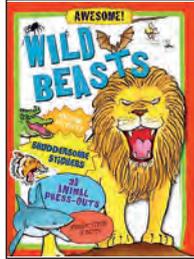
Word Count: 150

Topic: Wild Beasts Activity Book

Win: The uses of water

There are beasts on every page of this wild activity book.

So discover warring wild cats, wicked wolves, sinister snakes and scary sharks!



Age: 10 – 12 years

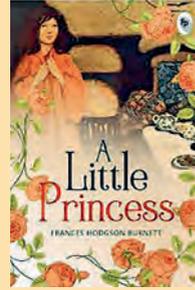
Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A visit to a Safari park

Win: A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett

One of the all-time children's novels, Frances Hodgson Burnett's 'A Little Princess' is a remarkable story.

It has been adapted for films, theatre and television and remains popular over a century after its publication.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 13 – 15 years

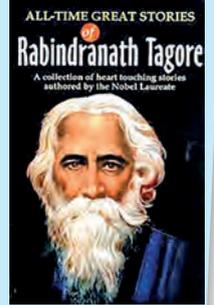
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: A famous woman who impressed you

Win: All-time Great Stories of Rabindranath Tagore authored by him

The stories of Rabindranath Tagore have a special niche in world literature besides having a special place in Bangla literature.

His stories created a new genre in vernacular section and enriched it.



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.

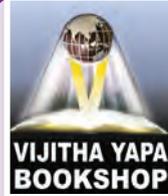
Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.



Or

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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.



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Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School :

Tel :

Finished book on :

FUNDAY Times 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 :**

Undersea Scene

What you need:

- ◆ Colourful paper (blue or white for water, orange, red for fish, green for grass - other colours are OK too)
- ◆ Googly eyes
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Stapler (optional)
- ◆ Pen
- ◆ Glue



6

Apply glue to glue the ends together or use a stapler.



1

Create the background - you can work on a regular sheet of (blue) paper or cut a circle - making a tank or an "out of submarine" view for your craft.



7

Cut small triangles for fish tails and stick them on the background.



2

Cut sea grass shapes from the green paper and stick them onto your background. Trim if necessary.



8

Apply glue (school glue or glue gun is best) on the body of the fish and stick it on the background (align the body with the tail).



3

For the fish, take a square piece of paper and start folding it - making an accordion fold.



9



11

You can also draw bubbles.



4

Fold all the way through the paper.



Gently press and hold in place for a little while for the glue to set. Do the same with the other fish.

5



Once folded, fold it in half.



10 Add googly eyes.



12 Your folded paper fish craft is now complete.

'Dennis the menace' celebrates 75 years

March 17, 2026

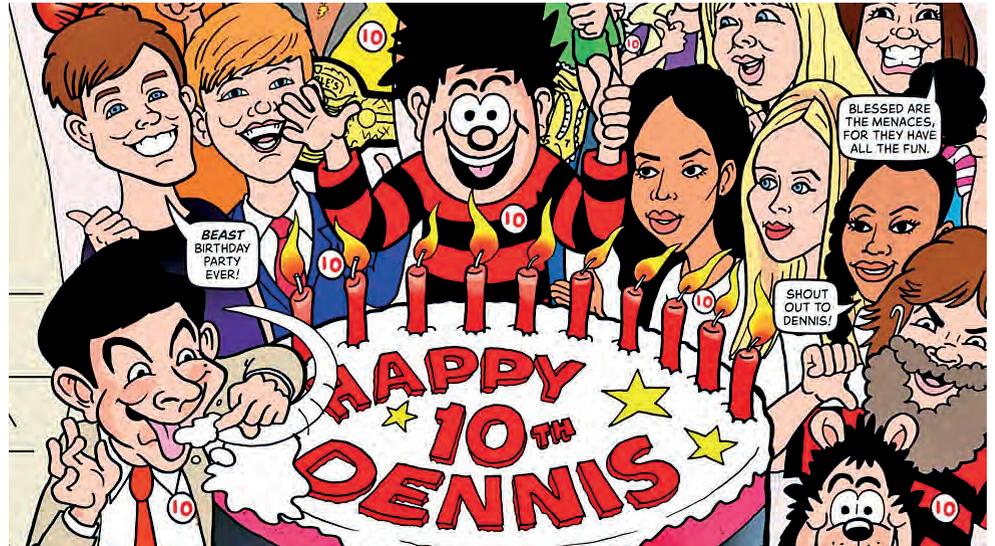
It's a very special birthday today (March 17), as Dennis the Menace celebrates 75 years since he first appeared in the 'Beano'.

To mark the big day, the famous trouble-maker is joined by 75 famous faces in a special comic.

The celebrities were picked by kids in a vote for the world's "most legendary creative mischief makers" and include people like Harry Styles, KSI, Taylor Swift and Jack Black.

In the comic, they've been shown as 10 year olds celebrating their birthday with Dennis - who, despite being in the 'Beano' for 75 years, has always been 10.

The 'Beano' says that this new comic is in support of the National Year of Reading, which is a project launched by the UK government and the National Literacy Trust charity to try and get people to enjoy reading more.



Why are these famous faces all celebrating their 10th birthday?

The 'Beano' says that reading is the most mischievous thing that children can do, calling 2026 their "Year of Mischief".

Mike Stirling, the Beano's very own 'director of mischief', said: "Dennis is forever 10, and for 75 years he's reminded us that being a kid is the best thing ever.

"He has sparked mischief, laughter and a love of reading for fun in every generation since 1951.

TV presenters Ant and Dec, who you might know from presenting Britain's Got Talent, were named as number one and two on the comic's list of mischief-makers.

Some of the other big names include the band Little Mix, actor Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, footballers Jude Bellingham and Jack Grealish, and star couple Tom Holland and Zendaya.

It also features writers like Julia Donaldson, who created the 'Gruffalo' books.

All 75 are displayed as their cartoon 10-year-old selves in the longest fold-out cover in 'Beano' history.



The time-travelling story sees Dennis' friends meet up with younger versions of celebrities like KSI.

Source: CBBC Newsround



If you look closely, can you spot any of your favourite stars as 'Beano' 10 year olds?

March 17

News in Pictures



Seoul, South Korea ▲
Buddhist monks march towards the US embassy to protest against Donald Trump asking for countries to send warships to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.



Dublin, Ireland
Members of Ohio State University Marching Band prepare for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. ◀



Kabul, Afghanistan
Patients injured in what the Taliban said was a Pakistani air strike on a drug users rehabilitation hospital, getting treatment at a hospital, in Kabul. ◀

Nairobi, Kenya
A court worker shows an exhibit of smuggled garden ants at the trial of two people charged with wildlife trafficking. ▶



March 16



London, UK
Police officers and a crew of an RNLI lifeboat patrol the River Thames on the day of a static protest to mark Al-Quds Day in support of the Palestinian people organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission and a counter-protest, in London. ◀



Valencia, Spain ▲
A 27-metre-tall giant 'ninot' depicting Charlie Chaplin in his 1918 film 'Shoulder Arms' is displayed during the traditional annual Fallas Festival in Valencia.



Budapest, Hungary ▲
A man holds a cross as people gather for a pro-government rally named a 'Peace March' during Hungary's National Day celebrations, which also commemorates the 1848 Hungarian Revolution against Habsburg rule, in Budapest.



Los Angeles, USA ▲
Jessie Buckley, winner of the Oscar for Best Actress for 'Hamnet', and Michael B. Jordan, winner of the Oscar for Best Actor for 'Sinners', pose together in the Oscars photo room at the 98th Academy Awards in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California.



Mecca, Saudi Arabia ▲
Muslims perform late-night prayers known as "Qiyam al Layl" on the 27th night of holy month of Ramadan, in the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters