



THE GOLDEN PEARL ISLAND

By Osandi Limansa Samarakoom
Mahamaya Girl's College Kandy
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THE GOLDEN PEARL ISLAND

BY

OSANDI LIMANSA

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This book is for Chaminda Sir

Preface

The primary goal of the current educational system is to mould a productive citizen and a caring family member who is equipped with knowledge and skills. The main responsibility of the school is to identify and recognize children's talents, as well as to sharpen their skills to meet the needs of the nation and the world.

Our Alma Mater is constantly guiding and assisting children who are creative. This project has been an ongoing process at our school for many years, particularly in terms of writing books. Many skilled and enthusiastic young writers participated in this exercise for years, producing novice writers to field of literature. We regard this as a great victory and a national need at this hour.

To continue this effort, we have adopted digital technologies and an e-book project this year. I am confident that this unique event provided youngsters with valuable experience and challenges that will benefit them in the future.

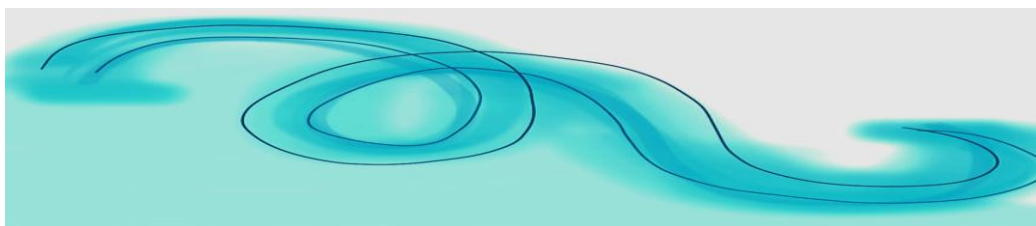
The Ministry of Education has hailed the project as an important step toward motivating young authors in schools. As principal of Mahamaya Girls' College, I am grateful to all of the students throughout the country who contributed to this endeavor. I commend and applaud all of the young authors of these-books for their perseverance and devotion in this difficult task.

I would like to thank our school management committee, employees, parents, for my students, administrators, and teachers from other schools who encouraged students to take part in this worthwhile effort.

Ms. Shashikala Senadheera
Principal
Mahamaya Girls College - Kandy
10-11-2023

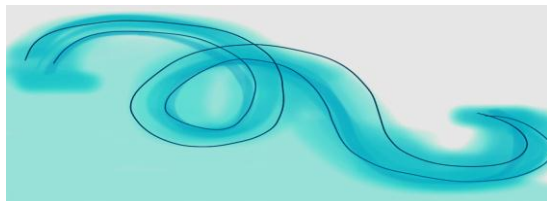
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Rose, Jane, Anthony and Ben were best friends. And they are 14 years old. Their plan was going on a trip to the 'Golden pearl island' for the school holidays. Ben, Rose and Jane went to the Anthony's house with the stuff they need for go on a vacation. Rose was a girl with red hair and light brown eyes. And she was a lovely girl. Jane was tall. She had black hair and her eyes were black too. Anthony had sky blue eyes and blond hair. He was the class president of their school. Ben was a boy with green eyes and yellow hair. He was an active boy. Anthony's mom gave a guest room for girls and Anthony shared his room with Ben. Then they slept in Anthony's house. They had lots of fun playing together all night. In the next day the kids woke up early in the morning. And they packed their bags and put them to the van by the help of Anthony's father and mother. And the four children were so excited to go to the 'Golden pearl island'. Then Anthony's dad drove them to the beach. Ben's uncle was a sailor so he gave one of his boats to the kids. Ben knew how to sail a boat so he was the sailor. Then they put their bags and other stuff to the boat. Then they said good bye to Anthony's mom, dad and Ben's uncle. Then Ben sailed the boat to the direction of the island.



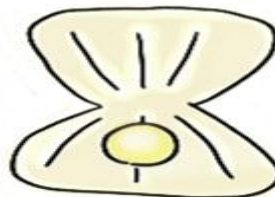
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"Where are those fried chicken sandwiches? Can someone give them to me please? I am so hungry." "Cool down Rose we just started our trip. You are such a hungry baby. And sandwiches are in that big green bag." Said Ben. "Don't call me like that Ben. I just didn't ate my breakfast. Because I was not in the mood to eat. So I am starving right now." Then Rose ate five sandwiches like she never eaten in a year. "Give me one. You can't eat them all by yourself." Said Anthony. "Yes I want one too." Said Jane. Then they ate sandwiches and drank lemonade. "Are we near to the island? Ben can you pass me the binocular?" "Ok. Here you go Rose." "Oh I can see the island. It is huge." "Rose give me the binocular I want to see the island." "Give me a second Jane I will give it to you." "Ok." Said Jane. "Here you go." "Wow the golden pearl island is absolutely look like gold because of the sunlight. Now it's your turn Anthony." "I don't need the binocular. Look at that huge island. Can't wait to go to the forest" "Yes I can't wait too." said Ben. Then they parked the boat closer to the forest. And they started to make the tents. "Jane can you please give me the hammer? Before this stupid tent going to fall and make a huge mess" asked Anthony. "Here, take it. But please make the tent quickly because we can't stay here and make tents till tomorrow morning." "You think this is easy to build Jane. Then you can build it by yourself." Said Anthony.



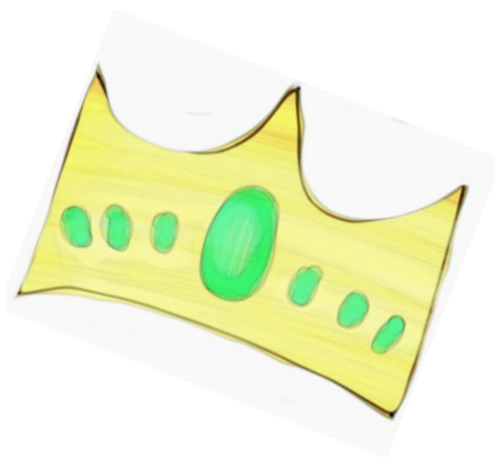
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"Ok, this is too easy for me. We just have to tuck these nails to the ground and done. This is too easy Anthony." "I know that I just act like I can't do it because I didn't wanted to make the tent. Thank god you fell in to my trick." "Anthony I am so mad at you." "Don't be mad. It was just a joke." Then they finished making tents. And they done putting their bags, cooking stuff and water cans in to the tent. Then they laid their sleeping bags inside the tents. And they went to the forest and Rose decided to drop little pebbles to the path to find the way back to the place their tents was. Then they walked inside to the forest and there were lot of animals "Look at that monkey Ben. It just look like you." said Rose. "Oh you think I look like a monkey then you are that snail. A strong Monkey is always better than a slimy snail." "I hate snails and I am not a snail both of monkey and snail is just look like you not me." "Please don't fight guys we came here to have fun not to fight." Said Jane. "You and Anthony fight just a minute ago. And you just sound like my mother when I am arguing with my elder sister." "Shut up your stupid mouth and come with us. "Ok. Ok. Don't be a fire cracker. I'll shut my mouth." Then they went deep in to the wood and they saw a beautiful place full of flowers. They went to that place to take pictures. Suddenly Rose fell in to a big hole it was coverd with grass before.



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"Oh no Rose are you ok? What happened? Do somebody have a rope? Rose just fell in to this big hole. She must be hurt" "Oh I have a rope wait a sec. Here you go Jane" and Ben gave a rope. Before Jane tried to put the rope inside the hole. Rose called her. "This is a huge underground cave Jane. Can you drop a torch through the hole, I will grab it and tell what it look like." Then Jane dropped her torch to the hole. Rose got the torch and she search the cave. It was so huge and there was a big pond inside it. "Guys this is a huge cave you have to come down here. It even have a big pond." Said Rose. "Ok we will come down there. Stay where you are" said Anthony. Then Jane, Anthony and Ben jumped through the hole. And they found Rose. Then they searched the cave. "I think this pond is connected to the ocean." Said Ben. "Yes, I have the same thought." Said Jane. "Oh what is that Guys did you saw that big fish tail?" asked Anthony. "Yes I saw it. I think it was just tried to enter the pond and it saw us and went back." Said Ben. "What kind of fish it was. I never seen a fish that long." Said Jane.



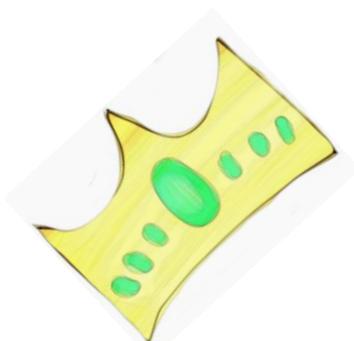
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"Guys I think it was a mermaid. My great grandfather was an explorer. He told me that mermaids are the guardians of the golden pearl island." Said Rose. "I thought that mermaids are not real." Said Jane "Me too." said Anthony. "Let's go and wear our oxygen tanks and swimming suits then we can swim through this pond and find out mermaids are real or not" said Ben. "Wait how we are going to go up there?" asked Anthony "I have the perfect solution in my bag. Wait a minute I will grab it. Here we go my portable ladder. My grandfather gave this to me. He bought this from England." Said Ben. "Oh Ben you have everything in your big camping bag. I can even fit in." said Anthony "All right then let's go." Said Rose. Then they went back to the place their tents was. And wore their swimming suits and oxygen tanks. Then they all went back to the forest. Then they swam through the pond. It was really connected to the ocean. And they swam deep to the ocean then they saw that same fish tail they saw before then they followed it. And it was really a mermaid. Accidently the mermaid's tail stuck to a fishing net and she was so scared then the children went to help her. Then they ripped the net and helped the mermaid to get out of it.



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And the mermaid said "Thank you guys for helping me. You are so kind. So nice to meet you. I am Hope; the princess of the mermaid kingdom. Oh I think I talked too much. But the children can't reply because they were wearing their oxygen mask. Then Hope said "oh sorry I forgot that you are wearing those things." Then Hope removed four of her rings and gave them to the children and said "you should go out of the water and remove those things and each one of you have to wear the ring that I gave you when you are coming back to the water. And you guys will turn in to actual mermaids but don't worry if you want to be humans again you just have to remove your ring." And they went to the cave. "I can't believe mermaids are real I thought they was mythical creatures." Said Ben. "Yes I thought that too but did you herd that she talked us like fire." Said Anthony. "Yes. I think she is a nice mermaid. And also I think she is in our age." Said Jane. "Let's go back to the ocean. I think she is waiting for us. And I can't wait to be an actual mermaid." And they removed their oxygen masks and went to the underground pond and wore their rings.



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In that moment their legs turned in to actual mermaid tails and Rose was so happy because she always wanted to be a mermaid. Other children was happy too. And they went back to the ocean by the help of the underground pond. And Jane said to Hope. "We have to say that is our pleasure to help you anytime also thank for this ring. And I have to ask you something. Why did you came to that pond?" Then Hope said "that underground pond is the place I play with my mother when I was young and I visit there every day. Today you guys was there I was panicked because I never seen humans in there." "Oh that is the reason. We are so sorry to scare you." Said Rose. "It's ok. And you guys said that you can help me anytime so can you please help me to get my mom's golden pearl from Mercy? I was waiting for someone to help me. But everyone came here cannot help me and my mom to get the pearl back. "Wait a minute what golden pearl? And who is Mercy?" Asked Ben. "Oh you don't know about it. Have you ever wonder why 'Golden Pearl Island'. Known as 'Golden Pearl Island'" Asked Hope. "No." Said Anthony. "It is because when my mom was teen her father died. When he was sick he gave my mom a gift. The gift was a golden pearl. And the pearl has magical powers. Which can protect the mermaid kingdom and the golden pearl island. So she kept it so carefully in a secret room. The only one that know where it was is only my mom and her best friend Mercy." Said Hope.



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"Oh the one who theft it was your mother's best friend. Dude that is a sad story." said Ben. "Yes it is a very sad story. Let's go back to the story. Then one day my mother was away from the kingdom. And that day Mercy have been sneaked to the secret room and theft the golden pearl. And when my mom came to the secret room it wasn't there. She had searched the whole kingdom by herself and the pearl was not in the kingdom. And she knew that the one who theft it was her best friend Mercy. The reason why my mom suspicious her because she was is in another kingdom. And now she don't let any mermaids in our kingdom to come there. And there is so many guardians around their kingdom. And the reason why the 'Golden Pearl Island' call that name is because the golden pearl my mom had was the guardian of it. So can you please help us to get back it from Mercy?" Asked Hope. "Of course we will help you to get back the golden pearl." Said Jane. Also the other children agreed to the mission. And Hope took the children to her kingdom. In that moment the four children cannot believe their eyes. Because it was a huge and beautiful mermaid kingdom. There was so many different types of mermaids. And they saw the mermaid queen.



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She had a golden mermaid tail and a golden hair. She was sitting on a gorgeous throne made out of sea shelves. Then the children went to the kingdom by the help of the princess Hope. And Hope introduce her new friends to her mother and said her that her new friends will help us to get back the golden pearl. And the mermaid queen was so happy. Then Rose said "For what we are waiting for? Let's start our mission guys." "Ok first Hope we have to make something to make the guardians go." "Ok Anthony I will figure out something. Mm..... There is nothing in my mind can you help Rose." "Mm..... let me think. Ah got it. We can make a sleep mixture. It can make someone sleep. We just need sea gardenia flowers and sea orchid plant without flowers. I found that from mermaid's idea book. But I'm not sure it is hundred percent working so please don't be mad at me." "Let's try it and see if it works. Hope do you know a place that have those plants?" Asked Ben. "Yes I know. Follow me." Then they followed Hope. And they went deep to the ocean.



"Wow the ocean is so beautiful. I think being a mermaid is kind of a cool thing isn't it Jane." "Absolutely it is so cool thing Anthony. Now I can swim so fast." "Look there are the sea orchids. Let's go and get them." Said Hope. Then they went and fetched lot of sea orchids. And they found sea gardenia flowers too. Then they went back to the castle. And Rose started to make the mixture. And they made a giant pot of sleep mixture. And made lot of cookie shapes out of it. Then they gave one cookie shaped dough to a guard to test if it works. Then the guard ate it. But didn't happened anything. Then Rose said "I think it don't working. Mm.....What did I do wrong? Oh my stupid brain. I forgot the most important thing. Hope do you have any of those magical sea flora glitter? We need them to our mixture." asked Rose. "I think I have them in my room." Then Hope went and grab the magical powder and Rose sprinkled them to the cookie shapes that they made out of the mixture. After putting them all the cookie shapes turned in to solid cookies. Then they gave a cookie to the same guard. And he fall in to sleep. "Is he going sleep hundred years like sleeping beauty?" Asked Hope. "No he will get up in five hours." Said Rose. "Thank god we found something to get my mom's pearl. Oh the moon is rising let's go to the other kingdom." Said Hope. "Ok. I have a plan let's go there as cookie sellers and we can give the cookies free. Otherwise I think these cookies are tasty. All so they will not recognize Hope as the princess of the other kingdom. We have to go quickly before the cookies will melt in water" Said Ben. "Ok then let's go" said Hope." Then they went to the kingdom and they tricked the guardians to give the cookies they made.

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And the guardians ate the cookies. And they all fell in to sleep. So their plan was success full. And they went inside and tricked the guardians again and made them eat the cookies. And the pot is empty and all the guardians was sleeping. And the only one who wasn't sleeping was Mercy. And she was so angry. Then the children and the princess asked for the pearl but Mercy didn't gave it. Then Mercy said "If you want the pearl you have to fight with me princess. Here you go take this sword." So Hope had to fight with Mercy. And couple of minutes left and Mercy lose. Then she said "I am so sorry please don't kill me. I will give the pearl back." "But you have to come to my kingdom and apologize to my mom." said Hope. "Ok I will." So she gave the pearl back. And came with the children and the princess to their kingdom and apologize the queen for what she did. And they was all together again. And Hope became the children's new best friend and they said bye to Hope and went back to the place that their tents was. In next morning the children went to their houses again. And they was so happy about their vacation.

THE END.





Afterword

As modern technology permeates the social and economic arenas, students tend to distance themselves from the creative process, relying more and more on technological tools. To reduce this risk and help aspiring young writers produce their own books, I sought and presented a research proposal to the Ministry of Education in 2014. It was a fantastic opportunity for children to showcase their enthusiasm and knowledge. The students of Mahamaya Girls' College achieved a record for the most books written, paving the way for a new level of innovation.

The e-book project will enable the students to reach international readers, and I am confident that they have gained new experiences and challenges that will enable them to face the future with resolve.

I wish all of the young writers the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Senevirathna Mahalekm

Founder of Books Publishing Project among School Children

20-10-2023