

Holly,  
The Adventurous  
Witch.

Author's name – Thedasma  
Sensadi.

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## **Piduma**

To dear madam Principal, Mrs. Shashikala Senadheera,

Deputy Principal, Mr. Senevirathne Mahalekam,

All the teachers of Mahamaya Girls' College,

Retired professor, Mr. Arjuna Parakrama of Peradeniya

University

And

My dear parents

Who helped and encouraged me to write this book.

## **Preface**

The primary goal of the current educational system is to mould a productive citizen and 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 have participated in this exercise for years, producing talented novice writers to the field of literature. We regard this as a great victory and a national need at this hour.

To continue this effort, we adopted digital technologies and an e-book project this year. I am confident that this unique event provided youngsters with valuable experience and the ability to overcome 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, former students, administrators, and Teachers from other schools who encouraged students to take Part in this worthwhile effort. I'd also like to thank Mr. Senevirathne Mahalekam for his tremendous support and assistance in initiating this project.

Mrs. Shashikala Senadheera Principal  
Mahamaya Girls College - Kandy 2023. 10. 20

# Holly, the adventurous witch

I think most of you have heard about bad witches, who turn humans into frogs, right? And of course, I know that you think that all of the witches are ugly too! But, well, not in Magic Land. There are good witches who help everyone in a magic land. And they are not ugly too. They have beautiful faces, golden hair, and wear beautiful dresses. This story is about a kind, lovely trainee witch called Holly. I don't think you know where magic land is. Well it's a land filled with all sorts of magical things that you read in fairy tales!

Holly is a trainee witch and she is 18 years old. Every daughter or son of a witch or wizard has to learn for 5 years from a brilliant witch or wizard who knows spells, potions, and the other stuff you need to know when being a witch or a wizard. At the end of the trainee lessons you have to make a hard potion with rare things to find to put into it. Your teacher tells you when you face the exam. If you pass the exam, you are a true witch or wizard!

Now back to Holly! She is ready to face the exam today! It is a bright sunny day, and Holly was waiting for her teacher. "Good Morning! Mrs. Witchcraft", she said when the teacher entered the potion room.

"Good Morning! Holly. So today is the day. I've selected you a hard potion".

"Oh, what is it? I hope it isn't too hard," Holly asked with her heart thumping.

"Patience, Holly, Your potion is the 'FRIENDSHIP POTION'" said Mrs. Witchcraft Smiling. Indeed, she was a brilliant witch. She has won the 'Best Witch' award 5 times! She is a kind, lovely lady who wears glasses. It makes her look even smarter!

"But, I've never heard about it," Holly said worryingly.

“Don’t be sad, Holly. I will give you the ingredients and the recipe, and you, my dear, have to find them by sunset,” said Mrs. Witchcraft giving Holly a yellowish paper. It looked like this:

## THE FRIENDSHIP POTION INGREDIENTS

- A feather of a bald eagle
- 1 golden rose
- The fur of a pink panther
- Red filonia

## RECIPE

- First, put the ingredients in order.
- Stir all together clockwise.
- Stir it till it turns into a golden color.

Holly took a deep breath. She knew everything on the list Except for the red filonia. She thought it might be a flower.

Now, it was 8 o’clock in the morning, and she knew she had to find the Ingredients very soon. So she packed a backpack with some sandwiches, a bottle of water, a bottle of orange juice, a banana, some milk [that is an unusual thing], a compass, and a torch.

Like other forests, the Magic Land has dozens of them, and also, they are magical. The trees grow fruits, which change colors with every bite. Also, there are magical creatures such as Unicorns too. In the middle of every forest there is a big, big, big, big glittery blue-colored waterfall. It is the home of mermaids! And also every animal in Magic Land could talk as well as humans!

So, Holly started her journey. She went to the forest. She walked for an hour and found a Macaw. ”Hello, greetings, dear Macaw. Do you know where I could find a Bald Eagle?” said Holly. “Oh, Hi lovely, little girl, yes I know but it is a bit dangerous,” said the Macaw.

“But I need a feather of a bald eagle to make my potion. Come on, please help me!” Holly said crossing her hands, hoping that the Macaw would help her.

“That’s an important job! Ok, I’ll help you. The Bald Eagle lives on that rocky cliff. It is 50 feet high! And that is dangerous, so I will come with you for your safety,” said the Macaw.

Holly thanked the Macaw very much and began their journey again. They came to the rocky cliff at last. It was very steep indeed. Holly felt like there were thousands of butterflies fluttering inside her tummy. But she knew she had to do this, so she took a deep breath and started climbing.

It was very hard, especially because the cliff was very slippery. But Holly climbed it extra carefully so she didn’t get any harmful injuries even though she got a little scratch on her elbow. The Macaw flew behind her. At last, they reached the top. At the top they saw a magnificent view of Magic Land. Holly gasped. It was such a glorious view.

The trees were together like a green velvet cloth. Holly could even see the sea! The sea was glimmering in blue color. Holly went to another magic world for a moment. “Hey, wake up Holly,” said the Macaw. ”Oh sorry, I’ve got carried away by this splendid view. Let’s go,” said Holly.

Then they searched for the Bald Eagle’s nest. Finally they found it. It was a large, round nest. There the Bald Eagle was, looking very disappointed. “Hello, what’s the matter?” Holly asked. “My baby is stuck on that edge of the cliff, and I can’t get her,” said the Bald Eagle. “Why not? You can fly and get her” Holly said. “NO, I can’t. If I’d go there my other babies will be in danger. Can’t you see the big, bad wolf?”

“Oh, can see him very well, He has big sharp teeth and even more sharp claws. But does he eat birds?” asked Holly.

“Well, I don’t know but it looks like he is willing to eat my poor chicks,” said the bald eagle.

“Ok, then I’ll get your baby for you,” said Holly. “Are sure about this, Holly?” asked the Macaw. “Yes, I am ready” replied Holly. “I will fly behind you, Just in case” said the Macaw. “Thank you!” Holly said and smiled at the Macaw.

Holly took a deep breath [She always does it when she is nervous] and started to climb down the 50 feet steep rocky cliff again! She climbed down some slippery rocks and she heard a small squeak. The small baby eagle was looking very frightened. There was a narrow path leading there.

Holly knew she needed to be careful or she would fall from a 50 foot steep rocky cliff! Holly stepped carefully toward the baby eagle. When Holly was about an inch from the baby eagle. She felt the rocky path rumbling. It was about to fall!

Holly quickly grabbed the baby eagle. The baby eagle was warm and Holly felt like she was holding a velvet cloth. But before she could reach the end of the path, the path fell! Holly thought that she would die. But what a wonder! She didn’t fall! She felt the wind blew and it was cold. She opened her eyes slowly.

She could see the clear blue sky and she was flying! She and the baby eagle was on the back of a dragon. Holly couldn’t believe her eyes, but they safely landed on the ground with a small bump.

Holly gave the baby eagle to the bald eagle. The bald eagle thanked Holly very much. “Now I don’t know why you came here Holly, the bald eagle said after asking Holly’s name.

“I’ve come to take a bald eagle’s feather, so can you please give me one feather? I need one for my potion.” asked Holly.

“Of course, you can take as many as you like. I am really glad to help you. You saved my baby’s life.” said the bald eagle. So Holly said thank you and got a feather. Then she waved at the bald eagle to say goodbye.

The dragon went along with them too. Holly had asked for all his information.

By the way, he is a dragon from the ‘Dragon Tale’ family. When it was time to leave his family, he had flown all the way to Magic Land. So now, he has been living here for several years.

“Can I join you two too? I will be able to help you,” asked the dragon. “Of course you can, and do you know where I can find a golden Rose?” asked Holly with hope. “I don’t know where to find the Rose, but I know someone who knows,” said the dragon. “Come on, get on my back, I will take you there faster.”

So Holly jumped on the back of the dragon and they went off. The Macaw flew behind them. The views were absolutely stunning. It was about noon. She needed to find the ingredients very soon!

At last, they reached their destination. It was a large pink house in the middle of the woods! Holly and the Macaw were surprised to see a house in the middle of the woods. Holly knocked on the door. The door opened with a small creak. Holly gasped, it was a pink panther in the doorway with a cup of coffee! Holly gasped.

“Good afternoon! so, how can I help you?” asked the pink panther. Holly took a deep breath and started talking. “Good morning, sorry to bother you, but I need to know where the golden roses grow. And do you mind if I take some of your fur for my potion?” Holly asked.

“Of course, you can take as much as you want, after all, I’m a kind panther. Please do come in,” the Pink Panther said.

So Holly and the Macaw went in. But the house was not big enough for the dragon, so the pink panther opened a big window, and the dragon could let his neck into the room. It was a big, cozy and nice warm house. Pink Panther served them tea and cookies. Holly, Macaw and the dragon helped themselves.

“Oh, I nearly forgot. Do you know what a red filonia is?” Holly asked sipping some tea. “Well, I don’t know anything about it. I think it’s a trick that your teacher did maybe, you should ask her when you get there,” replied the Pink Panther. Holly thought he was right.

“You asked me about the golden roses, right? Well, the only thing I know about it is the thing that says in the legend. It says ‘Follow your mind’. I think it means you should follow the path you like. And about the fur, I will give you my fur. But I have one thing to ask from you, I can smell orange juice in your bag. Can you please give me some? I haven’t drunk it in ages,” asked the Pink Panther.

“Of course, you can have the whole bottle, you helped us a lot,” replied Holly handing over the orange juice bottle to the Pink Panther. He gave them some fur. Finally, it was time to say ‘good bye’. Holly said thank you and waved at the Pink Panther.

Then, they started to walk again. They passed some beautiful meadows filled with beautiful flowers such as buttercups, lilies, violets, roses, and jasmines. In the end, they came to three paths.

“The pink panther told us to follow our mind, right? What do you think?” asked the dragon. “Let’s see. I don’t know which one to Choose.” Holly said with a confused voice. “I know, let’s take the Second path,” said the Macaw flying toward the middle path.

The path was made of blue, shining pebbles and marbles. It was shining because of the sun. At last, they came to a forest filled with trees. It was shady. Holly thought they might need to rest for a few minutes. So, they sat under a shady tree and divided the sandwiches equally for everyone. The Macaw ate the banana.

At the end of their journey, they came to a big, dark cave. Holly was glad that she got her torch. But then she remembered, she didn’t bring the batteries! Holly sighed. She was so upset about her foolishness. “What’s wrong Holly?” asked the dragon seeing Holly’s sadness. “I brought the torch, But, but I forgot the batteries. Now how are going to go to this dark cave” said Holly who was about to cry.

“Don’t worry Holly, I’ve got an idea. Let’s make a torch! We can light it with my fire.” Said the dragon. “Oh, are you a fire-breathing dragon! Your idea is splendid! Let’s make a torch. We need a piece of wood and some dry grass or hay too.”

So they started making the torch. The dragon found some dry grass under a tree. Holly found a stick and attached the dry grass to the top. “Now it’s your turn. Are you ready? Then one.... Two.....Three.....” said Holly. The dragon lit the fire. It was bright as a star. Three of them went inside the cave. They walked a few minutes, but then, they saw a light through the tunnel.

It got brighter and brighter when they went on. But they were very astonished to see that they were in a valley filled with golden roses and butterflies! It was a great view. A silver river went down the valley gurgling. It was a funny noise to hear! The three friends could see a beautiful sight of the Ice Mountains where mountain goats live.

Holly went a bit further in the valley. There was a forest, a stream and a big cave. But she remembered that she needed to go to her teacher very soon. “Hop on, Holly,” said the dragon. Holly hopped onto the dragon’s back and they zoomed in the orange-colored sky. The time is going away very fast!

The dragon flew at his top speed. The Macaw came in his top speed too. At last, they came to the place. It was a very tiring trip but Holly jumped off the dragon’s back and ran towards the door. There was no one inside the house. “Mrs. Witchcraft, Mrs. Witchcraft” Holly shouted.

Then she heard a calm voice “Are you looking for me, dear” Holly turned around. What a wonder! The sound came from the Macaw! Then suddenly the Macaw became Mrs. Witchcraft!

“Mrs. Witchcraft! How...how did you get here?” Asked Holly with amazement wriggling in her heart.

“Calm down, my dear. I will tell you the whole story. When you were leaving to get the ingredients, I thought it might be dangerous to leave you alone. So I followed you as a Macaw. I thought you were in a risk when you were trying to help the baby eagle. This dragon is my

friend, I told him to stay rto help you. I saw every movement of you and how kind you were,” Said Mrs. Witchcraft smiling at Holly.

“Oh, thank you, Mrs. Witchcraft. You care about me a lot! I brought the ingredients! So can I make the potion?” Holly asked.

“No need, Brave girl! You've passed the exam! Sorry for giving you such a long trip, Holly. The trip is your exam and bravery is very important when being a witch, Holly. And feelings like love and friendship don't have potions! They come from your heart. But I think you had a great adventure journey,” said Mrs. Witchcraft.

“Yes, I sure did,” Holly said smiling, thinking about her adventure. They said goodbye when the dragon left.

Holly is a perfect witch now!

Holly sat on a mountain peak, looking at the clear blue sky and thinking about her wonderful adventure!

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 have overcome 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

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