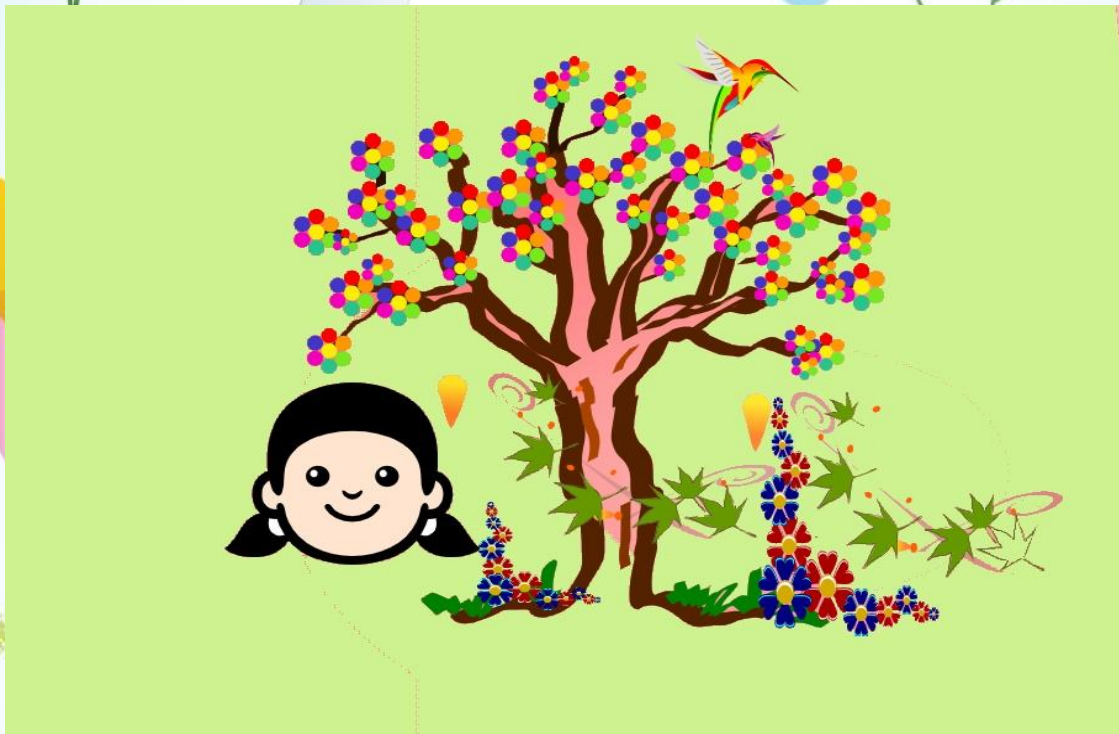


Lily's Garden



K. Vihansa Nethmini

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Other Books by Author

Yahaluwo- ISBN 9789553707208 - 2019

Puchi Malee saha Samanal Patiya

- ISBN 9786249673106 - 2020



Dedicated To

**My dearest mother,
father and little sister
Nuwandika**

and

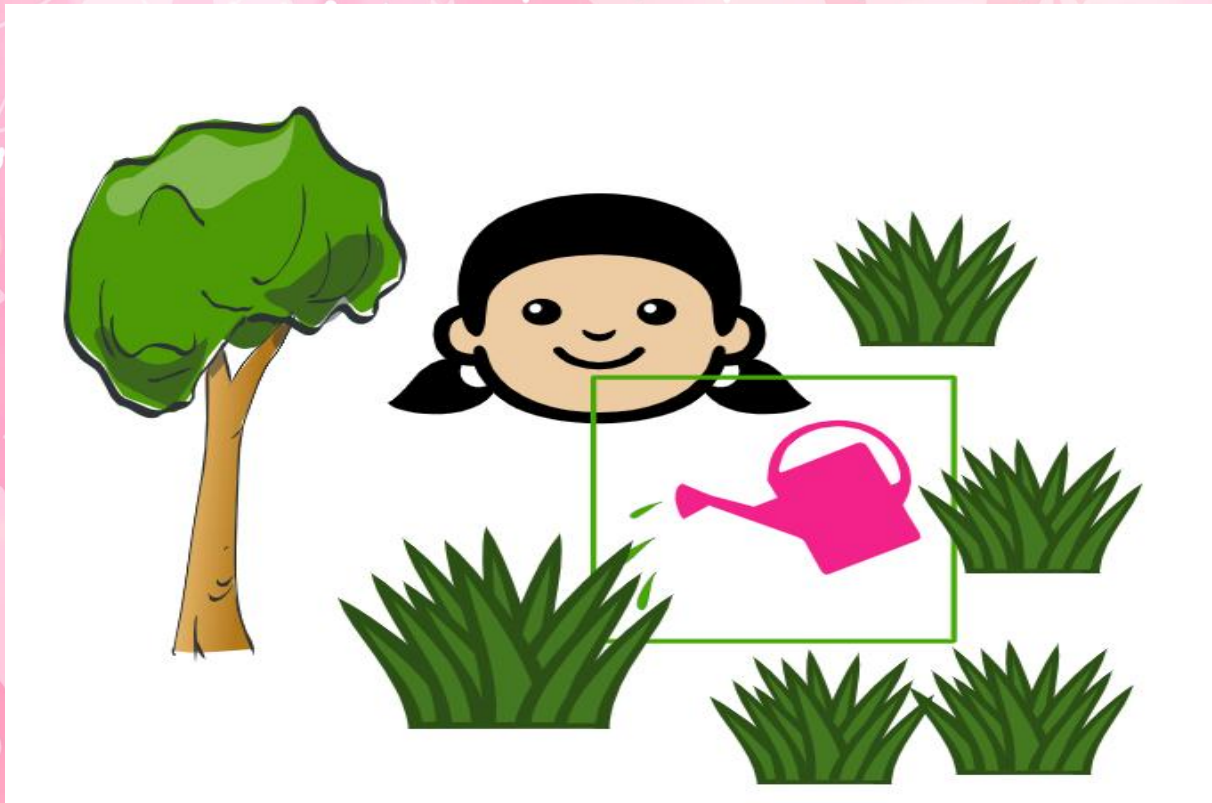
My loving teachers

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 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 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. I'd also like to thank Mr. Senevirathne Mahalekam for his tremendous support and assistance in initiating this project

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

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Lily who lived in a small town. She loved to dream and had a big imagination. Lily enjoyed spending her time outdoors surrounded by nature. One day, as she was playing in the backyard of her house, she stumbled upon a hidden corner that was overgrown with weeds and tall grass. Lily felt so excited and her eyes sparkled with joy. She had a great idea! She thought of turning this corner into her very own garden. She ran inside and asked her parents if she could have some seeds to plant. They happily agreed and gave her a packet of flower seeds.



Lily ran back to the garden and started to clean up the area. She pulled out the weeds and dug the soil.

It was very hard work, but Lily did not give up. She worked hard.

Lily carefully planted the flower seeds and watered them. She did all this with so much of love.

Every morning, Lily woke up early and ran to check on her garden. She took good care of her garden.

Days passed by.

Finally, she saw little green sprouts pushing their way out from the ground. Lily was so excited. She could not wait for her garden to bloom with beautiful flowers. She spent hours and hours taking care of her plants. She watered the plants daily and made sure that they had enough sunlight. Lily even talked to the plants. She thought her words will make them grow stronger.



As the days passed, Lily's garden became a burst of colors. Bright red and pink roses, sunny yellow sunflowers, white jasmines, pretty daisies and many more flowers filled the garden.

Lily was so happy and proud. Her hard work has paid off. Lily's garden was like a rainbow of blooming flowers. The sweet fragrance of flowers filled the air.

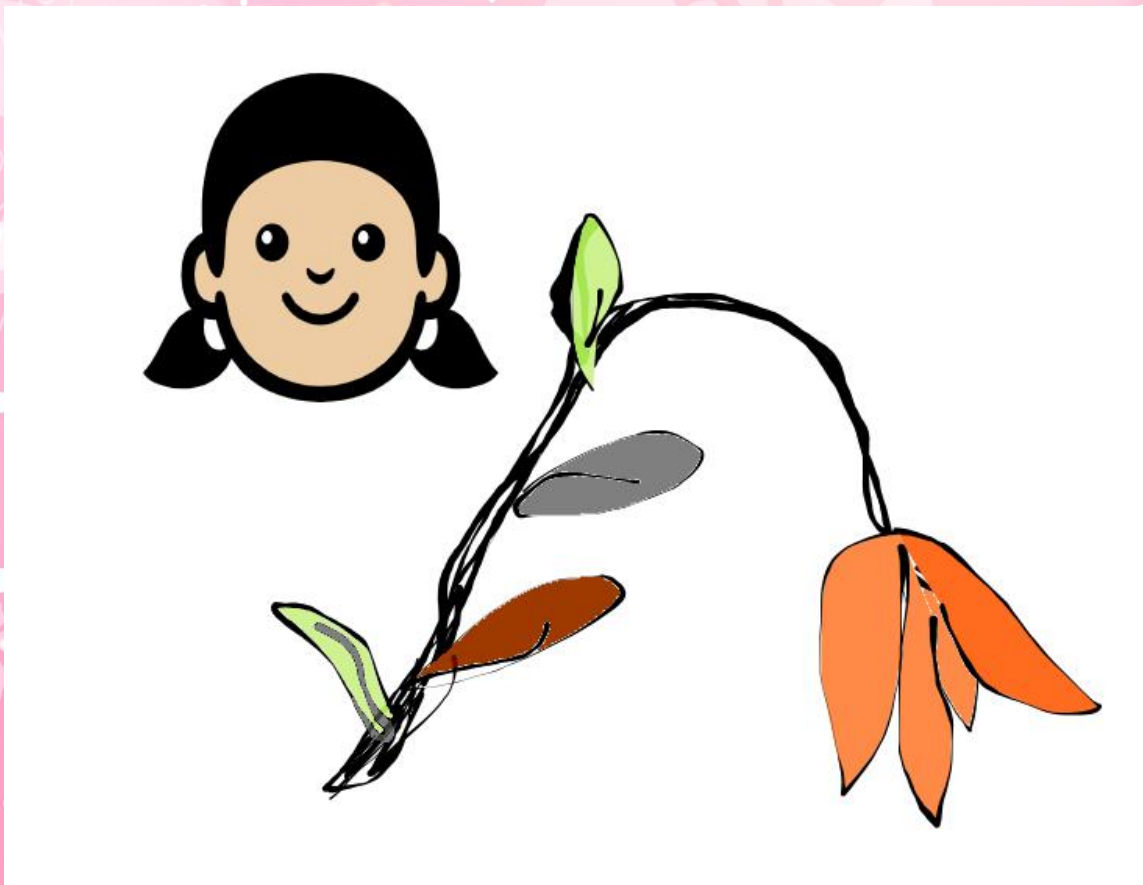


One day Lily saw a very small drooping flower in a corner of her beautiful garden. It looked sad and lonely.

Lily felt her heart sink. She knew she had to do something to help this little flower.

She gently touched the flower and said softly “Little flower, don’t worry, I will take care of you”.

She watered the flower and removed dead leaves. Then, she planted this flower plant in a spot where it can get good sunlight.

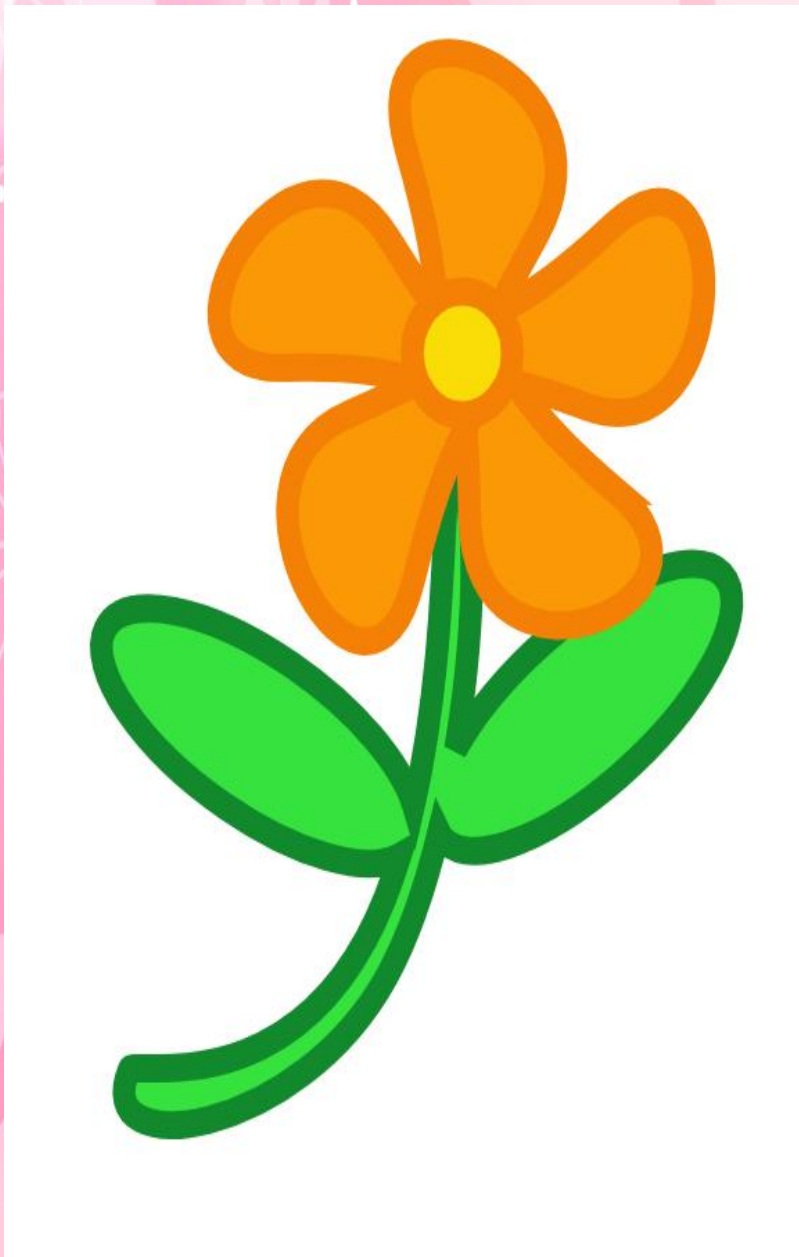


Days turned into weeks.

The little flower started to come back to life. Its petals became pretty and the leaves were greener.

Lily was overjoyed. She named this flower “Hope”.

Lily had a special place in her heart for Hope.



However, one day, Lily woke up to a shocking site. Her beautiful and colourful garden was ruined. All the flowers were gone.

Lily felt very sad and she began to cry.

Suddenly she heard a small tiny voice saying “Don’t cry Lily”.

It was Hope, the only flower that was left. Lily was so happy that Hope was still there. She ran to Hope. The flower whispered “Little girl, a naughty goblin came by and his mischievous act did all this damage”

Lily was so surprised to hear Hope talking. She realized that it was a magical flower.

Lily wanted to get back her beautiful garden.

“Hope, how can I get back my garden? Please can you help me” she said to the flower.

“We can get help from Fairyland”, Hope said and using magic it created a lovely rainbow path.

Lily was so thankful to Hope. She carefully climbed onto the rainbow and set off to Fairyland.

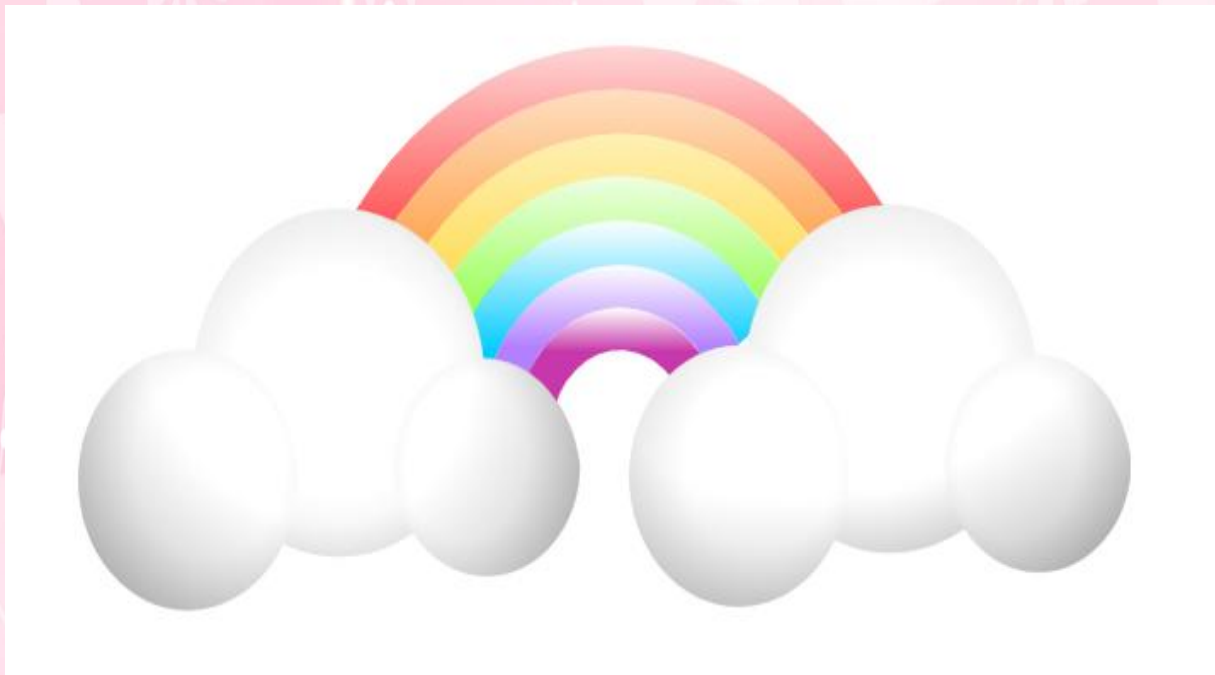
She passed through an enchanted forest filled with lovely flowers, bushes and trees. Birds were singing so beautifully. Cute little bunnies were peeping through borrows. Mischievous baby squirrels were running on branches of trees which were filled with juicy fruits.



After walking for a long time, Lily finally reached a sparkling waterfall where a group of fairies were playing near it. Their cheerful laughter filled the air. Their wings glittered in the sunlight.

Lily slowly reached to the fairies and smiled, “Dear Fairies, Can you please help me? A naughty goblin destroyed my beautiful garden. I want to bring back the beauty and joy of my garden again” she said.

The fairies listened to the little girl carefully. They felt so sorry for Lily. One of the fairies said, “yes we will help you little girl. We will come with you. Take us to your garden”.



Lily walked along the rainbow back to her garden. The fairies flew beside her.

They all reached the garden. Hope was delighted to see Lily and the fairies.

The fairies gathered around Hope the flower, and chanted a magical spell filled with love. Their sweet voices carried the magic through a gentle breeze to every corner of the garden.

A moment passed.

A wonderful thing happened!



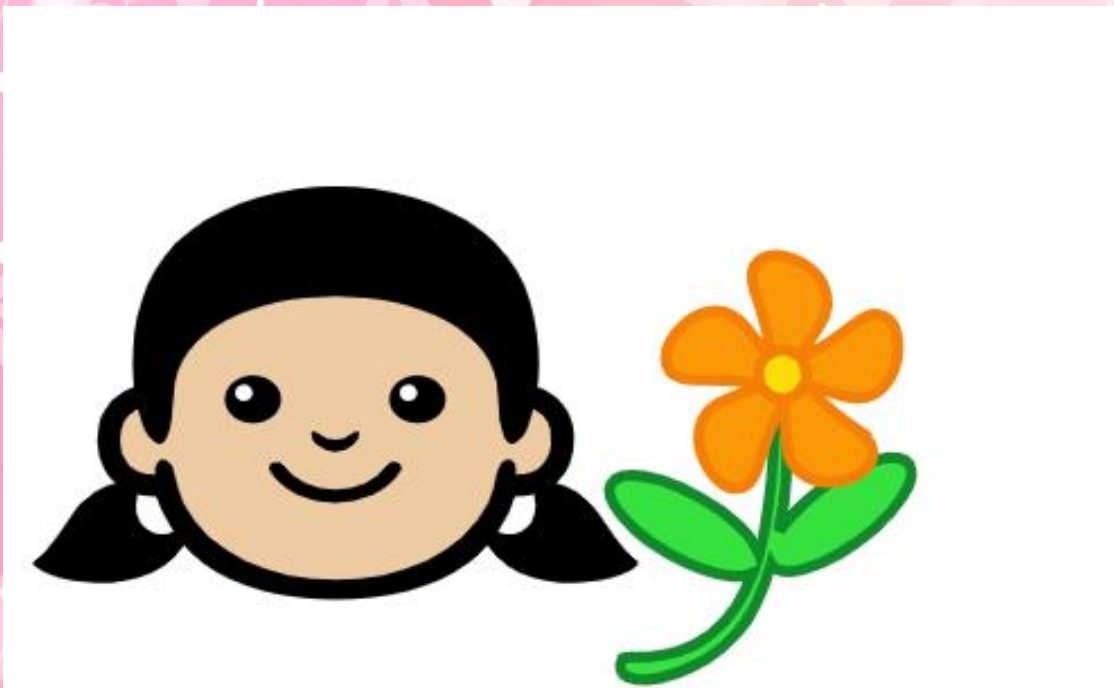
Lily's garden started to change. New sprouts came dancing through the ground, growing into lovely plants, blooming beautiful flowers of all sorts of colours.

Lily could not believe her eyes.

Her garden was more beautiful than ever. She cried with joy. She was so thankful for the fairies.

Now, the goblin was secretly watching all this. He felt ashamed of himself.

He came to Lily and slowly said "I'm sorry Lily, I will never do bad things again". Lily was a little girl with a good heart. So she forgave the goblin. The goblin promised to look after the garden too.



The fairies sprinkled fairy dust on every flower making them magical. Now Lily could keep her beautiful garden forever.

Lily's garden became a place of wonder with magical beauty.



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
2023. 10. 20