



# **Rio and Coco**

## **A tale of friendship**

**Hasini Ayodhya Subasinghe**

# **Rio and Coco**

## **A tale of friendship**

Date of Publication : 08-02-2025

Author's Previous Publication:

හා පැටියාගේ කතන්දර (2021)

Story and the Pictures by  
**Hasini Ayodhya Subasinghe**

ISBN 978-624-208-226-4

# Dedication

This Story is for all those  
who know the true  
meaning of friendship !

## Foreword

Literary development is a yardstick to measure the development of a country. The Kotte and Dambadeniya eras stand out in the history of the world because they were literary enlightening periods. If so, this is the golden period in the history of the *Mahamaya* as well. This is the reason why our daughters have been enchanting through book writing for many years now. It is a special event that our writers have succeeded in building a culture of writing books in the school and spreading it to the entire school system and this time involving the global student community in it.

Beyond this, this time the school community itself has also decided to rebuild the past *Yatiwara* writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, Karadana Atthadassi Thero.

The *Pirivena* student monks have also taken up book writing “The *Herana Gatkarani* “ project was introduced.

It is a matter of pride for me as the principal to lead the way in bringing about a qualitative change in the education of schools and *Pirivena* education through this academic and religious service, and it is also an achievement for the school.

This book, which is the result of recognizing one's innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera,  
Principal, Mahamaya Girls' Collage, Kandy.

It all started one sunny morning when I heard a small thud outside our front door. Curious, I ran over to see what had happened, and there it was a tiny bird lying still on the ground. I was shocked! It looked so weak, it's little wings were hardly moving.





“Dad!” I called out, my voice was shaking.

Dad came quickly, and together, we carefully picked up the bird. It's feathers were soft and warm, but it felt so light. We brought it inside and placed it gently in an old shoebox with one of my mom's soft towels inside.

“Let's call it Coco,” I said. We tried feeding Coco some seeds and even gave it a drop of water using a straw. But it wouldn't eat. It just sat there, looking so tired. I was scared Coco might die.



“Don't worry,” said dad. “Let's take it to the vet.”

At the vet's clinic, they told us not to worry because Coco wasn't seriously hurt and it was just weak. We felt so happy! We brought Coco home and put it back into the shoebox. But then I remembered something that made me scared.

Rio!!!



Rio is our curious dog who loves chasing things, especially birds. I was so worried he might see Coco as a toy or, worse, a snack. That evening, Rio came into the room, his tail wagging. He stopped when he saw the shoebox sniffing the air. "No, Rio! Stay back!" I shouted.





But Rio surprised me. Instead of barking or jumping, he sat down quietly and gently sniffed the little bird. I couldn't believe it. Coco didn't seem scared at all. It was staring at Rio calmly.



The next day, Coco was feeling stronger. It hopped out of the shoebox and flapped it's tiny wings. Rio watched carefully, his tail was wagging. Then Coco did something amazing. It flew and sat on Rio's back!



“Rio, you have a bird on you!” I laughed and Rio just wagged his tail, like he was proud of his new friend. From that day on, Rio and Coco became good friends. They played together in the backyard, I took pictures happily.

When Coco was finally strong enough to fly, I knew it was time to let it go. I opened the window, and Coco stared at me for just a moment before spreading its wings and flying into the sky. I thought I'd feel sad, but the very next morning, Coco came back! It chirped at the window until I let Rio outside. They played together like nothing had changed.



Now, Coco visits us every day. It's like a reminder that even the most beautiful friendships can happen if we give them a chance. Watching Rio and Coco together makes my heart so happy, and I'll always remember the day my dog made a little bird his best friend.





## Afterword

According to my concept, under the project that has been running since 2014 to direct school children to writing, we have been fortunate to have planted more than sixty thousand writer seedlings in the local literary field. The objectives of this project are to improve the quality of education, to promote literature that will contribute to the future development of the country, to hone the abilities of the future generation, and to build a platform to showcase the creations of children.

It is our social responsibility to create the fertile soil for those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the school level, provincial, national and international levels for the sake of the productivity of education.

This time, it is special that the Pirivena student monks have also been involved in this. The nation should be grateful for the dedication shown by the Principal, daughters, teachers, parents and alumni of Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya.

The printed book is still the main tool of our education. The enjoyment that a child gets from a book cannot be provided by anything else.

It is experimentally proven that the use of various electronic devices to store human knowledge and the distancing of children from books has been detrimental to the quality of education and has created various problems in society. This project, which is being implemented as a solution to this, has been adapting the smart younger generation of the digital age to modern technology by writing electronic works for the past two years, together with school children in the country.

To take their creations to international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction for their own, literary creative abilities.

My congratulations to the young writers who have entered it through their creative abilities.

Project Founder and Coordinator,  
Senevirathne Maha Lekam