

**BENEATH
THE
SURFACE**

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Beneath the surface

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Bandarawela Central Collage

Grade 8 – A

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This books for,

For my mother, father and my
whole family and to dear
English teacher who always
helped me.

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 of 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 Yathiwara writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, Karanda 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 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 a result of recognizing one’s innate talent at an early stage in life turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashika Senadeera

Principal, Mahamaya Girl’s Collage, Kandy

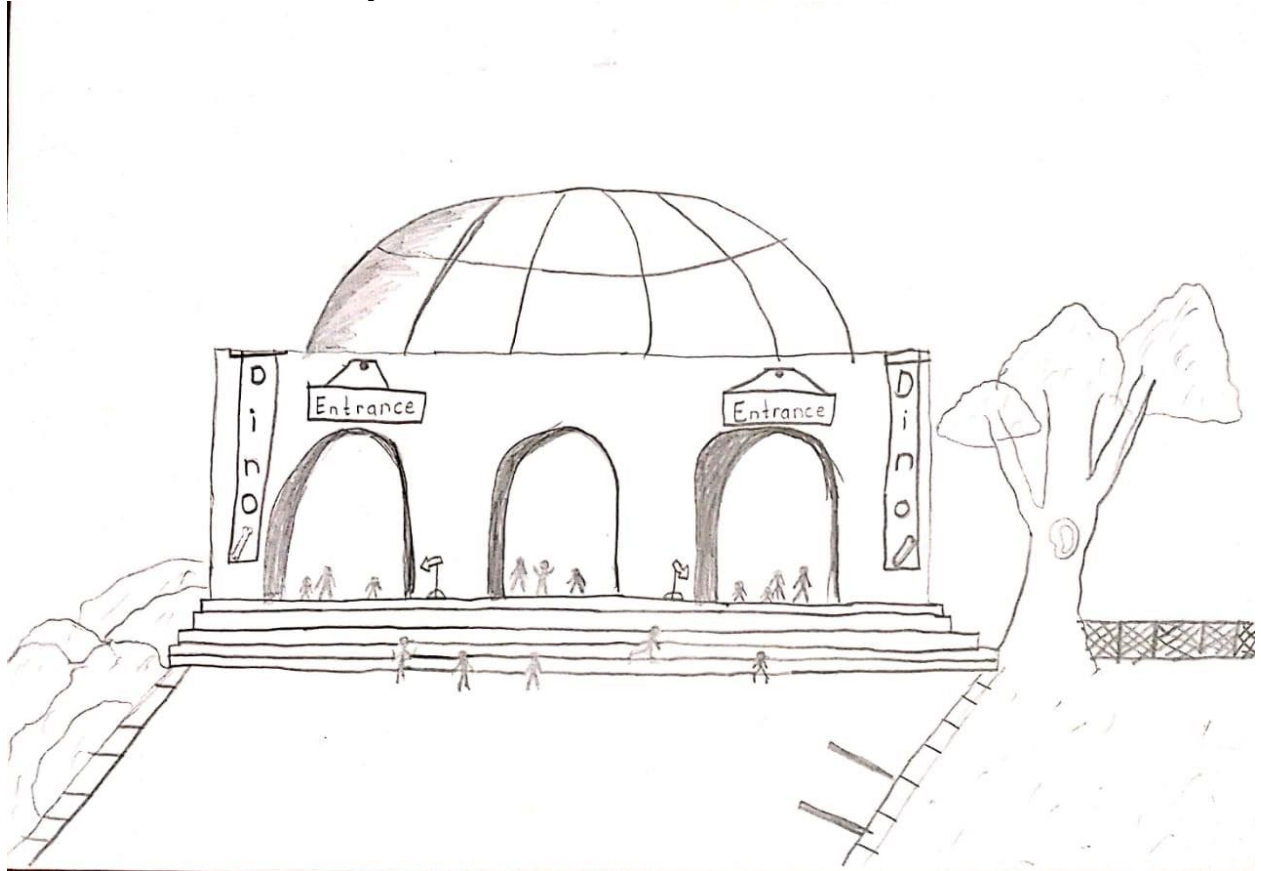
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My name is Terran. Terran Wilson. I am 11 years old. I work in National Museum of animals. I live in a house near the Sticks River. My mother and I were very lonely as my father died 10 years ago.

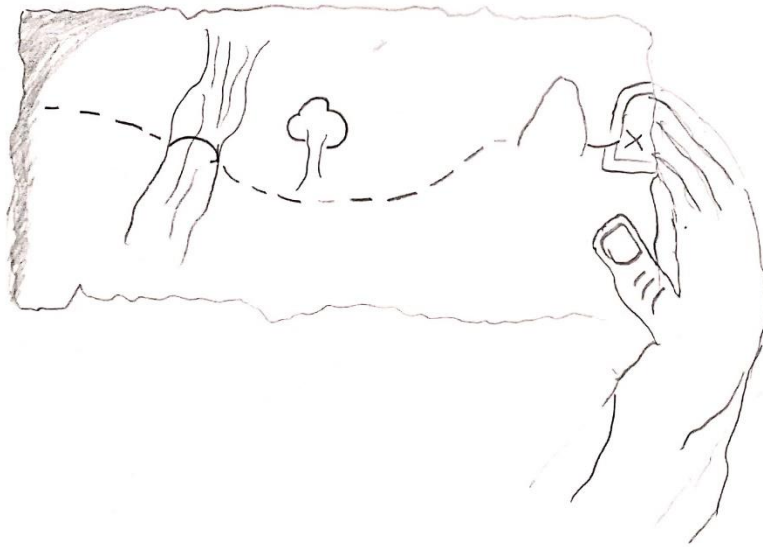
01.MUSEUM JOB

On a Sunday morning, I went to the museum to clean the bones of animal skeletons. That was my job. I did not go to school because my mother did not have that much money.



On that day I was cleaning a picture near the office of the museum. Suddenly I heard a conversation in the office.

“Hey Allon, I heard about a place that filled with ancient statues made of gold. “



“Then?”

“I will tell you the location if you like.”

“OK”

pen and a piece of paper from my back pocket. I started to draw what he said.

“There is a big mango tree somewhere by the sticks river and from there go Half a kilometer until you find a big boulder. Behind that boulder there is a cave. That is where the gold is.”

I got that noted and I ran fast as I could from the office door. The person that the name was Allon heard that. He opened the office door.

“Catch that stupid boy.” He said to the guards.

I was running past a big T-REX skeleton and to the door and there was a bang noise and a gun bullet fly near my ear. I quickly open the museum door and jumped to the street, and I started to run. I ran past my favorite pizza shop that was named Brooklyn’s pizza on the street and to my house.

I was tired. I went into the house and reached the refrigerator and drink a fine orange juice bottle. After I was fully charged up, I went to the location that I noted in the piece of paper. As I reached the location, I was terrified. There was a colossal cave in front of me. Also, I forgot to bring a flashlight. So, I went back to the house and prepared myself.

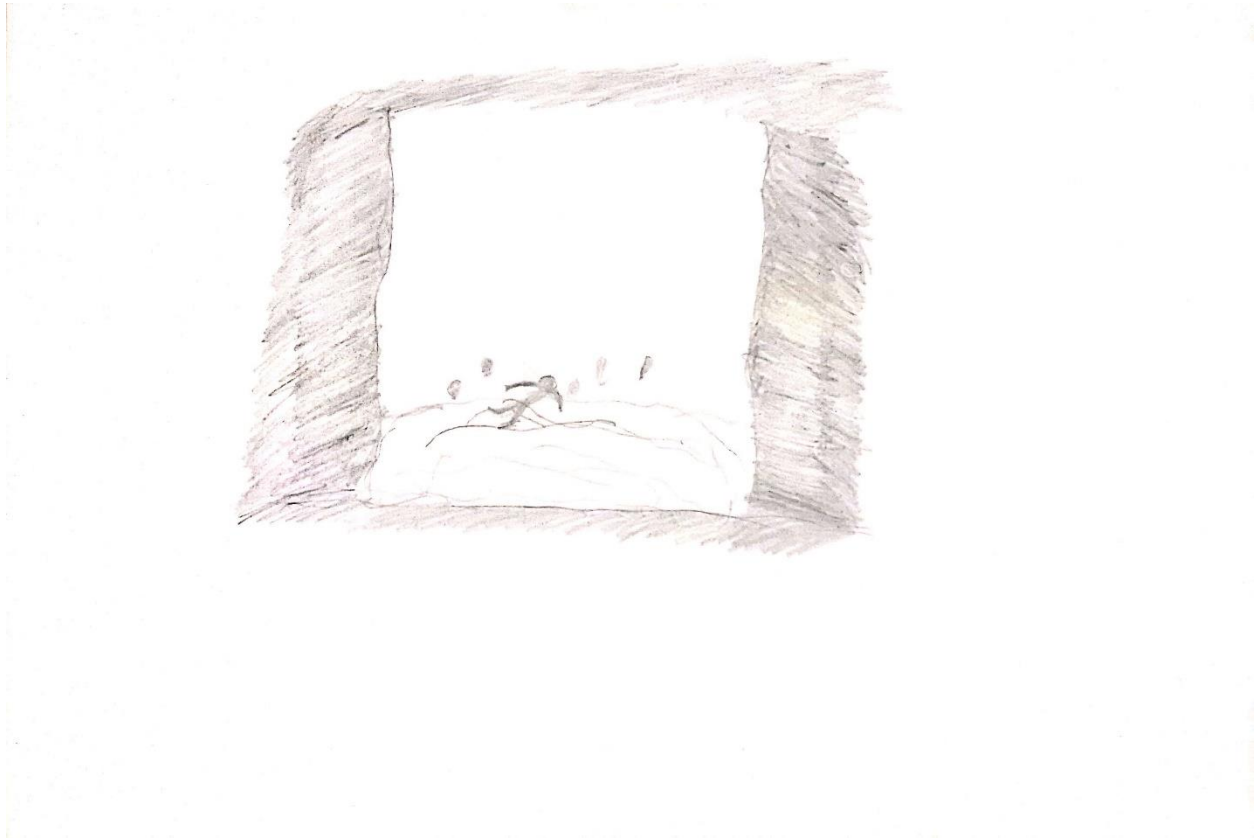
02. EXPETITION INTO THE UNKNOWN

It was morning and I packed my staff into a big bag. My mother was not at home. She was out. I leaved her a note that I was going for a walk. Then I stepped out from the back door and went Sticks River. On the way I passed a grass land and the boulder, and I reached the huge cave.

I grabbed the flashlight from the bag and started to go into the cave.

As I started to go in some bats flew out above me. Sometimes I stepped on rocks and fell. Like that I reached the center of the cave. I searched the walls of the cave for any clues of golden statues. After about 4 minutes searching, there it was, the golden statue. I was filled with joy and tried to get the golden statue to my hand, but it was seriously stuck. I pulled the statue harder than ever but, I suddenly heard a grumbling noise beneath my feet.

The floor of the cave began to crack and fall apart. I fell with the huge chunks of the floor in the cave. My head was shot by some of those rocks. I went flying down the hole and, suddenly a SPLASH!



I fell into a water pond. Water was hot but I liked it. I saw where the water was flowing. Water was flowing through a small hole. I was pushed to the small hole by water. I was terrified. Suddenly I got an idea. I swam deep into the water and went through the hole, and I reached a beautiful river.

When I was back to my mind I couldn't believe my eyes. There was an ancient jungle around me. I swam and reached the land safely. I looked at the jungle that was filled with palm trees.

03. UNDER WORLD

I walked into the jungle. First, I had to cross a huge swamp. When I put the foot on the ground it gets stuck. For about 20 minutes of struggling, I got out from the swamp. I turned back and looked at the swamp that I crossed. Then I saw a huge creature on a log in the swamp. I ignored that and started to walk again.

I gathered supplies and built a shelter but, it was not extremely comfortable. It was enough to spend a night in. When dark fall, I went to my bed that was made from leaves. I thought "how does it fall night in under world." That was the greatest question I had that day. I had a yawn, and I fast went to sleep.

I woke up in the morning and started to eat what I brought. I brought bunch of canned soup and beans. That was all I had. I opened the soup cane by hitting with a stone. It was tomato soup that was in the cane. After I ate, I went deeper into the jungle to explore. There were lots of Magnolia and Palm trees everywhere I looked. Also, there were heavily grown weed. I got

my pocketknife and rushed out from the weeds. It was hard to cut through weeds with a small knife.

04. WONDERS OF THE UNDER WORLD

I appeared at a grassy meadow. I saw creatures like a giraffe. Also' it looked like an elephant without a trunk, and it had a long neck and a tail. I saw a statue in museum like this creature.



I was filled with amazement.

It was a Brontosaurus from prehistoric Jurassic period. There was not only a one dinosaur, but there were also three of them. But it was gone from a while when I heard a loud roaring. It came from the jungle behind me. Three Brontosaurus ran through the meadow. I heard noise of footsteps behind me.

From the trees there came out a huge Tyrannosaurus rex. I started to run through the meadow Fastly. T – REX chased me through the meadow. I ran fast as I could. My legs were painful. I saw a Cliff rising from the ground about ten meters away from me.

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T-REX came near to catch me. I boost my speed up to the limit. There was a five-meter distance between me and the cliff wall. Finally, I jumped to the cliff wall and caught a crack in the cliff wall. I started to climb the cliff wall fast as I could with the help of the cracking that I caught. Finally, I climbed to the top of the cliff. I heard the angry growling of the T-REX down from the grassy meadow. I turned back and I saw that everything behind

Me, was covered with mist. I saw a shadow zooming through the mist near me. After a while there was a painful pinch in my leg. Again, another pinch. On the other pinch I caught the creature who pinched me. It was a Compsognathus. It is a small carnivores' dinosaur. When the mist cleared out, I saw dozens of Compsognathus dinosaurs running around me.

05.DINO DISASTER

A Compsognathus bigger than others came front of me. I was so terrified. Suddenly it jumped in and pinched my leg. I kicked the dinosaur, and it landed on a rock. Other dinosaurs were shocked because of the sudden attack. They began to scream with anger. They all jump to me. I quickly grabbed a piece of wood near me. I shot at them madly. Some of those dinosaurs got seriously injured. After a long-time, I defeated the dinosaurs.

I walked into the jungle. On a tree, I started to build a shelter with wood and leaves. I made a campfire and roasted the compghonathus meat. It tasted bitter. But I ate it and went to sleep in my shelter middle of nowhere.

I woke up in the morning when I felt like rubbing my face with a sandpaper. There was baby Stegosaurus licking my face. I washed my face and started my journey again. On the way I saw a lot of dinosaurs. About an hour of walking, I reached a lazy river. I had to cross the river. It was a long way across the river. I went halfway across the river that was flowing through the jungle. I saw a little lizard swimming about seven meters away from me. Suddenly a big sail appeared behind the little lizard. The lizard began to scream loudly. In a blink of an eye, the lizard vanished into the water.

After a while there was a pool of blood in the place that little lizard vanished. I knew that it will soon happen to me too. I started to swim fast as I could. The sail was catching up to me. I thought that I was finished for good. Suddenly the T-REX that chased me earlier came out of the jungle. It ran into the water and grabbed the neck of the sail owned creature. I



realize that sail belonged to an ancient creature called Spinosaurus. T-REX and the Spinosaurus began to fight. Riverbanks were covered with blood. But the two of them were still fighting terrifyingly. Suddenly I heard a crank noise and a loud roaring. I looked at the fight and I saw that T-REX had broken the Spinosaurus's sail. About 10 seconds Spinosaurus died. T-REX started to eat the flesh of the Spinosaurus. I slowly started to move to the riverbank. I tangled my foot on a rock and with a big splash, I fell into the water.

The T-REX looked at me and growled loudly. Again, I started to run through the

jungle. The T-REX chased me behind. I saw an opening ahead of me. Soon as I reached there, I saw that, it was the edge of the cliff that I climbed. I jumped down from the cliff edge to the meadow.

A Pterodactyl was flying under me. Pterodactyl is a prehistoric dinosaur that live long time ago. I had an idea. I hang my bag front of me, and I aimed and jumped to its back. It did not realize that I was on its back. So, it carried me to its nest.

06.PTERODACTYL NEST

Can you imagine, you are in a pile of sticks with rotten meat. Gross isn't it.

That is how you feel when you are in a pterodactyl nest. There was a one small egg in the corner of the nest. Also' there were three baby pterodactyls crawling towards me. They were sized as a fully grown hen. I had to get out from the nest or should I say hell.

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There was a small crack in the cliff wall that I could slide down. I slowly stepped into the crack from the nest. I slowly started to slide down. Finally, I reached the grassy meadow around the cliff. I started to walk as usually.

"How can I escape this underground world?" I thought.

From far away I saw a huge rock moving. I was shocked. I slowly reached the moving rock. It was an ordinary rock, but it was moving. I looked under the rock. There were humongous centipedes carrying the rock.

“Wow”

What an amazing scenery. I saw a picture of this animal in the museum. Behind the rock they were carrying, there was a cave.

I knew that I had a way go up to the normal world. I heard a roaring behind me.

“Not again”

Behind me was the dinosaurs that always wanted to eat me. That was the third time I faced the T-REX.

“Why do you always want eat me?”

It answered my question with a growling.

“Never mind”

I rushed into the cave. The T-REX started to chase me into the cave. I could not see the T-REX, but I knew that it was chasing me because felt its warm breath. Suddenly fall into a hole. I slide down the hole into an underwater sea. I started to swim. Behind me, the T-REX also fell into the water.

07.UNDER WATER DEATH GAME

I heard a growling under water.

“What is going on?”

From near me appeared a bunch of flippers. That was Mosasaurs. Suddenly the T-REX vanished into the water. After a couple of minutes from under water there came blood stream. I released my mind and started to swim ashore.

Suddenly a white dead Mosasaurs came out from the water under me.

I was on a dead Mosasaurs. The T-REX was looking at me. He had a fresh scar mark above its left eye. Its eyes were filled with rage. It opened its big jaws came running towards me. I had no choice. Again, I jumped into the water. I swam very quickly. T-REX did that too. Finally, I reached ashore, and I started to run again as usual. I hided in tree bill. T-REX ran past me.

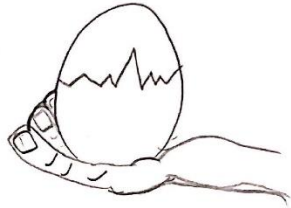
“Oh, what a relief.”

“I will stay here for a night.”

08.ON TO OVER WORLD AGAIN

In the morning, I got up early and started my journey again. I was in a deep jungle. I walked about two miles into the jungle. I got some fruits from trees and yams from the ground. When I was digging for yams, I caught an oval shaped thing. I thought that it was a yam. But soon after I realized that it was an egg.

From near me I heard a noise that branches braking. Behind, I saw a huge



Brachiosaurs. It was eating leaves of trees. In my hand I heard a cracking noise. I saw that the egg on my hand was cracking. In a minute, a small head appeared from the egg. It was a baby Brachiosaurus. I put the baby near the Brachiosaurs, and I started my walk again. After a while I saw a river. It was the river that carried me to this underground world. I so appeared at the colossal cave again. I came out of the cave and ran to my home quickly. The door was locked. I sat on the doorstep thinking about my journey. Then, I heard a noise of a car behind our garage. I got up and went to see what it was. Then I saw a familiar person climbing up the staircase. When that person came near, I realized that it was my mom. Mom saw me. She came running to me. She hugged me and started to cry. She grabbed me into the house and gave me a lot of food to eat. She was so happy. I taught her the whole story to my mother and her glad that I was in one piece.

To be continued . . .

Afterword

According to my concept, under the project 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 fertile soil to those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the This time, it is special that the Pirivena student monks has 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 get 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 the 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 the international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction for their own, literary creative abilities.

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

Project founder and Coordinator,

Seneviratne Maha Lekam

