



*The Bunny and  
The Hedgehog  
Finds a  
New Friend*

*By Theeksha Jenali Rimziha*

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*Greenhill International School  
Grade 7*

*I forward my first  
book to my  
beloved dad, mom and  
brother  
with love..*

## *Preface*

*This my message which I pen with tremendous joy highlights the creativity, hard work, and dedication of the young writers of Greenhill International School. More over this been our very first attempt in publishing a book with writings of our own young authors, permit me to express how proud I am in the accomplishments of the task given to all at Greenhill and my gratitude to teachers, parents, and mentors who supported the project.*

*May I also emphasize the importance of storytelling, self-expression, and the power of words in shaping the future of these budding leaders of tomorrow and the nation at large.*

*Finally, I encourage readers to appreciate and celebrate the students' voices while inspiring them to continue writing and sharing their ideas.*

*A special thank you to our librarian Mrs. Hansika Ranaweera and veteran writer and author Mr. Seneviratne Mahalekam for his guidance and support given to make our dream a reality.*

*"Duty First Pleasure Next"*

*Dr. Lalith Navaratne  
Principal  
Greenhill International School Kandy*

## 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.*

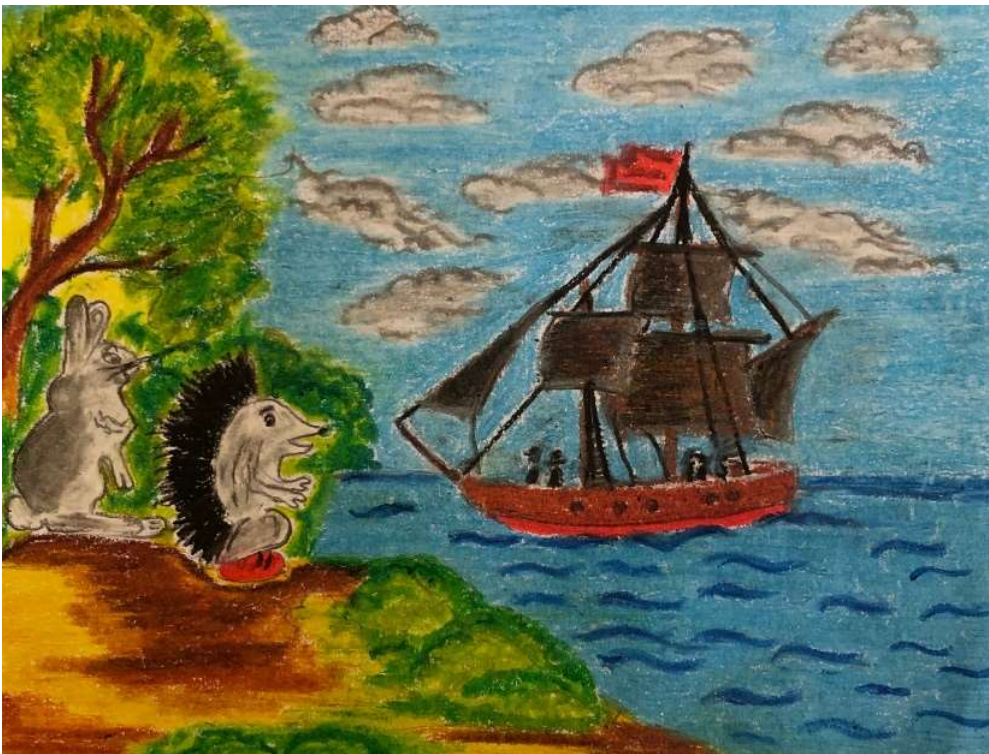
*Shashikala Senadheera,  
Principal,  
Mahamaya Girls' Collage, Kandy.*

Once upon a time there was a beautiful island filled with animals. There were all kind of animals from the largest elephants to smallest hedgehogs. The island was filled with happiness and every animal lived in peace and in harmony with the others. There were two playful animals among them. And they were good friends too.

One was a bunny and the other one was a little hedgehog. They lived in a nice little burrow near a stream. Two friends always were together and they usually played in a corner of the island.



One day two large ships appeared in the shore of the island. All the animals were confused and scared as they haven't seen anything like this before.



The two ships were filled with cages and hunters! These hunters are sailing to island to island looking for animals and they catch the innocent animals by

laying traps. Then these cruel men sold those poor animals to zoos and circuses.

The poor animals didn't know that. At night the hunters secretly crept into the island. Except owls most of animals were at sleep. The animal collectors came and caught the poor animals with the nets and traps. And then put into the cages and locked with unbreakable chains and padlocks.

Soon enough all the animals were caught except the bunny and the hedgehog. They missed the bunny and the hedgehog because they were hiding in a little burrow which could not be easily spotted. They were so lucky to be escaped from the cruel hunters.

Eventually all the animals were caught and taken to the ships and soon they left the island. The bunny and the hedgehog were sleeping tightly and they didn't know any of this. They didn't know what was happening outside in their island.



When they woke up next day, there were no animal left in the island except the two of them.

They searched and searched in every corner in the forest throughout the island, but they couldn't find any animal, even their foot prints. It was like everyone was disappeared over the night. When they go to the beach they found the both ships had gone already. They finally realized what has happened. They were very sad!

Time was passing by. The island became destitute without the animals and with the disappearance of the animals the once the beautiful island became a very lonely place. Not even a sea gull came to the island. Rarely they could see a sea gull is flying over them.

The bunny and hedgehog gradually got used to live in the lonely island. The two friends spend time together. They were living in the nice old burrow and went out for searching food and playing. The bunny loved carrots and vegetables while the hedgehog ate fruits and mushrooms growing in the forest. They had delicious wild berries in the season.

One day a fierce storm hit the island in the night. With the rain wind was blowing heavily. The storm became worse and worse with more and more lightning and thunder. The poor two souls were frightened and stuck together. They quickly covered the doorway of the burrow with sticks and rocks fearing a dark monster may intrude into the burrow.

With the rain the water level of the stream also rising up steadily. Suddenly something hard hit on the burrow entrance and it smashed into the burrow. The poor hedgehog cried in fear and almost fainted. A large rock has hit the burrow and now it has rolled into the burrow.

For their surprise the rock began to shake and move. A little head came out first and then four limbs.

Good heavens! It was not a rock. It was a tortoise. The two friends were so happy to see one more living thing among them. The tortoise apologized and said sorry that he may have terrified the bunny and the hedgehog.

He explained that he was washed away downstream the small stream with the heavy rain. Finally, the stream had thrown the tortoise inside the burrow.



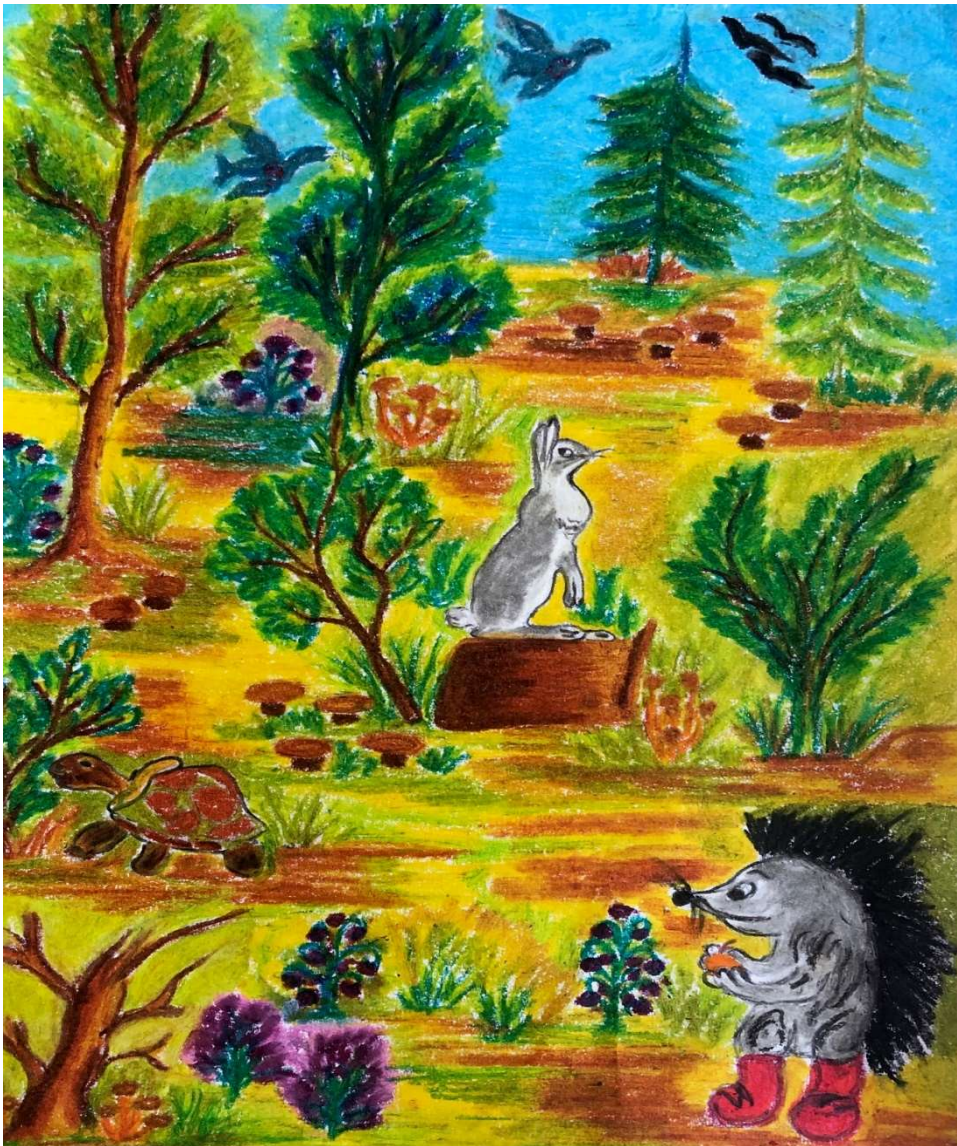
So that night another member joined the duo and the bunny and the hedgehog was happy to receive the companionship of the tortoise. Bunny and hedgehog

asked to stay and live with them because they were so alone and living by themselves in the island once full of animals. Nowhere to go the tortoise also agreed to stay with the bunny and the hedgehog in the same burrow.

Later next day tortoise asked where are the other animals in the island? The saddened bunny said the whole story since they first seen the ships and then how the animals were captured and taken away.

However, the trio - the bunny, the hedgehog and the tortoise now staying together helping each other and they spent their time happily.

But still they hope, one day all the fellow animals will return to the island and once more the beautiful island will overflow with joy as it was once before!



## *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*