

# **The Secret Of the Silver Key**



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Dissanayake**

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**By**

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## **Author's other books**

- සිහිනිගේ ලේන් කුඩුව - 2019
- මලි - 2020
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- The Great Garden Adventure - 2024

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***This book is  
dedicated to my  
parents and specially  
to my little brother.***

## 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 Piriveno 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



# **The secret of the silver key**

In the quaint village of Eldridge Hollow, nestled between misty mountains and shimmering lakes, there was a legend that intrigued every child. It was said that a mysterious silver key, hidden somewhere in the village, held

the power to unlock a great secret—one that could change the fate of the village forever. One day, a clever boy named Oliver, with tousled brown hair and a heart full of curiosity, decided he would be the one to find the key. Armed with a notepad, a pencil, and his trusty dog, Max, Oliver set out on an

adventure as the sun peeked over the rooftops, painting the sky in hues of orange and pink.



Oliver recalled the whispers of the elders in the village square -each hint like a thread in a grand tapestry. “The key can be found where the oldest tree grows, beneath its roots, where the shadows never linger,” they would say. He knew just the tree they spoke of, an ancient oak that stood proudly on the edge of Willow

Creek. As he raced to the tree with Max trotting happily beside him, the air thickened with excitement. Upon reaching the oak, its gnarled roots twisted out of the earth like serpents, and a warm, golden light shone around them. Oliver knelt down and started digging carefully, his heart pounding with every

handful of dirt he moved  
aside. Suddenly, his hands  
struck something solid. He  
cleared away the dirt to  
uncover a small, beautifully  
ornate box. Intrigued, Oliver  
opened the box, and inside,  
he found a glimmering silver  
key. It shimmered in the  
sunlight, and a soft warmth  
spread through him as he held  
it tightly.

“What do you think it opens, Max?” he asked, looking down at his excited dog.

Max barked in reply, wagging his tail. With the key in hand, Oliver set off to find what secret the key might unlock.

He wandered through the village, visiting places where stories of old had made the rocks and walls whisper.

He tried the key on the  
School house door, the town  
hall, and even the old well,  
but nothing fit. Just as he was  
beginning to lose hope, he  
remembered the abandoned  
library on the outskirts of the  
village—a place where the  
townsfolk whispered about  
hidden treasures and  
forgotten knowledge.

Oliver hurried to the library, its windows darkened with dust and its door creaking open as if it hadn't been touched in ages. He stepped inside, and a charming scent of old paper filled the air. Shelves towered like giants, stacked with books that seemed to breathe stories. In the middle of the

library stood a grand door, ornately carved, with ivy and flowers woven into the design. Oliver approached the door, his heart racing. Taking a deep breath, he inserted the silver key into the lock and turned it with a soft click. The door swung open, revealing a room filled with light that sparkles like stars.

Within was a space full of ancient books and scrolls, each glowing with a golden hue. As Oliver stepped in, he felt a rush of energy and knowledge swirl around him.

Suddenly, a gentle voice echoed in the room.

“Welcome, seeker of truth.

You have found the secret of the village—the knowledge of Eldridge Hollow, forgotten by time, waiting for a heart brave enough to discover it.”

Oliver’s eyes widened as he realized the importance of this moment. The key, the door, and the hidden room were not just treasures; they were a bridge to the village’s

rich past, full of stories,  
wisdom, and magic. With the  
keys to unlock forgotten tales,  
Oliver knew he could help his  
village

remember its origins and  
create a brighter future.

For weeks, Oliver returned to  
the library, sharing his  
discoveries with the  
townsfolk.

He organized story nights where everyone gathered to listen and learn. The village, once quiet and weary, began to thrive with laughter and excitement, united in their shared history.

And so, the Mysterious Silver Key did not just unravel a secret; it unlocked the heart of Eldridge Hollow, reminding

everyone that sometimes, the greatest treasures lie in the stories we tell and the bond we share as a community.

As for Oliver, he became the village storyteller, with Max always at his side, guarding the tales of an enchanted past and a hopeful future.

**The End**

## Afterward

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

