

# LOST IN THE ZOO

By  
Oshellee Abeygunasekara

# Lost in the Zoo

By Oshelee Abeygunasekara

First publication

Mahamaya Girls' College - Kandy  
Grade 4E  
Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2025

ISBN : 978-624-208-342-1

## Dedication

TO MY DEAR PARENTS.

MY LOVELY SISTER, YEHELEE.

MY GRADE THREE AND FOUR CLASS TEACHER,  
MRS. CHAMILA RUBASINGHE.

MY MOST BELOVED FRIENDS  
SASENYA  
DINARA  
&  
SENUTHI

LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST  
FOR THE CHILDREN WHO ARE INSPIRED  
TO READ BOOKS!

## 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.

Chapter 1.  
Animal lover

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Lily.

Lily loved animals very much.

She also has a separate notebook and a pen to write  
amazing facts about animals.

Lily was really good at drawing.



## Chapter 2

### Happy news



It was a Saturday and Lily was preparing to go on a school trip.

Lily always packs her pen and notebook when she goes on a trip.

Lily's class teacher didn't tell anyone where they were going.

Lily's class teacher only told everyone's parents where the school trip was going.

All of Lily's friends have tried to ask their teacher and parents where they were going.

But their teacher and parents just won't tell them.

## Chapter 3

### Surprise



Lily and all of her classmates got on the bus.  
Lily asked her class teacher where they were going.

They were going to the zoo.

Lily's class teacher knew that Lily loved animals, so  
she replied it was a surprise.

Lily loved surprises, so to make the time fly the  
whole class sang lovely songs.

Everyone was really happy and excited.

## Chapter 4

### Hooray.....!!!

Finally, they arrived at their destination.  
Lily and all of her friends looked out the window.

They all saw a huge board.  
It said that they had arrived at the zoo.  
Everyone was really happy.



## Chapter 5

### Crowded.....

Everyone got safely off the bus.  
Lily's class teacher got a map of the zoo.  
The zoo was very crowded.  
Many schools have decided to come to the zoo  
because it was a long weekend.  
There were at least a hundred kids at the zoo.



## Chapter 6

### Wow.....!!!

Everybody agreed to go to the “bird paradise” first.

Lily got her pen and notebook ready.

When they entered there were birds everywhere!  
Big birds, small birds, noisy birds, quiet birds, and  
even birds who can talk.

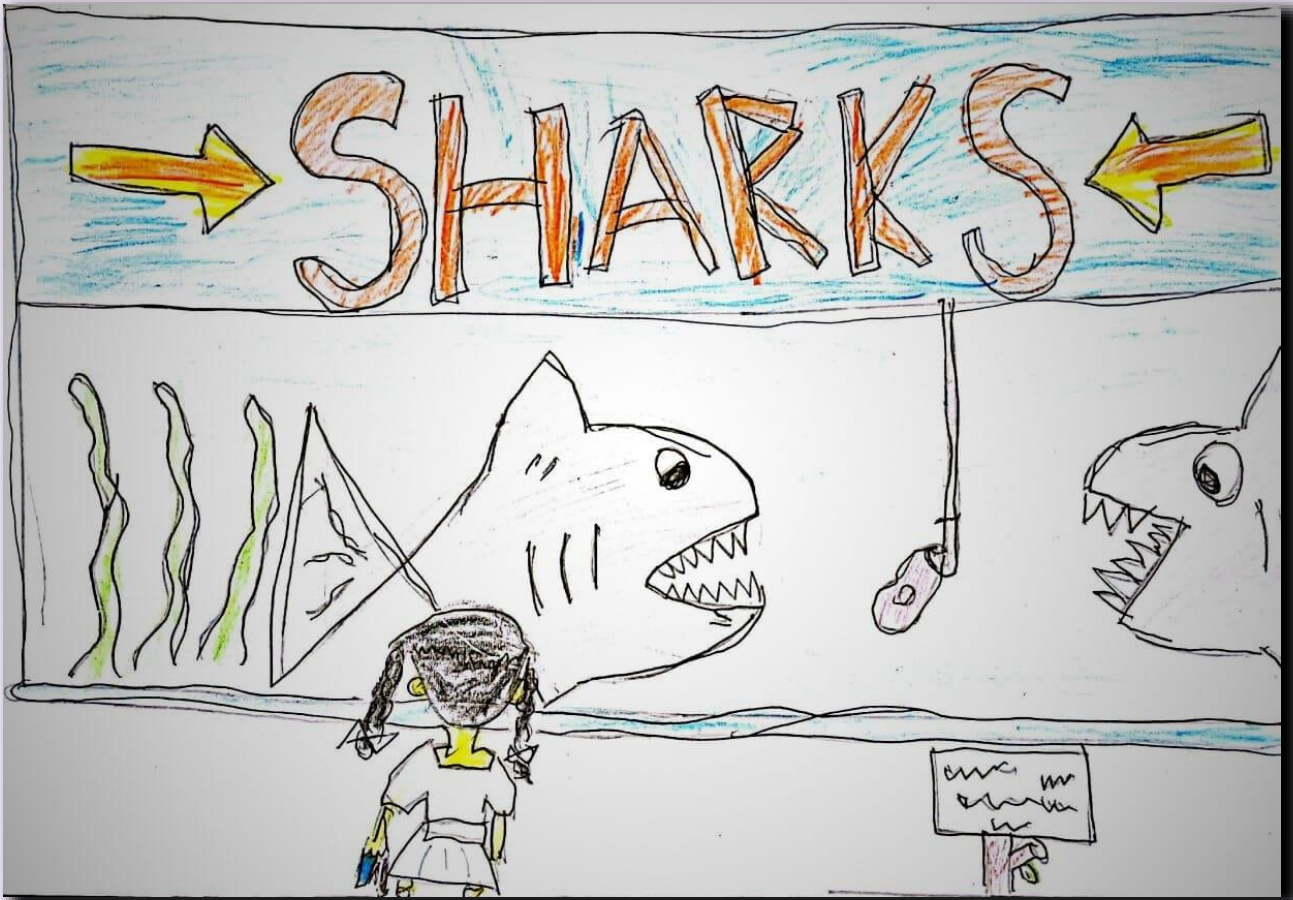
Already three pages were full of amazing facts about  
birds in Lily's notebook.

Lily's teacher was really impressed.



## Chapter 7

### Oh no!!



Next, everyone went to the aquarium.

The aquarium was a hundred times larger than the bird paradise. The aquarium was really dark.

The aquarium had a lot of fish.

It even had a few sharks.

Lily's glasses fell. S

he tried to pick it up and when she did she couldn't find her group anywhere.

She looked around the aquarium but she couldn't find them.

That's when she understood that she was lost.

## Chapter 8

### What shall I do?

Lily was so scared she even felt like crying. But she didn't cry. Lily thought of what she could do.

She remembered that at the entrance of the zoo, there was a security guard at the security point but she didn't know how to get there.

Then she remembered at the start her class teacher got a map but the problem was Lily didn't have a map. Lily then went to the entrance of the aquarium. At the entrance of the aquarium, there was a map of the zoo.

Then a plan came to Lily's mind.



## Chapter 9

### I can do it!

Lily drew the map on her notebook and she started her journey from the entrance of the aquarium to the bird paradise and last the security point.

Lily started her journey.

Lily walked with a happy mind at first.

When she got to the bird paradise she felt a little hungry so she looked at the map she had drawn in her notebook.

It said that she was close to a café. She found a nearby bench and she sat on it.

Lily looked in her bag to see if she had any money.

She had a hundred rupees.

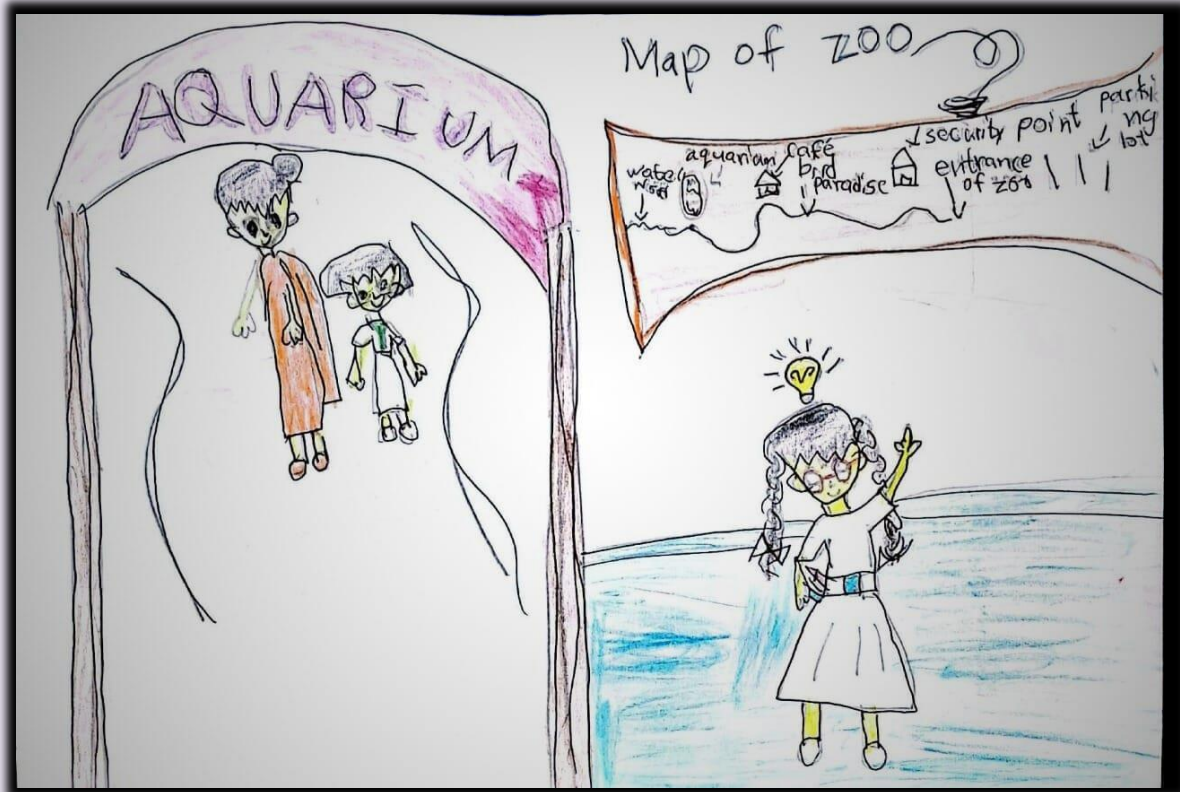
She went to the café and looked at the price chart. The best options were a small pack of cookies and an orange juice.

Lily bought them and ate a few cookies.

Lily had more energy.

She started her journey again. She went through the bird paradise bravely nothing stopped Lily.

Finally, she reached the security point and luckily there was a security guard.



## Chapter 10

### I did it!!

Lily told the security guard that she was lost. The security guard asked how she came here and how she got lost.

Lily told the security guard about her big adventure. The security guard told Lily that she was very brave.

The security guard asked Lily some questions like “What is your full name?” “What is your class?” and “What is your class teacher’s name?”

after answering all the questions the security guard made an announcement through the zoo’s speakers.

It was really loud.  
After a while, Lily's class teacher came to the security point.  
The security guard told Lily's class teacher that Lily did the right thing.  
Lily's class teacher told Lily that she was very smart and brave.  
Lily was very happy.



The End!



## 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