

A child's drawing on a dark blue background. At the top left is a large Earth with green continents and a purple ocean. At the top right is a yellow crescent moon. In the center, the text 'I WENT TO NEPTUNE' is written in blue with a white outline. Below the text, a girl with black hair, wearing a pink shirt and a light blue skirt, stands on a dark blue surface, waving her right hand. The background is a mix of blue and purple washes.

# I WENT TO NEPTUNE

Vihini Dulara Ranaweera

# **I WENT TO NEPTUNE**

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**To my parents, who taught me the value of  
dreams and determination.**

## 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.

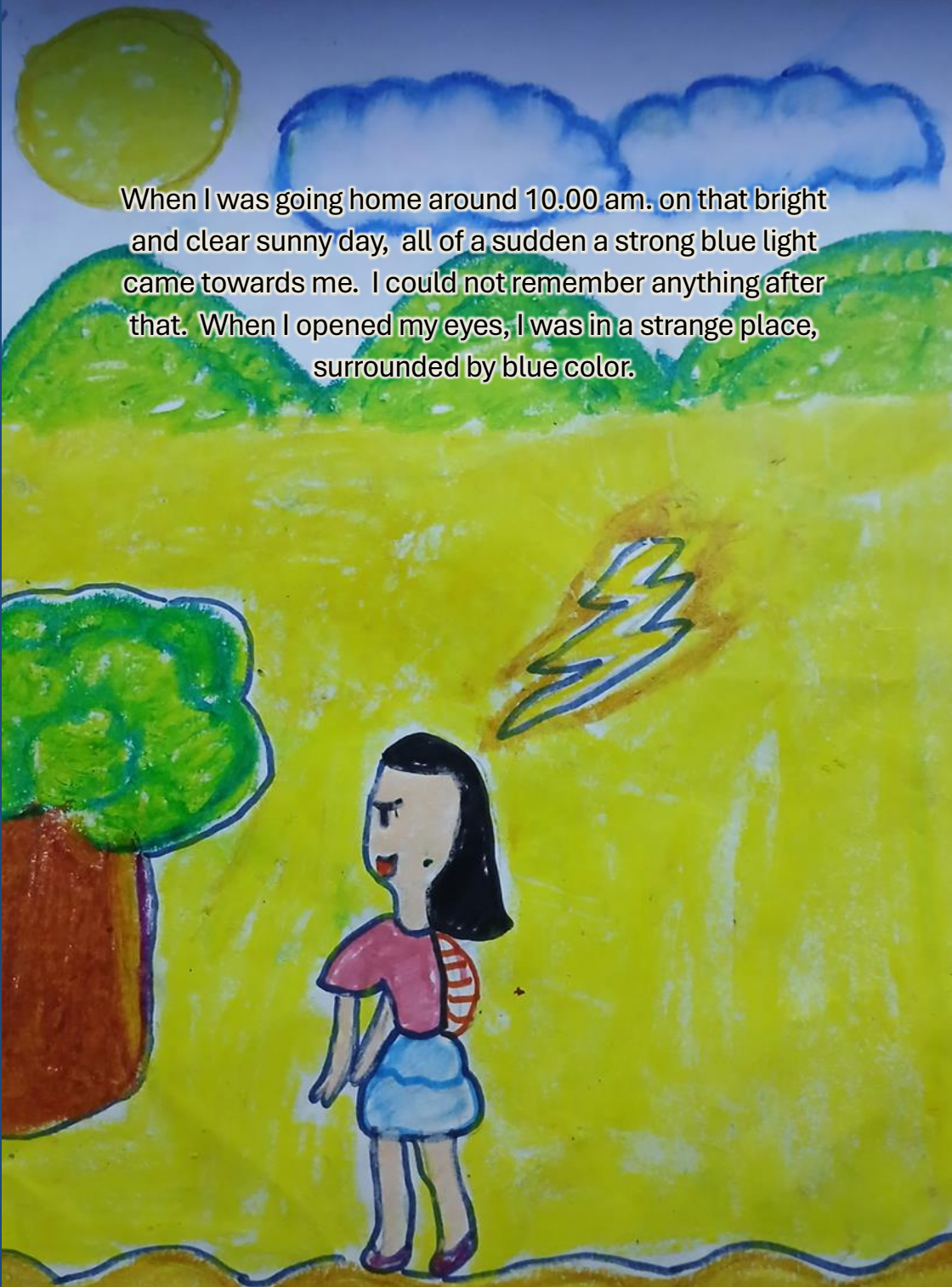
This book, which is the result of recognizing one's innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.


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

Hi I'm Ann Watson. Now I'm going to tell you  
how I went to the space and Neptune planet.




When I was going home around 10.00 am. on that bright and clear sunny day, all of a sudden a strong blue light came towards me. I could not remember anything after that. When I opened my eyes, I was in a strange place, surrounded by blue color.






OH no..... there was a board saying, "WELCOME TO NEPTUNE." After few moments, my fear eased. Now I was calm. "What a beautiful place this is!", I thought.


Welcome  
to  
Neptune



The whole area is blue colour. After all, blue is my favorite color. I felt like spending rest of my life in Neptune. When I saw the surrounding, I thought Neptune is more beautiful than the earth.

A hand-drawn illustration on a blue background. At the top left is a globe with green continents and blue oceans. At the top right is a crescent moon. Below these are several blue, rounded hills. In the lower left, a woman with long black hair, wearing a pink shirt and a green skirt, stands on a dark blue ground. A thought bubble above her contains a drawing of a burger and a drink. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the scene.

I walked around the area for few hours. Then I felt hungry. What can I do in this quite strange world? There were no food or water in my bag. I wanted to find a supermarket or a restaurant.

A hand-drawn illustration in a childlike style. The background is a deep blue sky. In the upper left, there is a green and blue Earth with a small satellite. In the upper right, there is a yellow crescent moon. Below the sky are stylized, jagged blue mountains. In the foreground, a woman with long black hair, wearing a pink short-sleeved shirt and a green skirt, stands looking towards a pink building. The building has a white sign on its roof that reads "DEZEM DOBRE" in purple, block letters. The building has a white door with a black handle. The ground is a dark blue, wavy line.

But how can I find a supermarket or restaurant in this “Alien” world. I walked about 2 miles, but still couldn’t find a supermarket or a restaurant. After walking for about 1 more hour, finally, I found a supermarket. Its name was “Dezem dobre.”

DEZEM DOBRE

# DEZEM DOBRE

When I went inside of the supermarket,  
a shop assistant came and said, “slash  
plash”. I think it’s a greeting of Neptune.

When I walked through the  
supermarket, another shop assistant  
came and stand straight.

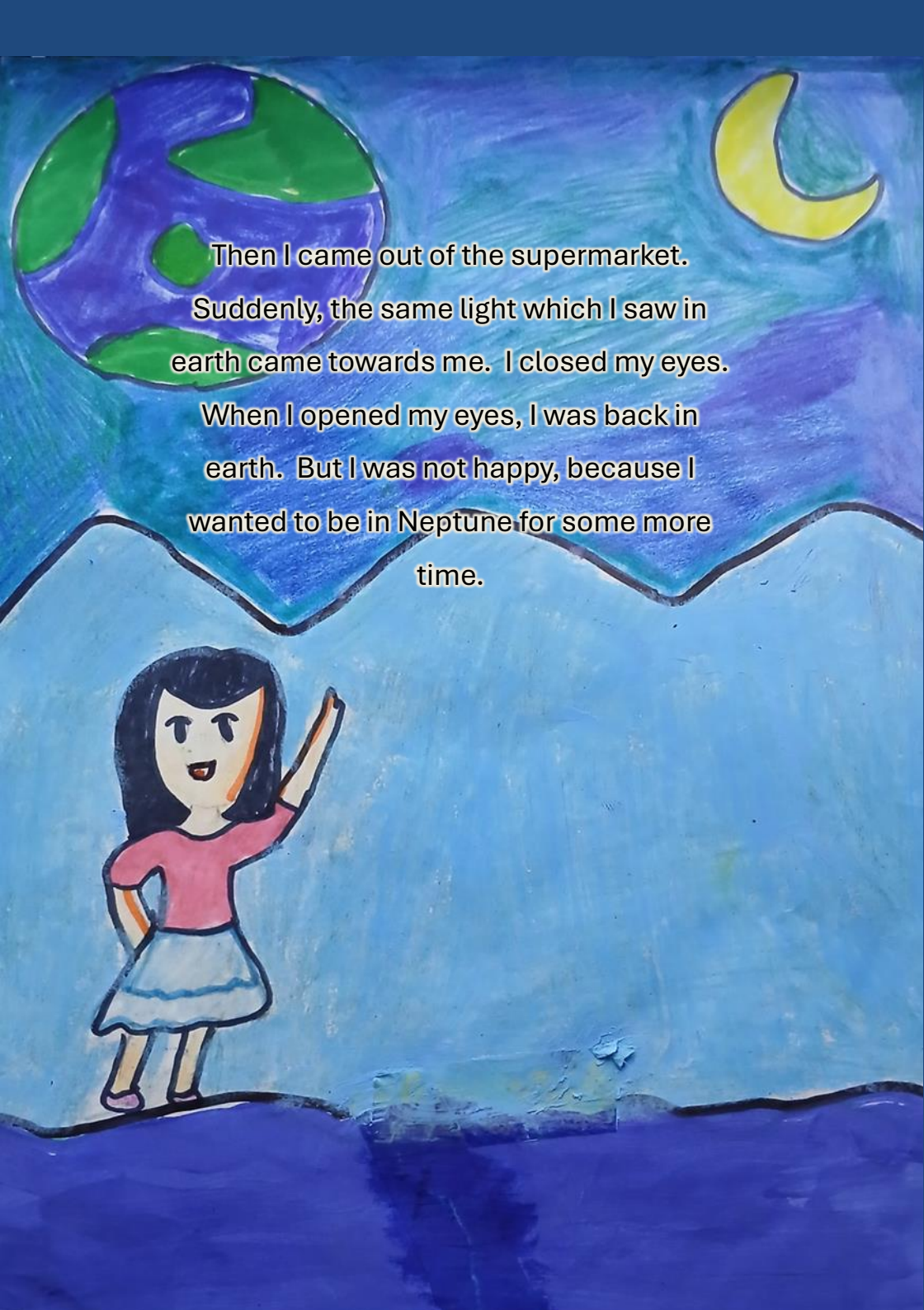


He spoke in his own language. I couldn't understand his language. His skin color was green. His eyes were black. He didn't have ears. He had tiny legs. I took some foods. The food was like "slime", gel kind of thing which we used to play.



Finally, I have to pay for the foods. The paying method in Neptune was quite strange and interesting. Instead of Money, we have to perform a dance to an Opera song. Now what I'm going to do? I danced merrily to an opera song. That was super cool way to pay for the food.



A child's drawing of a night sky. In the upper left, there is a large planet with green and purple sections. In the upper right, there is a yellow crescent moon. The sky is filled with various shades of blue and purple. Below the sky, there are dark blue mountains. In the foreground, a girl with black hair, wearing a pink shirt and a light blue skirt, stands on a dark blue surface, pointing her right hand towards the sky.

Then I came out of the supermarket.  
Suddenly, the same light which I saw in  
earth came towards me. I closed my eyes.  
When I opened my eyes, I was back in  
earth. But I was not happy, because I  
wanted to be in Neptune for some more  
time.



## 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 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**

