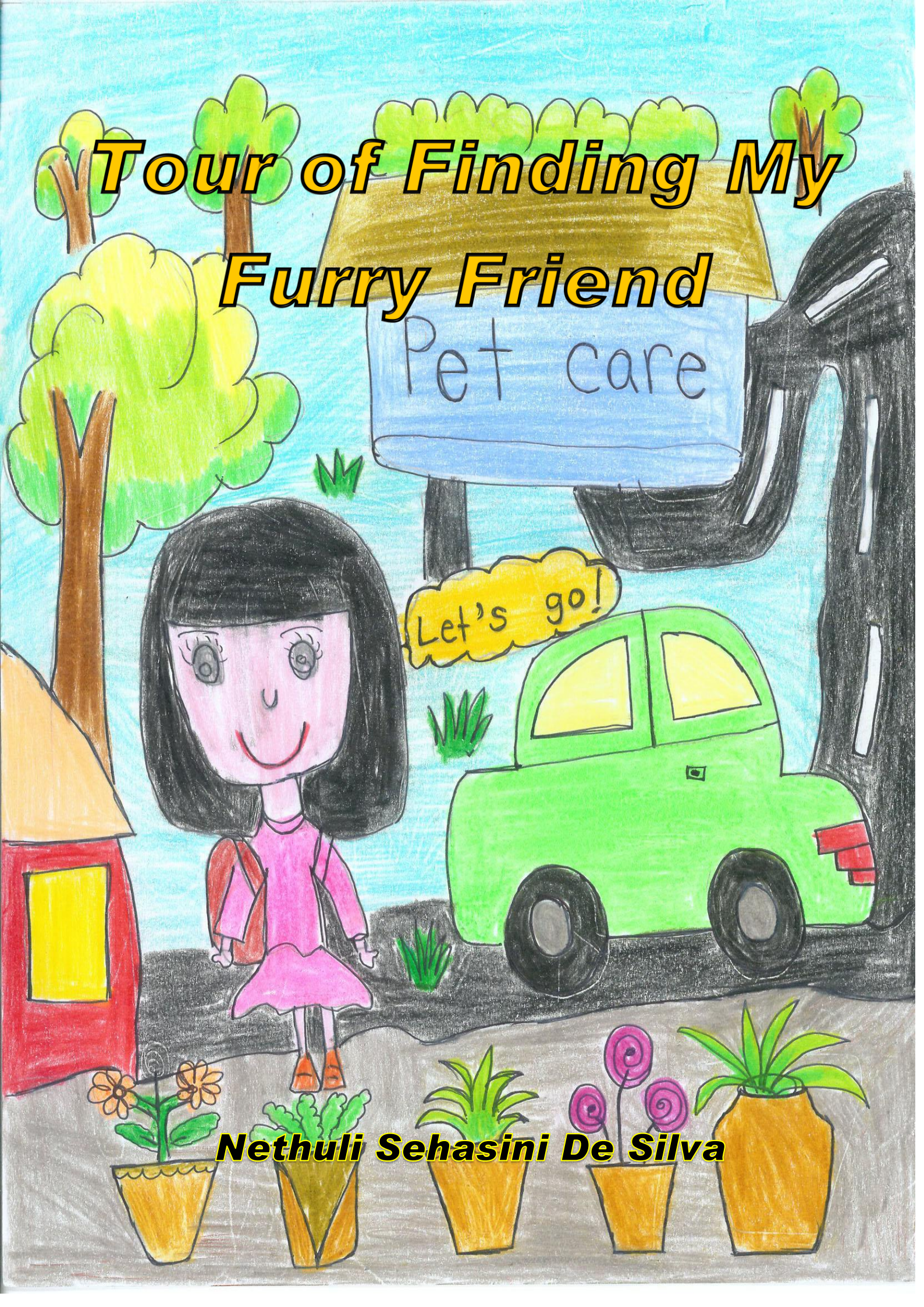


Tour of Finding My Furry Friend

Pet care

Let's go!

Nethuli Sehasini De Silva



Tour of Finding My Furry Friend

Nethuli Sehasini De Silva

Author

Other books by the Author

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Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

Grade 5 -C

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Preface

I am delighted to present my second storybook, **Tour of Finding My Furry Friend**. This book is a result of my love for storytelling and animals. Through this story, I hope to take readers on an exciting journey filled with adventure, friendship and kindness.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my school, Mahamaya Girls' College, for nurturing my creativity and encouraging my passion for writing. I also thank my teachers, family and friends for their unwavering support.

Happy reading!

Nethuli Sehasini De Silva

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.

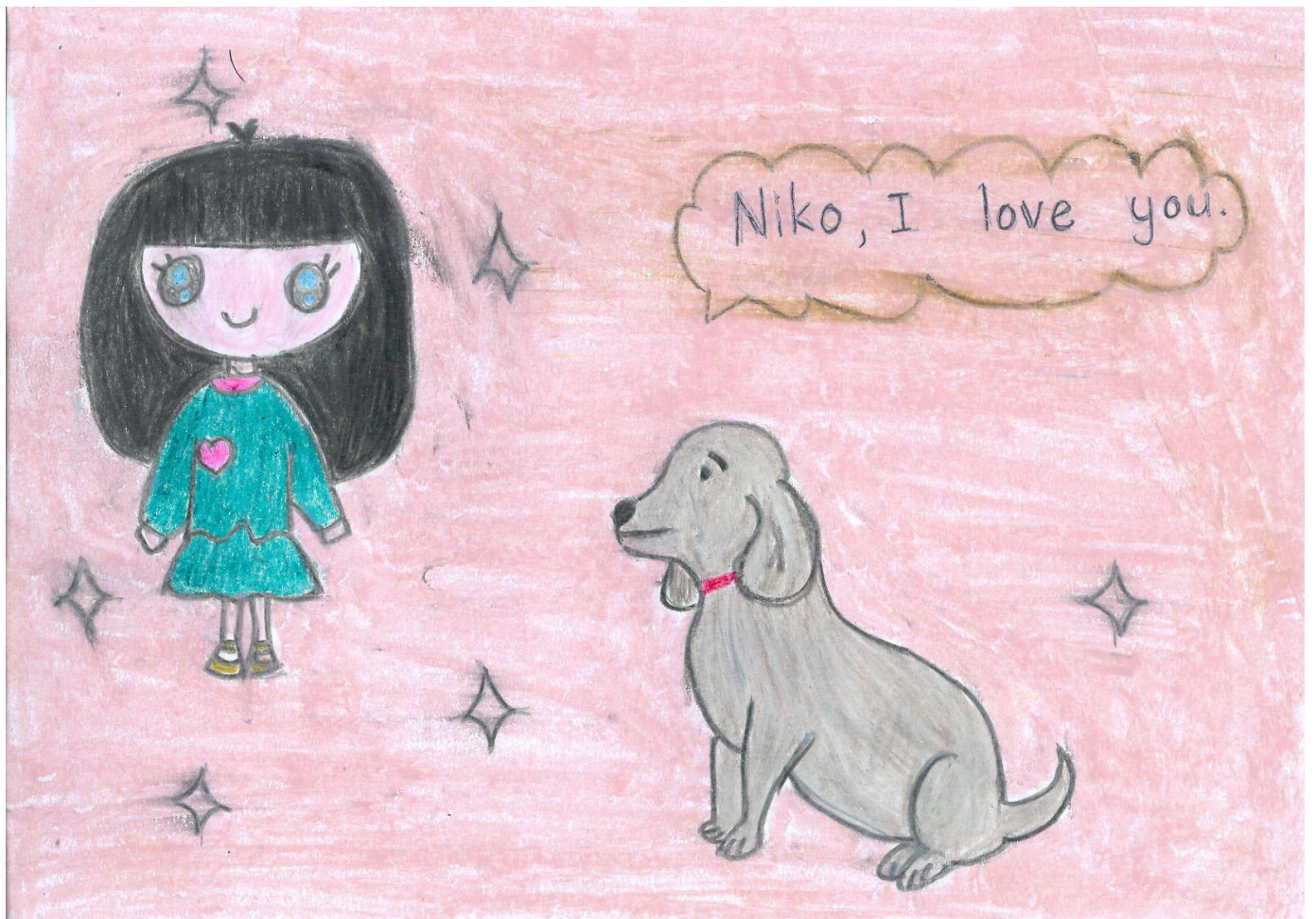
This book, which is the result of recognizing one's innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera,

Principal,

Mahamaya Girls' Collage, Kandy.

I had been months since Nicko, my Labrador passed away. He wasn't just a dog, he was my best friend, my secret keeper and my partner in every adventure. The house felt quiet without his happy barks and wagging tail. I missed him every day.



One evening, I sat in the garden where Nicko and I used to play.

I looked up at the stars and whispered, “Nicko, I hope you’re happy wherever you are, I miss you so much.” A cool breeze brushed past me, and for a moment, I felt as if Nicko was saying goodbye, letting me know it was okey to love again.



The next morning, I told my parents, “I think I’m ready for another furry friend.” They smiled and hugged me. “Nicko will always be in your heart,” Mother said. “Let’s find the perfect friend to make new memories with.”

So, my journey began. My first stop was the animal shelter. I saw many dogs, each with their own story. There was a big, gentle dog named Bruno, and tiny energetic pup named Daisy. I spend hours playing with them, but none felt like the one.





Next, we visited a family friend who had a litter of Labrador puppies. My heart raced when I saw them.

They reminded me of Nicko. One little pup with golden fur and floppy ears waddled over to me.

I thought he might be the one, but he seemed more interested in playing with his siblings. I sighed, “Maybe the perfect friend isn’t here either.”

Our final stop was the park. As I walk along the path, a stray dog caught my eyes. He had scruffy fur, big brown eyes and a wagging tail. I knelt down, and he ran up to me, licking my hand. My heart filled with warmth, but then a woman called out,

“Oh, thank you for finding Charlie! He always runs off.

Feeling a little disheartened, I walked home. As I opened out gate, I heard a soft whimper.

There, by our garden bench, was a small Labrador pup, trembling and looking lost. His fur was white just like Nicko, but his eyes had a sparkle of curiosity.



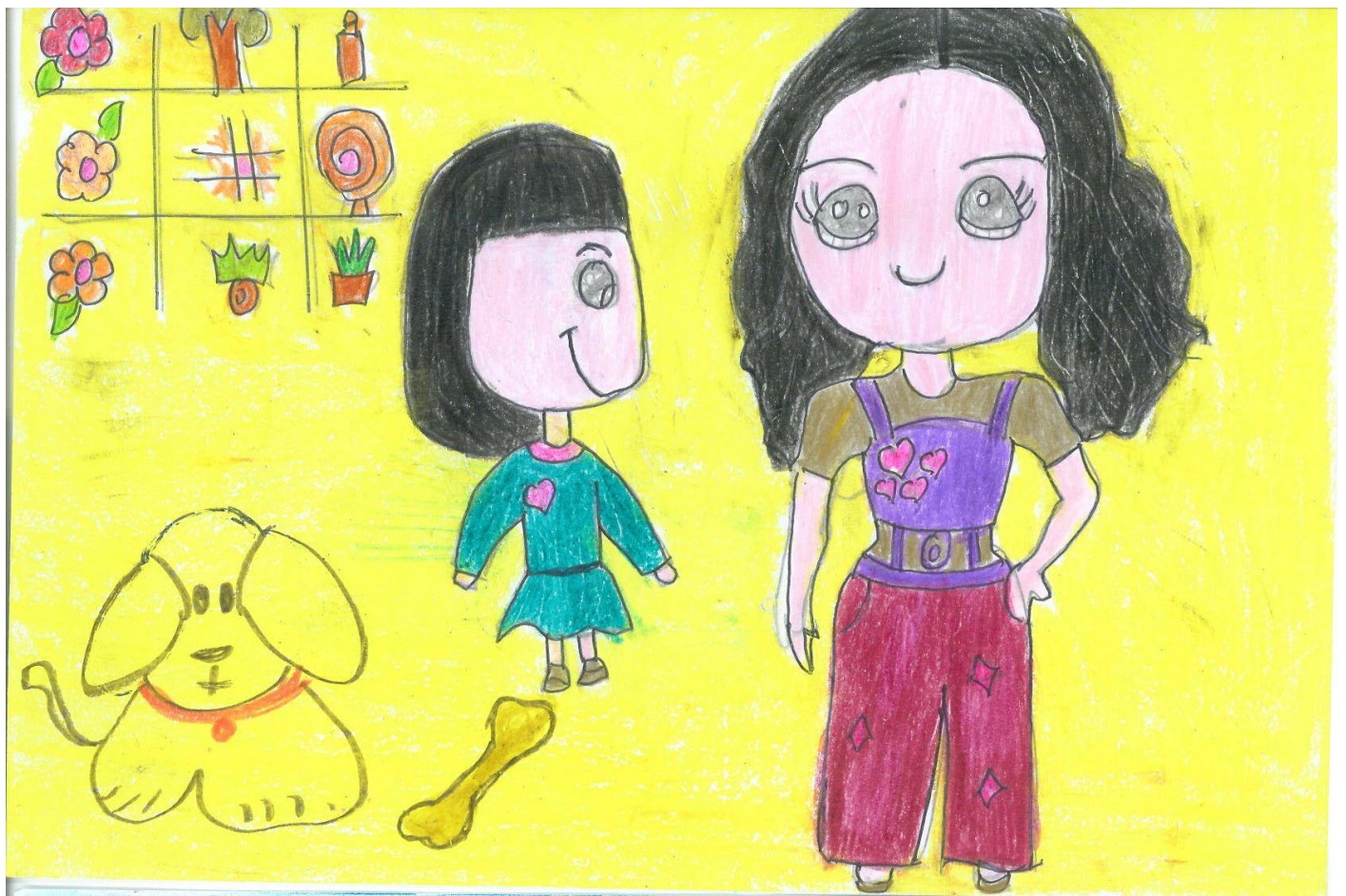
I approached slowly and whispered, “Hey, little one, Are you lost?” He wagged his tail and nuzzled my hand. In that moment, my heart knew, he was my new furry friend.

“Mum! Dad! look who found me!” I exclaimed, holding my new one in my arms. His tiny body was warm against my chest, and I could feel his heartbeat.



We searched for an owner, but no one came forward. It felt like fate had brought him to me. We decided to name him Ricko.

At first, Ricko was shy. He would follow me around the house but hesitated when I tried to play fetch. It was as if he was waiting for me to prove that I was his forever friend. So, every day, I spent time with him, talking, playing and even reading my favorite books aloud.



One evening, I took Ricko to the same garden spot where I used to sit with Nicko. The sky was filled with twinkling stars, and as I held Ricko close, I whispered, "Nicko, I think you send him to me, didn't you?" The wind blew softly, making the trees sway gently, as if answering my question.



Weeks passed, and Ricko become more than just a pet. He became my shadow and my best friend. He would wait for me at the door when I came home from school, run around the yard chasing butterflyed and curl up next to me when I felt sad.





Losing Nicko had been painful, but finding Ricko taught me something important; **love never truly leaves us – it just finds new ways to come back.**

And so, my tour of finding my furry friend came to an end, but a new adventure with Ricko had only just start.

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 MahaLekam