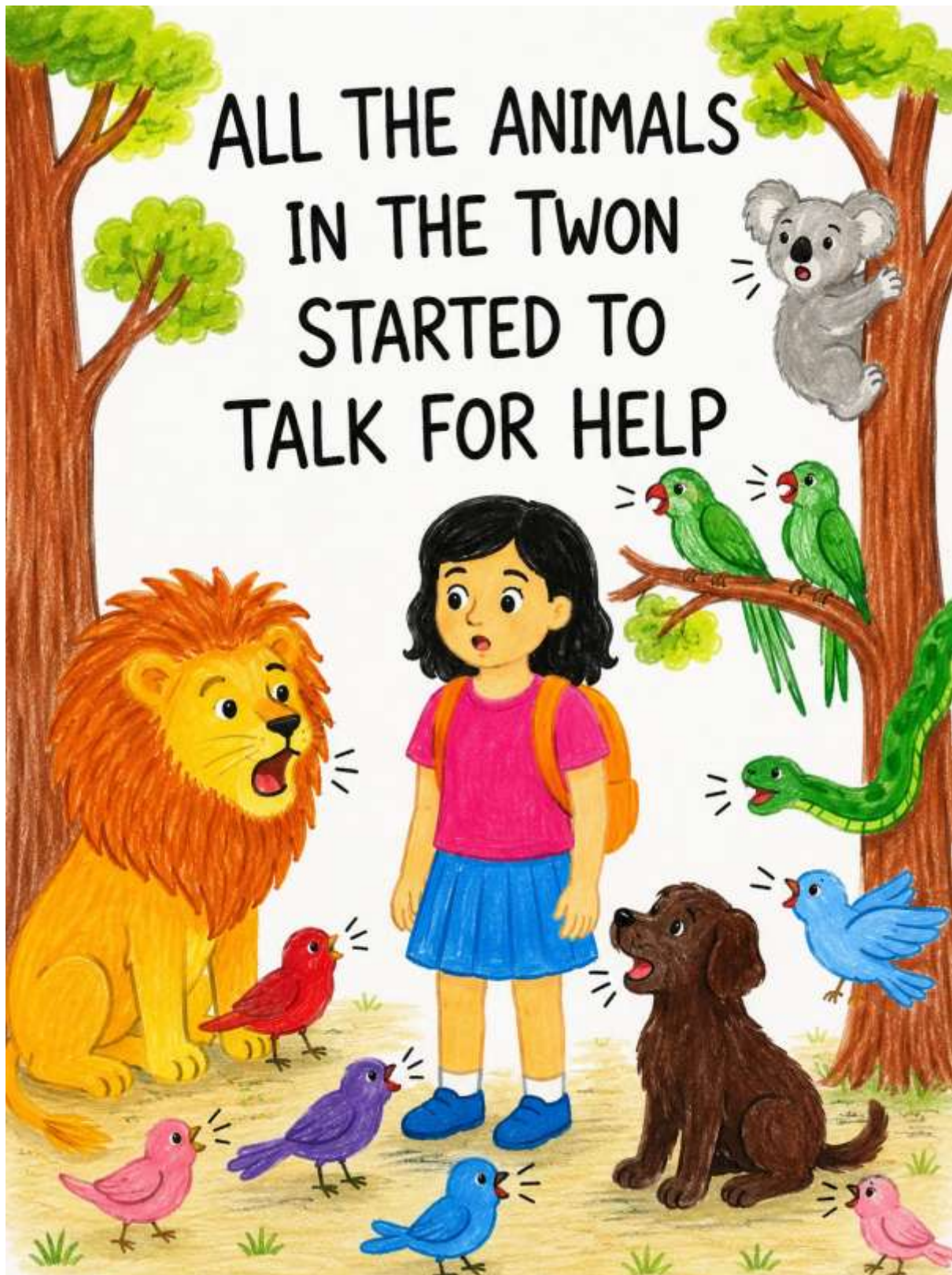




Vethmi Nethumsa Jayawardhana

*ALL THE
ANIMALS IN
TOWN STARTED
TO TALK FOR
HELP*

Other Books By Author

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Grade 5 C

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DEDICATION

To my father and mother,

Whose boundless love, wisdom, and sacrifices have shaped me into who I am today. Your constant support and guidance are the heart of everything I do.

To my dear grandmother and grandfather,

Whose stories, strength, and presence in my life have been a constant source of inspiration. Your love transcends generations, and I carry your wisdom with me always.

To my loving sister,

Whose laughter, kindness, and unwavering belief in me light up my world. Your love fills my heart with gratitude and joy, and your support lifts me higher with every step.

This book is a testament to your love, your lessons, and your constant encouragement. Thank you for being my guiding lights, my strength, and my family.

With all my love,

Vethmi Nuthumsa Jayawardhana



Foreword

In an increasingly complex global future, the "Hemamala Upahara" book project, led by Mahamaya Girls' College, stands as a turning point in girls' education. Over a decade, it has successfully nurtured thousands of children to become young authors.

This year, by collaborating with other schools, we aimed to provide students with a wealth of new experiences. The goal was to develop multi-faceted skills, including communication, values, and creative growth. As a result, children have written books that pay tribute to Princess Hemamala, who brought the Sacred Tooth Relic—the supreme symbol of the Buddhist world—to the Hill Country (Kandy).

I extend my gratitude to everyone involved, including the students who contributed their creativity and the teachers who guided them.

Shashikala Senadhira

Principal

Mahamaya Girls' College

Congratulatory Message

It is a great honor for me, as the Governor of the Central Province, to send a congratulatory message for the launch of the books created through the Hemamala Tribute Book Creation Project initiated by Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy.

Education is the fundamental foundation for the progress of society, and it is further strengthened through books and literary creations. It is clearly commendable that students' talents, creativity, and intellectual abilities are emerging through projects such as this.

I believe that this book creation project will provide valuable knowledge and a precious literary contribution not only to the students but to the entire society. Furthermore, I hope that through such efforts, future writers who will bring pride to Sri Lanka will emerge.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation and blessings to the Principal, the academic staff, the students, and everyone involved who dedicated themselves to this successful endeavor. I wish this project and the book launch ceremony great success.

Sarath B.S. Abeykoon

Governor, Central Province

Emeritus Professor, University of Peradeniya

2026-05-10

Congratulatory Message

I highly appreciate the noble and outstanding effort of the Principal and the academic staff of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, the student daughters, the students of other participating schools, and everyone who dedicated themselves to plan and implement this book publication project. The project was organized under the leadership of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, with the participation of other schools in the Kandy Zone, with the aim of encouraging children toward book creation within the current school system, as a tribute to Hemamala Kumariya who brought the Sacred Tooth Relic to Sri Lanka.

For several decades, Sri Lanka has been committed to providing free, compulsory, quality, and equitable education to all children, thereby producing a future generation of intelligent and skilled citizens. In such a context, this book creation program for school children helps develop creative ability, critical thinking, and other positive qualities for a balanced and well-rounded personality, and contributes to building a future knowledge-based society.

May all activities of the Hemamala Tribute Book Creation Project be successful through the blessings of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

Pradeep Nilanga Dela

Diyawadana Nilame,

Sri Dalada Maligawa.

2026.05.10.

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CHAPTER 1: - THE STRANGE MORNING

It all kicked off on a warm, sunny morning, the kind that tricks you into thinking nothing unusual could possibly happen. Mila was out for her usual walk with her dog, Rocky. But halfway through the park, Rocky suddenly bolted.

“Mila...” A tiny whisper brushed past her ear.

She froze. A whisper? Out here?

Then came another: “Mila, you’re not imagining things.”

Heart thumping, she followed the sound and there was Rocky, waiting with a whole gathering of animals: cats, dogs, parrots, birds, and even a lion, all watching her with glowing eyes.

“What are you doing, Rocky?” Mila asked, confused.

Rocky stepped forward and unbelievably spoke. “Mila, you came. We need your help to find the hidden treasure.”

“Treasure?” Mila blinked.

The lion stepped forward, his voice deep and wise. “A crown, rare gems, and hundreds of gold coins. The crown once belonged to the true king of the Animal Kingdom. But long ago, a greedy king named Scare hid it far away so no one could inherit it. The map was passed from Scare to the mighty Rhino, who hated him so much that he gave the map away... to me. After twenty long years, we still cannot find the treasure. Without it, the kingdom has no rightful king.”

Mila nodded slowly. “Okay... I’ll help. Let me pack some things.”

“Hurry,” Rocky urged.

Mila rushed home, stuffing three headlamps, two torches, and a mountain of snacks into her

backpack.

She met the animals again at the edge of the woods.

“The adventure starts now,” she breathed.

“The map says we first need to cross this swamp,” Mila said. “But... how?”

“We can use the boat!” the lion announced proudly.

“But it only holds four,” Mila pointed out.

The bird fluttered its wings. “It’s fine. Mila, Lion, Dog, Cat go in the boat. Parrot and I will fly.”

Five minutes later, they reached the other side.

“What’s next?” Mila asked.

“We must reach the next clue exactly at 5:00 p.m. Everything else will be hidden until then,” said the lion. “But it’s already 6:00 p.m. We’ll rest here. Though... I’ve heard there’s a 30-foot python in this area.”

Rocky shivered. “I call the corner.”

Just then, Mila spotted a tiny cottage. “We can stay there! And don’t worry. I brought a scent-hiding powder. The python won’t smell us.”

They settled in, and Mila quietly texted her mom that she was sleeping over at a friend’s house.

CHAPTER 2: - ROCKY'S FEAR OF THE PYTHON

At dawn, Mila woke to a shadow outside the cottage... the python.

She gently nudged the animals awake. "Don't scream... there's a python."

Rocky opened one eye — then let out a scream that shook the cottage.

"Enough!" the lion barked. "Let me handle this."



CHAPTER 3: - THE FRIENDLY PYTHON

The lion stepped outside with a regal roar.

“Python, what brings you here?”

“Oh! King Lion,” the python hissed politely. “I’m just searching for food. Why are you here?”

“We’re searching for the lost crown. Have you seen it?”

“No,” the python said, “but Rhino gave me a clue once. Would you like it?”

The lion accepted, reading the note carefully. The python continued, “You should ask the three bears — the grizzly, the panda, and the polar bear. They’re always hiding things.”

“No need,” the lion said. “We’ll check the Pond of Fish next.

Rocky called from inside, “It’s 4:55! Let’s pack up and go!”

They stepped outside — straight into the salty air of the sea.

“We’re stranded,” Mila said.

“Not if we build a ship out of bamboo,” Rocky replied.



CHAPTER 4: - THE KOALA SEARCH

“We need bamboo,” said the bird. “But where do we find any?”

“I know someone,” Rocky said. “A koala named Rosie.”

Time was running out, so they split into two teams. Mila, Rocky, and the lion moved through the forest. They soon reached a tiny house and knocked three times.

A little worm popped out. “Hi, I’m Briana! If you’re looking for Rosie, she’s in the Bamboo Forest. But be careful, she gets mad if you take anything without asking.”

She gave them directions, and soon enough, they found Rosie the Koala, who generously offered plenty of bamboo.



CHAPTER 5: - THE MERMAID AND THE OCTOPUS

The teams reunited, built a bamboo boat, and set off across the water — where an octopus waved them over.

“Come quickly!” He called.

They found a mermaid beside him, shimmering like moonlit water. “Eat these pearls,” She said gently. “They’ll help you breathe underwater if you ever need it. And if you’re in danger, blow this horn.”

They thanked her and continued.



CHAPTER 6: - THEY FOUND IT AFTER ALL

Their map finally led to a small, hidden house. Inside were people guarding something.

Mila whispered, “I have an idea.”

She walked in alone, pretending to be a lost girl looking for food. While she distracted the people with small talk, Cat and Parrot sneaked behind them and swiped a cage.

Inside were the gems... the gold coins... and the crown. It was stunning covered in tiny animals carved from bright gemstones.

Mila suggested giving one coin and one gem to every creature who helped them. The animals agreed.



CHAPTER 7: - THE JOURNEY BACK & THE GIVING OF GIFTS

They sailed back, gifting the mermaid and octopus first, then Rosie the Koala, then Briana the worm, then the kind python.

Finally, the lion said, “We forgot someone important. Mila for saving the kingdom.”

Mila smiled softly. “Keep the treasure. I didn’t do it for the reward.”

Then Lion placed a crystal lion pendant in her hand. “Only you can hear us. Keep this close.”

Mila strung it onto a necklace and wrote everything in her diary that night.

From then on, she and Rocky shared a secret a world of talking animals, hidden kingdoms, and adventures waiting just beyond the ordinary.

Rocky wagged his tail. “I knew I could count on you.”

AFTERWARD



With the approval of the Ministry of Education, this research-based project has empowered thousands of student authors for over ten years. Educationists recognize it as a program that significantly enhances the quality of school education.

In alignment with modern educational reforms, encouraging students to author a research work is a milestone in this journey. In this digital age of "Smart" technology, the modern school must demonstrate through research that books and technology should be used together. This is because the unique joy a child receives from a book cannot be replaced by anything else.

To prevent children from drifting away from books—which remain our primary educational tool and storehouse of human knowledge—Mahamaya Girls' College has spearheaded the "Hemamala Upahara" project for many years. Its primary objectives are to foster academic discipline, promote values, and pay tribute to Princess Hemamala, who fulfilled a historic mission to empower women.

We express our gratitude to the Principal, teachers, parents, alumni of Mahamaya Girls' College, representatives of other schools, the Diyawadana Nilame, and the staff of the Sri Dalada Maligawa (Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic) for their support.

Seneviratne Mahalekam

(Project Creator)

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