

A Cake Like No Others



Vinuthi Dahamsa Bandara

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Other books written by the author

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Lily and Tomy - 2025

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To my wonderful readers...



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 Senadheera,
Principal,
Mahamaya Girls' Collage,
Kandy.

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

There was a girl named Ella. She was very creative, but her family was very poor. They did not even have a proper house. Her mother and father both worked in the fields. However, no matter how much trouble they got into, they still lived happily.

The country where Ella lived was good at making cakes. But there was a big twist: this country had a lot of cake factories, but they only made different flavours; they never made new designs. One day, the queen thought that she might want her villagers to bake her a surprise birthday cake for her 50th birthday. So, she announced a cake competition.



But Ella did not notice the cake competition notice. One day, her mom wanted her to buy some bread for dinner. While she was going to buy the bread, she saw a big board displaying: "There is a cake competition in the Castle. Whoever wins gets \$10,000.00, and their cake will be the Queen's birthday cake."



Ella knew this was the perfect time to make her family rich and show her talents to everyone. She went home happily and excited with the bread, and she was most excited to tell her parents about the competition. When she got home, Ella told her parents about it. Ella's parents thought a little bit, "Mmmmm..." Then her mother said, "Okay, Ella."

She was so overjoyed. From that moment on, she was constantly thinking about the cake competition. Then her mother suddenly said, "Ella, go to bed." Ella went to bed while still thinking about the competition.



In the morning, she woke up, and it was perfect timing because her mother had already cooked breakfast. Ella had her breakfast, which was milk and bread, and went back to her room. While she was sitting on her bed, she was thinking about the cake. Then she got a brilliant idea. Ella thought of making something completely new. She decided on a new design for her cake, and for the flavour, she chose chocolate because it was one of the Queen's favourites.

She asked her father for some money. Her father did not have the money for her at that exact time, but he said, "I will give you some money later." Ella replied, "It's okay, Dad." After that movement, Ella's father went to different houses and worked hard to get some money. After a short period of time doing all those things, her father gave her \$20.00, and that was the perfect amount of money she needed for the cake. Ella took the money, thanked her father, and then ran to a nearby shop. She bought all the ingredients she needed for her cake and came back home happily.

She put all of those ingredients safely in a cabinet. Then she got a piece of paper and drew the new design for the cake she was going to make. After all of that, she felt so tired. She looked at the clock on the wall and saw it was 10 o'clock, so she quickly went to bed.



In the morning, she woke up. After a little while, she got a phone call and answered it. The person who was calling Ella was a soldier from the castle. He said, "The cake competition is starting tomorrow. Make sure you are ready for the competition."

After that phone call, she was in a big hurry. First, she ran to the kitchen and grabbed the tools she needed for cake-making. Then she went to the cabinet where she kept all the ingredients, gathered them all up, and ran back to the kitchen. She started making the cake mixture, poured it into a baking pan, and baked it. When the cake was done, Ella took it out and let it cool. Then, she cut the cake into beautiful, unique shapes and added a completely different design of frosting. Ella placed the gorgeous cake safely on a beautiful, circular, light pink tray and kept it in a secure place.

She realised that she had been making the cake the whole day. After all her hard work, her mom gave Ella a big dinner. Ella went to bed happily because tomorrow she had to go to the cake competition.

In the morning, she woke up earlier than usual. Ella asked her father to drop her off at the castle for the competition. Her father said, "Of course, Ella." Her father helped Ella carry the cake to the castle. Ella waved her

small hand to say, "Bye, Father."

Ella was a bit nervous because there were lots of people there for the competition. But she thought in her little mind and told herself, "You can do this!"

The soldiers in the castle lined Ella and the other contestants up. Then they entered the hall one by one. In the hall, there was a big circular table covered with a luxurious red tablecloth and golden chairs. Ella went and sat in one of the chairs. Then, suddenly, everyone went silent. Ella looked at the hallway door; the Queen was coming into the hall!



The Queen said, "I hope you all made tasty cakes." Suddenly, the Queen walked right up to Ella and said, "Oh... darling, what is this cake? I have never seen a cake like this. I am going to save trying this one for last because this cake is very impressive." Also, because of how small you are.

So the Queen got her special golden spoon and came near the circular table to try the cakes. The first two contestants were kicked out of the castle because they put nuts in their cakes. The Queen is allergic to nuts; if she eats them, she has trouble breathing. After eating a few more, there was another problem. The Queen does not like vanilla flavour, so she kicked that person out too. "Go out from my castle"

After ten or twenty people, it was finally Ella's turn. When the Queen looked at the cake, she was impressed. Then the Queen took just one bite, she couldn't stop and started to eat more! The Queen said, "It is so tasty, and chocolate is one of my favourite flavours!" And also, this is kind of a design that I have never seen.

Everyone was looking at Ella. She felt a bit embarrassed and scared, but she stayed brave and did not step back. The Queen stepped forward with her golden spoon in her hand. She had tried everybody's cakes, but after she ate

Ella's cake, she was truly surprised. She looked closely at the unique design again, and everyone in the hall was in shock.



The Queen thought for about ten minutes. Finally, she announced, "The winner's name is" Before she told the name, there was a big drumbeat, then suddenly it stopped. Queen shouted and said, "The winner's name is Ella"

Ella was so happy that she jumped up and down about ten times. She received the \$10,000, and the Queen also decided to release Ella's cake design to all of the country's cake factories. Best of all, the cake became the Queen's official birthday cake.



Ella ran all the way home to tell her parents that she had won. When she told them, they were glad! Ella proudly gave the money to her lovely parents.

With the prize money, Ella got some items that she liked and wanted, which were useful, and they used the remaining money to fix their home and other things that they needed for their life. Now they have a proper house and also clothes, toys, fresh food, and all other things that they need. Ella and her parents live happily ever after.





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.

Project Founder and Coordinator,
Senevirathne Maha Lekam

