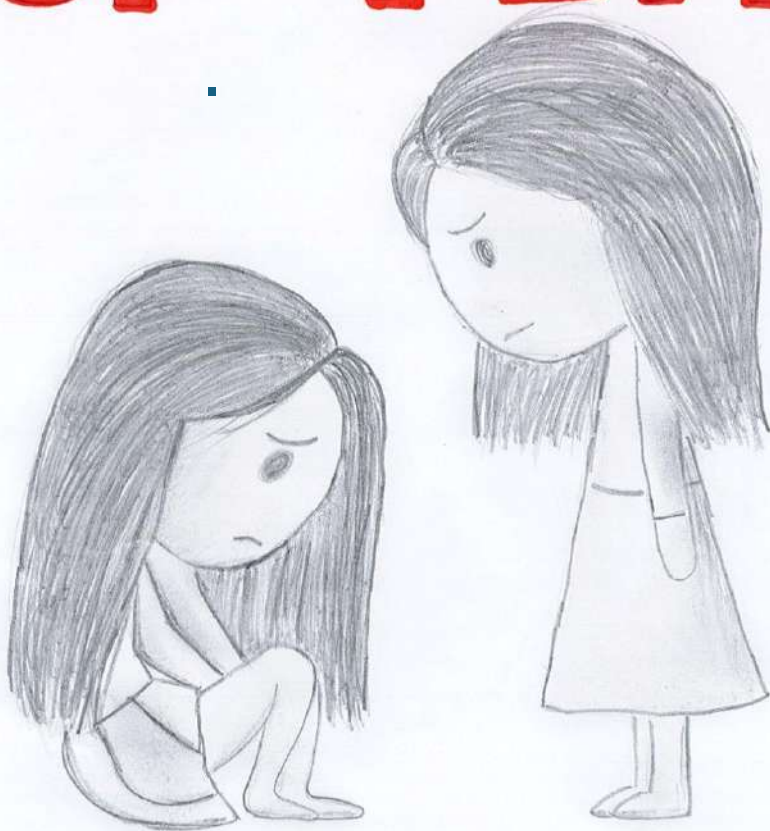


A TALE OF TIME



Written By-

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Class – Grade 8

Date of publication of the book

2026 April 10

ISBN 978-624-211-013-4

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my
parents and my dear teacher.

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 – fasted 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

Principle

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 creation. 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, 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 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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MIA'S DREAM

Mia was a cheerful girl who was only 13 years old.

One special day came. It was Mia's birthday. She woke up early in the morning, got ready for school and left home excitedly thinking of spending the whole day happily with her best friends and also receiving gifts from them.

She went to her class, but her best friends, Lucy and Jake weren't there.

Mia wondered off hoping to find them. After a while, Mia saw them and at the same time they saw her. They began to run away from her. Very curiously, Mia started chasing them.

All three kept running until they went to the fifth floor of the school building. They had no where else to run.

Mia approached them hoping to ask why they ran away from her when she was trying to talk to them. They were terrified.

Lucy and Jake jumped off the fifth floor from the window because they had nothing else left to do to avoid Mia. Mia, who was worried, also jumped from the window.

She felt like she was paralyzed and was floating in the air. It was like a never ending tunnel. Somehow, she landed down safe, after about ten minutes, after that she found out that her friends had passed away.

Mia walked to her class sad and upset. While walking, she suddenly tripped and fell.

Then she woke up to find out that all of this chaos was just a dream that was strange and scary at the same time.

She looked at the clock. It was almost midnight.

THE GARDEN WELL

After waking up she couldn't go back to sleep. She spent the night looking at the stars from her window, but after a while she saw something mysterious.

There was a strange person standing beside the garden well. At that moment she remembered that her mother told her to never go near that well but never gave a reason.

Still Mia wanted to warn that person who was outside, but she also remembered what her mother said about not talking to strangers.

Still Mia was too kind. She wasn't going to let anyone put their lives in danger.

She wore her raincoat because it was raining at that time and slowly went outside without making any noise, so her mother wouldn't wake up.

When she stepped outside, the storm got worse. Mia barely saw anything because of the mist but somehow, she reached that person.

He looked very similar to his father who passed away when Mia was little.

“Dad is that you?” Mia asked excitedly.

“Yes, my dear daughter,” he replied.

Tears filled Mia's eyes.

“Why did you leave us?”

“Listen my dear daughter. When you were little, you were playing outside and I was playing with you as well. Suddenly your ball bounced into this well and while trying to get it I fell into the well,” explained her father.

“I wonder why I don’t remember any of this.” Said Mia tearfully.

“Maybe it was because you were very young and that is also the reason why your mother never let you to come near the well. Since that day, I’ve been checking on you every day but today is the last day. Nature’s ghost spirits can’t stay that long after their death but remember, your mother is a very good person. She will look after you very well.”

Mia nodded her head and hugged him tightly while crying. He jumped into the well and suddenly a bright light came out from the well.

MOVING TO A NEW HOUSE

The next day Mia's mother came to wake her up, but she found out that Mia was very sick. She didn't know that Mia was sick because she got wet in the rain last night.

Mia stayed at home without going to school. She spent the day playing with her doll who was named Ruby.

Ruby was the last gift Mia's father gave her before he passed away. Ruby was Mia's favourite toy.

That afternoon her mother told her that they were moving to the city and selling their old house. Mia was disappointed and excited at the same time.

She told her mother to pack all her toys and specially Ruby As well. After that she went off to tell her friends about the exciting news.

That night they arrived at their new home.

Mia happily unpacked everything but suddenly she began to cry telling her mother that her doll was not there.

It seems that her mother forgot about Ruby. Mia troubled her mother by telling her to go right now and get her doll back, but it was too dark and her mother promised her that she would get it for her tomorrow, early in the morning.

MIA'S LAST DAY ALIVE

That night Mia couldn't sleep well without hugging her favourite toy.

She decided to go to their old house by herself. She secretly sneaked out without making any noise.

In her previous village, there was no one else at night, but she didn't know that the city had busy roads even at night.

Unaware about the danger that was coming ahead, she crossed the road when suddenly a car came straight towards her.

It hit her and sadly she passed away.

The next day Mia's mother reported to the police station that her daughter was missing.

The police squad kept searching for her near and far, day and night. They even took their police dogs with them.

After a few days Mia's dead body was found near the riverside. Then only they realized that she had died.

They couldn't find who did this to her.

After finding Mia, they called her mother and talked about the situation. At last, they buried her body in the graveyard and the next day they found some evidence as well.

With the help of the evidence, the police were able to track down the vehicle owner who made a hit and run on the girl.

That person told that, the little girl died because he hit her with his car by accident and he didn't want anyone to know about this.

Then thinking it was his fault he pushed her to a river so no one will find her.

MEETING A NEW FRIEND

That night Mia woke up and was very surprised to see herself alone in the middle of a graveyard. Then she found one grave with her name on it. She realized that she was dead.

Mia was worried about her mother and her toy 'Ruby'. Mia Decided to go find Ruby first, since she can't go home and talk with her mother because now that she is a ghost and human can't see or interact with ghosts.

Only a few special kinds of people have this ability. Mia went to her old house which was in the village.

She tried and tried but still couldn't get in because all the doors and windows were locked and the keys were with her mother because Mia's mother was selling the house. She instantly headed back to the house where her mother was, sadly the doors were locked.

She thought of coming back the next day and went to find a place where she could rest. Luckily, she found a small abandoned shelter that seemed like it had been built a few years ago. Mia spent the night there. She felt very cozy in there.

The next day she went to the house where her mother lives. Luckily the doors were open.

When she went in, she saw the sign that had 'Sale' written on it and it was the sign that was outside their old house which was for sale. She knew that their old house was already sold and it belonged to someone else now.

While Mia was at her new home, the other family arrived to Mia's old house. It was that family's new home. In that family there was a girl named Sophie. She was the same age as Mia.

When Sophie and her family came, the first thing that she did was go to her new bedroom and see how it looked like.

She walked around her room when suddenly she found Ruby. She thought to keep the doll.

That night Sophie forgot to close her window before she went to bed. It was Mia's opportunity to get back Ruby. After Sophie went to bed Mia secretly sneaked into her room. She had to go at night because Mia wasn't sure if Sophie was one of those special people who could communicate and see ghosts.

After going in she searched for a long time and finally found her doll but because of the loud noise Sophie woke up to see someone in her room.

She jumped out of her bed and closed the window so that the strange person in her room wouldn't have a way to escape. Mia was frightened and so was Sophie.

‘Stop! please don’t hurt me’ said Mia.

‘Tell me who you are’ Said Sophie.

Mia introduced herself and explained everything to Sophie with every little detail.

Sophie was shocked to hear the story and to know that she was talking to a ghost that was her age.

Sophie and mia had an agreement.

Sophie promised Mia that she would keep her window open every night so that they could play with Ruby every night. This was the beginning of their friendship.

Both played together every night.

SOPHIE'S DEATH

One morning there was an accident.

Sophie was playing with Ruby, and she accidentally broke the doll. She didn't think about it that much.

That night Sophie stayed up the whole night waiting for Mia. She didn't arrive at the usual time. So, Sophie went back to sleep.

After a while Mia came. As soon as she saw Sophie Mia was worried thinking that Sophie must have been very sleepy and tired.

She didn't attend to wake her up. Mia quietly picked up Ruby. She was very mad to see her favourite toy broken.

She didn't think twice. Mia grabbed a knife and stabbed Sophie to take revenge not knowing that this was an accident happened by Sophie.

The next few days anyone didn't have any clue that lead to find out who Sophie's murderer was.

BEING REBORN

Both the girls were reborn as siblings. Sophie had no memory of the past life, but Mia did.

As the girls grew older Mia stopped talking to her younger sister Sophie because she always had old flashbacks of her old family and her favourite toy. Even though her new family is very wealthy and kind, she always thought about her late father in her past life.

FATHER'S SECRET

One day when Mia was walking around her father's workroom, she found a diary.

She took it, sat in a corner and began to read it.

It told about a girl called Mia who was friends with a girl called Sophie and Mia died in a car accident.

All of this happened in her previous life. It seemed like the girl in the diary and the girl who is reading the diary are the same person.

Mia understood that her present life father is her old father from her past life because the diary mentioned that Mia was his daughter in his previous life.

The truth is Mia's father didn't know that his daughter from his past life is the same person in his present life. He was reborn as well.

After a while her father arrived home, after work.

She asked him why he named her and her sister "Mia and Sophie". Her father pretended that he didn't know anything and told that it was his and their mother's choice, but he was suddenly shocked to see his diary in his daughter's hand.

Mia asked him how he remembered about his past life. He said that it was his ability.

Mia surprised him even more by saying that she could remember her past life as well and she was his daughter in his past life.

Tears came down her father's eyes. They hugged each other and decided to keep this as a secret between themselves and not tell Mia's mother and Sophie.

THE HUNTED TEDDY BEAR

One day her mother wanted to buy Sophie and Mia a teddy bear but after bringing the teddy home, everything began happening unusually.

Like, the girls kept getting scared for some reason, they had horrible nightmares when they slept with the teddy bear beside them, they told different, cruel things while sleeping and even began to sleepwalk. They always felt like something was following them.

This kept happening for a few days.

As the days passed there was a murder crime talked among everyone where Mia lived.

It was a girl named Linda who was murdered.

The police inspected that house and found the same teddy bear that Mia had.

Since that day Linda's mother always felt like someone was always with her when she was home alone.

One day some guests came to their house and while they were talking, the guests saw something quickly running up the stairs even when every member in the house were together downstairs at that moment.

The family had experienced weird stuff like this after their daughter was murdered.

They wanted to know about what more terrifying things that will happen to them in the future. So, they went to meet a fortune teller.

She said that there was a cursed object in their house. She told the cursed object was something that their daughter used a lot and was the reason/murderer of Linda's death.

That night the family heard noises that sounded like Linda's voice from the room where the teddy bear was. The family suspected the teddy bear as the cursed object because Linda used to play with it a lot.

The next night they fixed a camera in that room and left.

They were shocked with the result.

The teddy bear walked around the room, its eyes turned red and it pulled out a knife from the toy basket and jumped out from the window. After some time, he returned and sat down in the same place and stayed still like nothing happened.

Linda's family was horrified by seeing the CCTV camera footage.

They immediately threw away the teddy bear and reported to the police station with the recorded camera video as proof to prove that the teddy bear was alive. Still, they weren't sure if it was a Skinwalker or something else.

After a few days this teddy factory was shut down. It was banned. After knowing the news Mia and her family threw away their teddy as well because it was the same kind.

THE EMPTY SCHOOL

Time passed by happily. Everything was very normal.

Mia and Sophie went to school, made new friends and they began to talk more often. Mia forgot all about her past life.

One day Mia and Sophie went to school. The playground was empty. The school hallways were empty. They searched each classroom.

No one was there. No teachers or students were there to be found.

Frightened, the girls went to the office. They found a phone on the table.

Mia picked up the phone and dialed their parents' number, but no one answered the call.

They tried and tried but still no one answered. With no way to communicate with their parents, they put the phone in their bag and decided to go home by themselves.

As soon as they reached the school gate, it closed by itself.

Terrified and bored, both of them went to the library to read a book and calm themselves down.

At first Mia refused to go to the library because she thought it was going to be boring but she agreed to go because Sophie convinced her.

In the library it was quiet and dusty.

As Sophie walked around the library, she found a book with a note sticking out from it.

She was too short to reach it. So, she called Mia. Luckily, she was tall enough to reach the book.

It was a bit dusty but had a hard cover. It looked a bit different from the other books.

They read the little note. It had “THE LIBRARY SECRETS” written on it.

The book was a journal that was written by the first librarian of that library.

The journal contained stories about,

the school's past, town's past, secrets about forgotten places, school's secret places and many happy moments/ events that happened in the school.

Mia, who first refused to go to the library, began to like the library as much as Sophie did.

After spending time in the library, they headed out. It was very dark. The school was still empty.

The full moon rising, stars shining, clocks ticking and two young girls in the school ground with no adults around.

The wind blew faster, them feeling colder and everything in silence. They went to the gate and this time it opened by itself.

MIDNIGHT TRAIN

The girls' home is far away from the school. So, the only way was to go in the train.

Mia and Sophie arrived at the train station and got on the train. When Mia looked back, she realized that Sophie was missing. She was worried about her.

There were only a few passengers on board. The train had yellow seats with wooden bars as well.

Mia sat down beside a girl that looked about her age.

Suddenly the train sped up.

Mia looked outside the window.

She was shocked to see the younger version of herself and Sophie's younger version outside but not talking to each other.

Mia was confused. She asked the girl beside her about the situation.

“Do you know why I can see my younger self outside?” asked Mia.

“Oh...no you don't understand. Not everyone can see the same thing. This is the midnight train. When you get on, the train continues to move forward a little bit quicker. When it is midnight, you begin to see your own moments that you regret from outside the window. It's because you shouldn't always live in the past, thinking about

the things you regretted doing in the past. After you stop thinking about those things a red button will appear near your seat and after you press it you can get off the train alive but if you don't stop thinking about them until the train reaches the final station you will die." Explained the girl.

Mia looked outside and felt very sad about always not talking and not spending happy time with Sophie even though she treated Mia very well.

Mia told herself that she would treat her sister with even more care from that day on and stop thinking about the time she didn't treat her.

At that moment a red button appeared next to her.

Mia was scared. So, she closed her eyes and pressed the button.

RETURNING HOME

When Mia opened her eyes she was lying on a bench at the train station. Sophie was sitting beside her and it was already morning.

It seems that after Mia got on the train the doors closed, so Sophie couldn't get on because of that she waited in the train station all night until Mia arrived.

They got on a bus and went home together.

Their parents were worried about them.

Mia and Sophie told them all about what happened to them. Their parents were surprised.

After a few months the family moved to another country and bought a new house. The girls went to a new school. Everyone lived happily ever after.

AFTERWORD

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 store house of human knowledge- Mahamaya Girls’ College has spearheaded the “Hemamala Upahara” project for many years. It’s primary object use are to foster academic discipline, promote values, and pay tribute to princess Hemamala, who fulfilled a historic mission to empower woman.

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.

Senewirathna Mahalekam

(project creator)

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