

A Trip to Sri Lanka



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Dedication

**To my parents,
for your love, support and all the sacrifices
you made for me.**



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.

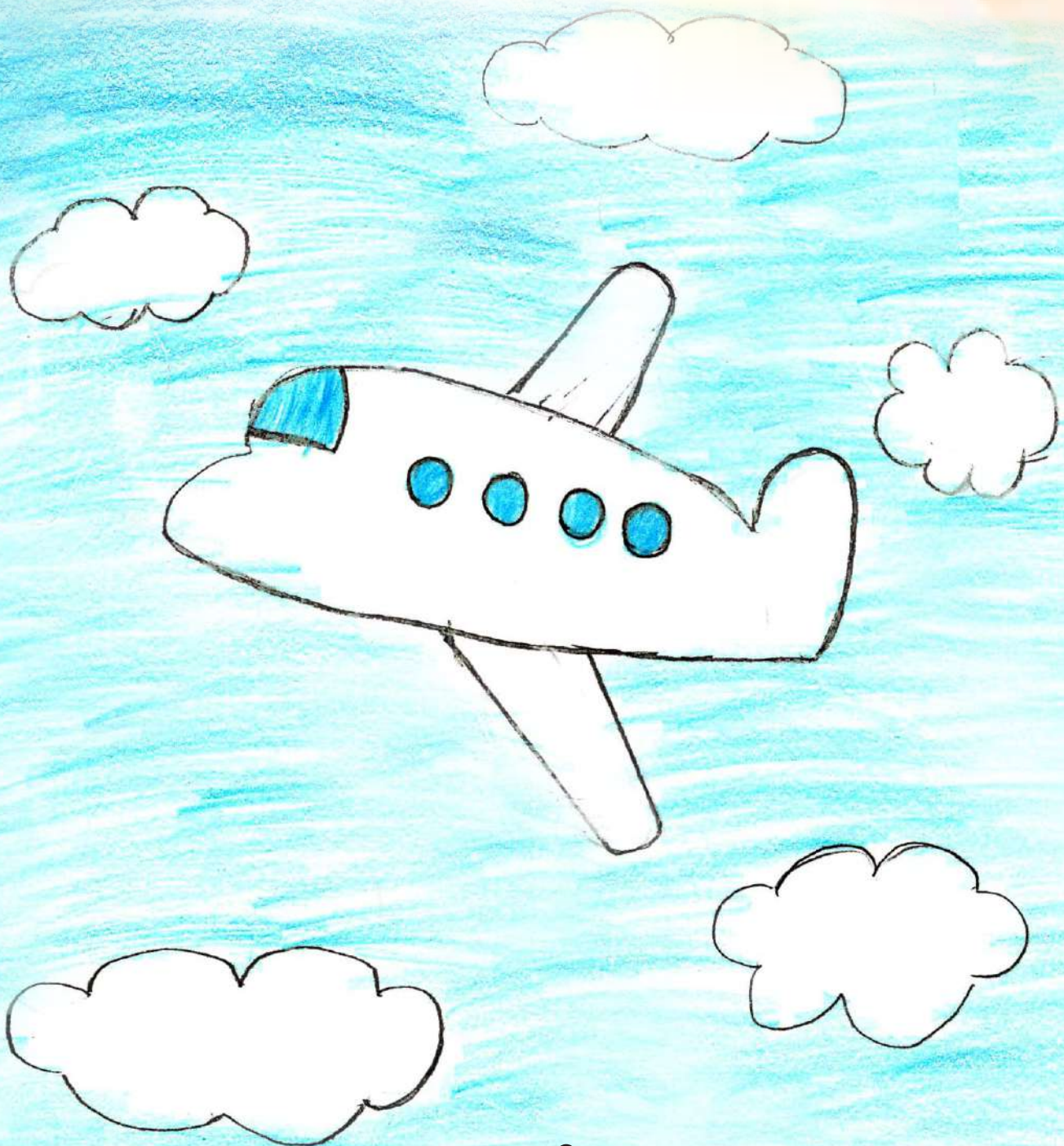
May all activities of the Hemamala Tribute Book Creation Project be successful through the blessings of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

Pradeep Nilanga Dela
Diyawadana Nilame,
Sri Dalada Maligawa.
2026.05.10.

There is a little girl named Lila, who lives in London with her parents and her elder brother Jack. The family decided to visit Sri Lanka on their vacation last year.

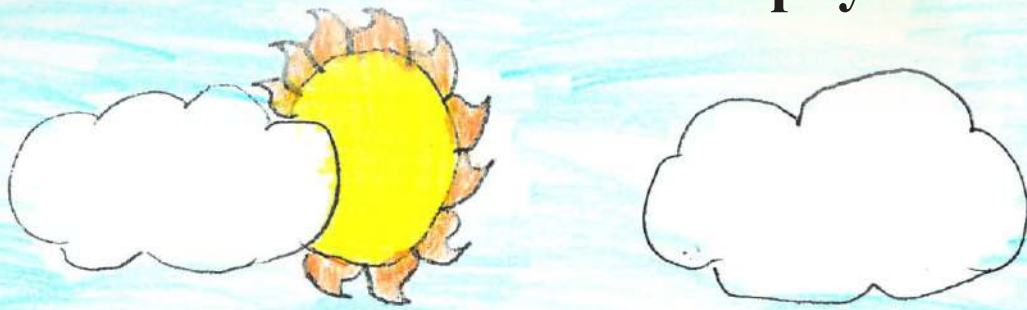


They came to Sri Lanka by plane. They visited many famous places in Sri Lanka. They went to Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Kataragama, Trincomalee, Sigiriya, Nuwara Eliya and Kandy.



First, Lila, Jack and their parents visited many religious places such as Ruwanweli stupa, Sri Maha Bodhi, Jethawana stupa, Abhayagiri stupa, Lankarama stupa and Thuparamaya in Anuradhapura.

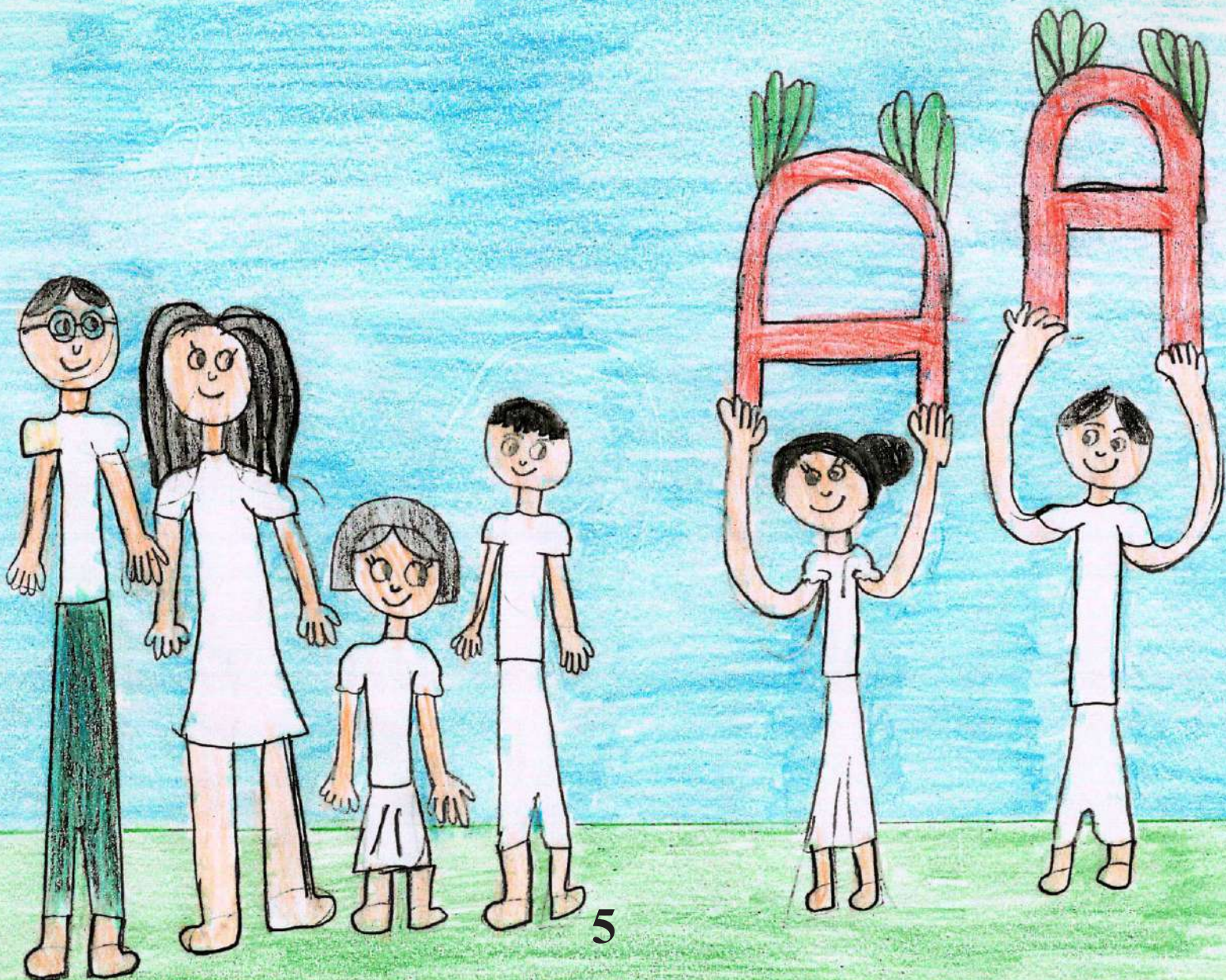
They also saw Moonstone, Kuttam Pokuna, Guard Stone and Lowamahapaya.



They visited the Hambantota birds park while going to Kataragama. They saw cockatoos, toucans, parrots, peacocks, flamingoes, cassowaries, ostriches and swans which belong to many countries.



Then, Lila and her family went to Kataragama Dewalaya and Kiriwehera. They joined the poojawa at Kataragama Dewalaya and also enjoyed Kawadi dances at parade.



In Trincomalee, Lila and her family visited the Koneswaram Hindu Temple. They saw Ravana's Cleft at there. They bathed at the Marble Beach.



Afterwards, they went to the Lion's Rock and saw the ruins of the ancient fortress made by King Kashyapa. The Sigiri frescoes were remarkable. They also saw the wonderful gardens and water fountains built at the sides of the rock.



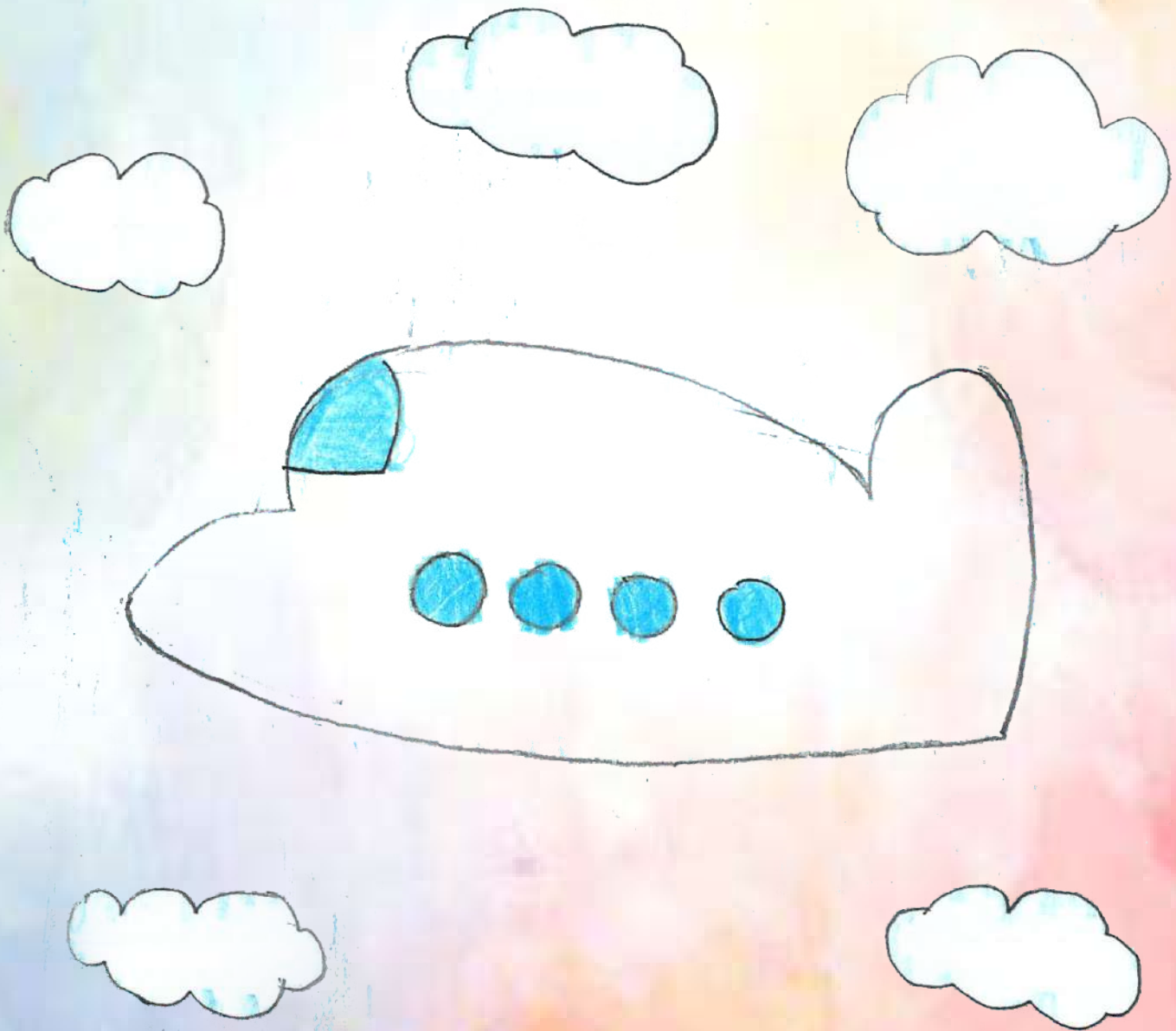
In Nuwara Eliya, Lila and her family visited the Haggala garden and Victoria park. They saw roses and many other flowers there. They went on a boat ride in the Gregory lake. They also visited Piduruthalagala, the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka.



At last, they visited the Temple of the Tooth Relic and Peradeniya botanical garden in Kandy.



Lila, Jack and their parents saw how beautiful Sri Lanka is. After the vacation they went back to London safely. This was the most wonderful vacation they had spent in their lifetime.





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 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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