

All About Me

part - 4



Senuli Rashwitha Menon

All About me - 4

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Other stories

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- All about me - 1
- All About Me - Part 2 & 3

2026 May 10

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DEDICATION

With great pleasure and honour,
I present this book, “ **All About me - 4**”
to my ever-loving mother, father, sister,
and family.

To my dear friends, and the dedicated
teachers and principals who have
shaped my journey,
this work is a testament of my gratitude and
appreciation for the invaluable roles you've
played in my life.

Thank you for your unwavering support,
guidance, and love.



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.

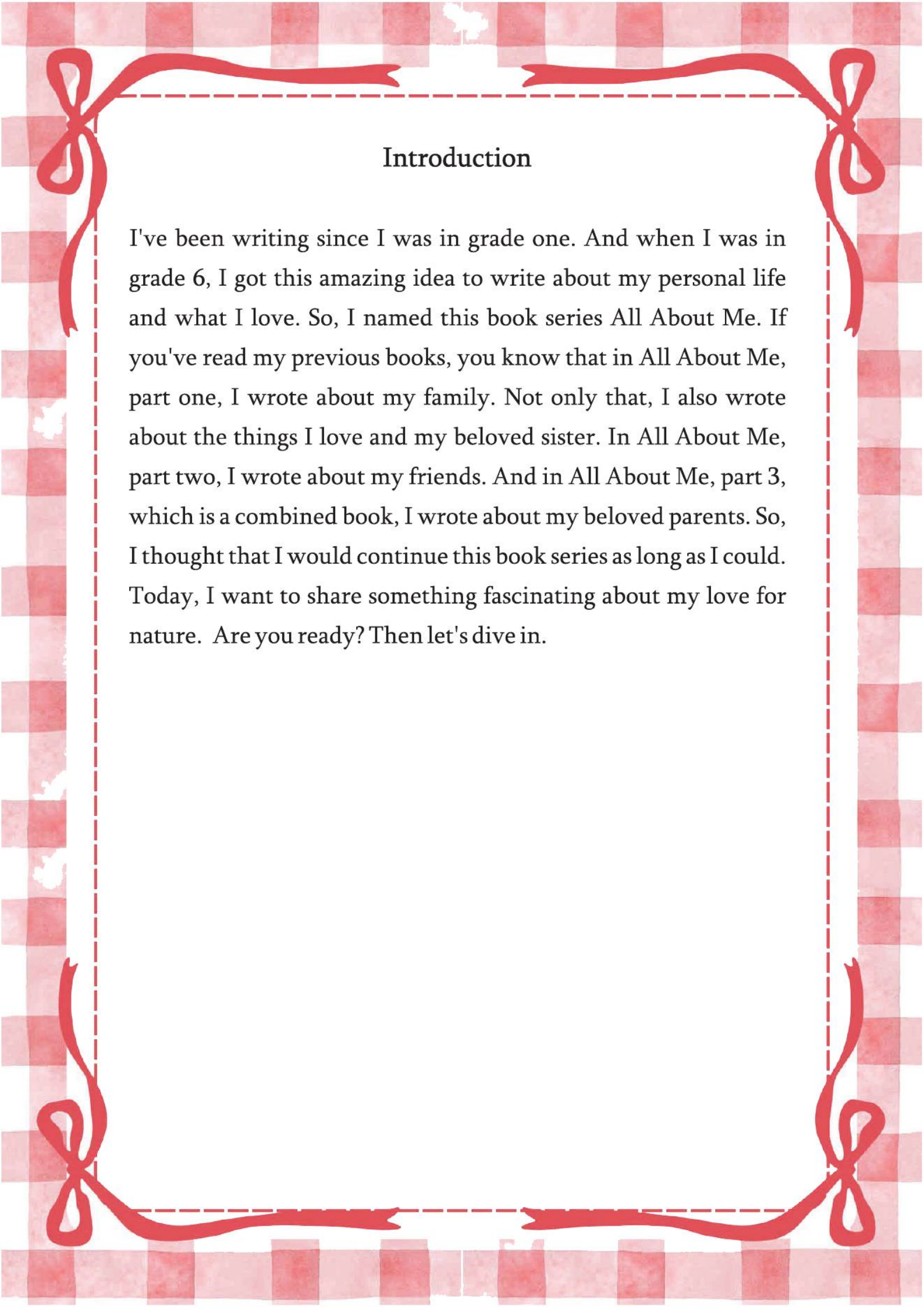
May all activities of the Hemamala Tribute Book Creation Project be successful through the blessings of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

Pradeep Nilanga Dela

Diyawadana Nilame,

Sri Dalada Maligawa.

2026.05.10.



Introduction

I've been writing since I was in grade one. And when I was in grade 6, I got this amazing idea to write about my personal life and what I love. So, I named this book series All About Me. If you've read my previous books, you know that in All About Me, part one, I wrote about my family. Not only that, I also wrote about the things I love and my beloved sister. In All About Me, part two, I wrote about my friends. And in All About Me, part 3, which is a combined book, I wrote about my beloved parents. So, I thought that I would continue this book series as long as I could. Today, I want to share something fascinating about my love for nature. Are you ready? Then let's dive in.

Chapter 2

The picturesque dream as a little girl who loves nature and animals, I had a picturesque dream: to have my own pet. I thought taking care of a pet was easy as pie.

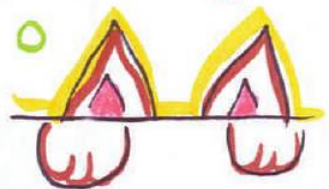
But now, sometimes I feel that it is not. But my love for pets has never changed. I always wanted to open a pet store.

I don't know why. I thought that pets were adorable, cute, and great companions. And this is where my picturesque dream starts to find its way.



I love lots of different kinds of pets. Do you know which ones I love the most? Fish, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, like budgies and parrots, frogs, and beautiful colour-changing geckos.

And frogs and beautiful color-changing geckos. I love them all. So, let's see where my pet life starts from. Ready, set, puppy dog eyes!



Chapter 3

At this time in my life, I was about six years old. I badly wanted a pet. Every time I saw a stray cat or dog, I begged my mom and dad to buy me a pet.

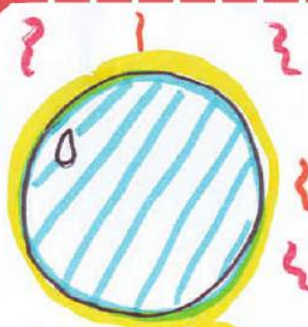
But they said that I was too young to take on such a big responsibility. I guess it was probably because my sister was a teeny-tiny, chunky two year-old baby, and she was kind of hard to handle. But I was so sad, even though I knew that I couldn't have a cat or a dog. About two years later, after work, my mom came to me and told me that she had a big surprise.

I couldn't help myself; even though I didn't know what it was, I hugged my mom tightly. Then my mom took me outside. It was a beautiful fish tank with two beautiful goldfish.

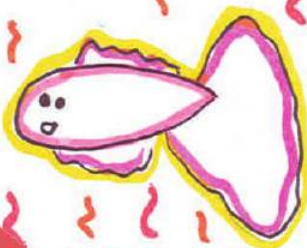
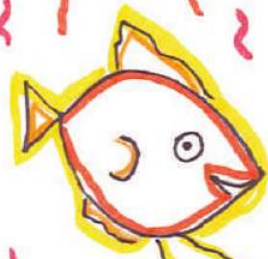
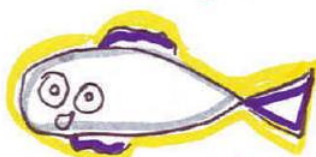
One was for me, and the other was for my sister. I was so happy.

Even though I wanted a cat or a dog the most, I still loved it. Because I had a real-life pet for myself.





Fishies



I didn't have to be sad anymore. So, I hugged my mom once more. Well, about the fishes.

My fish was named Sunshine. Because it was, it had a beautiful golden body. And my sister's fish had a gray body with a cute red spot on the head, and she named her Rosie.

Fancy name, isn't it? We loved them. We took care of them as well as we could, but one day, I found my fish dead in the tank floating.

I was so sad. I didn't know what to do. I cried for about one day.

And then I realized that everything that we love isn't forever. Well, I didn't have a choice. But to bury it in the backyard.

Then, once more, my mom surprised me. With another gold-colored fish, but this time, it was a Gurami.

It was gold too.

Its name was Goldie. I loved it. Well, my sister's fish and my fish both weren't the same breed, but they got along together very easily. Then after about a year, my sister's fish was gone. And my mom thought that Goldie felt a little lonely.

So, we bought another fishy. This time, it was black and gray, beautiful, and its name was Lolly. But it wasn't as beautiful as I thought.

It was evil, so aggressive.

Unfortunately, it killed Goldie.

I was so sad. Years later, we moved from our old house to the house that we live in now.

Lolly still lives alone in that same old cute tank. Alone. I guess it likes being alone.

It's kind of funny. Even though we had Lolly, we had the weird feeling that we did not have a pet anymore. I didn't know what to do.

And then, Mom took us to another aquarium. And we bought the most beautiful betta fish. We bought two of them. My sister's fish was red and midnight blue, and mine was silvery gray.



Bird's



Very beautiful, and my one was a silvery gray. My sister's betta was named Rui. And my fighter fish was named Sapphire.

Well, in case you don't know this, betta fish and fighter fish are the same. But we couldn't keep them in the same bowl. As you can see by the name, they fight a lot. So, we had to keep them separately. Still, these little fish live happily in the underwater world. Here is a fun fact about my best friend, Miru, whom you should know if you read my previous books.

Miru. She has a whole school of fish. A school of fish?

Yes. Her fish tank is literally huge. It's basically a fishpond indoors.

There are 1000000s and 1000000000s of beautiful giant fish in it. Well, she's a fish lover just like me. But I had this one feeling: the fish and I just did not have that connection.



Bird's



Chapter 4 birdies

As you know, birds are fun pets and some of the most beautiful animals you can have at home. These include budgies, parrots, and even cute little lovebirds that love to cuddle with their own breed. I never got a chance to have a bird of my own.

But I still loved watching how they had fun around our house. I've seen a lot of birds roaming around our environment. I love to see birds fly in the evening sky.

I often watch the birds eat from a bird feeder. I love to see the beautiful magpies and mynas eat and enjoy a water bath. We see more than just these birds.

Sometimes we saw parrots, beautiful green birds with red necklaces, a wonder of nature.

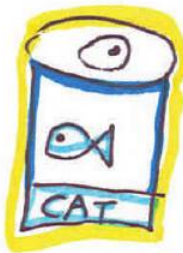
We also saw eagles, which are brave, beautiful, and amazing birds.

I love how they fly. They don't flap much. They fly like they're floating in the sky.

I wish I was free as a bird. Not only that, but we also rarely see the most beautiful dancer in the animal world: the peacock.



Kitty



The peacock, with beautiful blue and green wings, dances around our house and flies up into the sky. I didn't get to pet a have a bird as a pet, but my cousin Dulanya did.

They have four pet birds. 2 of them are budgies, and the other 2 are colorful parrots. They're very cute and fun to play with. Some of them died because of an attack by an evil Shikra.

It is also known as the Kurulugoya in Sinhala. When I visit them in Colombo, I love to feed them. I've touched a budgie named Bubbles. They're such cute pets.

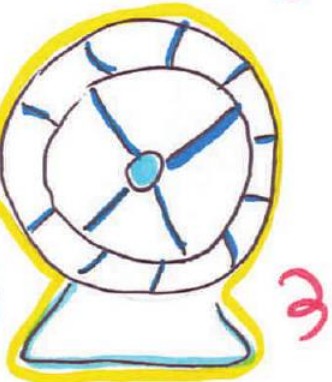


Doggies





Hamster



Chapter 5

Cats

The next pet I'm going to tell you about is the cat.

Here is a fun fact about cats. Cats are very clean, adorable, and really cute. Cats are furry and such good friends. I love cats because they're fun. Speaking of fun, someone in our family had a cat. Can you guess? Yes, my oldest cousin.

Sin Andy had the kitty cat. Um, that was about 3 years or 4 years back when she was in junior school, I guess. It was cute.

Fluffy. White and black spots all over. Just about one ear.

I had so much fun when I visited them. I used to feed him and tickle him; they were such fun experiences. It used to climb up that one tree and come back late at night.

Cheeky, kitty, cat. But after some time, the cat went missing.

They called for it but never found it. Well, that's the problem with having pets. Anyways, speaking about my own cat life.

I've never had my own cat. But when we moved from Aniwatta to Mapanavatura, the house came with a cat.

So funny. The house owner did not know that there was a cat. I think someone left it out.

It was a beautiful Persian cat with an orange coat. We named it Ginger. Well, many accidents happened with him.



Hamster



The first incident was Ginger biting our grandma. You know, my grandma, or Ato, has a little problem with her legs, but she is very, very kind and nice. She never hurts animals. One day she went outside and sat on a cement tea table.

And Ginger came and bit her hand. What a naughty kitty. Ginger used to sneak into our house too. One day when we were having lunch, I felt a strange thing on my foot. I thought it was just the flow or something, but when I looked down, it was ginger.

Sneaky kitty. Well, we used to have an attic that went all up towards the sky. It was so fun to stay there.

Ginger used to sneak in there too. Well, it was fun having ginger. I used to send photos of Ginger's funny dramas to my friends. I even fed him. But when we moved from Mapanawatura to the house where we live now,



I felt so sad. It was just like having my own kitty. But I had no choice but to leave him.

But I still have ginger deep down in my heart. And another fun thing is, at my school, there's a pack of kitties. Well, a cat was pregnant and decided to have her babies in a dancing room. And the kitties were so cute, but they were taken away. Well, cats are interesting.



Chapter 6



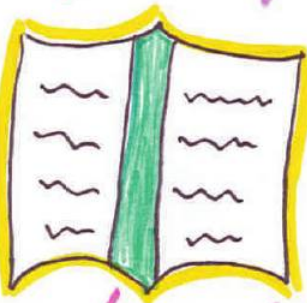
My favorite pet, as always, is the dog. Well, out of all the pets in the whole wide world.

Can you guess who my favorite is? Like yesterday, like tomorrow. Like now.

Puppy dog? I love dogs so much. Well, there's a saying, "Dogs are man's best friend," so that is probably the reason.

Talking about my dog experiences, there were so many, starting with our next-door neighbors.

Well, when I was in Mapanavatura with Ginger, our next-door neighbor had two cute puppies. I still remember all their details. One was a cute terrier, black and white, fluffy.



His name was Woofy. The other was a short, tiny pug dog with a golden coat and cute puppy eyes.



We used to go and play with them after school on Saturday afternoons. After some time, our little woofy got a friend.



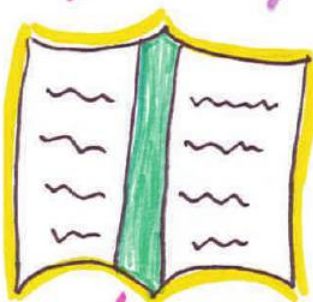
And her name was Emily. Woofy and Emily got along so well. And Emily had a beautiful coat.

But after some time, her real owner came to take her back to Australia. And as we were about to leave Mapanawatura, about one month before we were about to leave Mapanawatura, a new family member joined the group.



Snowy was a tiny terrier, just like Woofy. I guess they're siblings.

Another doggy memory of mine was with my favorite older cousin, and my only older cousin, Senandy. After the kitty went missing.



She got a dog. And it was her luck. You know why?



It was just like her. I still think they match. They're so alike.

Well, I don't know the breed of the dog, but it had a thin brown coat and was a cute little guy named Brownie. Well, the sad thing is after about 2 years, Brownie got sick.

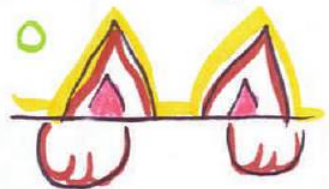
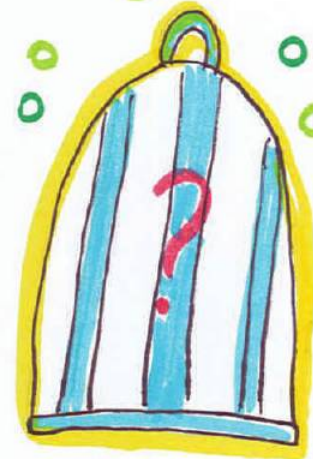
My younger cousin, Dulania, made fun of him and called him the dancing dog. Well, because Brownie used to shiver, so she said, "He's cold."

I guess that was what the disease was. But luckily, he is recovering now.

And what I like the most about Brownie is, Every time we are sad, his beautiful dance and his jumping up and jumping up and down cheer us up.

It's so very fun. Well, Brownie often pops his head under the gate until my cousin comes home from school. What a cutie.

True love. Not only that. In the many houses next to my cousin's house, there are lots of dogs.

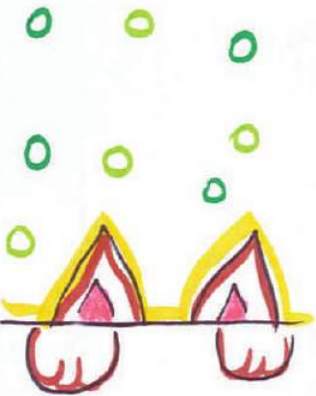




Many different types. Terriers, bulldogs, German shepherds, and even huskies. Amazing.



Well, now, currently, we don't have a dog. But we do have 2 dogs in our neighborhood. They're the guard dogs of our street.



The guard dogs of our street are Leah and Bunty. Well, I guess they are mother and son, well, they don't get along very well. Something to say about Leah is.



She's very protective. She protects us wherever we go around the street. And the same with Bunty. They are such good protectors, and another dog near our street had two cute puppies. One black and one coffee brown, so cute. We love them.

We even came so close to adopting one, but before we knew it, they were both gone.

What a sad coincidence. Sad. Well, I've been begging for a puppy forever and ever.

In grade 2, I asked my mom for a puppy. And then she said, "You weren't responsible enough and didn't know how to take responsibility, although you thought you did."

And then she promised me that she'd get a dog when I was ready. When I asked her about two years later, when I was in grade 4, she said that she'd get me a puppy after scholarship.

And I agreed. I kind of wanted to sign a contract, but I didn't want to force her.



Bird's



I knew whenever the time was right, I would get a puppy. So, after scholarship, I asked my mom for the puppy, and she said, "You know, we can't take on such a responsibility. We're busy parents, so we'll get your puppy as soon as we go to our new house."

So here we are, three after coming to the new house, and still no puppy.

My mom promised me this time, she'd get me a puppy as soon as I grew up a teeny- tiny bit more. Well, I'm waiting patiently. You know.

Someday my mom might surprise me with my dream dog.



Bird's



Chapter 7

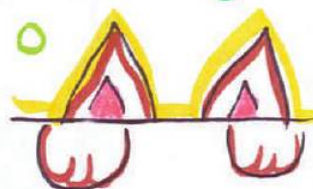
Ham Ham Ham

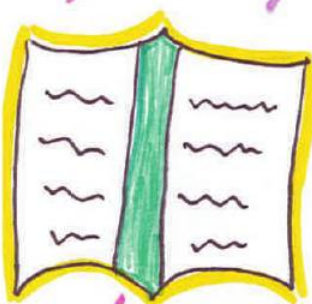
Well, you might wonder how hamsters came into my mind. In Sri Lanka, we have lots of house rats and mice, and every time we caught one, I used to feed it and pet it. So, I had this desire to have a rat as a pet. And that seemed hilarious to my mom and dad. So, I searched online for another option. Maybe something like a rat, a guinea pig.

And then I found the ham hams. Yes, hamsters. At first my mom and dad thought they were house rats, and my grandfather said that it was an Australian rat. I didn't believe it. Weird. Anyways, I asked ChatGPT.

The hero of answers. So, he said that hamsters weren't rats or mice. Well, they are rodents, but they are scientifically distant cousins, so no worries.

Well, I asked my mom and dad about hamsters and about getting one, but they didn't really want to buy me one, probably because they look like rats. Well, none of my friends have hamsters. They are not very popular.





But I didn't stop my journey. I did a lot of search about hamsters. Well, not the kind of research that I do for some kind of competition, just for fun, you know?

If you do something for fun, it can turn out to be real, so I believed it. I did lots of research, and I found tips from number one to one hundred. And now, I knew that it was time to ask my parents, convince them, and show them how deeply I needed a pet.

So, I went straight away and told them that I needed a hamster very badly. And I knew that my mom and dad would say no, but surprisingly, they said, "We'll see."

I was very happy because "We'll see" is an answer that most likely means, "Okay, let's try it." I loved it.

So, I did more research. And guess what? I found many interesting facts about hamsters. And some of them are: If the temperature is lower than 50 degrees, they go into hibernation immediately.

I loved him, and I couldn't thank my mom and dad enough.

If you don't know the meaning of hibernation, they eat lots of food, go straight to sleep, and wake up when the sun shines. So, that was something interesting, and, many hamsters have cheek pouches, like mini skinny grocery bags to store their food for a long time. That was fun.

And, there are three main types of pet hamsters, Syrian hamsters, the big fluffy ones. The medium-sized hamsters are called dwarf hamsters, and the Roburoski hamsters are the tiny, cute, rapid runners.

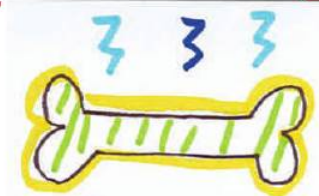


It was very fun, just thinking about them. Well, I learned many more tips. I could say 100s of things that are related to hamsters.

I was so excited, and my mom and dad finally approved. And we went to give the measurements for the cages. Another fun fact is, hamsters are really good runners.

They're born to run. So, they need a large cage, if you get them a small wire cage, they get stressed, and they could chew off the wires, or even monkey bar climb. That is a sign of stress.

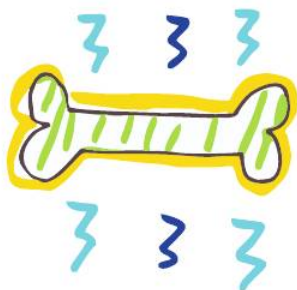
I didn't want that for my hamster. So we decided to build it a glass tank, and put all the bedding in with all the enrichment it needs, a wheel, a drinking bottle, and a sand bath, most importantly, well, another fun fact I forgot to tell you was, hamsters never bathe in water. It's not good for their furry coats. So, a sand bath is essential, and a balanced meal. I couldn't believe that I'm going to get a hamster. Well, I couldn't stop thinking about it.



Doggies



So, every day, I watched at least one hamster video before I went to sleep. I was so happy. The day I had been waiting for was here. I went to a pet store in Colombo and got my hamster, a real-life hamster, white, fluffy, and serene with cute cheek pouches. Finally, my dream came true. I loved him, and I couldn't thank my mom and dad enough.



Doggies



Doggies



Chapter 8

Overall experience. Well, I had lots of fun experiences with pets. I had fun cuddling them.

I had fun playing with them. They helped me a lot when I was sad. They made me happy when I was angry. They reminded me how calm they are. And when I was anxious or stressed out, they helped me with their water dance, jumps, and even their little legs.

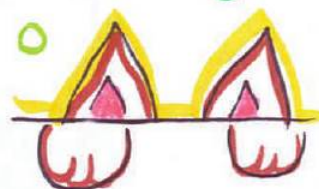
Not only that. They made me who I am now. Taking care of them is something that I loved, but something that was uneasy.

They helped me become a person who can take on big responsibilities and risks. Not only that. I can say okay to anything that happens because I know the truth of life.

Well, not everything about life, but. Every time I had to say goodbye to one of the pets I loved, I learned a new lesson.

I learned what's true. Saying goodbye wasn't that easy. It was hard.

But with every farewell, I learned and improved.



And sometimes I had to listen to other opinions about me and my pet life. They might say, "This wasn't the appropriate choice. I wasn't made to have a pet."

But I say to all these people, "I made the right choice." Because pets are the kind of companions that help you improve.

They might do certain naughty things like biting. But they still help you in many other ways. So, that's why I chose my future goal: to become an animal biologist.

To become an animal biologist. But mostly related to pets, of course. Because I love them from the bottom of my heart.

If you truly love someone, they will love you too. So, love your pet, and they will love you too.





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)