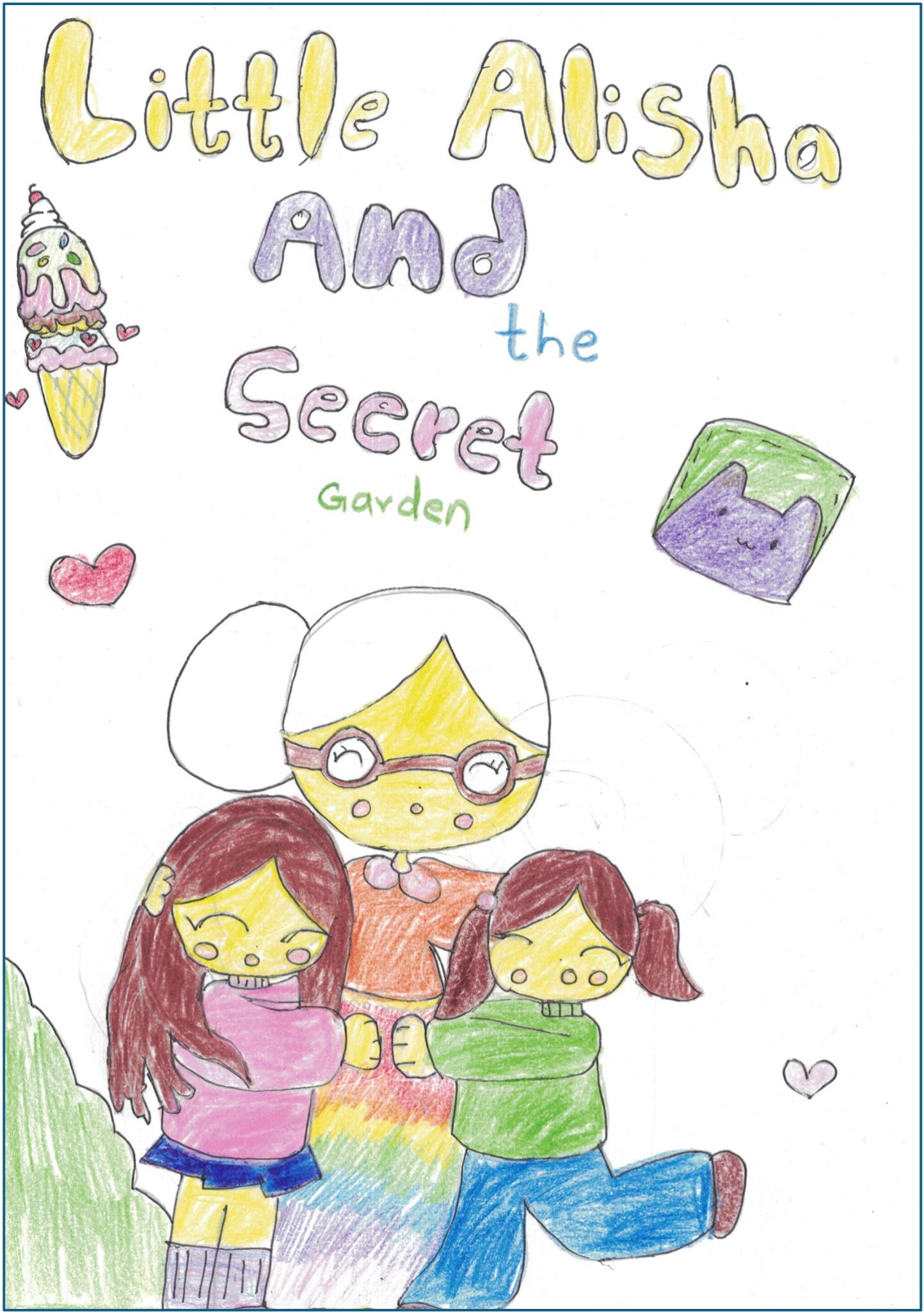

Mihindi Methsandi Yapa

Little Alisha and the Secret Garden

Story and Arts

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Author's other publications

- සමනල පැංචී
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Mahamaya Girls College, Kandy

Grade 5B

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Dedication

To my loving Amma, Thaththa, Seeya, Ayya and all my teachers who were behind me in this journey.

Special dedication to aunty Kathy.

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.

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

Little Alisha and the Secret Garden

Once upon a time in a faraway land there lived a little girl named Alisha. Alisha lived with her grandmother.

Her grandmother worked in a flower shop. Every morning Alisha and her grandmother went to a garden that nobody knew. That garden was inside a giant bush, no one else could see it. That garden was beautiful, filled with singing birds, dancing flowers, clean blue water streams, playing animals, trees full of fruits and many more beautiful things.

One day, Alisha's friend Lucy came to visit. When Lucy came to see her, Alisha was upset. Lucy asked, "Why are you so upset?"

Then Alisha replied, “my grandmother told me that she is leaving the house”.

“Why is your grandmother leaving?” Lucy asked Alisha.

“Well, my grandmother lost her job, so we can’t make money and because of that my grandmother needs to find a new job”, said Alisha.

Meanwhile, grandmother came out of the house and stopped in front of Alisha and Lucy. “Now I need to leave. Goodbye, my dear. Take care until I come back.", said grandmother.

“Lucy, please take care of Alisha until I come back”, grandmother said to Lucy. Lucy nodded her head.

Alisha sadly said, "Goodbye, Grandmother. I hope you will find a job soon." "Oh! Thank you, my dear," said Grandmother, and she left.

The next morning Alisha woke up and went to school with Lucy. They were late to school, but

luckily the teacher wasn't there in the class. Oh! it's good that teacher isn't in the class said Lucy.

Yes, it's good, Alisha also replied.

“The teacher is coming” everyone whispered. “Good morning children, today’s lesson is how to be a good person…”

"Oh, this lesson is boring," whispered Lucy. "Yes, yes, I know," said Alisha.

During the lesson, Alisha had fallen asleep, and the teacher said, "Dear Alisha, you were sleeping during the lesson. Why couldn't you have a good sleep last night?" “Oh, I…I am sorry teacher” said Alsiha.

Then the school bell rang, and the teacher said, “That's enough for the day. Class is over. Goodbye, everyone!". Everyone left the school.

Alisha went home with Lucy and then said, “Lucy, now you go to your home and come back later.”

Lucy was confused and upset. "Bye, Alisha," Lucy said sadly, and she went.

After Lucy left, Alisha went into the secret garden. She sat on a rock and got some fresh air. She watched birds and butterflies flying around

and listened to the music of squirrels. She talked with the animals and enjoyed her surroundings. After spending some time, she came out of the secret garden and went to her room.

After a while, Lucy came back and asked, “why did you ask me to leave?”

“Because it wasn’t a good time for me to talk with you”, said Alisha.

“Oh! OK then it is fine” said Lucy.

They spent the evening playing and talking.

Later that evening, Lucy said to Alisha, “tomorrow is a holiday, so what shall we do?”

“Hmm…oh let’s go to the town and do some shopping and have fun”, said Alisha.

“That’s great…” Lucy said.

Next day…

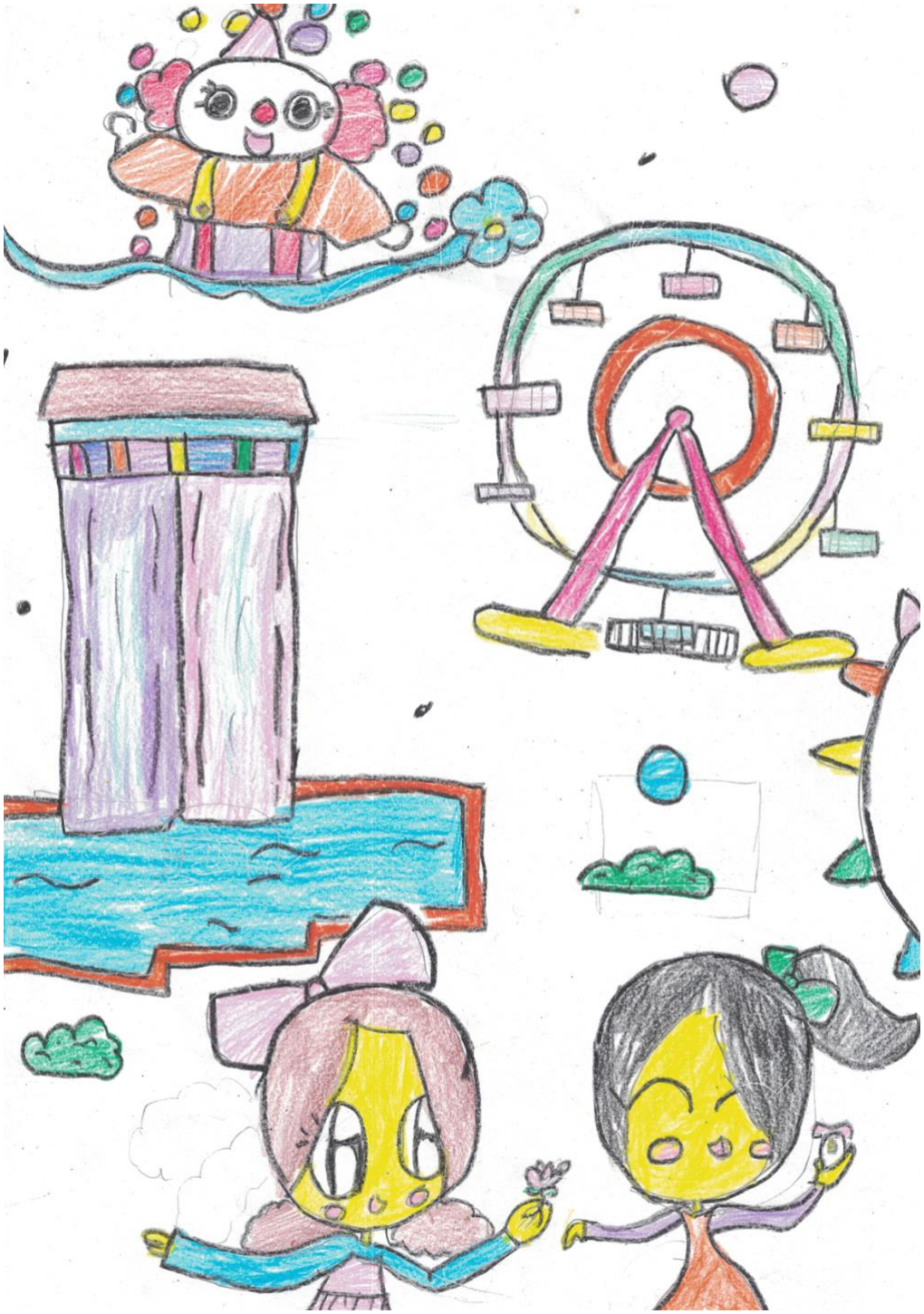
“Wow… this candy is amazing…” Lucy said showing Alisha a Candy shop.

“Yes, it’s cool, let’s go there”, said Alisha.

Alisha and Lucy went to that candy shop. There were a large number of different candies

with different sizes, different colours and with different scents. They bought some sweets and they were yummy.

Then they went to the Carnival in the city. There were many colourful events in the Carnival. Alisha and Lucy enjoyed roller coasters, water slides, merry-go-round and watched a circus show. After the circus, Lucy and Alisha went to a nearby restaurant and had dinner. They had great fun the whole day. When they got back home, Lucy was tired and went to sleep saying “Good night” to Alisha.



“Good night Lucy”, said Alisha. But Alisha was not sleepy, Alisha woke up at midnight and decided to go to her secret garden.

She took her pillow and went to the secret garden. It was a magical moonlit night in the secret garden. Beautiful flowers were dancing to the songs sung by the birds. Other animals were playing, butterflies were flying everywhere, and there were full of fruits on the trees. Alisha did not sleep at all. She forgot to go to school. The

whole day, she enjoyed herself in the secret garden.

In the evening she was surprised to see her grandmother in the garden with a nice smile. Her grandmother happily cuddled Alisha and said, “I missed you so much my darling, I got a good job and money”.

As the new working place of grandmother is far away, few days later they went to a new house. Also, a new family came to Alisha's old house, but they couldn't find the secret garden ever.

Alisha didn’t forget to visit their old village with her grandmother during the holidays and play with her friend Lucy. Also, Alisha and her grandmother didn’t fail to visit the secret garden without telling anyone else their secret.

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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