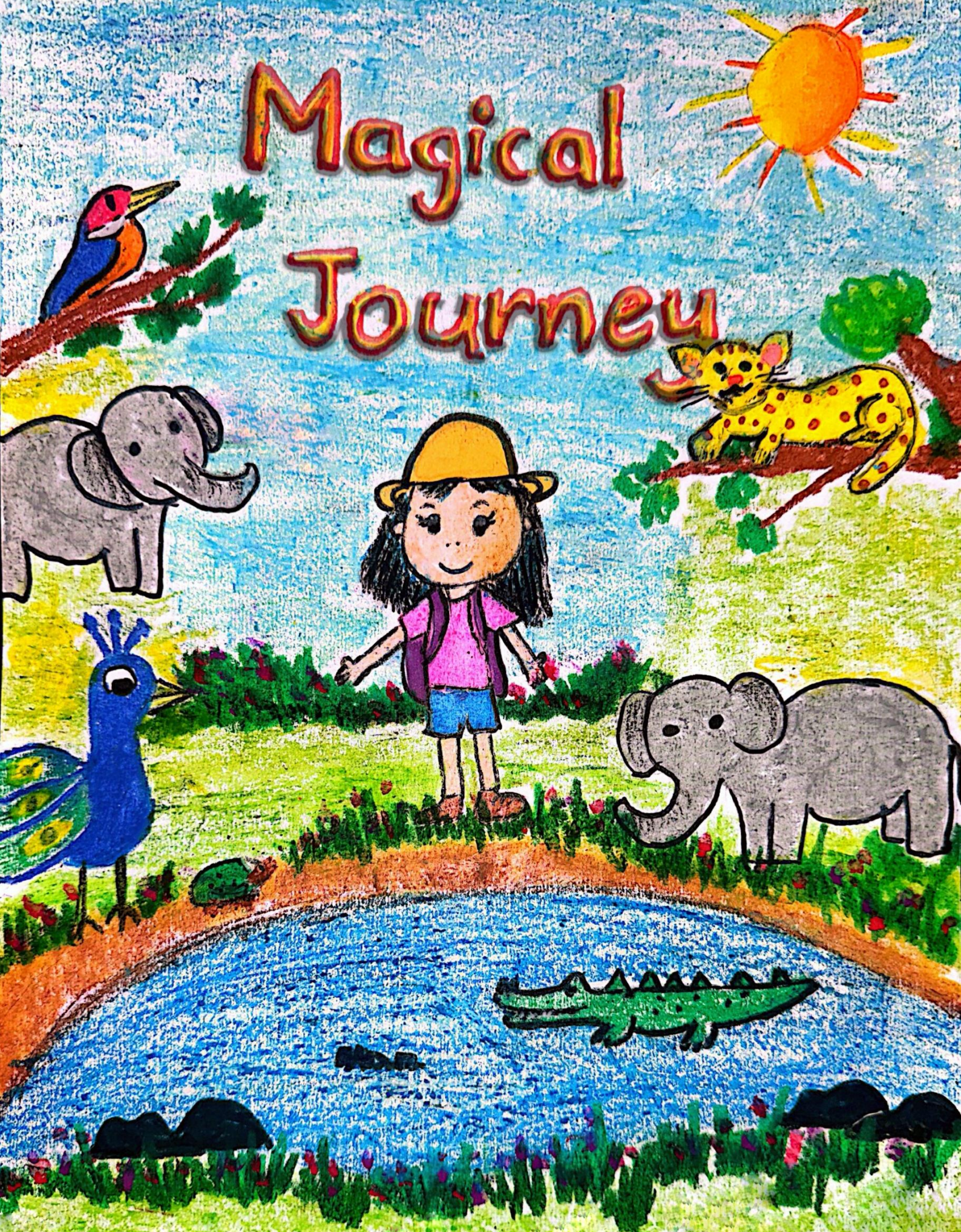


Magical Journey



Lithuli Siyansa Wickramasinghe

Magical Journey

Lithuli Siyansa Wickramasinghe

Author

Author's other publications

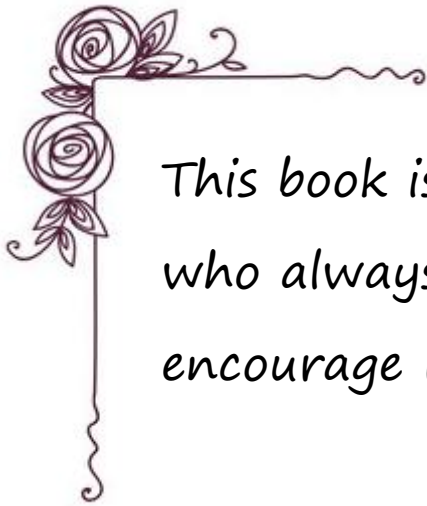
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Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy.

Grade 6F

10.05.2026

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*This book is dedicated to my family,
who always believe in me and
encourage me to follow my dreams.*

*To my teachers, for helping me learn
and grow every day.*

*Thank you for inspiring me to write
this book!*





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.

My school vacation started. My father said that we were going on a trip.

My sister and I were so excited.

Then my father said that we were going to the Yala National Park.

My mother told us that our friends would be joining us too. We were full of joy.

I grabbed my laptop and searched for information about Yala National Park.

It is one of the most magical wild places in Sri Lanka. It is the second largest national park in Sri Lanka borders the Indian Ocean.

The big day arrived. We woke up early in the morning and started our journey. Our friends joined us as well.



Yala is situated in south eastern region of Sri Lanka and extends over two provinces and two administrative districts as follows:

- **Northern, north western and western areas of the park lie in Monaragala district in Uva Province**
- **South western and southern areas in Hambantota district in Southern Province**
- **Part of southern and the whole of the eastern and north eastern boundaries lie along the Indian Ocean.**

There are several routes to Yala.

We went through Kandy, Mahiyanganaya, Bibila, Monaragala, Buttala, Tissamaharama

The park entrance is in Palatupana.

We had to buy tickets to enter the park.

We have had to obtain a guide, who came with us into the park.





Palatupana Entrance

After getting the tickets and the guide, we entered the park.

My father has booked Thalgasmankada bungalow. So, we went there first.

We stayed in this bungalow for four days.





Thalgasmankada Bungalow

We went into the park several times.

On the first evening we went on a small round.

On the other days, we entered the park sharp at 6.30 am and returned to the bungalow at about 6.00 pm. We had a great time inside the park.

I would like to share my experience with all of you.



When you visit Yala, you ride in a safari jeep with a guide. The ride is bumpy and exciting like a mini rollercoaster, and your guide helps you spot animals hiding in the bushes or camouflaged in trees.

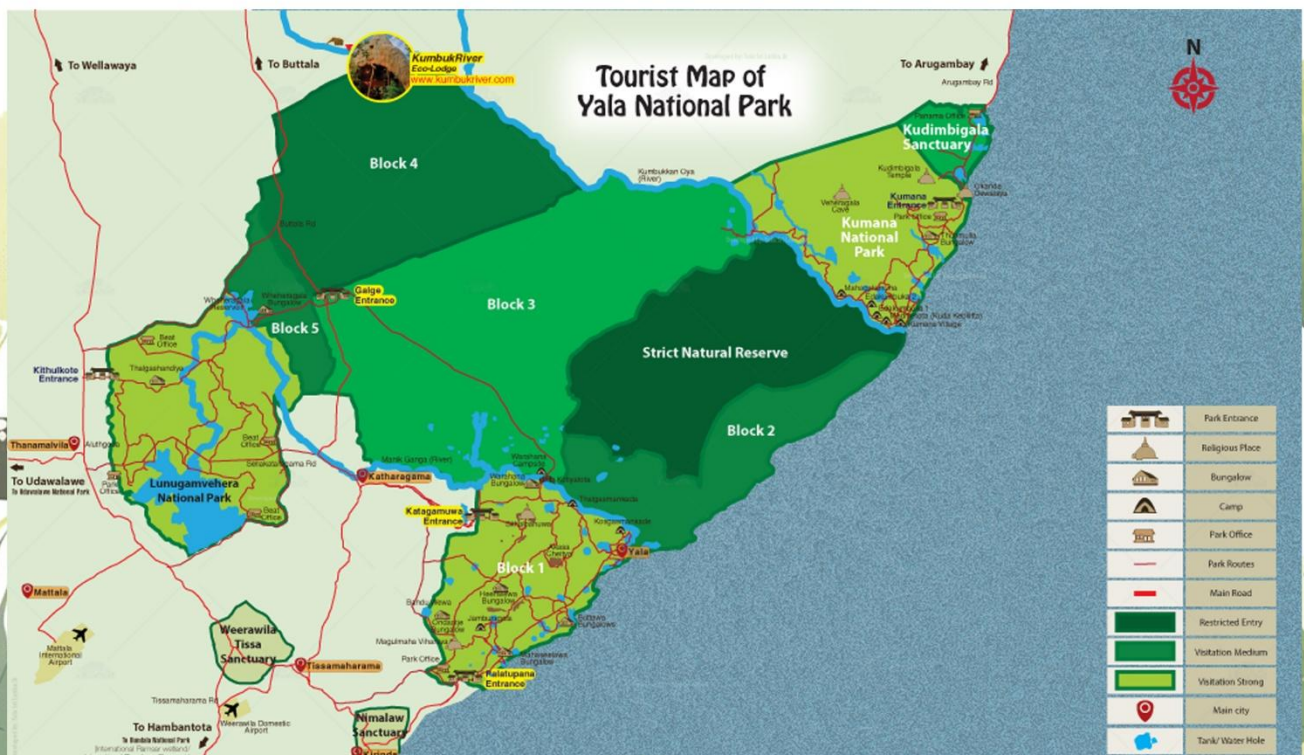


You have to be quiet, patient, and keep your eyes sharp, animals don't always show themselves easily!



The park itself is full of interesting places. Some areas are thick and shady with tall trees, while others are wide open so you can see horizon stretching far, far away. There are even old ruins inside the park, reminding visitors that people lived here long ago.

Yala National Park consists of five blocks. Three blocks are now open to public. The park covers 979 square kilometers. The park is best known for its variety of wildlife and is important conservation of Sri Lankan elephants, Sri Lankan leopards and aquatic birds.



One of the most exciting things about Yala is that it is home to many leopards. In fact, it has one of the largest leopard populations in the world! These spotted cats are shy, but sometimes you can see them stretched out on warm rocks, climbing trees, or quietly walking through the bushes. Seeing a leopard is like finding treasure on a safari.

But we were so lucky. During our journey we saw several leopards.





Not only leopards but Yala also has many other amazing animals.

We saw elephants wandering around in families, flapping their big ears and splashing in waterholes to cool off.



**Crocodiles lay still like statues along the rivers,
waiting for the perfect moment to slip into the
water.**

**We even saw a crocodile eating a buffalo
in the water.**



Monkeys jumped from branch to branch, chattering noisily and making you wonder what jokes they might be telling each other!

We also spotted a cute bear family.

I think it was our luck to see such a beautiful family, because it's very difficult to spot a bear in Yala.

You can also see deer, wild boar, buffaloes laying in the muddy puddles, iguanas crossing the roads, butterflies and colourful birds.



Our guide said that 44 species of mammals, 215 species of birds, 47 species of reptiles, 18 species of amphibians and 21 species of freshwater fish have been recorded in the park. Out of all of these animals we saw only a few species.

Mammals we saw;

Leopard

Elephant

Bear

Deer

Samba

Buffalo

Monkey

Rabbit

Civet



Reptiles

Crocodile

Iguana

Water monitor



Birds

Jungle fowl

Grey hornbill

Bee-eater

Eagle

Painted stork

Pelican

Peacock



Yala also has a variety of plants as well. Such as Palu, Weera, Mayila, Ehela, Kohomba, Divul, Andara, Eraminiya etc.

Yala National Park is a special place where wildlife is protected, and where people can learn how wonderful and important nature is.

It is the kind of place that makes you feel curious, brave and full of wonder. If you ever get the chance to visit, you will take home memories you will never forget.

It is our duty to protect this amazing place to the future generation.

The End.





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)