

A Search for Blue Whales



**Senara Hirudini
Mallawaarachchi**

A Search for Blue Whales

Senara Hirudini Mallawaarachchi

Author's Other Publications

1. Fish All Around Us
2. Fly High Little Birdy
3. Animal Information
4. Natural Disasters
5. Water's Journey
6. Solar System Poem Wisdom
7. Poems Around the World
8. Mary and Sungold Catch Criminals
9. Bamboozle Mystery
10. Talking Guitar
11. A Search for Blue Whales
12. Harry and Jen
13. Lucy's Pet
14. The Amazing Child

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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.

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Emma. She was a great animal lover. It was a sunny Monday morning. She heard her mother calling her name. It was time to go to school. Emma quickly put on her clothes and got ready.

She found that the school bus was waiting for her. She quickly got aboard. When she reached school, the bell rang and she ran to her class.

Then her teacher started a lesson about mammals. After teaching us about mammals our teacher asked us if we know the world's biggest mammal. Emma's hand went up as quick as lightening. The teacher pointed to her. "It's

a blue whale" said Emma. Everyone gave her a round of applause.

Then their teacher gave them to write an lovely essay. Emma went home and researched about blue whales. She wrote a very long essay on them.

The next day the teacher checked their essays. Emma got full marks for it. Her teacher even told her to read it in front of the class. Her mother was very proud of her.

That day she told her mum that she wanted to see a blue whale. Her mum and dad told her that they would take her to see a blue whale in the holidays. Emma just couldn't wait.

At last the day of the holidays came. Emma quickly packed her backpack and they set off. First of all they had to walk through a forest. It took about two days. Though they had a great deal of fun throughout this journey.

They spotted many animals. Such as the jungle fowl, grasshoppers, peacocks, butterflies and even snakes. Emma drew the animals that she spotted in her drawing book.

After a very exciting afternoon they came to the end of the forest. Next they had to hike through a mountain. This took them ages. When they reached the mountain top it got very windy. Emma's picture of the mountain

that she drew on a paper nearly flew off. Emma's legs got very tired. But she gathered up her courage and went on. Three days went past and they were still on the mountain. But on the fourth day they were lucky. They came to the bottom of the mountain. Now they just had to go through the countryside and arrive at the seaside.

After travelling for more than 3 days they got to the seaside. They booked a hotel that was near the sea and stayed there.

The sun shined, and glittered. It was the break of dawn. Emma and her parents quickly had breakfast and went to the beach. They got aboard a ship and went for whale watching.

They saw many killer whales but not one single blue whale. Emma was greatly disappointed. She told her mum and dad that she must see a blue whale, that she wanted to go again. And to save her parents money Emma emptied her piggy bank and gave that money for the trip. This time she was very lucky. Because she saw a huge blue whale and even heard it sing. She went home her heart filled with joy.

Animal Rescuers

Hannah, Zoe and Janet were the best of friends. They loved animals. They researched about them everyday. They also learned many things about animals.

Then one day when Zoe was reading a book she heard a noise downstairs. In front of their house there was a big forest. So when Zoe looked down to see what the noise was she saw some hunters laying traps for animals.

Zoe was very shocked. She quickly telephoned her friends and told them to come to her house. Her friends lived nearby so they came very quickly.

Zoe explained them about the hunters. They too were shocked. Hannah said "Let's remove the traps, when the hunters have gone." The others agreed.

So when the hunters came to check their traps the next day they found that all their traps have disappeared. Where have the traps gone they wondered. "We'll put the traps back again and stay hidden behind those bushes to see who takes our traps!" said one of the hunters.

But Zoe, Janet and Hannah were too clever for them. They camouflaged themselves and while hiding behind trees searched for hunters.

They saw the hunters behind bushes. They waited quite a long time until all the hunters were asleep. Then Hannah and Zoe quickly removed the traps and released any animal that was caught.

The hunters didn't like giving up. Neither did the rescuers. So day after day the same thing happened.

One fateful day, a deer was about to be trapped in one of the nets. So the three rescuers had to stop it. They didn't have time to remove it. Zoe jumped into the net getting trapped herself. The deer ran to safety. Zoe quickly released herself from the net. All the rescuers had to get out of a trap if they were ever caught in one. They ran as quick as lightning releasing every trap

taking the hunters by astonishment. They quickly ran home and called the police. They knew that the next time they wouldn't be able to save destroy the trap, because the hunters know their hiding places, the police quickly came and arrested the men.

"Good for the Little Animal Rescuers"

The Walk in Wonders

There was a little girl. Her name was Violet. One day her parents took her to a place called Starworld fun park.

Where is Starworld? What is it like? Violet was full of questions.

Just when they reached Starworld's entrance a man stopped them and asked for their tickets. They gave their tickets and entered the fun park.

When they entered the fun park they saw a lovely flower garden full of bees

and butterflies. There were little paths between the flowers. It was a maze! They were given a map from the entrance. They followed the map and after some time they came to the end of the maze.

Where there was another challenge for them. There were lot of green trees. You had to spot an animal that's hiding inside a tree. It was a grass snake and hard to spot. There was a whole wood and only one of them. Violet and her parents searched for about two hours until they found the grass snake.

Next they had another challenge. It was to climb up a fake real mountain and come down from the other side. They completed that challenge successfully as well.

Just as they reached the other side they spotted a restaurant. They stopped at the restaurant and had a lovely lunch. After that they went to the free spa in front of them.

Then they had to write one story book each to pass to the next challenge.

The next challenge was to memorize a poem that they was given in five minutes. After that, they had to recite a poem in front of a judging panel and get more than 50

marks for it. If they earn less than 50, they get 2 more chances. If they fail both chances, they had to go back home. Violet and her parents passed this with 100 marks each.

Then they had to paint any picture they like for the next challenge. Violet painted a tree house. Her mother painted a fairy palace. Her father painted a forest. They had completed that challenge as well.

It was time for the last challenge. They had to find some treasure. They were given a map. It was a race against the other people who had passed the challenges at that time. The judge blew the whistle and everyone ran to find the treasure following the directions of the map. At the end, Violet and her parents won the race and found the

treasure. They were awarded golden medals, trophies and certificates for their achievements. They got a round of applause from the crowd.

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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