

Adventure **in the Woods**



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Other publications

- ❖ Poppy and the Mermaid - 2023
- ❖ කවිති සිරිපාඨේ ගියාපු දා 2023
- ❖ හා පාංචට හොඳ වැඩේ 2025

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Dedication

To My Alma Mater
Mother Maha Maya

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

Once upon a time there lived a little girl and boy. Their names were Beth and Peter. They lived near a big forest in a cozy little cottage with their mother and father. Beth was 9 years old and Peter was 12 years old.

They went to the school near the village. After school, Peter and Beth always go to the forest and stay there for hours and come back in the evening. They were not at all scared to go to the forest because there weren't any tigers, elephants, or bears. Peter and Beth always go to the forest and sit on logs, play, climb trees and eat fruits.



One day, when Beth was watering the plants, she heard a loud thud and she saw a squirrel fall from the nest. She picked up the squirrel and kept the squirrel on the nest. And she was very happy.



Another day they decided to go to the forest and spend a day and come back in the evening. It was a lovely sunny Saturday morning. They didn't even have school.

So, they had the whole day to spend at the forest. Peter packed chicken sandwiches, honey cake, sweet corn soup, biscuits and jam bread. Beth got her backpack and binoculars, note book, water bottle, magnifying glass and a pencil. Then they went into the forest.



First, they wandered around the trees. Then they watched the birds. After that they drew the birds. Then they discovered a log. Peter looked at his watch. It was 12:30 pm. Peter gasped.

So, they arranged the things to eat. Peter found a nice place and Beth put the blanket. Then they ate. They left some biscuits and honey cake for later.

After that they started climbing trees. At last they found a tall, enormous tree. They raced each other to the top of the tree. As usual Peter won.

They ate the mangoes on the tree. Then they sat on the branch and enjoyed the breeze. Beth sat on a higher branch. All of a sudden Beth screamed. Peter came quickly near Beth. And then Beth pointed at a button. Peter saw the button.



There was a word written on the button. They couldn't read it. It was very small. Beth took her magnifying glass and read it. It was "press" They pressed the button and something amazing happened. The branch went up from the corner. Peter and Beth heard music, shouting and dancing. Inside the tree there was a group of squirrels having a birthday party. Then there was a long silence.



Then a squirrel who was sitting on a chair stood up and said, “Who are you?”. Peter said “We are a girl and a boy. We are extremely sorry for interrupting your birthday party.” “Why did you come here? And how did you come here? You ruined my birthday party.

I was very much enjoying it. For now, I will put you into the cage. After the party is finished, I will release you. Guards come here and take these children to the cage” screamed the squirrel. “Good, now I can enjoy the rest of the party,” said the squirrel.

The guards came and put Peter and Ben to the cage. They couldn't fight because there was too many fierce squirrels. Everyone was happy except one squirrel. He was the squirrel that Beth had saved when he fell from the nest. He still remembered Beth. He thought "The king squirrel will release them.



If he does not, I will release them." Beth and Peter screamed as much as they could for help but nobody listened to them. The more they screamed the more they increased the volume of the music.

The party kept for 4 more hours. It was dark outside. They were very hungry they ate the last piece of honey cake and biscuits. They wanted to go home. It was very cold. Their parents were looking for them everywhere in the forest. At last at 7:00pm the party was finished.

Beth and Peter thought that they could go home. But all the squirrels forgot. Beth and Peter screamed but nobody heard they were all tired. The squirrel who thought that he would save them also forgot. Every one was exhausted. Their parents were frightened.



At night the squirrel who thought that he would release Beth and Peter awoke with a fright. He had seen a very bad dream. It was “He falls from the nest and Beth comes and helps. And the next time there is no one to help.”

Then he remembers that Beth and Peter are still in the cage. So he quickly put on his jacket and slippers and ran as fast as he could to the tree. He climbed the tree and pressed the button. Then he slithered down the tree and opened the cage door.

Beth and Peter are very happy. They thanked the squirrel. Then the squirrel said "Hi, Beth you were the one who saved my life when I fell from my nest." "Thank you very much squirrel" they said. The squirrel said "My pleasure."

Beth and Peter ran as fast as they could to their cottage. Their parents were very happy to see them. Their father asked why they had been so long. But they were already asleep on the sofa. So their parents did not wake them. And their father did not ask why they had been so long. And they lived happily ever after.

THE END



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)