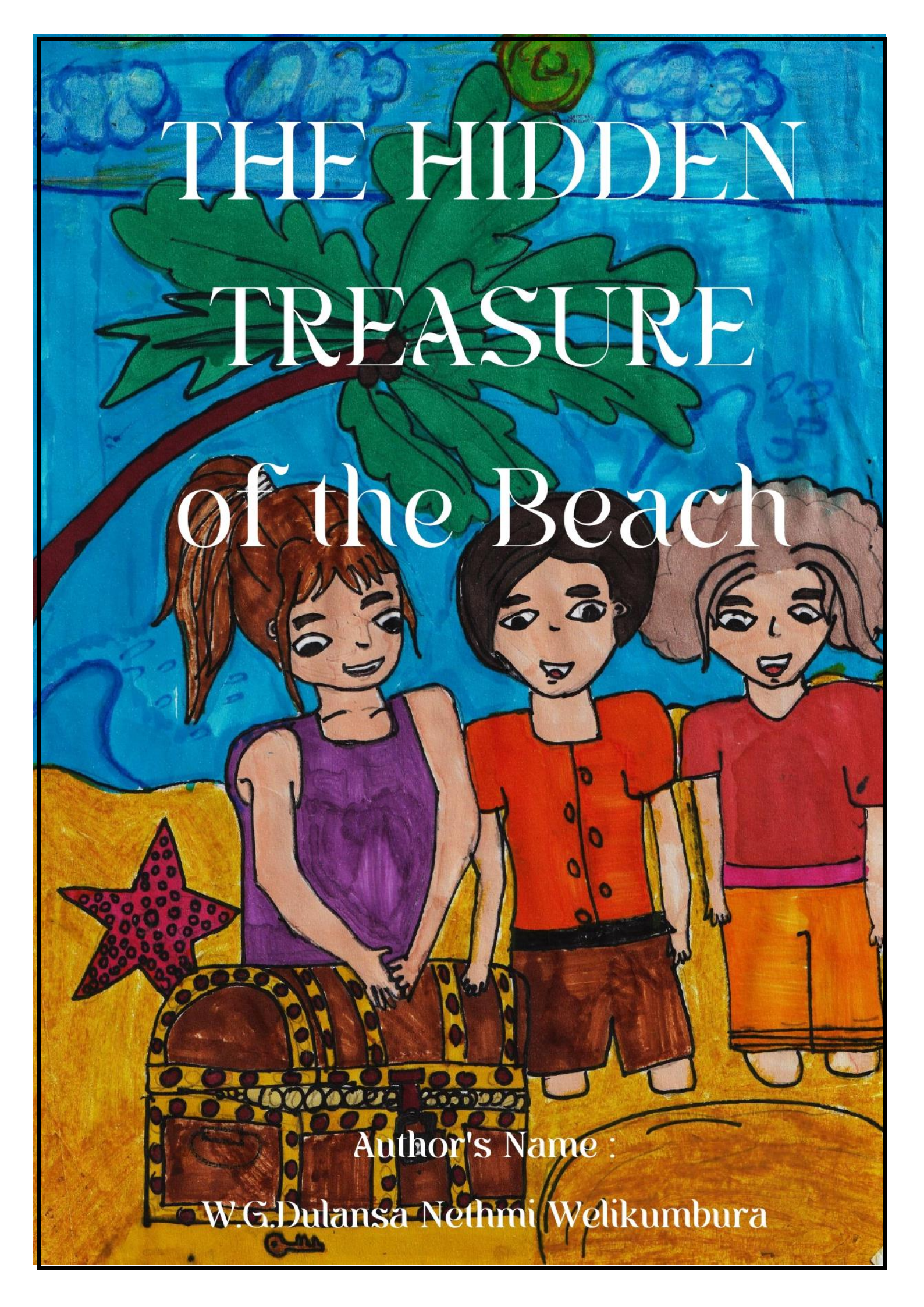




THE HIDDEN TREASURE of the Beach

Author's Name :

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Author's other publications :

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DEDICATION

**"Dedicated to my best friends, who turn
every ordinary day into
an extraordinary adventure.**

**May we always find the treasures
hidden in the sand together."**





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.

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The Discovery

Kristy, Pen, and Elsie went to the beach for a day of fun. While Elsie was splashing in the cooling waves, Kristy started digging deep into the warm sand. Suddenly, she felt something hard and metallic. She called out to Elsie and Pen, who ran over quickly.

Beneath the brown sand, they saw the corner of a weathered wooden box. They dug together with all their might until they pulled out a heavy, locked box.

The Key and the Gold

"I think the key must be in the sand where we dug," Elsie said, her eyes bright with excitement. They searched through the loose piles of sand until Pen spotted a small metal key glinting in the light. They turned it in the lock, and the lid creaked open. Inside, the box was filled with glittering gold coins. "How many do you want, Elsie and Pen?" Kristy asked happily. "Two gold coins, please!" Elsie replied, and Pen agreed. They each took their share, laughing at their good fortune.



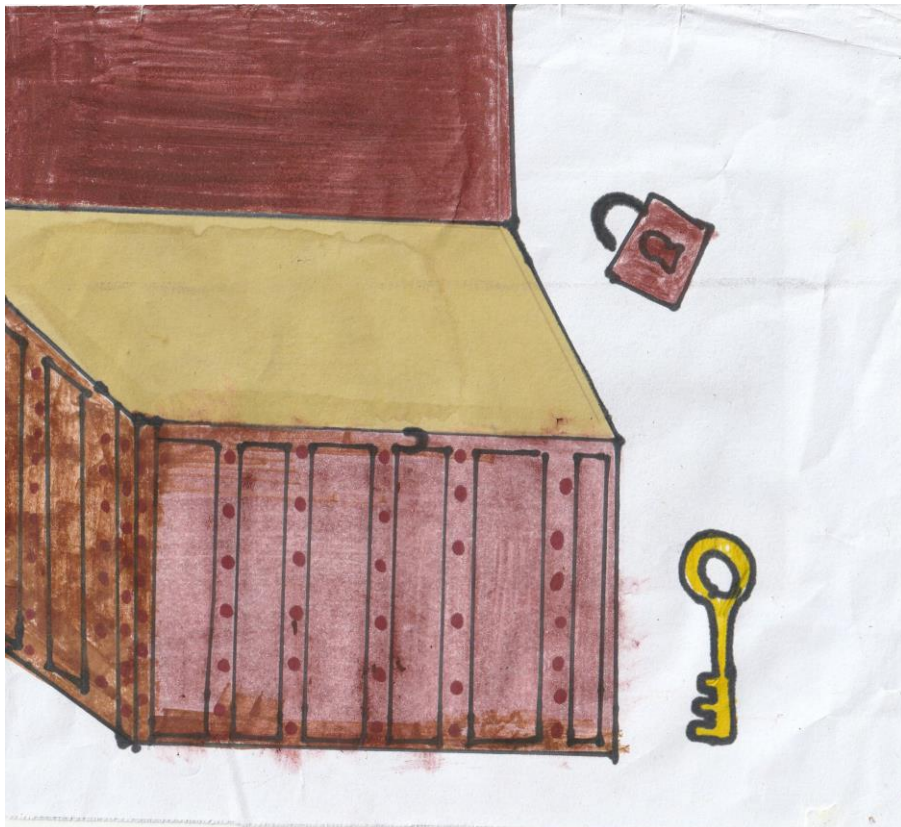
The Heavy Secret

As evening fell and the sky turned purple, Elsie realized they needed to go home. "But how?" she asked. "We forgot to bring any money for the bus!" Kristy laughed, "We have gold coins now!" But then they realized a serious problem: the treasure box was far too heavy to carry. Furthermore, if people saw three girls carrying a chest of gold, they might think they were thieves. They had to keep it a secret.



The Clever Plan

Kristy spotted a small shop near the fishing boats. "They sell travel bags there!" she said. "We can buy a large bag, hide the coins inside, and no one will suspect a thing." Kristy bought a sturdy bag, but once the gold was transferred inside, it was incredibly heavy. "Oh my goodness, this is so heavy!" Elsie groaned as they struggled, two of them at a time, to lug the bag toward the bus stand.



Dreaming of a New Home

As they waited for the bus, tired but happy, they began to dream. "We should build a new house," Kristy suggested. "Our current house isn't truly ours. Let's build a home near the town and the beach so we can visit the ocean every day." They imagined a grand house with five spacious rooms where they could all live together with their friend, Pen, and never have to worry about space again.



Buying the Land

The next day, they met with Pen, who helped them find a beautiful plot of land 220 perches of perfect, fertile soil. The owner was ready to sell immediately. "It's two pounds per perch," Pen told them. Kristy handed over the heavy gold coins to pay for the land on the spot. "I'll call the builders to start today!" Elsie shouted, jumping for joy.

Designing the Masterpiece

Before the first brick was laid, Kristy sat down to draw the floor plan. She designed five large bedrooms, a beautiful kitchen, and a wide veranda. Elsie took charge of coordinating with the constructors, ensuring they had the best materials. Everyone worked together, using the treasure they found to build the perfect sanctuary.



The Finishing Touches

Months passed, and the house grew taller. They decorated the rooms with colors that reminded them of the beach whites, blues, and sandy golds. They planted a garden around the house so they could grow their own food. The heavy bag of gold had been transformed into solid walls and a safe roof over their heads.

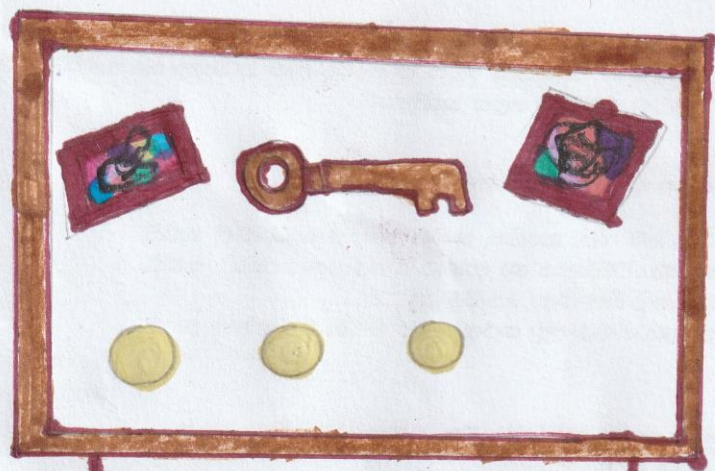


The Curiosity of the Town

When the house was finally finished, the townspeople were amazed. "How did these three friends build such a grand villa?" they whispered. Some thought they had won a lottery, and others thought they were secret princesses. However, Kristy, Elsie, and Pen just smiled and kept their secret. They used some of their remaining coins to help the poor in the village, becoming known for their kindness.

A Life of Happiness

Finally, Kristy, Elsie, and Pen moved into their five-room home. On the wall of their living room, they framed the small metal key they found in the sand as a reminder of that lucky day. They lived together very happily, proving that the greatest treasure wasn't just the gold coins, but the home and the life they built together from the sand.



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)

Maligawa

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