

The Mysterious Animal in the Jungle

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Author's First Publication

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Grade 5C

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Dedication

To those who helped me make this wonderful creation, my parents, my brother and my teachers. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all your support. This dedication is for you.



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.

The Mysterious Animal in the Jungle

There was a family that went camping in the jungle. There were four members in that family. They were the dad, the mom, the son and the baby. One day, the baby Mia sneaked out of the camp. When baby Mia was crawling on all fours, she slipped and fell down a slope she didn't see.

She fell into a cave, and screamed for help. But no one heard her. She stayed there all night. In the morning, the mom woke up. She was terrified to find that the baby was missing. They searched everywhere but couldn't find her. The son Jake went deep into the jungle. He slipped too, and fell near the cave. He went inside and found his baby sister crying in the cave.



When he picked her up and tried to run, he heard noises deep inside the cave. He was terrified of the noises. He ran back to the camp and kept his little sister inside, then ran back to the cave. He went inside and found a long hall going deeper. He peeked inside and saw nothing. He decided to go back to the campsite.

A few days later, Jack was playing with his baby sister when he heard that noise again. He wanted to ignore the noise, so he went inside the camp. The mom and dad were making marshmallow smores.



At night, Jack tried to sleep but couldn't. He couldn't stop thinking about the noises. He thought: "What could that noise be?". He thought about it day and night, and he would even get a fever. Because of that, the mom and dad decided to go home.

But baby Mia cried that she didn't want to go, so the mom and dad decided to stay for a week. The next morning, the parents were making breakfast and the kids were playing. Jack asked to go to the middle of the jungle. The mom thought it was a joke, so she said yes. Jack took baby Mia and ran to the middle of the jungle. They played there for hours. When the mom called everyone to come eat, only the dad came. She asked him where the kids were, and he said they went to play in the jungle. Scared, the mom and dad went looking for the kids.

They were scared for the kids, thinking they were lost. But the kids were safe. Moments later, they came running back to the mom and dad. They told the kids to never go back into the jungle again. A few days later, only two days were left for staying in the camp.



Jack and baby Mia were playing near the campsite. Suddenly, Jack heard the noise again. But this time, it was so loud, there were animals running away from it. The mom and dad also came, because they also heard it. The sound was coming from many directions. They tried to find where it came from but they only found dead ends.

Then Jack remembered about the cave where he found baby Mia all those days ago. He told his mom and dad about hearing the noise inside the cave for the first time. So, they all decided to go and check the cave.

They went to the cave again. Suddenly, something with long legs grabbed the dad and shouted: “GET OUT OF MY JUNGLE!”. The creature had big sharp teeth, and it bit into the dad’s neck. The mom grabbed Jack and baby Mia and ran screaming out of the jungle. They didn’t even pack their bags, and they never returned to the jungle again.

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)