

The adventurous three

Finds a gaint crystal



N.G.Isumi Sehansa Ilangakoon

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Author's other publications

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The secret garden

K/Mahamaya Girls' College

Grade 8-F

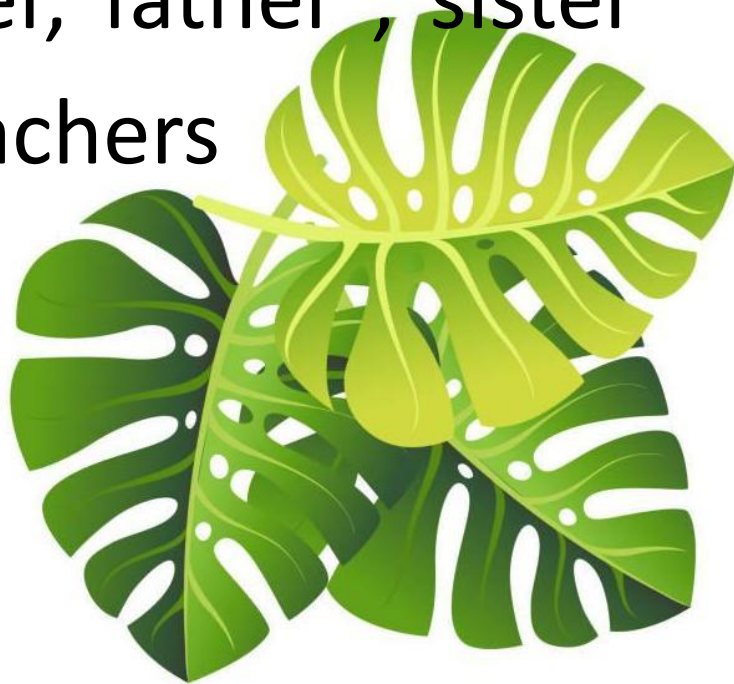
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Dedicated to

My dear mother, father , sister
and my kind teachers





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

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.

"Where are we going to explore ? Any ideas?" Asked Nikki. "How about a picnic?" asked Nick. "No, that's too tame. Let's go camping." said Nimi . "But where?" asked Nick. "I mean camping in a forest. we can select the Rock Forest up on the hill. "said Nimi. Rock forest is a forest full of boulders.

They were spending their holidays. Usually, they traveled somewhere with their family during the holidays . "That sounds good ,let's ask our Mom. " said Nikki ,having a bit of excitement .Mom was cooking their lunch when The three children ran to the kitchen.

"Mom, do we travel to somewhere in these holidays?, if we are let's go camping. "Nimi suggested ." To where?" Mom questioned." Up the Rock Forest hill." Nikki answered . "

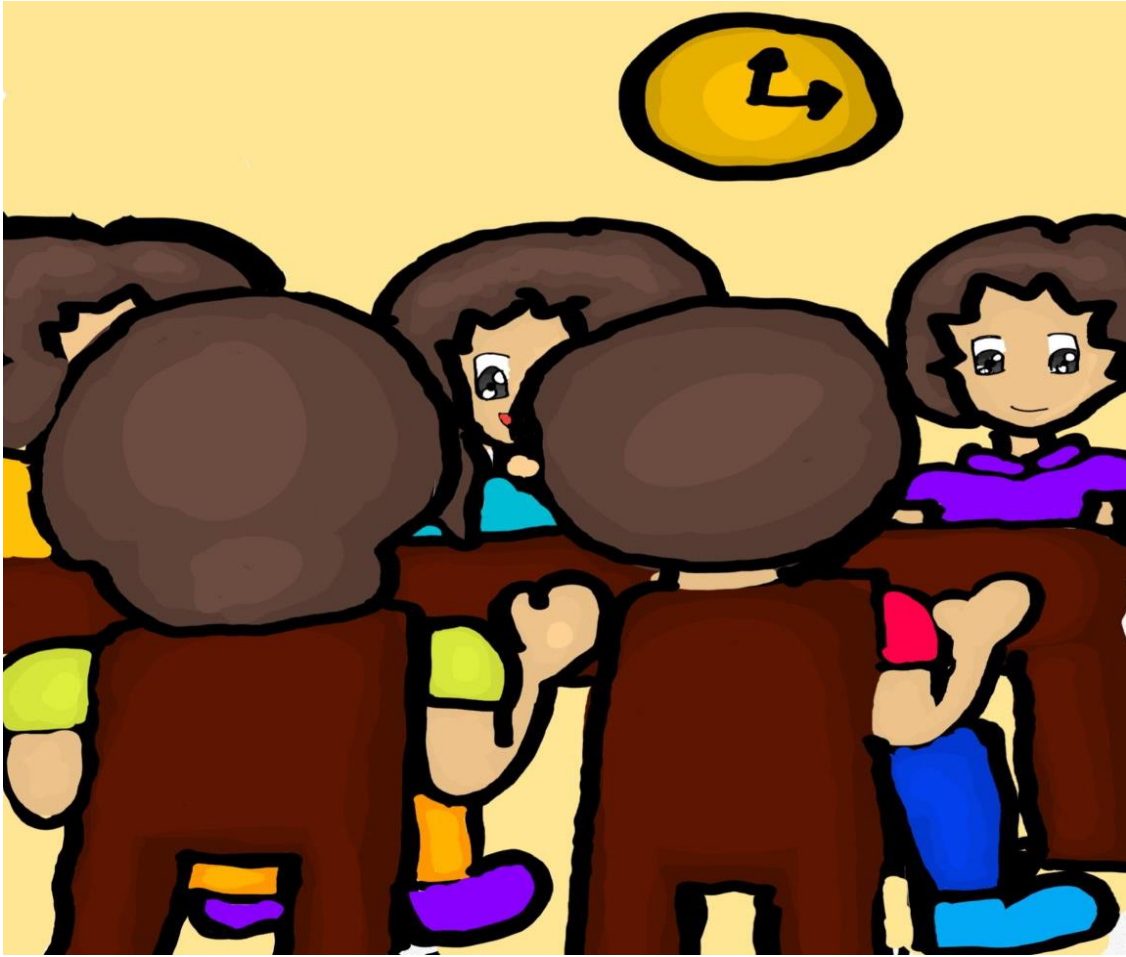
Oh, kids! But I'm sorry to give you this bad news: Dad and I won't be able to come with you." Mom replied. "I'll talk with your dad about it ". "Okay Mom" Nick replied sadly.

They went to the garden .The garden shone with the blazing sun. They sat on the swing and thought if they could explore the forest and the cave with their Mom and Dad. What will Dad say? That was the biggest question they had . When the clock hit noon, they were surprised to realize it was already lunch time.

The three kids sat down for lunch. It was quiet and boring. After lunch, Dad called to them. "Do you want to go on a trip?" Dad asked. The children said nothing." I spoke with Mom. if you like you can go by

yourselves." "Yes, now you can take care of yourselves " their Mom nodded. "Oh, really ! Thank you mom and dad" Nikki thanked. "When do you like to go?" asked Dad."Nikki, Nimi, How about next week?" Nick asked from his other two siblings.

"Next week is perfect " Nimi cheered ,already jumping from the table." Then you can get ready now " said Mom. "Okay Mom " Nimi said, with excitement .They ran to their room. "Oh my! I can't wait "exclaimed Nimi." Day after tomorrow starts the next week." "Yes, I'm so excited !" Nikki screamed.



The next day the three of them woke up and got washed. They changed their clothes and went down the stairs to get their breakfast. There was some bread with a bottle of peanut butter and five glasses of milk on the breakfast table. They sat down at the breakfast table.

"We have to make a list of things we need to pack for camping." Nick whispered to Nikki. Their mom heard him. "Won't you go to the town to get the things for camping? " questioned Mom. "Yes, mom ,we have to." replied Nick." You can go, but you must come before lunch." Mom told.

After breakfast ,the children made a list and went to town. "We should save time because we need to get back early .So let's separate. "said Nikki. "I'll buy the snacks. You both go to melody's shop and buy the other things. And don't forget the batteries .".With that, they parted ways.

Nikki went to the supermarket . She got tomatoes from the vegetable corner and got five lemonade bottles , a biscuit packet, and

five chocolate bars, a jam bottle and put it to the basket .When she went to the cashier she got surprised , it was Aunt Jennie , who was her neighbor .

"Oh hi! Nice to meet you here" said Aunt Jennie . "Nice to meet you too Aunt Jennie ! "said Nikki ."Oh , seems like you going on a trip " Aunt told." yes, but this time we are going alone" exclaimed Nikki. "Great !okay then see you later" said aunt Jennie .

Nikki came out of the supermarket . Nick and Nimi were there. They went home . It was five minutes early to lunch. At the lunch table, "Did you get the things that you want " Asked mom ."yes mom " replied Nick.

After getting the lunch, they went to meet their friends ,Anne, Pinky and Max, at the

Tamarind tree. Max usually wears a basketball cap . Pinky likes reading .She always has a book in her hand. Anne is the craziest girl in their class. "Why didn't you come yesterday " Anne asked . "We had a lot of work" Nikki replied ."We had to pack the things for camping ." "Camping! " Max said in surprise. "Our parents can't come, so they're letting us go on our own," Nimi explained proudly ."Oh., it will be a big challenge for you "Pinky giggled ." If you get lost, we'll just follow the trail of biscuit crumbs you'll definitely leave behind! Nikki , you are not a camper . You are a human bread crumb machine" joked Anne. The whole group laughed.

"Yes, of course, by the way it's a dark and big forest ,did you even get a single torch?" asked Max . "Three torches , a compass ,all are ready." Nikki sat on a branch while saying that. With that, The sun starts to set, and they realize they have to go home to get one last night of sleep before the big day.

They said good bye to their friends .Three of them went home and got dinner .After dinner, Mom gave them a map ."Don't forget to take this map "Mom reminded. "Thanks Mom! " Nick thanked. They said good night to their parents and went to bed feeling excited about the next day.

What kind of challenges they would face during camping is the biggest question they had.



In the next day morning sun spilled over the hills like melted gold, bathing the village in a warm, honey-colored glow. Nikki woke up first, remembering that they were going to spend the best week of their lives .

"Hey, wake up . We are going to enjoy the week. "Piped up Nikki. "What week ? " Nimi asked . rubbing her eyes . "Did you forget for what we packed our bags for yesterday " bellowed Nick in excitement . "Oh my , Who wouldn't want to spend such an exciting week? "Nimi cheered .

The three children went to bathroom and brushed their teeth . After that , they sat down for breakfast . Then , they said goodbye to their parents ,grabbed their bags, and headed out . They left home and walked down to town .

"I wonder how will be today. "Nick mused . "
Where will we stop today ?" "We should look
for a good place to camp up ." Said Nikki .

They heard the sounds from the hones of
vehicles , People chatting ,the whistle of the
ice cream man . The three children passed



them and lead to the last house in the town .
." This is the forest , looks like a little bit scary
, but Maybe it might be friendly." Nimi
whispered . They headed to the forest.

Thousands of trees stood around them .They
have to look at the map and select a better
place for camping .After passing many trees
, the path split into two . Three of them
looked at each other in surprise .On the right
path ,there have only rocks , with a dark scary
look . On the other path , tall trees lead by
between the path.

"Then which one we are going to choose?
"Nimi asked . "Our mom marked the left
path, So we should go from there " Nikki
explained . They went from the left path

.Some strange sounds heard around them .
They felt a little bit nervous .But they were
determined to go and face the challenges .

After passing hundreds of trees .they found
a pretty waterfall flowing down." This is a
good place to camp" said Nick ,looking at
the view of the town . "Yes of course ,
anyway, What's the time ? " asked Nimi ,
wanting to know how long they had been
walking." It's half past eleven " answered
Nikki , looking at the watch .

The next challenge they had was make their shelter . It was quite hard to pitch the tent . When Nikki hammered the stake to fix up the tent , the other side got flat .Nimi got stuck inside the tent too. But with their teamwork , they finally set up their tiny home .

It was time to unpack everything . It was the best thing they had , when preparing to the camp . Nick put their pillows and bedsheets and while Nimi unpack her favorite doll . She brings it everywhere .

After some time , Nick wanted to bathe on the flowing water ."Shouldn't we wash up now?" asked Nick ."Wait , we should look for a shallow place to bathe , little fish !"Nikki looked at Nick boldly. They bathed with cold flowing water .And they went changed their clothes and went back to their tiny home.

"We have to pick up some sticks to start the fire " giggled Nick.

"Yup! It's so cold after bathing, lets gather for the night too , but don't go too far ." Nikki warned . The three of them split up in different directions . For five minutes , the campsite felt peaceful and silent without their voices .

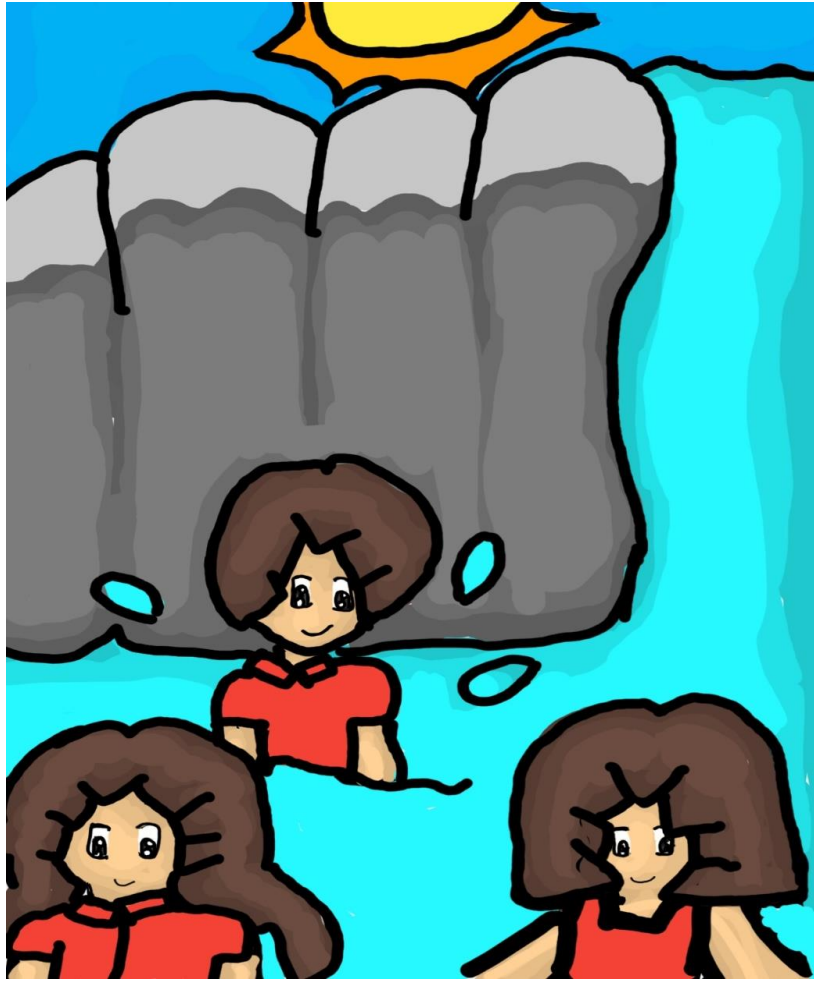
After a while ,they returned with a heavy pile of firewood ." This might be enough for a whole week" said Nimi , Who was carrying the largest bundle of sticks ."I don't think we have enough firewood for even two days ."Nick faltered , looking at the pile of firewood on the ground .

They lit the sticks and built a small campfire . They ate the delicious noodles who their mom made for them .

"It would have been much easier if Mom and Dad were here, " Nimi observed suddenly . "True," Nikki replied . "But this is a new chapter for us .We're doing it all on our own. "

The sun radiated a bright golden across the cloudless blue sky . However , it didn't feel too hot, , thanks to the shade of the towering trees and the cool spray from the waterfall .The songs of wild birds echoed through the deep forest.

As time passed , the three of them discovered so many wonders. They watched small wild creatures , breathed in the sweet scent of colourful wild flowers ,marveled at the gaint trees , and played by the cold splashing waterfall .



As the sun dipped below the horizon, they revived the fire and built a warm night-time campfire. Nikki fried three slices of ham carefully, while Nick and Nimi sliced the tomatoes and prepared the lettuce. Finally, the three of them assembled their sandwiches and enjoyed their picnic under the stars with some refreshing lemonade.

After finishing their dinner, they tidied the campsite and crawled into their tent to sleep. But they had no idea that a mystery had been hidden behind the waterfall for centuries. Would they be the ones to finally find it?

The next day, the sun's rays peeked over the hills, as if trying to say "Good morning!" to all the wonders in the world.

Nikki was the first to wake up." Wake up, sleepyheads! We have a lot to do today!" she shouted joyfully. "Just five more minutes," Nimi murmured, her eyes still heavy with sleep. "No way! Why did we come here if we're just going to sleep?" Nick added, jumping up.

They headed to the narrow spring to wash up and refresh themselves for an exciting

day. After they finished and returned to their "home," they noticed a new neighbor had arrived to their quite camping site .

The visitor was a fierce-looking girl, carrying a massive, heavy backpack. "I can do m—" She stopped abruptly, looking at the three children with a confused and suspicious expression.

"Hey, what are you doing here?" she snapped, her voice sharp with anger.

"Hi! We're just camping," Nikki replied politely, trying to be friendly. "You came for..." Nikki paused, And the stranger lost in a heavy thought. Then, her face changed. "Oh... yes. I'm also here for camping. Just for fun!" the girl answered, but her eyes weren't smiling .



" Nice to meet you, are you camping here ?
"Nick asked ."yup ! Are your parents with you
? "Asked the strange visitor . " No , It's just
us. "replied the children . The visitor walked
two to five meters ago from their little
Campsite without another word . Nimi felt

peaceful about her, but Nick and Nikki felt suspicious .

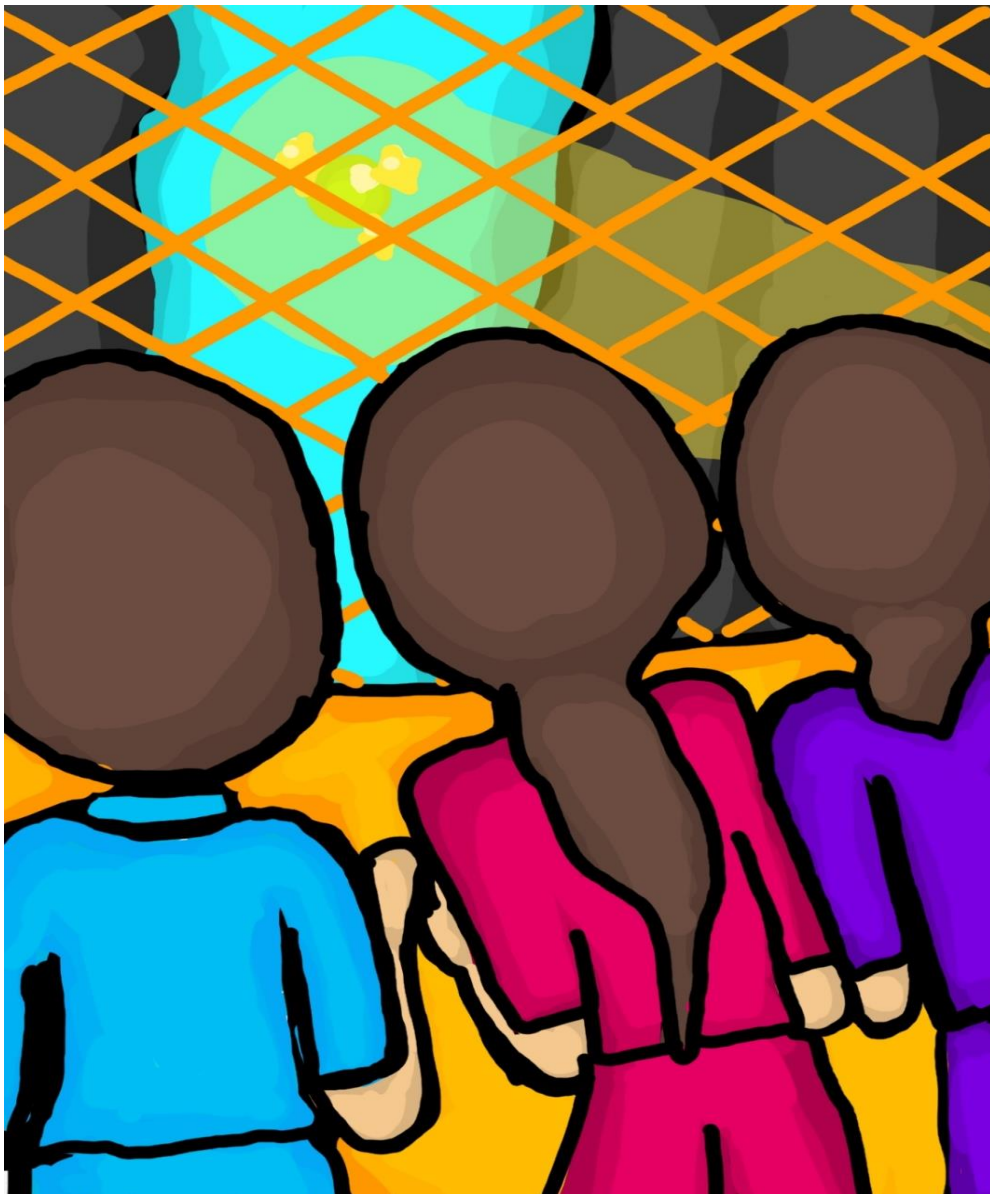
"I think she is hiding something from us" whispered Nick. "I don't think so. She seems friendly!" replied Nimi. " But we don't know her true qualities . " Answered Nikki with her lowest voice , looking strangely at their new neighbor .

After that , they went for a walk deep into the forest . Nick was holding the map which mom gave . Nick suddenly dropped the map and a tiny squirrel snatched the map and ran! . The children chased it .it ran to a gaint tree and dropped the map and vanished into a bush in the tree. For their amazement , they saw a gaint rocky cave ! . "Wha.....t was.... That.....sound ...?" Nimi asked with fear . "It

Sounds like a spring running inside the cave
" replied nick, whispered . "I think that's how
this forest got its name." Well, let's explore it
tomorrow "Nikki replied .her voice echoed
through the cave again and again "
tomorrow ,tomorrow ,tomorrow. "

"I think we are lost ." Nimi said , half alarmed
."Anyone got a compass ?" When they
realized they had no one , without any
hesitation , they tried to replace where they
are. Fortunately , they got their way back to
their campground . They saw a new tent was
There when they returned .it must belong to
the visitor .They got their breakfast after
seeing very strange things . They saw the
visitor was busy with something in her tent.

In the night they got their dinner washed up and went to bed .In the midnight Nikki saw a strange thing . Something was Sparkling in light green inside the waterfall .
"Nick wake up wake up I saw something."



Nick woke up first. "What's the matter? did you have a dream?" asked Nick rubbing his sleepy eyes "no, no this is real."

Then Nick woke up completely. She pointed to the waterfall. And Nimi woke up that moment. Their heart was beating fast. They saw a torch light was beaming everywhere from the woman's campsite. It seemed the girl also surprised about the strange glow inside the water. Would they find the mystery about the chaotic glowing thing.

In the morning, they planned to go to the place that where they saw the sparkling light. They packed everything that they want. In the night the sparkling got lightened today went by the path and climbed the rocks behind the waterfall. They saw a cave. Like

this so the day before. They went farther through the dark passage.

There were three rooms in front of them . the front one was locked and note written the key is on one of the rooms "strange!" whispered Nimi and the sound echoed through the hollow cave.

Suddenly, a sound was came from the left room they went to search it when they got into the room the door locked by someone!

They tried to unlock the door, but it wouldn't work. "Oh man," they sighed, feeling half alarmed. They searched every corner for the keys, they took a short break. "What time is it, Nick?" "It's 8:30," Nick replied.

They sat down and ate the sandwiches they had brought. Suddenly, Nick's eyes headed

on a large closet. "We didn't check that one!" he said after they finished their break.

They rushed over to check the closet. To their shock, there was another door inside .this one made entirely of glass. Through the glass, they could see the dark shadows of a woman and two men.



"That's the visitor we met yesterday!" Nick shouted. "Shh ! Lower your voice! She's looking at us !" Nikki whispered, pulling him back .

But fortunately, the villains didn't see them." The key must be somewhere in the closet." Nikki whispered . They searched carefully until they get a tiny box. It was easy to unlock. Inside they found a small heavy key. " Grab your the bags, we have to move" said Nikki. They tried the door and the door clicked open. they silently got into the main room and hided behind the sofa.

There was a note attached behind the old ,decayed sofa too. 'One key, many doors ,second stop' Written in the note . They notice that The woman and The two accomplices were searching something. I

think they are. "They must be searching the keys" Nikki whispered.

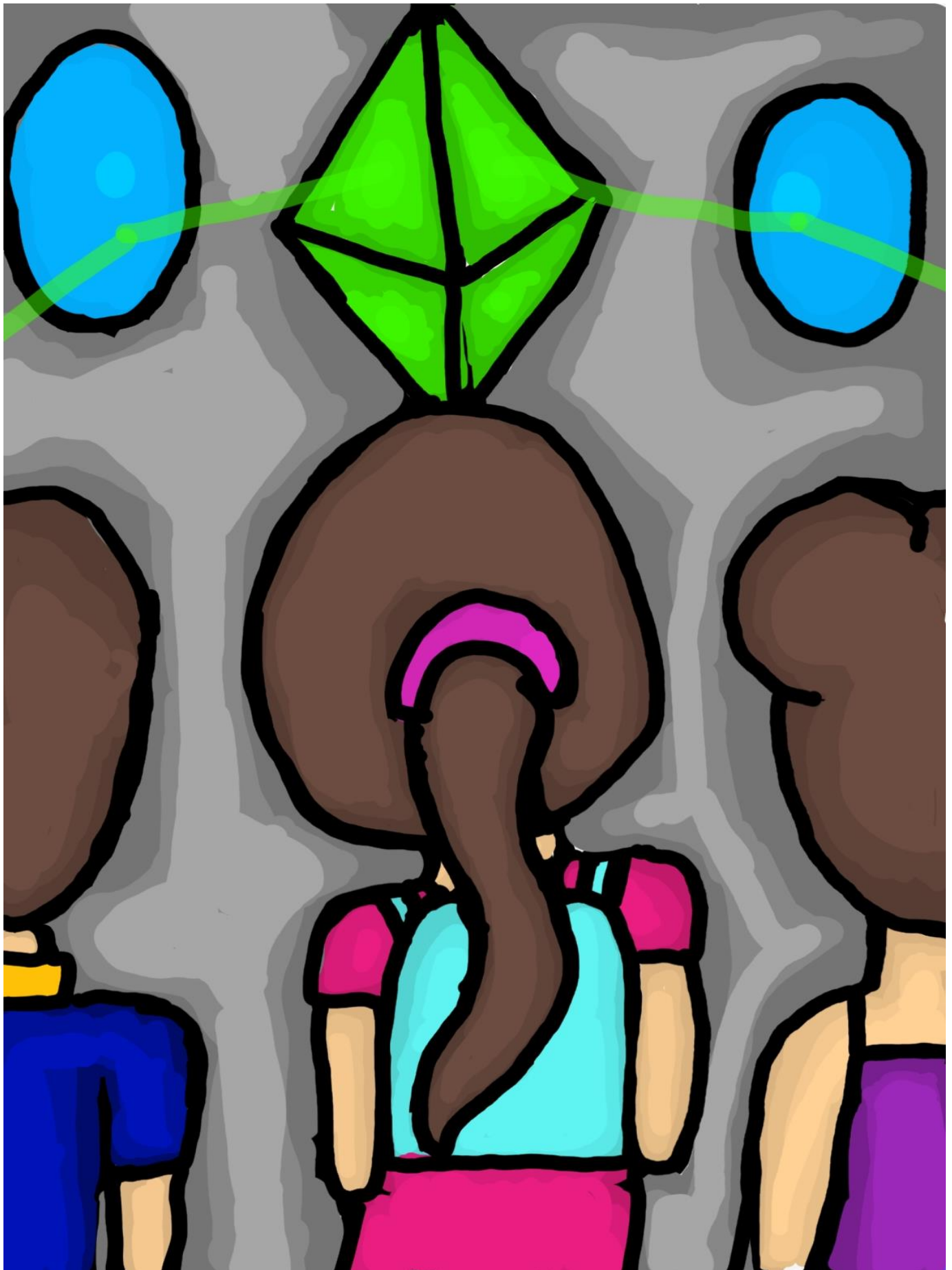
"But how did they get in here if the main door is locked?" Nick wondered .There might be a secret door in the other room too. Nimi noticed a iron door with the back of the sofa. " let's try the key" so they slid the silver key the door . the door swung open. For their luck. The woman still didn't see them . They saw a basement. "How could it be?" Giggled Nick.

They slowly stepped into the room and silently closed the door. And they let their torch , for their goodness They saw a light of a green sparkling towards a wall. Then the wind came and the green light disappeared. They look up everywhere but there where no sign. Accidentally, Nimi dropped something

.It broke into pieces. what was that? It was a Mirror.

Then Nick understood Something. "We have to use science to solve this," Nick replied. Do you? Remember what we learned at school? Don't you remember that light can reflect at specific angles on mirror surfaces .When the wind come , the alignment get lost and the light get disappeared . let's climb up the stairs ,so we can find the little green thing "Nick." Nick, you are a genius." Nikki replied happily.

So they climbed the stairs. There were hundreds of mirrors everywhere attached to the walls. Finally, they saw a gaint Diamond sparkling in green. There was a note On the wall In front of them.



Then suddenly someone came shouting into the room. It was the woman .Firstly, she didn't Notice the children. " That's what I want. Then we can Sell And be rich." She pointed the gaint crystal ." We don't let you sell it." Shouted Nikki, with the little fear too." Oh you !Messing around us. Catch them right now" Then the two boys climbed the stairs. They got Nimi and Nick ,But they couldn't catch Nikki.

"Go and call the police. Shouted Nick. "But....., I don't know what to do." Nikki shouted with hesitation. "It's OK. Just go, run!!" Shouted Nick . "Why are you standing here, Go and catch her too. "screamed the greedy visitor. But it was too late. Nikki turned a mirror next to her. Then the bright reflection burst into boys' eyes. Then Nikki

ran with her top speed from the exit near to her to call the police .

When the woman's tried to get the diamond, the squirrel who grabbed the map from Nikki while they were walking in the deep forest , was chewing a old wire up to the exit .Then suddenly, the exit locked with a large sound .Then the woman and two boys trapped with Three large metal cages! Nick and Nimi got free .

"Let's stay untill Nikki comes back " Nimi said with a great calm .After thirty minutes , when someone knocked the metal door ,The Squirrel chewed another wire. And then the metal door unbolted , But it didn't remove the cages .Nikki came with Three policemen into the sparkling room.

After catching the thieves the policemen thanked the children, for catching the thieves. "Not only for us. We should thank for him too. "said Nimi , pointing the wild squirrel . Then suddenly the squirrel Thrown away a letter to them . Nimi picked up ,and began to read it loudly.

to the
squirrel family ,

I know you all can
protect the crystal
diamond hidden in the
cave .If you have any
trouble, get the help of
the three children who
are enjoying their
7-day camping .They
are good kids . I trust
you all.

from

,

"Strange" Nick whispered .his mind was still racing with the mystery of the crystal .

"You should head home now. It's good for you all." said the police officer. "What's the time now? " asked Nick . " It's. 2:00." Answered. Nikki , checking her watch. After waving the final goodbye to the squirrel. Then They walked out of the exit cave with their bags .Someone was standing at the metal door !

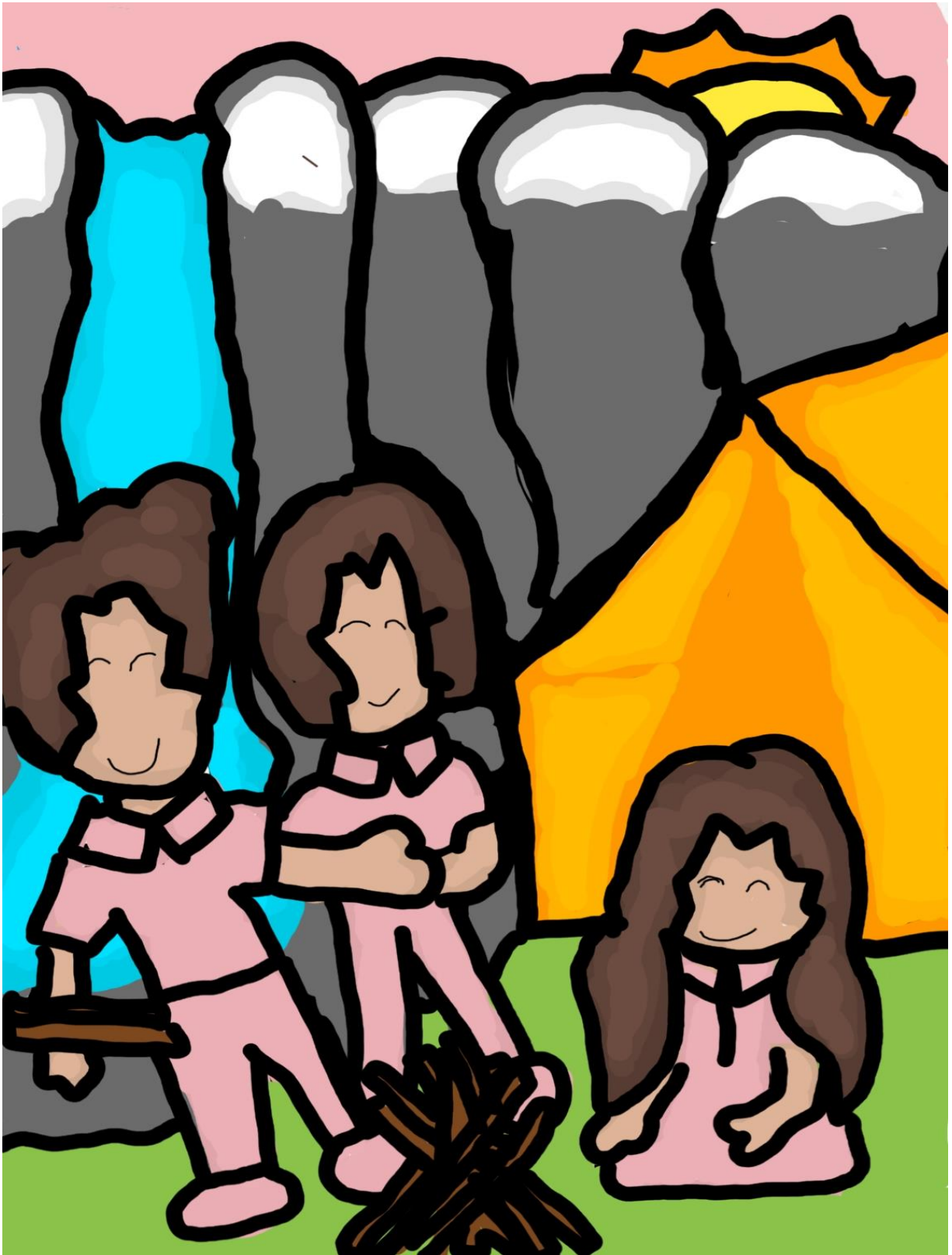
"Mom !" Children screamed joyfully ." Oh my darlings! I'm very proud of you "replied their mom ."Then, you are the one who wrote the letter" Nikki giggled , still in surprise . Mom nodded her head ."Yes my dear "

"Are we camping still ? " Nimi asked . " Why not , Father is also coming tomorrow "

replied mom . "Great! then we can camp together " Nikki screamed .

After that , they completed their 7 day trip successfully . **Isn't it great?**

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)