

Tom and the Naughty Bear



Evinya Alweera

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A.M. Evinya Alweera

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Listening to parents 2026

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Dedication

I dedicate this book
to my parents,
my siblings
and my school,
in gratitude for their constant love and
support.

Preface



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.

Tom lived in a small, quiet house right next to a big green forest. The forest was full of tall trees, colourful birds, and tiny animals that ran around all day. Tom loved looking at the forest from his window. His grandfather always warned him, “Never go into the forest alone without asking me.”



But inside that forest lived a naughty bear. The bear was big and brown, and he loved playing tricks on people. Sometimes he scared birds, sometimes he hid behind trees just to surprise anyone who came near.



One sunny morning, Tom felt bored at home. His grandfather was working in the garden, and Tom wanted to explore. He looked at the forest and thought, “I will just go for a little while.” So Tom quietly walked into the forest without asking anyone.



At first, Tom felt that the forest is fun and exciting. Tom saw butterflies flying around and heard birds singing sweet songs. He picked up small stones and followed a narrow path deeper into the forest. He didn't know that someone was watching him.



Behind a big tree, the naughty bear saw Tom. The bear smiled and thought, Let me play a trick on this little boy. Slowly and quietly, the bear started creeping closer and closer to Tom.



Suddenly, Tom heard a sound. Crunch... Crunch...He turned around and saw the naughty bear right behind him! Tom's eyes grew wide with fear. He opened his mouth and shouted loudly.

“Help! Help!”



**Hearing the shout, Tom's grandfather
dropped his tools and ran toward the forest.
When he reached Tom, the bear quickly
ran away into the trees.**



Tom's grandfather hugged him tightly and asked, "Why did you shout, Tom?"

Tom was shaking and said, "Grandfather, there was a naughty bear. I saw him creeping up to me!"



His grandfather looked around carefully and said, “Yes, this forest can be dangerous. That is why you must never come here without asking.”

Tom felt very sorry. He held his grandfather’s hand and walked back home slowly. His heart was still beating fast, but he felt safe again.



Later that day, Tom sat in the garden and thought about what had happened. He looked at his grandfather and said, “I am sorry. I will never go to the forest again without asking.”

His grandfather smiled and said, “That is a good lesson to learn.”



From that day on, Tom always listened to his grandfather. He played safely in the garden and only went to the forest when an adult was with him. And the naughty bear? He stayed deep inside the forest, still naughty but Tom was much wiser now.





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)