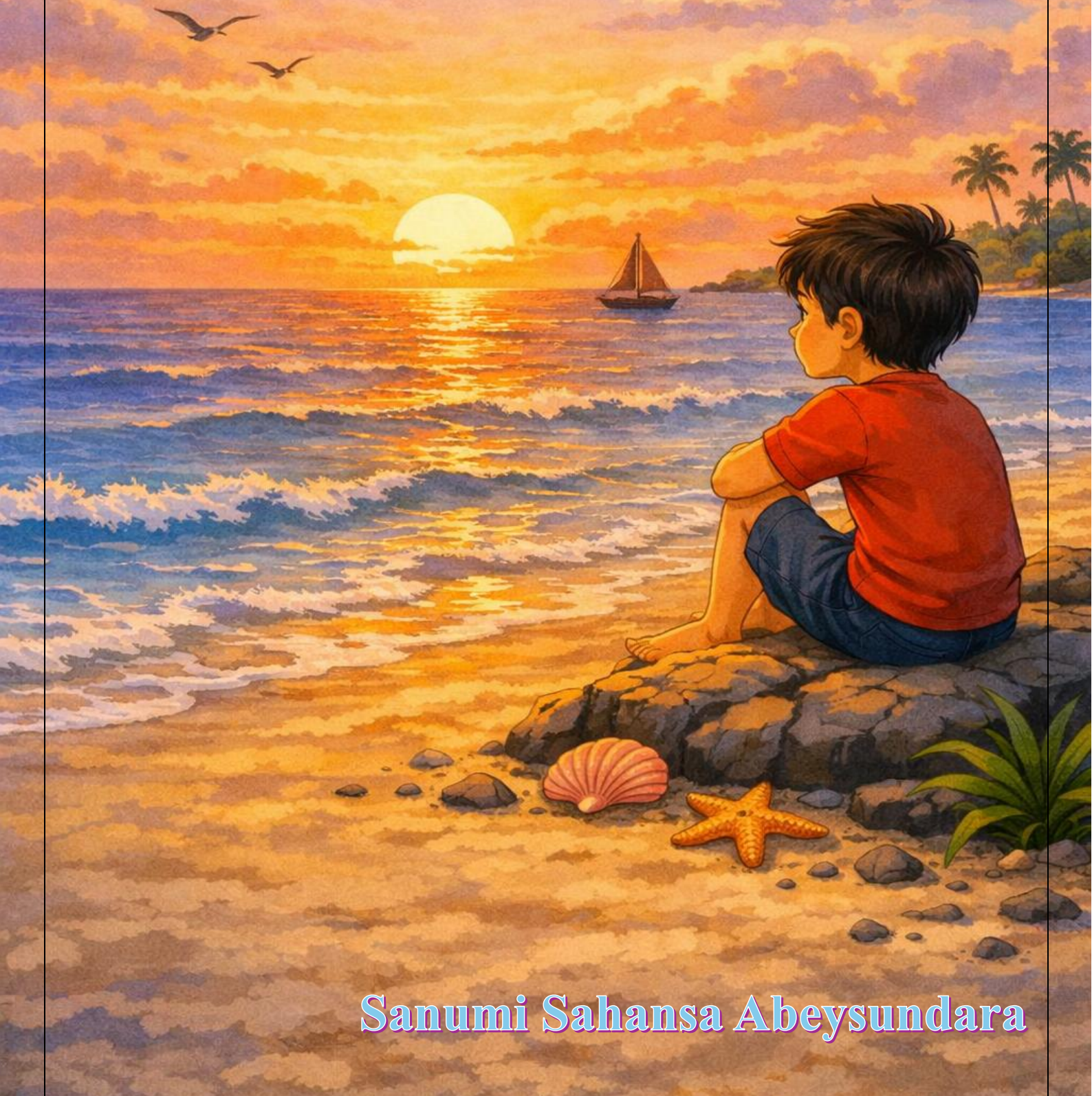


Why is Sea Water Salty?



Sanumi Sahansa Abeysundara

Why is Sea Water Salty?

story and arts

Sanumi Sahansa Abeysundara

ISBN: 978-624-211-333-3

Grade 6

Mahamaya Girls College

Kandy

Dedication

**I dedicate this book
to my dear parents and teachers,
who give me courage to face tomorrow,
with love and gratitude.**

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.

Sameera is a smart and curious 10 year old boy. He lives in a beautiful village near the sea. He likes to learn new things and ask many questions. His teachers like him very much because he is always interested in learning.

Most days after school, Sameera goes to the beach in the evening. He likes to listen to the sound of the waves and look at the sea. His mother told him not to go into the water alone, so he only stays near the shore.



Sameera's favourite activity at the beach is watching the sunset. He loves looking at the changing colours in the sky. After coming home, he likes to draw pictures of the sunset. One day, Sameera's mother came home early from work. Sameera asked her to go to the beach with him. His mother smiled and said, "Okay, let's go and play near the waves." Sameera became very happy. They walked together on the beach.



Sameera played in the shallow water and laughed happily.

While he was playing, a little seawater went into his mouth.

He tasted something salty. Then he remembered a question he wanted to ask for a long time.

“Mom, why is sea water salty?” Sameera asked.



His mother smiled and explained.

“When rain falls, the water flows over rocks, hills, and soil. While flowing, it takes tiny bits of salt and minerals from the rocks. Then the water flows through rivers and finally reaches the sea.”



Sameera listened carefully and asked, “But Mom, doesn’t the salt disappear after many years?”

His mother replied, “No, my son. Water from the sea goes up into the sky as vapor and forms clouds. But the salt stays in the sea. So, more and more salt collects in the sea over many years.”



Then Sameera asked another question.

“Mom, is salt in sea water important?”

“Yes,” his mother said. “Fish, crabs, and sea plants live in salty water. They are used to it. Without salt, it will be difficult for them to live properly.”



She also said, “People also use sea salt for food.”

Sameera became more curious.

“How do people get salt from sea water?” he asked.

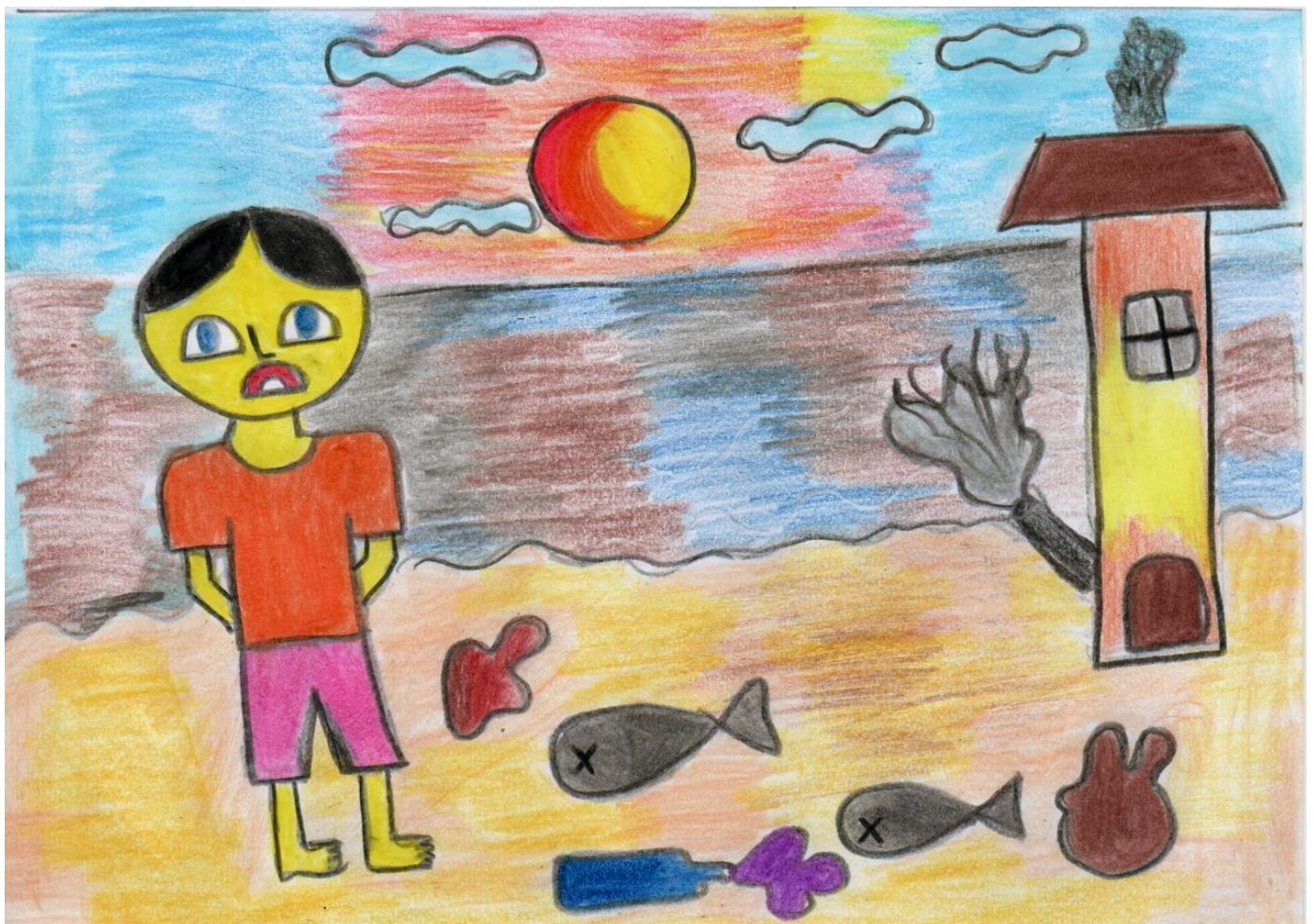
His mother explained, “Sea water is kept in shallow ponds under the hot sun. After some time, the water dries away, but the salt remains. Then people clean the salt and use it.”



After a moment, Sameera asked sadly, “But Mom, people throw garbage into the sea too, don’t they?”

His mother nodded.

“Yes. Some people throw plastic and other waste into the sea and rivers. Factories also release harmful chemicals into the water.”



Sameera looked worried.

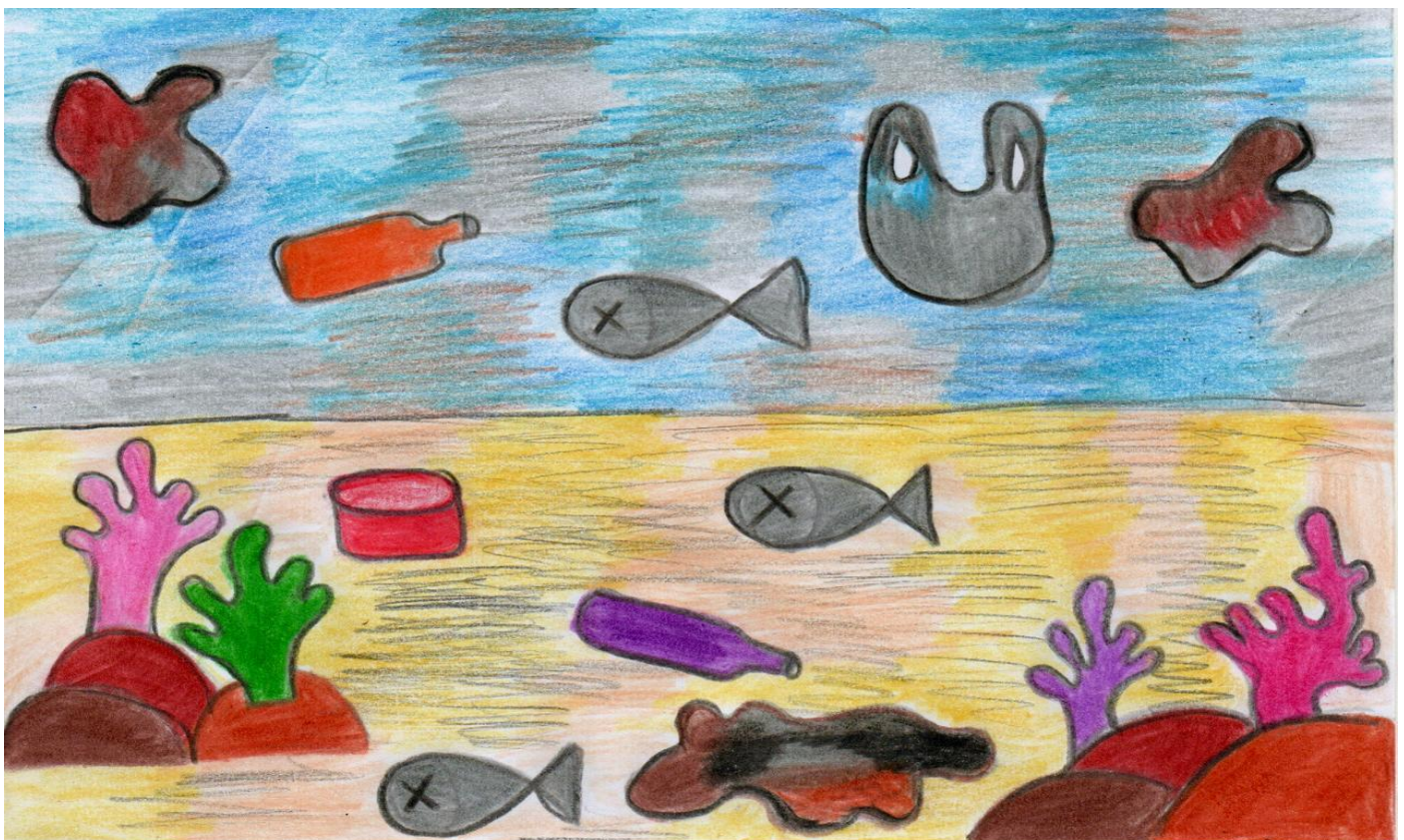
“Then the fish will die, right?” he asked.

“Yes,” his mother said sadly. “Not only fish, but many sea animals, sea plants, and coral reefs can be harmed. Polluted seafood can also make people sick.”

Sameera thought for a moment and asked, “Can we do something to protect the sea?”

His mother smiled gently.

“You must study well and learn how to protect the ocean. One day, you can help save the sea.”



After hearing all this, Sameera understood that the sea is not only a beautiful place, but also a huge natural laboratory where people can learn many scientific things.

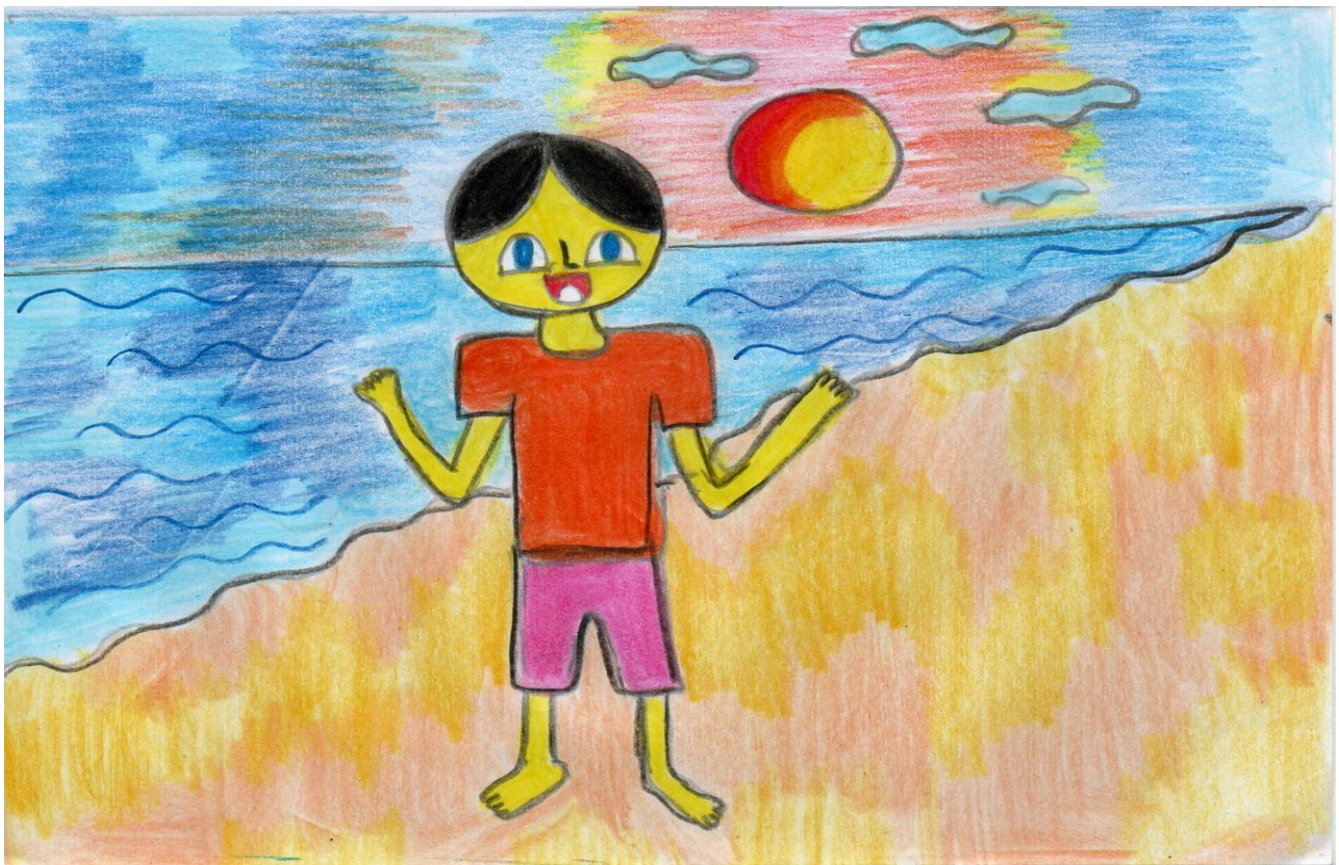
He decided that he must study well and find ways to protect the ocean.

“Mom, today I learnt many new things,” Sameera said.

His mother gently touched his head.

“When I grow up, I want to learn more about the sea and become a scientist who helps protect the ocean,” Sameera thought to himself.

As he listened to the sound of the waves, Sameera’s love for the sea grew even more.



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)

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