

# Essays for Kids

For 5 - 7 Grades



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**Grade 5 - 7**

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# Preface

*The object of this little book is to provide few model essays to our Kids. The careful study of few model essays will give them more insight into the art of essay – writing. Example is better than precept and the best way to teach a student the art of essay and letter – writing is to show how it is done.*

*We have released an essay book for little children. Many students and teachers welcomed the effort and appreciated the work. This book is outcome of the previous one. This piece of work is an attempt to help the rural students to read and express common ideas in English. The topics chosen and the ideas expressed are common and well within the grasp of even the backward student.*

*Language is learnt by imitation. And a good way of learning how to arrange words and sentences is by learning of good English by heart.*

*It is our hope that this piece of work would finally prop up their ability to tackle any essay type of questions at school and public examinations. I take this opportunity to thank the Manager K. Sathees Lanka Book Depot Colombo - 12 for encouraging me to write simple essays to our little children.*

*With Kindly regards  
S.Arulanantham*



## ➤ Contents:

1. *My Family*
2. *My home*
3. *My school*
4. *My friend*
5. *My favorite subject*
6. *My first day at school*
7. *My School Library*
8. *Our School Peon*
9. *Educational Value of Traveling*
10. *The importance of Salt*
11. *The radio*
12. *The computers*
13. *The trees*  
*The Christmas*  
*The recess period in my school*
14. *Jawahar Lal Nehru*
15. *The school/college magazine*
16. *The Juggler*
17. *Autobiography of a Rupee*
18. *Life without newspaper*
19. *Five things I like*
20. *Badminton*
21. *Traveling by over-crowded bus*
22. *The bus conductor*
23. *The Man Who Inspired Me*
24. *Our animal friends*
25. *The elephant*
26. *The tiger*
27. *The Cotton*
28. *The earth quake*
29. *Hobby - A good pass time*
30. *Snake charmer*
31. *Convincing for an outing - School outing*
32. *My last Sunday*
33. *My feelings on getting low marks*
34. *A wedding*
35. *A brave deed*
36. *A day in the life of a bus driver*

This book is dedicated to the famous English teacher

Late Mr.V.Thurairajah

# 01- My Family.....



I live in Nuwareliya. I live there with my nuclear family. I live with my parents and sister. We have a beautiful house in front of the park. We are very happy in our house. My mother and father are very nice. My father is a Doctor. My mother is a teacher. They help us in our studies.

My mother gets up early in the morning. She cooks the food for the whole family, and then she goes to her school. She returns at 3 p.m. every day.

My sister studies in a school. She is very hardworking and intelligent. She helps me in studies. She always stands first in her class. I study in grade four.. I love playing various games.

My parents are very kind-hearted. They are always ready to help the needy and poor. They are very religious. Every Sunday, we go for outings. I am proud of having such nice parents and sister. All of them love me very much.

## 02 - My Home.....



The saying 'East or West, home is the best' is true in more ways than one. Home offers affection and security. My home to me is the best place in the world, where I live with my mother, father and a sister.

I belong to a middle class family. My home is a little flat on the 1st floor in Colombo. Our drawing-cum-dining room is tastefully decorated. It has a TV set, a sofa, and a refrigerator, and a dining table. The decoration pieces remind me of our visits to different places. There are two bedrooms. One is used by my parents and the other is shared by three of us. Not only the room but the study-table is also shared by us.

Ours is a small and happy family, where every member has consideration for the needs and comforts of each others. We all share household work too. Our morning is busy and everybody rushes about doing one's work and takes food or breakfast as and when ready. But we all have our dinner together. We share all that we had enjoyed or suffered during the day.

We keep our home clean and tidy. Everything is kept in place. I am proud of my home.



## 03 - My School.....



I study in Vivekananda College which is one of the best schools in Colombo. It has all facilities. Such as well furnished classrooms, laboratories, library and playground.

As we enter the school, there is a playground to our left and a small garden to our right. When we enter the building, the Principal's office room is in the left and the staff room to the right side. These are well furnished. There are thirty four classrooms. Our labs are well equipped. Our library has books almost on all subjects. Our Librarian is also very helpfull.

Our school, like all schools, has a prescribed uniform. We have to wear white cotton shirts, blue trousers, black shoes and white socks. Girls have to wear white blouses and light-blue skirts in primary and middle classes and white shirts and light-grey skirts in higher classes. They have to tie white ribbon also

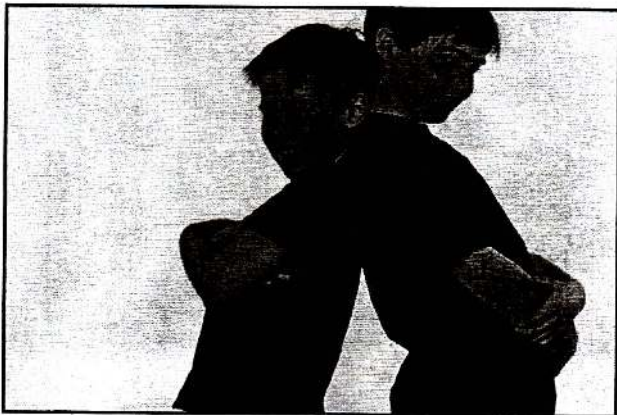
In our school special attention is paid to behavior, cleanliness and punctuality. The most well behaved, neat and punctual student is awarded a prize at the Annual Day function.

Our Principle is a strict disciplinarian. He takes the help of other teachers too. If anyone violates the rules, and is not in uniform, or makes mischief, he gets punished. But he is fair and loving. He tries to find out the reason and guides us.

Our teachers are also quite strict. They teach us with great care, check our exercise books, help us when we need but if we are inattentive and don't work properly, then we are punished.

I like my school very much and I am proud that I belong to it. I shall never forget it.

# 04 - My Friend.....



Man is a social animal. Where ever, he goes, he makes friends but few are real friends. Vimalan is my real friend. He is of my age and studies in my class.

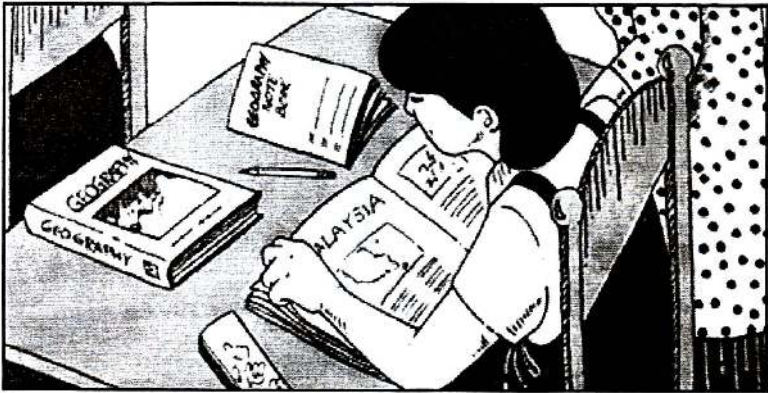
Vimalan is quite tall, fair and healthy. He is an ideal student. He is hard working. He listens to the teachers attentively. He is good in Basketball and Table Tennis, the game I like. He is well behaved and liked by all.

Vimalan is always ready to help me. Whenever I have any difficulty in studies, he tries to solve it. He is good at mathematics and I am weak. He helps me when needed. The problems that I do not understand are explained by him. He does not lose patience, if I am slow in grasping it.

In the evening we always play together. We visit each other's houses too. My parents like him very much. He has become almost a member of my family. We discuss all problems in his presence and at times consult him too. His parents treat me in the same way.

When my brother was hospitalized, he stood by me and shared my duties. "A friend in need, is a friend indeed' is a friend indeed' I am lucky to have such a friend.

# 05 - My Favorite Subject.....



I am a science student but unlike my other classmates, I have opted for Elective English. My friends and relatives tried to dissuade me saying – I will have to waste a lot of my precious time on English – a not very scoring subject. But English as it is not literary.

Reading in itself is a great pleasure. English has a wealth of literature, unsurpassed by any other language, the descriptions and the complexities of the nuances.

Studying Shaw and Hardy gives us an insight in human nature. We realize what actions bring what reactions. How a man would react to a given set of circumstances or action. We learn to look for and understand deeper meanings.

My love for my subject has inculcated in me the habit of reading. As a philosopher pointed out, “Reading ennobles man, makes one more tolerant to the follies of others and bridges the gap between the countries and cultures” I hope that it will do so for me too.



## 06- My First dat at School.....



My first day at school is a memorable day in the history of my life. When I was about three years old my mother decided to admit me in the nursery class in a school nearby our residence. My mother gave the sweets to the teacher. The teacher distributed the sweets among the children of my class.

There are about 40 teachers in my school. My class teacher was a young, beautiful good natured lady. She was wearing Jeans and Shirts. She was our English teacher. She had asked many questions about me. As soon as the bell for the recess rang, the students jumped out merrily. They sat in the groups of two or three. All the students took their lunch boxes and sat here and there. Students took the meals and ran to the ground for playing.

The teacher sat in the classroom. She took tea to refresh herself for the next periods. When the final bell rang, I returned with my mother. I was veiy happy. I can't forget that day.



## 07 - My School Library.....



My school library is housed in a big room. The room is well-furnished. It is airy. About seventy students can sit in the library.

The books are arranged in almirahs. There are books on Science, Geography, History, Economics, Political Science, Sociology and Literature. There are a large number of children's books.

Magazines and journals are kept on the tables. The titles of the books are displayed on boards. My school library is a quiet place. It remains open all day.

Mr. Suresh is the librarian. He is an intelligent person. He keeps the books in proper order.

Students can read and borrow all types of books. He helps the students to choose good books.

The library is a very useful place in the school.

## 08 - Our School Peon.....



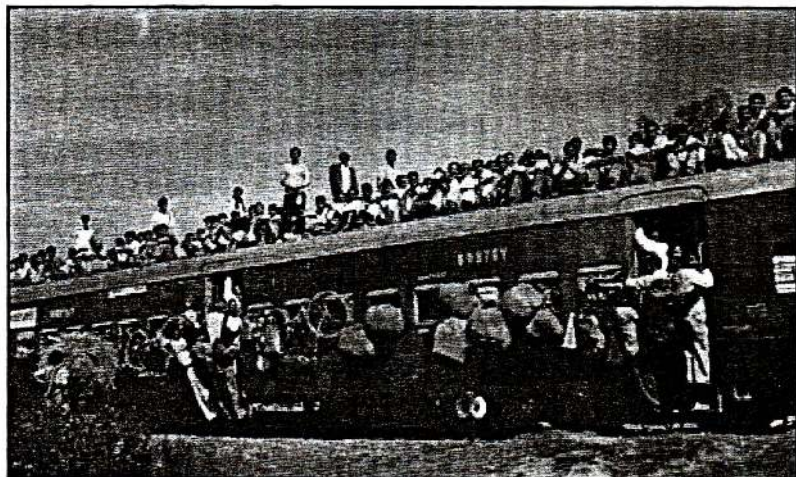
Peon is a very important person in a school. Raman the peon of our school. He is a very good man. All teachers and students like him.

Raman Lai is about twenty six years old. He has pas his Middle School Examination. He wears the sc' uniform when he is on duty. He is a hard-working He reaches the school before the school starts. He opens the rooms. He dusts the Principal's office and the Room. He is sincere and regular in his work.

He sits outside the Principal's room. He takes letters and other circulars from the Principal to teachers. He can read and write Tamil, English and Sinhala, He keeps the school Notice Board up-to-date.

All the teachers like him and praise him for his preparing for the G.A,Q examination. He takes help from the teachers. He lives in the school room. He rings the bell in time. He keeps the class registers at proper place. He works very hard but his pay is less?

## 09 - Education Value of Traveling...



All modern means of transport have made traveling veil easy. Today, we have buses, cars, railways, aeroplanes ships and many other means of traveling.

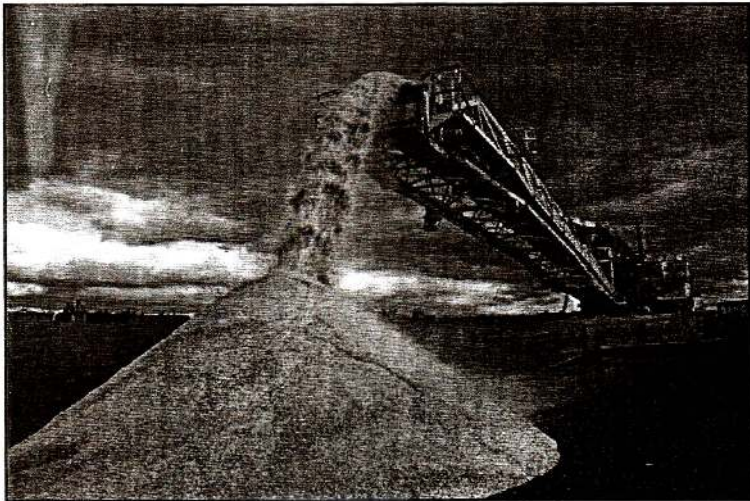
Traveling has great educative value. It teaches better than books. Bookish knowledge is theoretical. Traveling makes we see things, people and places with our own eyes.

Subjects like history, geography and social science can be better learnt through traveling. We come in contact with other people by traveling. We come to know about their habits, customs and traditions. Thus our outlook is widened.

Educational tours arranged by schools promote inter-state and international goodwill. They strengthen the relations of friendship among various states and countries.



# 10 - The importance of Salt.....



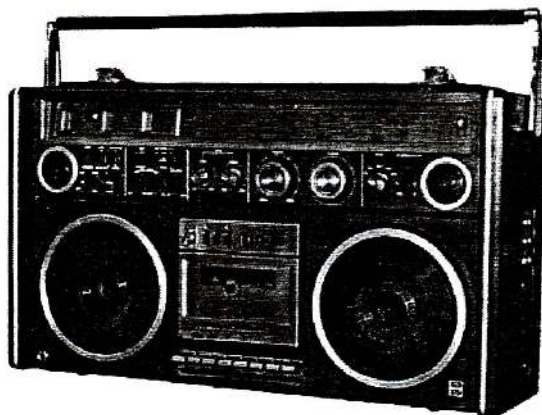
Salt is a white transparent crystalline compound. It is found in the rocks of mines. Rock salt is reddish in colour. It is seldom used in our everyday life. We use refined salt in our food. Edible salt is prepared from sea water. Sea water is boiled or dried up in the sun.

During boiling, the liquid portion rises up as vapour, leaving behind the salt. This salt is then refined, and made fit for human consumption.

Salt gives taste to our food. It helps indigestion. It purifies our blood and is useful to our health in many ways. Salt is used in the preparation of medicines. It is also used in the preservation of food, such as meat, etc.



# 11 - The radio.....



Radio is one of the most wonderful gifts of science. Radio sets are very popular. They can be found in every home. It has made us feel the world small.

It helps us in sending news and message without wires. We can enjoy news, music, songs etc. from different part of the world through it sitting in our houses.

We also get lessons on radio at school. The programmes are broadcast all the twenty four hours from radio. Film songs and children programmes are of much interest.

Radio is also a powerful means of teaching. In short the radio is of great use and interest to all of us. Now we have pocket radios which are very convenient to carry.

# 12 - The Computers.....



An early calculating device called abacus was developed more than 2000 years ago. It is still in use in some countries. Several mathematicians and scientists have worked during the last three centuries to develop computer. The early electronic computers, called the first generation computers were based on vacuum tubes.

The second generation was based on transistors, and the third generation computers were based on ICs. The fourth generation computers are based on LSI and VLSI ICs.

One of the most commonly used classifications of computers is based on its size. Here, the computers are divided into three categories-Large (mainframe), mini and micro. The PCs that you use fall in the micro category. Large companies, banks, airlines, etc. normally use large (main frame) computers. The mini computers fall between the mainframes and micro computers.

Computers are also be classified as analog and digital. PC is a digital computer. The computers used in offices and homes are generally digital. Digital computer operates directly on numbers that are expressed as digits. Digital computers are more accurate than analog computers. They can be used for data processing as well as for scientific, engineering and industrial applications. On the other hand, analog computers that are normally used in the process industry or in instruments can directly measure physical parameters, such as voltage, current pressure, temperature, length, weight, flow etc. However, now-a-days, digital computers are also being used for industrial applications.

# 13 - The trees.....



Trees occupy an important place in the life of man. The trees provide us flowers, fruits, fodder for animals, The Tvus Provid wood for fire and furniture. provide cool shadow from scorching sun. They give us so many such good things and yet expect nothing in return.

Trees give us fruits for food and flowers for pleasure. They provide us timber (wood) for building our houses and making furniture. They provide us wood for fuel. They supply sleepers for the railway line. Many trees provide us medicinal products such as quinine and eucalyptus. In fact, most of the medicines that we use ultimately come to us through trees and vegetation.

Trees play an important role in purifying the air around us. They breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen that sustains our life. Thus they make this world a better place to live in.

Trees are also very necessary for having good rainfall. The trees attract rain bearing clouds and prevent soil erosion and conserve the earth.

Our Government also realised the importance of trees. The Government introduced the tree planting campaign in the country. The school children conducting the tree planting campaign every year. The campaign made us all aware of the importance of trees. Even science has proved that trees are as necessary to our atmosphere as our food for life.



# The Christmas.....



25th December is observed by the Christians as “Christmas”, the birthday of Jesus Christ. They greet their friends and relatives with ‘Merry Christmas’.

On the day, they dress well, eat good food, and offer gifts to their near and dear ones. They pass the day with a gay spirit.

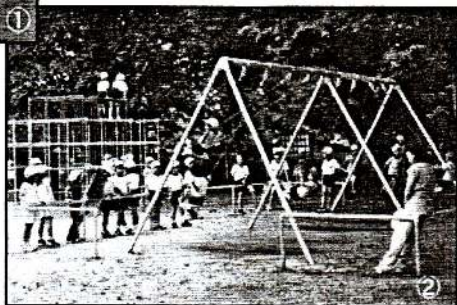
The Christians decorate their house with the ‘Christmas Tree’ which is an artificial evergreen tree, illuminated by small electric bulbs and dazzling paper stars. The children sing the carol, a Christmas hymn, in chorus in memory of Christ’s birth.

They eagerly await the arrival of Father Christmas, the ‘Santa Claus’ who is supposed to bring with him many beautiful gifts for the children. Santa Claus is dressed in red and white with long white beard.

He carries a bagful of attractive gifts such as toys, toffees and sweetmeats. However, churches and public places are illuminated with glamour and grandeur of the festive mood.



# The recess period in my school..



The recess period is very exciting. The school bell goes for the lunch break. There is a great noise in the whole building. The children rush out of their classrooms. They wait for this period impatiently.

Most of the students take their lunch boxes and sit in the playground. They sit in groups of three or four. They take their food and rush to the water taps.

There is a great rush at the school canteen. Some students play different games in the play ground. Some students go to the library. They read newspapers and magazines. Some students sit in their classrooms. They complete their homework.

They do not play or buy anything from the canteen. The teachers sit in the staff room. Some teachers take some food or tea. They refresh themselves for the remaining periods. When the bell goes, all the children go back to their classrooms.

# 14 - Jawahar Lal Nehru.....

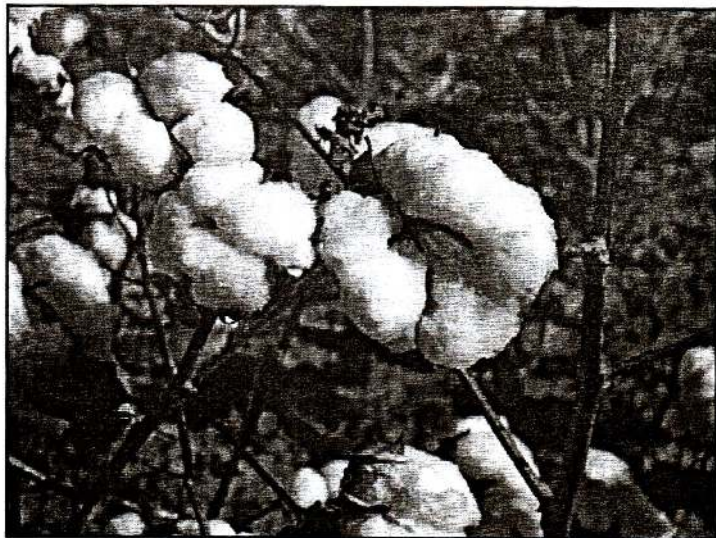


Jawahar Lal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India. He was a very popular national leader. He was respected by people of all castes and creeds. He was born on 14th November 1889 at Allahabad. He belonged to a wealthy Brahmin family. His father, Pandit. Moti Lal Nehru was a great lawyer.

Jawahar Lal Nehru received his education at Harrow School and Trinity College, Cambridge and returned to India. He became a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He toured the country and joined the struggle for freedom started by Mahatma Gandhi. He became the President of the Indian National Congress. He wanted to achieve complete freedom for the country. India became free on 15th August 1947.

Nehru was a great leader. He tried to solve the difficult problems of our country. India became strong during his prime minister ship. His world for the uplift of the country. He loved peace and did his best to bring peace to the world. Nehru died on 26th May, 1964. He is the father of Indra Gandhi and grandfather of Rajeev Gandhi.

# 15 - The Cotton.....



Cotton is a soft substance like soft wool. It is obtained from a plant of the same name. It is cultivated all over the world, but mainly grown in the U.S.A, India, Egypt, Brazil, etc. Indian cotton crop is the second largest product in the world.

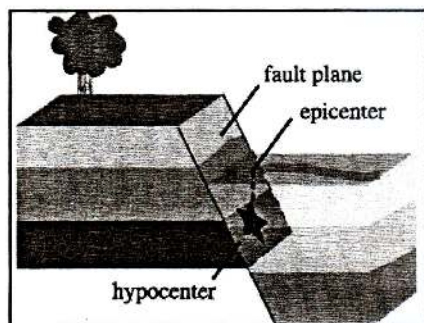
Cotton plants grow tall. Some remain low in size. Pods generally come to the plants in autumn. They burst when ripe, and then come back numerous black seeds covered with white cotton. It is then gathered, cleared of seeds, packed in bales and dispatched for sales in the market.

Cotton is used for making textiles, quilt, bed sheets, mattresses, etc. It is used in various forms as household goods and also in certain machineries. There are many cotton mills in India, where spinning and weaving of cloth are done by machines.

In the handloom industry, cloth is made by the weavers from the yarn spun with the help of charkha by individuals in the villages. Indian cotton goods are exported in large quantity to different countries of the world.



# 16 - The earth quake.....



The literal meaning of 'earthquake' is shaking or trembling of the earth's crust. Here a few definitions revealing the nature and cause of an earthquake are being given to make this phenomenon easily understandable.

According to Worcester, "an earthquake is a vibration or oscillation of the surface of the earth caused by a transient disturbance of the elastic or gravitational equilibrium of the rocks at or beneath the surface".

Any major disturbance in the arrangement of rocks produces vibrations which spread out in all directions from the source of disturbance.

In fact, an earthquake presents the passage of such vibrations which results in the shaking of the crustal surface of the earth.

An earthquake can also be defined as a shaking of the ground surface ranging from a very mild tremor to a wild motion capable of shaking buildings apart.

“Earthquakes are vibrations of the earth that occur when the accumulating strain of slow crustal deformation is suddenly released by displacement along a fault. It is worthwhile to remember that an earthquake does not cause displacement of rocks.

It is important to note that earthquakes signify the release of energy caused by the movement of crustal blocks past one another.

In other words, earthquakes can be defined as a convulsion of the earth's crust due to the release of accumulated stress as a result of faults in strata or volcanic action.

Stresses in the earth's crust may be caused in various ways to be discussed later while describing the causes of earthquakes. As a matter of fact, earthquakes are the most prominent evidence of the present day diastrophism.

# 17 - Hobby - A good pass time.....



A hobby is the best form of recreation to mind and body. People's hobbies differ very much according to the character of the person himself. What would appeal to one man might be the subject of ridicule to another. The best form of recreation is one that can develop in one awareness, colour, concentration and an observational power. In pursuance of a hobby, one can enjoy one's leisure and learn at the same time.

There are many activities in our life, which can be developed into hobbies or interest. One should choose a hobby wisely. Reading, indoor games, painting, writing, singing, dancing, reading for a blind boy or even decorating a house etc. are some well-known hobbies. Denise Robins, queen of romantic writers, with 130 novels to her name, cultivates roses.

Hobbies fill a gap. It can our spirit when we are depressed. It makes us creative. Many friendships are formed among people who have common hobbies. The unique quality of a person can be developed with the help of a good hobby.

It eases your mind to be absorbed in something. You have something to show to your friends and something which is educating and brings relaxation to a tired mind. Many hobbies can be used commercially and it can bring fame. Hobby is constructive. It gives the mind something positive to hold on to. Nothing can make you feel bore while you have an interesting hobby to turn to.



# 18 - Snake charmer.....



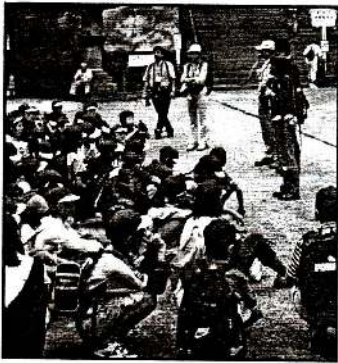
A snake charmer is a common sight to our villages. Now-a-days we do not come across a snake charmer so often in the capital city. I had an opportunity to see a snake charmer and his snakes a month ago.

The snake charmer was clad in dirty Pyjama. He had a covered basket in one hand a BEEN (flute) in another. He was wearing a worn out chapel and had a red scarf round his neck.

The charmer was a middle-aged man. He had a short beard he promised to show us a snake dancing, if each one of us, the spectators, paid him a rupee. A few agreed, others left.

The snake charmer sat on the ground, took his BEEN and started playing on it. He lifted the cover of the basket. A big fat snake came out of it slowly, faced the snake charmer and started swaying its head; had read about it, seen in a movie, but had never believed it to be true. It was a great experience for me.

# 19 - Convincing for an outing - School outing.....



Our school has a programme of sending the final year students both boys and girls for an outing, involving night stays. My parents are very upset about it, and especially my mother. She cannot think of boys and girls mixing up, that too in journeys and night-halts. She has agreed to send me, and is asking my father, to meet the school authorities and to get the proposal dropped.

I asked my friends Mary and Monika, one evening to join me, in pleading to my mother, for her permission. They have also agreed to assure my parents that we three would form a group, and would stay together for all practical purposes. As both of them are held in high esteem by my mother, we expect she would allow me to go.

At the appointed time, both came to my house, when I had gone to the music class, and very casually told my mother that four lady teachers were joining the outing and about a dozen girls have already come forward for the outing. They have paid money also.

My mother was taken aback, in the first stage of the drama, and relented a bit, only to allow me to join, in case she herself was also allowed going with the party. When these two girls explained the whole situation and told her that her going was not possible and would appear to be rather funny, she very reluctantly agreed to allow me to go on the preplanned condition that I would not leave these girls under any circumstances.

When I returned from the music class, I joined them to give an assurance that we three would always stay together and would keep our beddings etc. also in the same room or tent while in the outing.

My father also came in the evening to announce that the outing was compulsory for all the final students and he had as such paid my share of money to the class-teacher. We all heard that with a sigh of relief.

## 20 - My last Sunday.....



Sundays generally have a fixed routine for the TV programs. But last Sunday was different. On Monday I had two papers-English and Mathematics. Due to unavoidable circumstances, I had not been able to do any revision. So, I had planned in detail how I would revise both

subjects that day.

I had planned to get up early and had set alarm clock to wake me up, but I got up very late. I had to skip through my lessons in English to make up for the lost time. I was not really worried, as I felt I knew it.

After breakfast, I started revising Math. I got stuck in the third problem. I was still trying to solve it when my uncle came with his family. I had to go to the market. When I returned, I learnt that the maid had not come. My sister was busy helping mother in the kitchen. So, I had to help in lying table, doing odd jobs and entertaining my uncle and cousins. I was free, only when they left at 5 p.m.

I went to my room and bolted the door, so that I could study undisturbed. By the time I really settled down there was a breakdown of electricity. I was very upset. Mother advised me to go to sleep and promised to wake me up, as soon as the electricity came. As there was no current till late at night, all went to sleep. When I got up, it was almost 5 O'clock. The lights were on in all the rooms. I became worried and went round to see what the matter was. I found every one sound asleep. I tried to sit and study but I was so angry and anxious that I could not concentrate. Anyway, it was to get up and get ready.

Thus, the whole of the last Sunday was wasted. I could neither watch TV and enjoy, nor study.



# 21 - My feeling on getting low marks.....



An examination is at best a gamble but after taking an examination, we know slightly what we can expect. I had worked hard for this examination. I had done my papers well. I was quite confident that I would get a high 1st division. There was a sneaking hope in my mind that I might get a merit position. I waited anxiously for the results.

On the day the results were to come, I reached school well before time. As soon as the result was put on the board I hunted for my roll number. I had secured a first division but just scraped through it. I could not believe it. How could I get such low marks? All my answers were correct. Then how I had scored only 80% marks in Mathematics? And how the hell I could get barely forty-five marks in Social Studies? I was very good in it. I felt cheated.

At first I felt like crying. In desperation I could have committed suicide. All my hard work had gone waste! And then secured in me such a range that I could have torn my examiners to pieces, if only I could lay my hands on them. What did they mean by giving me such low marks? I deserved better. They probably evaluated my papers after a quarrel or in a bad mood. But why should I be made to suffer? I felt shy of facing my friends and teachers. Gradually, anger and shame gave way to a dull acceptance of my fate.

My parents comforted me by telling that there are other examinations. Moreover first division is not so bad that I should feel so miserable. What cannot be cured must be endured. Anyway time is a great healer. I also kept quiet.

## 22 - The school / college magazine.



As a rule, every school and college brings out an annual magazine in which the merits of the institution, the functions and other extra-curricular activities and the achievements of the students are highlighted.

The publication of the magazine should not, however, be taken as a ritual or a routine matter. The magazine should and can play an important role and affect all the aspects of the administration of the institution and the life of the students. It should be the

voice of the institution, it should represent the institutional affairs and activities in their totality and it should reflect the aspirations and ambitions of those who constitute the fraternity of the learners and the teachers.

It can be made a powerful instrument for discovering and exhibiting the intellectual potentialities of the students. Besides providing entertainment, instruction and enlightenment to the students, the magazine can urge and inspire them to make creative efforts and it can also teach them how to express their views in a good and effective language. The student editors, guided by their teachers, can learn the basics of journalism.

It is a pity that more often than not the interest of the students in the magazine is limited to the desire to see their names in print. And it is deplorable that contributing articles to the magazine is taken very casually and the material is openly plagiarized. With the encouragement of the authorities and the pains taken by the teachers, the students can be taught the art of writing and editing and they can bring out a magazine which is really worth-while.



## 23 - The Juggler.....



We find jugglers in different streets of a town or a village. The people enjoy their tricks. A juggler carries a bag on his shoulder. A young chap follows him. He may be his son.

A juggler carries his things and places them in a corner of a street. He earns his bread with this stock of articles. The sound of the drums attracts children and they rush out to watch the juggler's show. The clever tricks of the juggler entertain the people very much.

A juggler starts his show with playing-card tricks and sometimes he starts his show with a little monkey. He holds a rupee coin and spins it into the air. Then he takes out his magic wand and closes his fist, with the rupee coin in and it becomes a five-rupee note. People cheer him. With a little basket, he moves around a collects small coins. The children give him money. Entertains children and other people. His feats of ski are enjoyed much by the people.



## 24 - Of a Rupee.....



I am a coin. I am called 'a rupee' by everyone. Everyone wants to own me. I am made of a metal. The metal has to pass through many stages in the furnaces of a mint. On one side of me is written 'one rupee' and on the other side, there is the emblem of the country.

I cannot be destroyed easily. I play the role of a helper.

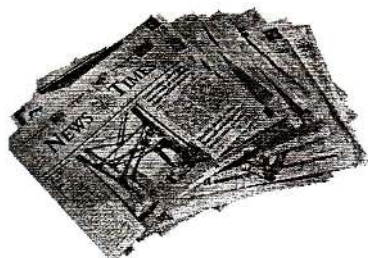
When salary is given to the employees, I am need badly. I am required in every shop.

People are respected in the society if they have me plenty. Hard labour is required to own me.

No one satisfy his wants without me. In the form of a metal, I am coin. In the form of a currency note, I am made paper printed on both sides. Coins of a metal and currency note have the same value.

I am a friend of the poor people. They have to work very hard to own me.

# 25 - Life without newspaper.....



Life without newspaper is difficult to imagine. It is the first thing that we look for every morning. It brings us news and views from all corners of the world. Any event or occurrence of importance that takes place is reported by the newspapers.

The newspapers carry information for everyone-businessman, politician, unemployed people, players and kids etc. It widens knowledge, keeps one abreast of all advances made in the fields of science, education, medicine and technology

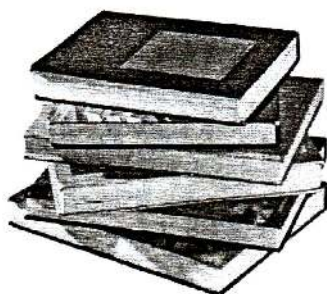
Newspapers are important pillar in a democracy. A free press not only makes people aware of the views and policies of government, but also of their rights. It keeps the government informed of people's wishes, desires and aspiration can be expressed.

Newspapers keep us in constant touch with news, developments, changes, advances and occurrences in each nook and corner of the world and at a very little price to the reader. It's popularity gives it immense power in molding public opinion.

Unfortunately most newspapers have vested interests. They are owned by capitalist and have to toe their line. Some newspapers are organs of political party. Their loyalty to the party is greater than sense of fair play.

It is essential to cultivate faculty in the readers, so that they do not believe every word of news. The newspaper should also have a very strict code of ethics to which it should conscientiously adhere to.

# 26 - Five things I like.....



All of us have our likes and dislikes. So have I, my dislikes are many. But out of my likes I have five on the top. These are poetry, music, excursions, meeting people and reading thought provoking books and magazines.

Being a student of literature, I have read Wordsworth and his poems have left their lasting effect on me. Other poets of nature who have impressed me most are Keats, Robinson.

Music people say, has its effect even on trees, plants, animals and their growth. Milk cows have shown better yield of milk due to music I like Michael Jackson the most.

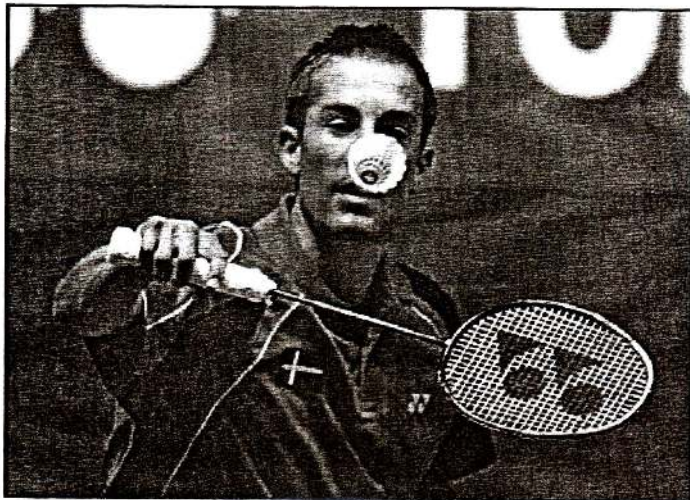
I have gone on excursions to almost all nearby hill stations and health resorts. I prefer to go on educational, scientific and historical tours also.

Meeting people from various professions is another hobby. I have pen-friends among intellectual, artistes, actors, Dancers, Scientists and University Professors.

Reading books on Philosophy, Religion, Anthropology, World History and Literature is my last liking. I subscribe to magazines and read books on these subjects.



## 27 - Badminton.....



Many play cricket, basketball, soccer, or tennis. Many of them watch these sports on TV, and many buy tickets to their games and matches. But very few play badminton. Even a smaller number buys a ticket to watch a game.

As a player myself, I can assure you that it is the misconception of common people that badminton is merely a backyard sport. Badminton began as a leisurely backyard sport and evolved to competitive sport ranging to Olympic levels.

Badminton originated thousands of years ago in India, before many of the other sports were commercialized.

It is believed to have evolved from a children's game known as *battledore* and *shuttlecock*, the *battledore* being a paddle and the *shuttlecock* a small-feathered cork, now called a "bird" or "birdie." The objective was simply to keep the bird in the air as long as possible.

## 28 - Traveling by over crowded bus..



Traveling by bus in an enjoyable experience and I prefer traveling by my car. But not traveling by an overcrowded bus. It is only an ordeal to enter an overcrowded bus but to buy your ticket, maintain vertical posture and alight at your destination without injury to your limber property is also a feat.

Once I was standing at the head of the queue and did not enter as the bus was overcrowded when a friend came tearing from the rear. She almost forced me to board the bus telling me not to worry as somebody would give seat to us ladies.

Inside the bus, it was like the plight of the sardine which try to get out of the tin from its bottom. I had to move from the entrance to the exit, but my ticket and that too in a bus which was not just packed to the full but was not even meant for carrying standing passengers. In the process, many boots stepped on my shoes and I too trod on many boots.

Twice I found myself in very uncomfortable position. Once because a co-passenger tried to relieve his sufferings by smoking. Unable to bear the smoke I moved away fast. Believe me it was not easy. From the frying pan to the fire was never truer than in this case. I found myself next to a stinking man. I moved again.

Fortunately my friend's prediction came true. A young man-knight without armour-offered me his seat near the exit. My misery came to an end. I resolved never again to travel by overcrowded bus if I could.



## 29 - The bus conductor.....



God has created men and women. This conductor, with whom I had the misfortune of traveling, was a fussy one and made the life of passengers miserable, whenever, he could.

I boarded a slightly overcrowded bus. Men, women and children crowded near the conductor for tickets. He was shouting at them particularly the weaker sections where he expected no retaliation for minor things. Suddenly he stopped issuing tickets and refused to accept the one rupee note, as it was slightly spoiled. The passenger

did not have another note, nor was he willing either to travel without ticket or get down. To break the impasse, I exchanged the note. Then he restarted to issue the tickets.

Intermittently he was almost shouting at the passengers to move forward, to stand erect, as if it was possible, to get into the bus and leave the foot board and threatened to stop the bus, making everyone quite uncomfortable.

Suddenly he noticed a passenger smoking. He almost pounced on that man and wanted him to throw his cigarette. The passenger was not the one to be easily cowed down. He argued that 'no smoking' applied to the front sitting portions of the bus. The argument continued.

The passengers waiting for tickets, some of whom was nearing their destinations, grew restless and had joined in. The altercation ended only when the passenger had enjoyed the last puff. At the same time, the bus reached my stop. I alighted with a prayer that God may give him good sense.



# 30 - The Man Who Inspired Me...



Can I ever forget the octogenarian who stayed with us for two days? He was a tall frail looking man who commanded respect. He had immense patience and strove for perfection in everything.

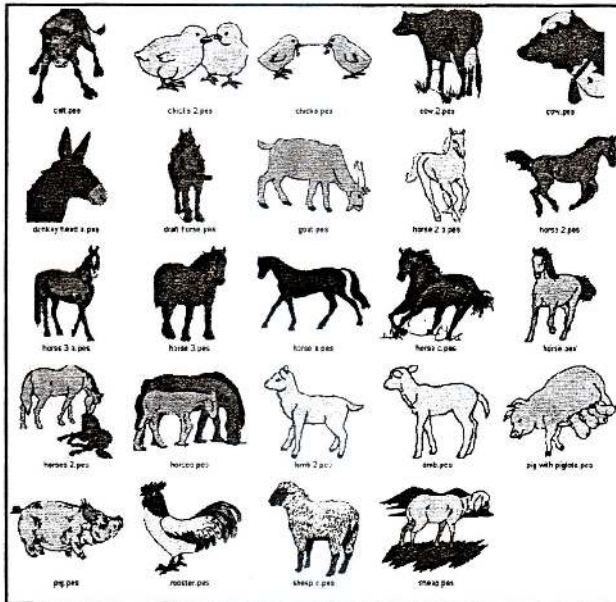
He was sent to stay in our house to avoid the hustle and bustle—the crowd and noise due to a wedding in our neighbor's house. My mother had agreed to have him, as she was confident to give him a calm and peaceful atmosphere in our house. But to and behold, my sister arrived with her boisterous and rowdy kids for a week.

My mother got up early in the morning to give milk to the kids before they start screaming. Mr. Joseph was up, mother offered him tea. As she was having tea with him, the kids came crowding in. They fired questions after questions. He calmly sat there answering their questions with such a patience that I was flabbergasted. I would have, by that time been exasperated and brushed them away.

They asked him to make one thing after another. He not only made the thing but also strove for perfection. I could not help but ask why he was taking such pains. It would tire him. Moreover, the children were bound to destroy these things in no time. He said to me in no uncertain terms, “young one, never be sloppiest. Nothing that has to be done can be so trivial, as to do it sloppishly. Whatever, you undertake to do, put in effort and do it to the best of your ability”

Even now when I do something carelessly, his words echo in my ears, He inspired me to take pains in everything I do. I hope I will at least be half a perfectionist, as he is.

# 31 - Our animal friends.....



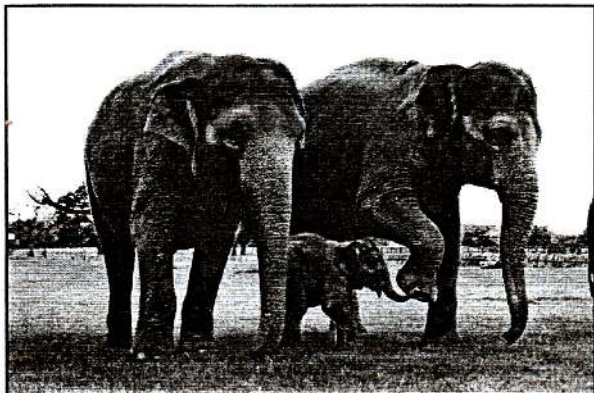
Man is a social animal. This fact itself proves our nearness to the animal kingdom or the animal world.

Animals are very faithful and helpful. Right from the very early stages a dog is perhaps the only animal who has helped mankind the most. Cow comes next. She provides us milk and bullocks for the agriculture work. Horse or the mule is yet another animal that helps mankind in more than one way.

A cat is also known to be the best pet. Children specially the younger ones like her very much. They carry her in their arms like a puppy, as she is lighter and softer to handle.

Among the animals we can include goats, lambs, hares or rabbits also. The presence of an animal in a house is considered to be a good omen in villages. Farmers own cows, buffaloes, bullocks, horses, mules, ponies and even asses, for milk, framework and over and above that, as a status symbol. The animals are our best friends.

## 32 - The Elephant.....



The elephant is perhaps the strongest and the largest wild animal in the world. The elephants can, however, be tamed and trained to serve their masters.

The elephant has four legs which are fat and long like pillars. It has two large ears like big fans, a long trunk, but a short tail with a tuft of thin hair at the end. Its eyes are small. The male elephant has two long teeth known as tusks. It lives on leaves, stems of banana trees, fruits or small soft plants, and grains etc.

Sri Lankan elephants are generally found in the jungles. In Africa, the elephants are found to be bigger in size than their Indian counterparts.

The elephant is an intelligent animal. In ancient days, it was used in war or hunting. Now-a-days, the elephant can be seen in a circus show or zoo. There are tamed elephants who obey their masters. An elephant is also used in the woods for pulling big logs of timber from one place to another.

The elephant generally lives for more than one hundred years. It is a good friend to mankind, if it can be properly trained for a particular purpose. In Sri Lanka the elephants carry the tooth relics during perehera.



## 33 - The Tiger.....



The tiger is the fiercest and cruelest of all the wild beasts. It is a very strong and ferocious animal. It lies in ambush and suddenly springs upon its prey. It is fond of blood and flesh. It carries off cows, goats and dogs from villages. Sometimes it kills men.

The tiger belongs to the cat family. It looks like a big cat. It has a long tail. It is generally eight to twelve feet long, and three to four feet high. Its body is of brown colour, with black stripes across it. There are also spotted tigers. Unlike the lion, the tiger has no mane. Its padded feet have sharp claws, and its teeth are very sharp. There are four teeth, two in the upper jaw and two in the lower, which are much larger and longer than the rest. They are meant for seizing the prey.

Tigers are generally found in the jungles of Sri Lanka, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, and Central India. In African jungles also, there are big size tigers. .

Tiger-hunting is a very dangerous sport. The princes and noble-men hunt tigers riding on trained elephants. Ordinary people apply various ways in killing them. They generally lay traps and the animal ignorantly fall in them to be caught by men.

In many countries like Sri Lanka and India, tiger-killing has been prohibited by the Governments. Tiger's skin is very costly in the foreign market. A kind of pain-killing balm is made from the bones of the tiger. Of all the tigers in the world, the tigers of Sunderbans are the most beautiful.

## 34 - A wedding.....



Wedding are grand affairs. I recently attended the wedding of a friend. It was performed in a park. The park was converted into a fairy-land. A huge 'arena' was erected on one end with a path, all illuminated and decorated with flowers leading to it from a magnificent gate erected for the purpose.

The Pandal vied with the banquet hall of a place with its thick white and red carpets, white canopy, white and designed curtains and flower decoration. The fragrance

of the flowers filled it. On one side sat the musicians. Men in their Sunday best and women and children in all colours of rainbow added to the dreamland atmosphere. The bridegroom's party arrived with the fan-fare of firework, band and dance by the members of the party. They were accorded a warm welcome. The bridegroom was escorted to the throne-like-seat on the raised platform.

The dolled up bride accompanied by her sister and friends arrived walking at a slow pace. After some minor ceremonies the exchange of garlands-took place to the accompaniment of several flashers from cameras, merry laughter and jokes.

It was a great occasion for socializing. I met many of my friends and relatives with whom I Exchanged pleasantries and information about the families. I offered my good wishes and my gift to the newly married couple and let with pleasant memories of the celebration.



## 35 - A brave deed.....



Last year, in the month of June, there was a big fire, in my neighborhood shops. The fire brigade took eight hours to extinguish it. The shops gutted were mainly of Jute and were mainly of Plastic dealers premises. There were three go downs of plastic toys and two sales depots of jute and gunny bags. One fireman did the marvelous job there. He was later granted two special increments by the Fire Station Officers for his brave deed.

The fire was first reported at about 2 a.m. And the fire engines reached the spot at about 3.15 a.m. everything was reduced to ashes. Luckily, there was no casualty. Two of the employee fainted due to shocks. It was here that the fireman made them sit, just for two hours, under his care. He was at the first floor, looking after the people in distress. He rendered first-aid to some of the victims of the fire. He telephoned to the local hospital and called on compounders to look after these men.

When he came to know that one old man was caught in one go down. He immediately climbed one of the roofs and brought the old man out, with the help of two other workers of the shop.

He was praised by the Major for his brave deed, and his department granted him two special increments for that.



# 36 - A day in the life of a bus driver.....



The alarm rings. It is six o'clock. Maniam gets up wearily. It is the start of another day ferrying school kids to and from school.

At six-thirty, after a hurried bath, Maniam starts his old 22-seater bus and moves off. He

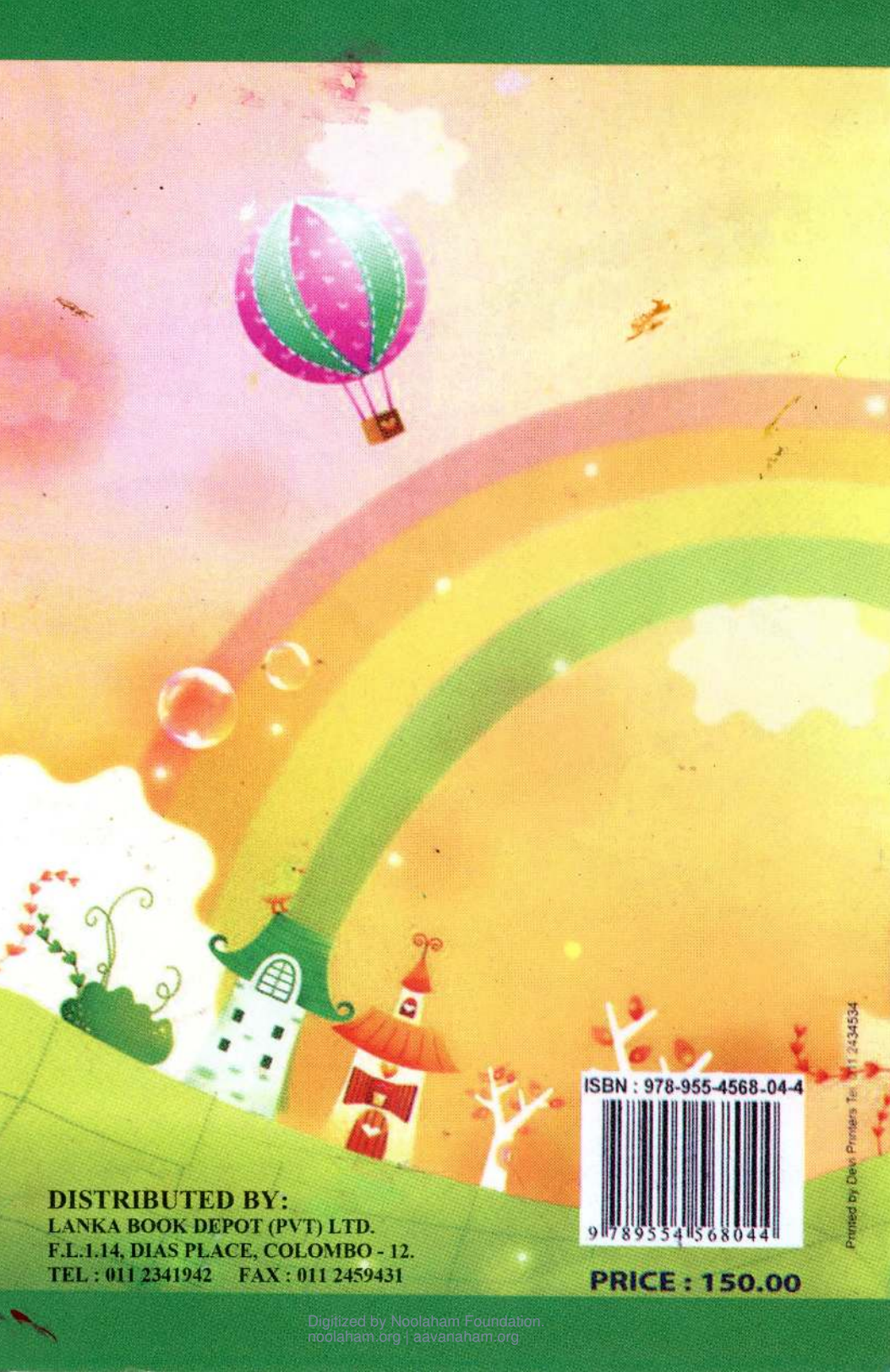
goes along a regular route picking up children to send to various schools. By seven, all the regular children, except one who is ill, is on the bus. Maniam drives carefully through the busy roads. He stops at four different schools, dropping off some children at each. He plans his drive carefully so as to reach the last school by seven-thirty. Otherwise some children will be late for school and he gets the blame. At seven-thirty two, his bus is empty and the roads are magically less congested. Most of the children are in the classrooms. Maniam stops by at a stall to have his breakfast. Come eleven-thirty, he picks up other school children for the afternoon session. By twelve-thirty he has sent all the children to the schools safely. At one o'clock he collects his first batch of children from a school. Then he proceeds to three other schools to collect the others. After collecting the children he sends them home. Maniam has lunch at home and takes a nap. At three o'clock he cleans up the bus. At six in the evening, Maniam goes on his last round of collecting the children from the schools. He safely sends them home by seven thirty. Then Maniam goes home, takes a bath, has dinner and watches television for a while before retiring to bed. Thus end yet another day in the life of a bus driver.











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