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**New Model
English Compositions**

ESSAYS

For Grade 6

By: **K.M. Selvaratnam B.A (Lond.)**

(Retd. Teacher of English)

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My home

My home is a pleasant place. The name of my home is Shanthinikethan. It is located at a well ventilated spot at Maviddapuram near the Murugan temple. There are three bed rooms, a living room, a shrine room, a dining room, and a kitchen in my home. There is an attached bathroom too.

There is a beautiful flower garden in front of my home. There is a vegetable garden at the back. I sweep the rooms every morning and keep my home neat and tidy. There are four members in my home father, mother, myself and my little sister. We are a happy family. I love my home, sweet home.



Water

All living beings need water. We can live for a few days without food. But we can't live without water. We find water as liquid in rivers, lakes, ponds, streams and seas. It is found as solid in ice from and as gas in vapour and clouds.

We need water for our daily activities like bathing, cooking and washing. Water is essential for agricultural purposes too. If there is no water, we can't grow any food. Water is needed for running power plants.

So it is essential for industry too.

We should always try to conserve this precious life-giving liquid. We must not waste water. We must not pollute it. We must use water sparingly in our daily activities.

Water pollution takes place on a large scale when industrial waste is directed to waterways.

People sometimes dump garbage in waterways. Severe water pollution can kill large numbers of fish, birds and other small animals. So let us all try to conserve this precious resource without polluting it.



Vesak

Vesak is the most important religious festival for Buddhists. It falls on the full moon Poyaday in May every year. Buddhists all over the world celebrate the Vesak festival joyfully.

Vesak is a thrice blessed day. Lord Buddha's birth, enlightenment and final passing away (parinibbana) too was on this day. In every Buddhist home people make colourful Vesak lanterns and light oil lamps. They offer flowers and worship at the temples.

They give alms and hold 'danasalas' during this period. The Vesak lanterns, pandals and other illuminations and decorations make the villages and towns look marvellous. People live in peace and harmony during this period.



Our school sports meet

The annual sports meet of our college came off on Friday the 11th of March 2006. It was a memorable day for everyone of us. A month before the event, we had started practising every evening after school.

The Sports meet attracted a vast crowd. The four houses were beautifully decorated. Their bright flags were waving in the breeze. The Zonal Director of Education was the Chief Guest. The meet started at 2.30 pm. with the lighting of the Olympic Torch.

The first event was the march past. Then there were many other interesting events such as the 100 meters race, the 400 meters race, the javelin throw, the discus throw and the putt shot. There was a short interval from 3.30 to 3.45 pm.

After the interval there were many exciting events. The relay race, the bicycle race, the mile race and the musical chair were some of them.

The last event was the much awaited tug-of-war. Then followed the distribution of awards by the Chief Guest's wife. The pleasant function came to a close by 6.00 pm.



Health

Health is man's best wealth. So we should look after our health well. First and foremost, we must eat wholesome, nutritious food. It must have all the important nutrients that go to make a balanced diet. Deficiencies will lead to many diseases.

We should avoid fatty and sugary food. We must eat our meals at regular intervals. We must drink plenty of water. We must take regular exercise in the open air. We must brush our teeth in the morning and at night before going to bed. We must bathe every day, preferably in the morning. We must go to bed early and rise early. 'Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise'. An apple a day keeps the doctor away! So we must eat some fruit everyday.



Buddha

Over 2,600 years ago the Buddha was born as Prince Siddhartha at Kapilavasthu on a full moon day in the month of May (Vesak). His father was King Suddhodana and his mother was Queen Mahamaya. Sages predicted that he would become either a supreme ruler or a great ascetic. His father did not want him to become a recluse.

So he brought him up amidst great luxury. At the age of sixteen, Siddhartha married Princess Yasodhara. One day Prince Siddhartha accidentally came across an old man. The next day he saw a sick man. Later he saw a corpse and finally a monk.

These were unusual sights for him. He came to realise that this is the reality of life. He wanted to find a solution that would end all suffering and lead to true happiness. He left the palace on the very day that his son Rahula was born and took up robes.

For six years he followed the rigorous path depriving himself of even food. Then realizing that this will lead him nowhere, he started following the Middle Path. Finally at the age of thirty five he attained Enlightenment under the sacred Bo-tree at Buddha Gaya. This too was on a Vesak full moon day.

For forty five years, he travelled throughout the country and preached the Dhamma. His passing away (parinibbana) at the age of eighty took place on another Vesak full moon day at Kusinara.



Communications

Long, long ago people sent messages with the help of pigeons or with the help of smoke signals. Beating on drums was another way of sending messages. They also used to wave flags of different colours. Messengers on horseback also carried messages in early times.

But today we have many ways of sending messages to people living far away. Modern

methods of communication are much faster and easier than they were in the past. We can telephone a person far away. We can send a fax message or an E-mail. Today we can send and receive messages from any part of the world with the help of communication satellites.



Good manners

As children, we should learn good manners. It is said that 'Manners maketh a man'. When a person does a favour, we should say 'Thank you'. We should never offend the minds of others. When we have hurt or offended someone, we must say 'I'm sorry'. Very often, in a crowded bus we happen to tread on someone's foot. We should then say, "I'm sorry". When we make a request, we should use the word 'please'. When we want to borrow a ruler from our friend, it is good to say "Could you please lend me your ruler?" This is certainly a polite form of request. Courtesy does not cost

us anything. On the other hand, it will go a long way in making people feel happy. Thus, a little word could bring immense pleasure to the person spoken to.

We should always respect our elders. We must be kind to blind people. We must help beggars and paupers. We must share our food with them. We must never speak ill of others in their absence. At school we must obey our teachers. We must not copy at examinations. We must be honest and truthful.



A visit to the supermarket

My mother, my sister and I went to the Supermarket in Kandy yesterday.

Mother had a long list of things to buy there. There were a lot of people at the Supermarket.

Mother bought vegetables, rice and fruit. My sister went to the Textile section. She bought half a dozen handkerchiefs, a pair of socks and a vest for herself. I went to the Stationery section. I bought some file covers, a pencil sharpener

and an ink eraser. After finishing our shopping, we met mother at the cashier's.

In a Supermarket, we can buy all that we need under one roof. This is the greatest advantage of shopping in a Supermarket. We are able to save a lot of our precious time. Besides, the price is the same and there is variety too. We can choose between several brands of the same item.



My first day at Upper School

My first day at Jaffna Central College is still fresh in my memory. It was on a bright Monday morning in January 1999 that I first went to the Upper School. My father took me to school. I was proud to wear my new uniform. There was a long line of students waiting to get admission. The Vice Principal was in charge of admission. My father handed over my birth certificate and school leaving certificate to him.

My joy knew no bounds when the Vice Principal said I was admitted to Grade 6 'A' division. I walked into the class with some other

students. Our class teacher was Miss Radhika. She was a young lady with a beaming smile on her face. She entered our names in the class register. I soon made friends with some of my classmates.

Then we were asked to walk in a line to the main hall for a general assembly. There was pin drop silence at the assembly. The principal spoke welcoming the new students. After the assembly we went to our respective classes. Our class teacher seemed to be a kind lady. At first I was a bit nervous. But now I got used to the new environment. I liked my school and my new friends. The school was over by 1.00 O' clock. I went home happily.



An accident I saw

One Friday morning, my brother and I were waiting for the bus to go to school. A little while later, we saw a car coming very fast. All of a sudden, a little boy ran across the road. The driver was unable to stop the car.

The car knocked down the little boy. He was bleeding. As usual a large number of people gathered on the scene. They cursed the driver of the car. They took down the number of the car and informed the police.

Some good Samaritans among them took the injured boy to the hospital. We felt very sorry for the boy. By this time our school bus had come and we got in. We cannot forget this accident in our life.



Thai Pongal

Thai Pongal is one of the most popular festivals of the Tamils. It generally falls on the 14th or 15th of January. It is indeed a festival of the farmer. He offers a thanksgiving to the Sun god who has helped him to get a good yield.

On the day of the festival, people wake up before sunrise. The din of crackers deafens the ear. Everybody has a ceremonial bath. The courtyard is well-swept and decorated with 'Kolam'. A temporary hearth is set up in the

middle of the yard. People start preparing 'Pongal' by cooking rice with milk and jaggery in a new pot. Then the 'Pongal' rice is offered to the rising Sun. At the end of prayers, it is served to all.

The day following the 'Thai Pongal day is called 'Paddppongal' or 'Maadduppongall' On this day they venerate the bulls and cows which help them to get a good harvest. They bathe them and put garlands round their necks. They prepare milk rice in front of the cattle shed and offer it to their bulls and cows.



Ramazhan

Milad-Un-Nabi, Id-Ul-Alha and Id-Ul- Fitr are three important festivals celebrated by the Muslims. Milad-Un-Nabi celebrates the Holy Prophet Mohamad's birthday. Id-Ul-Alha is a festival that celebrates the Haj pilgrimage. Id-Ul -Fitr is the festival that marks the end of the 40 days fast. It is the biggest festival of the Muslim people.

Muslims pray at the mosque on this day. They make a lot of tasty food on this day. 'Watalappam' is specially prepared for Ramazhan. They prepare it with eggs, coconut milk and jaggery. It is very sweet. They entertain friends and relations. They share the food with their neighbours. They give food and clothes lavishly to the poor and needy. Ramazhan is a season of joy, goodwill and peace.



Pollution

Pollution is the greatest threat to health and sanitation today. Man disturbs nature in order to make his life better. This causes pollution in his surroundings.

There are three major types of pollution – pollution of air, water and land. Smoke from factories and vehicles and dust waste pollutes the air. Man breathes this foul air and gets many diseases.

Water is also polluted in many ways. Dirty water full of waste chemicals runs into rivers,

streams and ponds. This causes water pollution. As a result fish, frogs and other forms of life are killed. People sometimes dump their garbage in waterways. Oil spill from oil tankers pollutes the seas and oceans.

The land too becomes polluted due to various reasons. Men cut down trees and destroy forests. This causes soil erosion and reduction in rainfall. Farmers today overuse chemical manures and pesticides. Some people dump garbage on low lying lands outside the cities. All this leads to land pollution.



My birthday party

My eleventh birthday fell on Sunday the 8th of May. We decorated the house beautifully for the grand occasion. My aunty had made me a lovely blue frock. My mother had made the birthday cake.

The party began at 4.30 pm. All my friends arrived on time. I lighted the eleven candles on

the birthday cake. My friends stood around singing 'Happy birthday to you' I then blew out the candles and joyfully cut the cake.

I served the cake first to my parents and then to my friends. My mother served the short eats and ice-cream. My friends gave me a lot of presents. They took photographs too. I was the happiest girl on earth that day.



The Olympics

The Olympic games started in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. They were first held in the city of Athens in honour of God Zeus. There were only a few sporting events in the ancient Olympics. Only the Greeks were allowed to participate in them. Women were not allowed to take part in the games. The Games were held every four years and the winners received wreaths of olive leaves as prizes.

But after the Romans conquered Greece, the games remained abolished. Then after nearly 1500 years they were revived in the year 1896.

There are a lot sporting events in the modern Olympics. The games are now held in different cities of the world every four years. Women too take part in the games now. The winners now receive gold, silver and bronze medals as the first, second and third prizes. Susanthika Jayasinghe of Srilanka won the bronze medal in the women's 200 meters race in the year 2000. The Olympics now aim to promote world peace. They also carry an important message to the word - 'not to win but to take part'.



Christmas

Christmas is the most important festival for Christians all over the world. It falls on the 25th of December. It is the day on which Jesus Christ was born into the world.

People decorate their houses beautifully for the grand occasion. They buy new clothes and make special cakes. They erect a Christmas tree in the middle of their parlour. Christmas presents hang from this tree. The Christmas tree is illuminated with coloured bulbs.

When the great day dawns, they go to church to greet their new born Lord. Special services are conducted in the church. Children go about singing Christmas carols at night. Christmas is a season of joy, goodwill and peace.



A letter to a pen friend

Brindavanam,
Kaithady West,
Kaithady,
Jaffna.

2nd June 06

Dear Juliet,

I was glad to read your request for a pen friend in the Junior Page of the Sunday Times of May 8th. As both of us have similar interests, I'm only too glad to select you as my pen friend.

This is my very first letter to you. So let me introduce myself. I am a Srilankan Tamil girl. I have lost both my parents in a land mine explosion. I live with my maternal aunt. I'm nine years old. I attend Navatkuli Maha Vidyalaya. I'm in Grade Six there.

My hobbies are also reading English story books and collecting stamps and picture postcards. My favourite game is netball. My ambition is to be a doctor one day. Then I can heal poor, suffering patients.

Please write to me about yourself.

I look forward to your early reply.

Sincerely yours,
Poornima S.

P.S.: I'm enclosing a photograph of mine taken at school.



An invitation to a birthday party

Peace Cot,
Moolai Road,
Vaddukkoddai.
6. 9. 06

My dear Savithri,

It's my tenth birthday on Sunday the 11th of September. There will be a party at 4.30 pm. I would be very happy if you could come.

I have invited almost all my friends. Most of them are your friends as well. So I'm sure you'll enjoy yourself.

I shall look forward to seeing you at the party.

Your loving friend,
Madhavi.

P.S.: Please bring your camera with you if you can.



A reply accepting the invitation

Church Road,
Chankanai,
8. 9. 06

My dear Madhavi,

Thank you very much for inviting me to your birthday party on Sunday the 11th of September. I'm happy to accept your kind invitation.

I look forward to being with you that evening.

I shall bring my camera with me.

Yours ,
Savithri



A reply declining the invitation

Church Road,
Chankanai.

10.9.06

My dearest Madhavi,

Many thanks for your cordial invitation to your birthday party on Sunday the 11th of September.

But I'm afraid I can't attend the party as my mother is ill and is warded at the General Hospital.

Wish you many, many happy returns of the day anyway.

Yours lovingly,
Savithri

P.S.: I shall send my camera through my brother.



Our education

The word education comes from the Greek word 'educō'. It means bringing out the values of man. When a man is born into this world, he is born with intelligence and values. But it is only education that brings them out. Thus education plays an important role in a man's life.

Education does not mean mere book learning. It consists of moral values too. We must know what is good and what is bad. It is only education that will help us to discriminate between good and bad.

The main aim of education is character building. 'If wealth is lost, nothing is lost, If health is lost, something is lost, If character is lost, every thing is lost' goes the saying. Education moulds a person to be a better member of society.



Marketing (A dialogue)

Renuka : Isn't that Mrs. Rajah over there, mother, the tall lady in a blue saree buying vegetables?

Mother : I can't see clearly. Let's go over there and see.

(coming nearer)

Hello, Mrs. Rajah! You're very busy marketing, aren't you?

Mrs. Rajah : Oh yes, Mrs. Kumar! When did you come?

Mrs. Kumar: Just a while ago. We're going round looking for some clay pots and pans.

Mrs. Rajah : Clay pots and pans! What for?

Mrs. Kumar: Oh! Have you forgotten about the Thai Pongal festival?

Mrs. Rajah : Ah, yes. I too must buy them. By the way you have bought some winged beans. Where did you buy them from?

Mrs. Kumar: There, at that stall in the corner.
But the price is rather too high,
250 rupees per kilo.

Mrs. Rajah : Exorbitant, isn't it? You could
have bought some other vegetable
at a low price!

Mrs. Kumar: True. But winged beans are very
rich in protein!

Mrs. Rajah : Okay then, Mrs. Kumar. I must
get back before my son comes
back from the tutoring. Cheerio!



A letter to a friend

10, Brown Road,
Jaffna,
10.8.2006,

Dear Yasodhara,

Thank you for your loving letter. I'm glad that
your term examinations are over and that you
have scored high marks in all the subjects.

Would you like to see the car festival at Nallur Kandaswamy temple? This is the most important of the twenty five festivals here. Nallur will be a sea of heads on this day.

The car festival is on the 22nd of August. It will be very interesting. The idol of God Skanda will be placed in a decorated car. Devotees will pull the car round the temple. Some will roll on the ground behind the car to fulfil their vow. A large number of devotees will follow the car singing devotional songs. There will be 'Kavadi' dances too. I'm sure you will enjoy your visit to the temple.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,
Padmini.

Would you like to see the car festival at Nallur Kandaswamy temple? This is the most important of the twenty five festivals here. Nallur will be a sea of heads on this day.

The car festival is on the 22nd of August. It will be very interesting. The idol of God Skanda will be placed in a decorated car. Devotees will pull the car round the temple. Some will toll on the ground behind the car to fulfil their vow. A large number of devotees will follow the car singing devotional songs. There will be 'Kavadi' dances too. I'm sure you will enjoy your visit to the temple.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,
Padmini.

Price Rs. 50.00