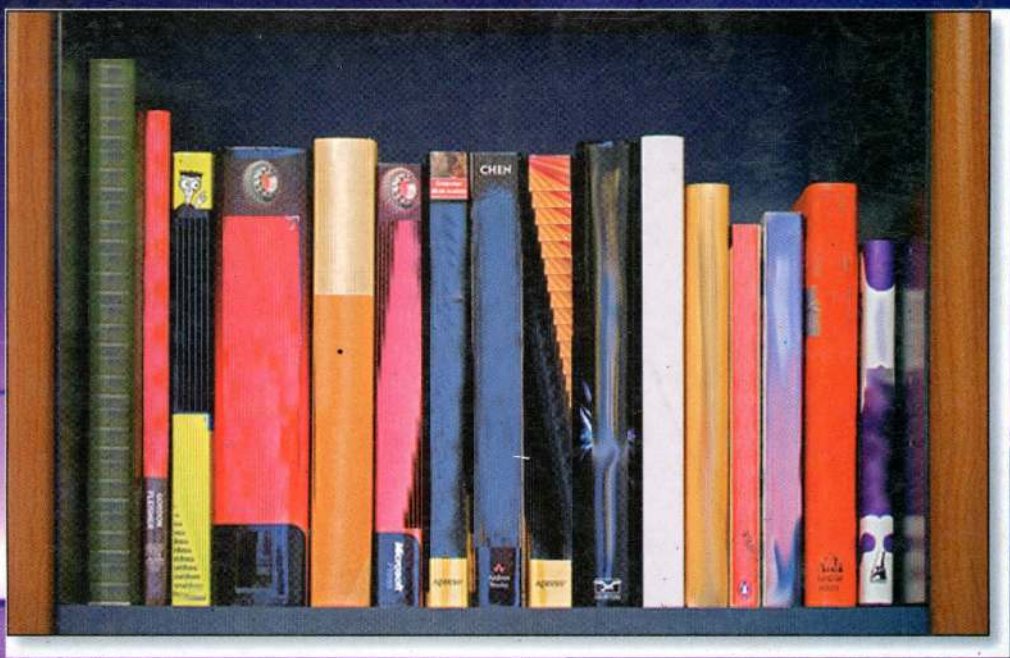


40 Essays For Juniors



Yasotha Baskaran

40 Essays

for Juniors



Mrs. Jasotha Baskaran

UMA PATHIPPAKAM

23, 3/3, Arethussha Lane,

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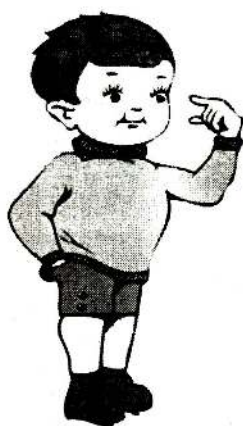
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1. My Self



- My name is Seyon Baskaran.
- I am studying at Nallur Kalaimakal Vidyalayam.
- I am now studying in Grade 05.
- There are five members in my family.
- I have an elder brother who is thirteen years old and his name is Anujan.
- My father's name is Baskaran and he is working as an engineer.
- My mother's name is Chitra and she is working as a teacher.
- My grandfather's name is Thambirajah and he is a journalist.

- My favourite subject is mathematics.
- I also like to play the game cricket.
- My best friend is Sanjeeban and he is my classmate.
- He lives in Kantharmadam.
- We do all things together, such as studying, playing etc.
- This year I am going to sit for the Grade 05 Scholarship examination.
- I want to become a great pilot one day.



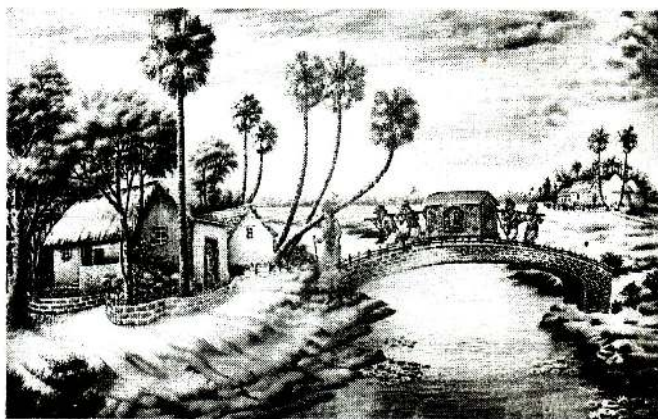
2. My Parents



- Every child in this world has parents and loves them.
- There is not a single child without a parent in this world.
- We cannot bear to be away from them even for one day.
- Like that, I too love my parents.
- When I am with my parents, I feel much happier than being with someone else.
- Let me tell you about my parents whom I love so much.

- My father's profession is as an engineer.
- He was born and brought up by his parents in Jaffna.
- All his life my father has worked very hard.
- While being an engineer he has many talents too.
- My mother is very pretty and clever too
- She can prepare delicious food for us.
- Her parents also brought her up in Jaffna.
- She works as a teacher in my school.
- Both my parents are very kind to me.
- It does not matter whether they are busy or not they always take out time for me.
- They teach me good habits and teach me not to steal and hurt people or lie.
- Every weekend I and my parents go for a picnic or for the children's theatre.
- They help me in my studies very much.
- I hope that my parents will live for a long time and will be forever with me.

3. My Village



- My village is Madduvil.
- It is a leading village in the Thenmaraadchi division.
- It is in the Northern Province.
- It belongs to the Jaffna district.
- The environment of Madduvil is very beautiful.
- Madduvil has many schools, temples etc.
- Many famous Tamil poets and educators have born and lived in this village.

- My village is very clean.
- In my village there live Hindu and Christian people.
- There are many fields in the village.
- The brinjals grown in Madduvil are very famous in the Jaffna district.
- There is a big playground for the children living in this area.
- I love my village very much.

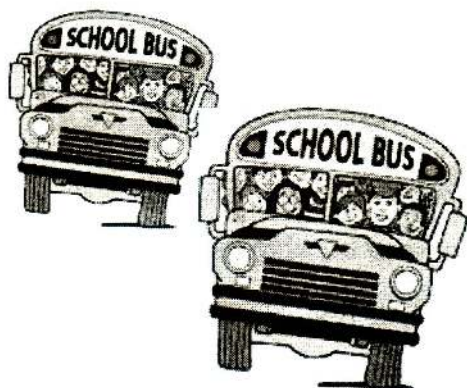


4. My School

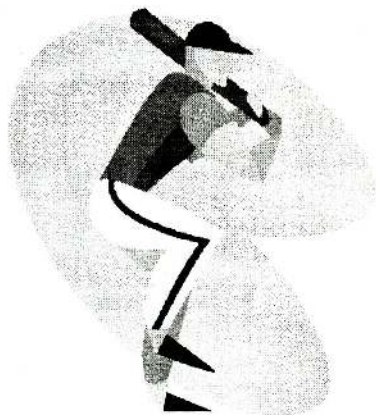


- My school is Kandy D.S.Senanayake Madhya Maha Vidyalaya.
- My school is a very big school.
- My school has classes from Grade 1 to Grade 13.
- It is divided into three sections, the Primary, Secondary and Upper section.
- There are nearly two thousand one hundred twenty students studying in my school.

- Hundred and twenty teachers are teaching in my school.
- My school has a science lab, home science room, a library, music and dancing rooms and three staff rooms.
- There is also a beautiful garden in front of the school.
- Our teachers are always very kind to us.
- Our school has four two-storey buildings.
- My school owns two school buses.
- I like to go to my school very much.



5. My Favourite Game



- My favourite game is cricket.
- Cricket is a very interesting game.
- Cricket was founded and introduced to the whole world by England.
- It is played with a bat and a ball.

- In the fielding and bowling position, there will be eleven players and in the batting position, there will be two players.
- There are fourteen countries in the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Every four years the ICC will organize the ICC Cricket World Cup.
- In the ICC Cricket World Cup, which was held in 2011, the Indian team got the world cup.
- Our country took the world cup once in 1996.
- In 1996 Arjun Ranatunge headed the Sri Lankan team.
- There are many types of shots in batting and in bowling too.
- I love my favourite game very much.

6. My Ambition



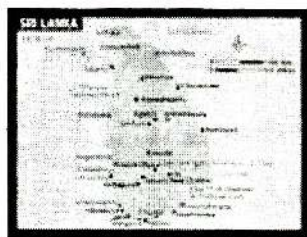
- Everyone in this world has an ambition.
- Without an ambition life is useless.
- Like that, my ambition is to become a doctor.
- I like to become a doctor because I am interested in learning about the human bodies and the environment.
- A doctor saves many lives.
- A doctor makes ill people become healthy and fresh again.
- These days' dangerous diseases like chicken pox, yellow fever are spread very quickly.
- If I become a doctor, I can save many people from these diseases.
- I am very interested in becoming a doctor and I like my ambition very much.

7. My Hobby



- My hobby is painting.
- I started following painting as my hobby when I was in grade one.
- When I was young, I painted on small art papers with pencils and crayons.
- But later I started using large art papers, watercolours and oil paints instead of small papers, pencils and crayons.
- My parents, brothers and friends encourage me a lot in my hobby.
- Everyone who sees my painting tells that my paintings are very beautiful.
- I usually paint paintings of the beautiful nature and of birds and animals etc.
- I like my hobby very much.

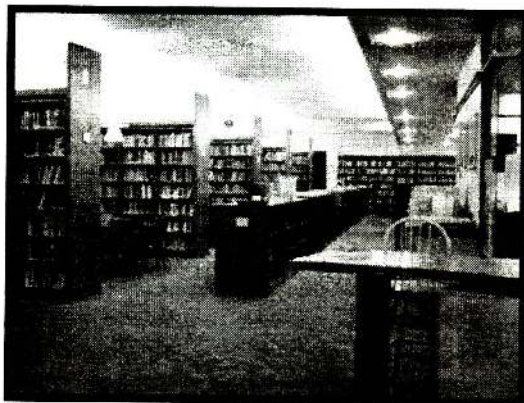
8. My Country



- My country is Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka is an island situated in the Indian Ocean.
- Sri Lanka is also known as the pearl of the Indian Ocean.
- Sri Lanka's capital is Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte and the commercial city is Colombo.
- My country has nine provinces and twenty-five districts.
- Colombo has the largest harbour in the country and Trincomalee natural harbour is one of the world's natural harbours, beside these harbours there are harbours too in Hambantota, Galle and Kankasanturai.

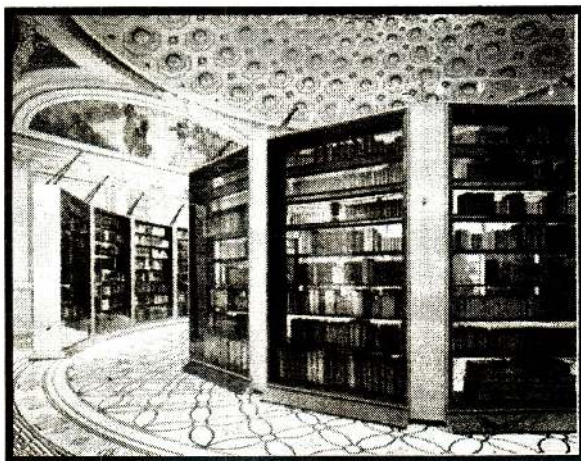
- The international airport of Sri Lanka is in Katunayake, Colombo and it is also known as Bandaranayke International Airport.
- The parliament of Sri Lanka is situated in Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte and the river which surrounds the parliament we call Diyawanna Oya.
- There are four main nationalities in my country. They are Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers.
- There are many rivers, mountains and waterfalls in my country.
- The president of Sri Lanka is honourable Mr. Mahinda Rajapakshe.
- Sri Lanka exports coconut, rubber, tea and imports other important things such as food, plastic objects, electronic objects and etc.
- In the past, Sri Lanka was ruled by many kings and has been ruled by other countries too.
- I love my country very much.

9. My School Library

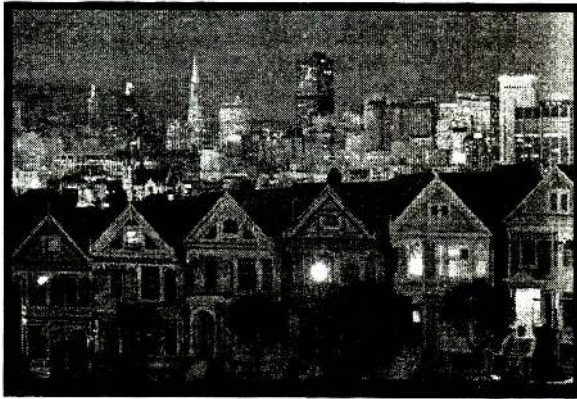


- There is a large library in my school.
- My school library has about twenty thousand books.
- The library in my school is one of the best libraries in Kandy.
- The library is on the third floor of the school beside the school hall.
- There is one main librarian and there are three library assistants working in the library.
- In the school library, there are books on all subjects and in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil and English).

- There are storybooks, novels, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, newspapers and magazines too.
- There are many reading facilities in the library such as fans, tables and comfortable chairs etc.
- In the school all classes have a library period once in a week.
- If we damage the book or return it late, we have to pay for it.
- I like to go to the library in my school.

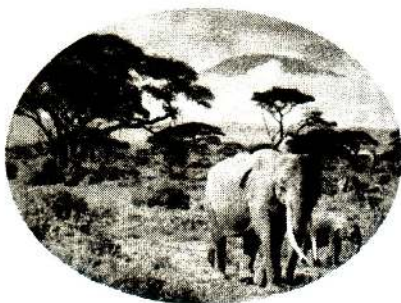


10. Our Town



- Our town is Kandy.
- It is a huge and beautiful town.
- There are many people living in our town.
- There are many houses, governmental offices, schools, temples and shops in our town.
- In our town, you can visit shops and markets by taking a quick walk.

- There are buses to all places around the whole country in our town.
- The Dalada Maligawa is in Kandy.
- There is a very beautiful and large lake near the Dalada Maligawa.
- Many hills and small mountains surround Kandy.
- Our town is one of Sri Lanka's hill towns.
- The Esala Perahera is held every year in Kandy.
- Near Kandy, there are famous places too such as the Peradeniya Botanical Garden and the University of Peradeniya.
- We love our town very much.



11. My First Day at School



- When I was five years my parents told me that I have got admission for Grade 01 at C/ Hindu Ladies College.
- I felt very excited when I heard this.
- I spent the days with my parents buying my books and stationery for school.
- The days past very soon and the day came.
- While going to school I got very nervous.

- When we arrived at school, we went to the office of the headmistress and my parents told to her about me.
- After my mother introduced me to my class teacher, a kind woman named Miss. Pathma.
- The moment my mother turned to leave me, I began to cry.
- Miss. Pathma gave me a chocolate and I stopped crying.
- We only played games for the first day and I made two or three friends.
- Our class teacher said that we might go home when the bell rings.
- When I got home, I told my parents about my first day at school.
- I really enjoyed my first day at school very much.

12. My Best Friend



- My best friend is a boy called Ranjith.
- Ranjith is my classmate in school and our parents are friends too.
- Ranjith lives too in my road.
- Ranjith is a smart and a clever boy.
- At school, I and Ranjith always have a competition for the first rank in the class.

- He dresses and comes always neat to school.
- Ranjith is very respectful to elders, teachers and to his parents.
- I always try to imitate his good manners.
- We both like the similar things in school.
- We also share an interest in sports such as cricket and football etc.
- Ranjith plays cricket very well.
- Near our road, there is a large playground, in the evenings Ranjith and I go to that playground and play until the sun sets.
- Sometimes we fight, but we soon make it up.
- My parents like him a much for his disciplined and good behaviour.
- I like my best friend very much.

13. Our Home



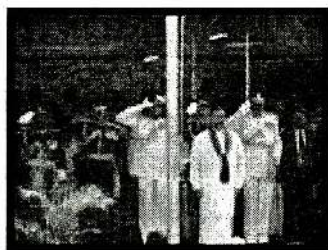
- Our home is a beautiful and large house.
- We are very lucky to live in such a house as ours.
- The environment in which our house is located is clean and beautiful environment.
- The entrance to my house is through a large driveway.
- Our house has five rooms, one kitchen, an attic and two bathrooms.
- There are five large trees in the garden of our home.
- There are many flowers in flowerpots too.
- Some flowers are white and some are red.
- I live with my parents in our home.
- I am very happy to live in my home.

14. The Earth



- The earth is the place where we live on.
- The earth is one of the eight planets in the solar system.
- The earth can be divided into two parts; land and water.
- We live on the land portion.
- In early times men thought the earth was flat, but now we know it is a round ball.
- It is a very big ball.
- The earth revolves around the sun in a circle.
- The earth takes $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days to go once around the sun.
- The earth also spins like a top and this movement is called rotation.
- The earth takes twenty-four hours to rotate.
- Day and night is caused due to the earth's rotation.

15. Independence Day




- Sri Lanka gained independence on the fourth of February 1948 from the British rulers.
- The Sri Lankans suffered hardly before gaining independence from the British rulers.
- Many great people fought against the British rulers for the independence of our country.
- On this day, the national flag of Sri Lanka was hoisted high up the air.
- And later D.S.Senanayake was made the first Prime Minister of our country.
- Independence Day celebrations are held all over the country on the fourth of February, which is a public holiday too.
- We are very happy to live in a peaceful and an independent country.

16. Good Manners

As children, we must learn some good manners, because good manners are necessary to live a pleasant life in this world. So let us attempt in some of them.

It is always nice to wish “Good Morning” or “Good Afternoon” to people you meet. If someone helps you in doing some work, you must say “Thank You”, the pupil or person will be happy to know that you are thankful to him. Before asking an object that another person has you should always add “Please” to your request. Another way of learning good manners is by saying, “Excuse me” before interrupting someone. So let us all give a try and see what ever our lives would be a happier one if we learn good manners.



We should always
have good manners

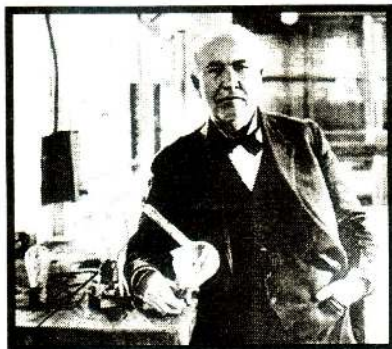
17. Sinhala and Tamil New Year



Sinhala and Tamil New year is celebrated on the fourteenth of April every year. In Sri Lanka it is celebrated by the Sinhalese and Tamil people. The Buddhist people wake up in the early morning, take a bath, put on new dresses and go to temples. The Hindu people too do this.

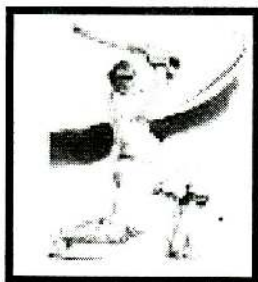
On this day we visit our relatives and friends. We wish them new year wishes and tell them to pay a visit to our house too. We share with them many types of sweets such as milk toffees, oil cakes etc. In our neighbourhood and in school the people organize many new year functions. Some people dress in various dresses and play various folk dramas and songs. On the new year day, children fire firework and will be very happy. The real meaning of celebrating new year is living happily and peacefully. It is true that we must enjoy new year, but the freedom of others should not be disturbed.

18. Thomas Alva Edison



Thomas Alva Edison was a great American inventor. He was born in the year of 1847. He was born in a poor family and earned a living as a newsboy on railway trains and in his free time he played with chemicals. He wasn't educated at school, but he educated himself. He got work in a telegraph office and later he became a great telegraph engineer. Thomas Alva Edison also made some improvements in the telegraph. His improvement was accepted. He won fourty thousand dollars by another invention. After some time he was able to have his own workshops at Menlo Park. His most known inventions were done in these workshops. He invented the phono graph too which lead to the gramophone. Thomas's inventions are uncountable.

19. A Cricket Match



Cricket is a very popular game. It is beloved by every one. Some play cricket, but many enjoy watching it.

Recently I went to a cricket match with my father. It was played in the Colombo Premadasa Stadium. The match was played between Sri Lanka and Australia. The tickets were priced as Rs.250/- and as Rs.500/-. T.M. Dilshan was the Sri Lankan captain and the Australian team was captained by Micheal Clarke. This match was very exciting and interesting. There was a big crowd to watch the match. Some were Australian supporters, but many supported for the Sri Lankan team.

The match began at 2.30 p.m. The Australian team won the toss and elected to bat first.

Micheal Clarke and Ricky Ponting were the opening batsmen. Micheal Clarke played fine strokes but was out for 45 runs. Mike Hussey came next but was not well. Shane Watson came next and played very well. Ponting's and Watson's partnership took a long time. Rick Ponting scored 108 runs off 97 balls. Shane Watson scored 156 runs off 126 balls. Every one said that Watson had played classically. The Australian team scored an unbeatable score of 389 runs.

After a break of half an hour the Sri Lankan team began to bat. The Australian bowling was not up to standard. But Brett Lee was an exception and he got 3 wickets for 40 runs in 8 overs. The opening batters batted well, Sangakkara topped with 159 runs, Mahela Jayawardena scored 127 runs and Dilshan scored 52 runs. They tried their best level to win but they could only make 382 runs. Australia won the match by only 7 runs. Shane Watson was named as the man of the match for scoring 156 runs and for taking 3 wickets. It was a super match which had a thrilling finish. I and my father enjoyed it very much.

20. A Trip to the Hill Country

The hill country in Sri Lanka is very beautiful. I went to Nuwara Eliya recently. The ride along the mountain range was fantastic. The mountains looked wonderful. They were very fresh and had green tea plantations all over which made them look more fresh and beautiful.

Nuwara Eliya was really beautiful. I felt like staying there forever. My father played golf at the golf course. I saw the Pidurutalagala, the highest mountain top of Sri Lanka too. We visited the Hakgala Garden, Victoria Garden and World's End. World's End was a wonderful place. I went on pony rides with my family. We ate a lots of ice-creams too. We visited a carnival nearby and there were many foreigners.

We went trekking on mountains. After that we visited the major waterfalls in Sri Lanka. We bathed in some of the waterfalls. The water was chilling, our trip to the hill country was very thrilling and a successful one which I cannot forget in my life.

21. Mother Teresa



Though her selfless service of the poor and the sick, Mother Teresa has won the hearts of the people all over the world. She arrived in India in 1929 when she was 19 years old. She was moved at the sight of the crippled and helpless people on the pavements. So she made up her mind to stay in India to serve the destitute. Since then she had been devoting herself completely. There were thousands of members working with her at that time and many still continue

their service. Kolkata was her centre of her humanitarian activities. She was the founder of many organizations which serve suffering like 'Missionaries of Charity(sisters)', 'Nirmal Hiruday' homes for the sick and the dying and 'Sishy Bhavan' for disabled and mentally retarded children.

Mother Teresa received many national and international awards in recognition of her noble work for humanity. Most important among these awards are: Noble Peace Prize in 1977, Bharat Ratna in 1980, Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Peace in 1972 and the Templeton Foundation Prize in the year of 1972.

Mother Teresa was born on August 27th in 1910 in the town of Spoje in Yugoslavia. Her real name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. After becoming a nun of the Roman Catholic Church her name was changed into Mother Teresa in 1921, a group of Christian missionaries from Yugoslavia went to India for humanitarian services and sent a letter back seeking help from their country for the poverty stricken people of India.

On reading the appeal, Agnes felt an overwhelming desire to serve the helpless poor and physically invalid and she went to India on January 6th, 1929 and had stayed there ever since. For mother Teresa, life was always a mission to serve the suffering.

After a prolonged illness she died on the 5th of September in 1997 in Kolkata. Her memory will live with us forever.

22. An Accident



It was a Saturday. It was very cold. My mother was standing out in the balcony watching the traffic, and I was doing my school homework. While I was doing my science homework, I heard the faint voice of my mother calling me.

I rushed to her. She pointed out something to me. I saw the traffic block on the collision of two cars face to face on the road. I quickly put on my t-

shirt and ran to the scene to rescue the people in the cars. Other people too came running for help. The driver of the pink colour was dead but the other white colour car's driver seemed to be serious and breathing hard. We all rushed towards him. He was badly wounded. We helped him to get out of his collapsed car. He was bleeding from head to toe. They took him to the nearest hospital.

I stood next to the cars and watched along with some other people. The cars were badly damaged. There was a lot of blood splashed on the road. After some time a team of police arrived and removed the dead body and cleared the crowd. After that the police began their investigations.

It was a terrible and sad experience. I hope the driver will be recovered from his injuries soon.

23. Leonardo Da Vinci



Leonardo da Vinci was one of the greatest man who ever lived. He was born in the year 1452 in Vinci, 90 kilometres from the city of Florence in Italy. Before his death in 1519 he was hailed as an inventor, artist, geologist, architect, sculptor, musician and as an anatomist.

Leonardo made many drawings of horses, seen from every view-standing, walking, prancing, rearing. His discoveries in geometry were forgotten

because none understood them. But centuries later other mathematicians took the credit for them.

Leonardo was quite sure that steam could be used to drive boats. He drew a helicopter with precision. His many drawings of the human body were drawn accurately. He made designs for engines, tunnels and canals before the materials for them were thought of.

His painting of the 'Last Supper' hangs on one of the walls of a monastery in Milan which was one of the most beautiful painting of all times. His portrait of Lisa de Giocanda, the wife of an official of Florence now hangs in the Louvre Art Gallery in Paris. The lady in the picture has a curious smile. This painting is known as 'Mona Lisa'.



24. The Peacock

The peacock, a handsome bird, comes from India and Sri Lanka. There are male and female peacocks. The male peacock is very beautiful and which is richly coloured. Its body is green and blue. Its glory is its long tail. It can open its tail as a great fan. The colours are blue, green and gold. The bird is very proud of its tail. The bird's piercing cry sounds rather like an angry cat. The peacock stands for pride. The lady peacock is a plain brown bird. It has no tail like her husband. In India and in some parts of Sri Lanka peacocks are highly sacred birds. The peacock is called the mount of Lord Subramanya, popularly known as Lord Muruga. So it is very wrong to kill the peacock. But peacocks are big thieves, they do harm and destroy the growing crops. Peacocks kill snakes too. Some people say that they can smell the rain. Then they give a harsh scream.

25. What I Do On Week Days

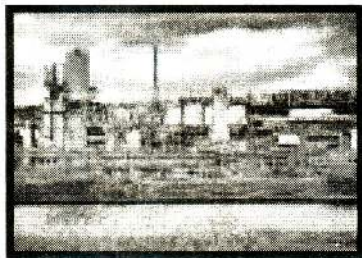


On weekdays I get up at about 6 o'clock in the mornings. I have my tea and then have a bath as quick as possible. After that I have my breakfast, put on my school uniform and go to school by the school van by 06.50 a.m. soon after. I arrive at school about 07.20 a.m. I spend 6 hours in school. It is tiring but my knowledge improves when I am there, at school.

School finishes at 13.30 p.m. My school van will pick me from the school and then they will drop me at home.

At home I shall have my lunch and have a rest for about 15 minutes. Then I start leaving for tuition classes. After the tuitions I come home and watch television for some time. After that I do my homeworks. Then I help my mother to prepare the dinner. We have our dinner and after dinner I spend some time with some reading books or with the computer. At about 21.00 p.m. my mother gives me a cup of milk. After drinking my milk I pack my school bag with books and go to sleep. Therefore during weekdays I am sometimes very busy, but in the weekends I will have some relaxation.

26. Environmental Pollution



The environment means the surrounding of us. It is made up of rivers, mountains, oceans and organisms etc. Today people on the earth are heavily polluting and destroying the environment. Environmental pollution can be divided into 3 types. The three types are land pollution, water pollution and air pollution. Many people on the earth die due to pollution. The main reason for pollution is increasement of world's population. Destruction of the ozone layer is also caused when we pollute the environment.

Land pollution is mainly caused due to improper disposal of garbage, deforestation and soil erosion.

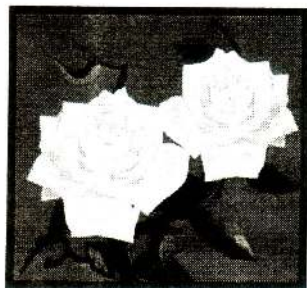
Water pollution is mainly caused due to nuclear tests done in oceans, accidents of ships which contain goods, garbage dumped into water bodies etc.

Air pollution is caused due to doing nuclear tests in the sky, smoke from vehicles and factories, space shuttles being launched up into the space and many more.

Human beings are a part of the environment. Destruction of the environment will mean destruction of man kind. So, it is our responsibility to protect the environment.



27. Flowers



Flowers are one of the most of the beautiful things that God has created. They come in many different colours like red, pink, purple, yellow, white, orange and blue.

Some flowers like the sunflower and dahlia are big, like phlox and morning glory are small. Most flowers have a sweet smell. I like the smell of jasmine and rose very much. I have these flowers at my home.

Flowers add colour and beauty to our lives. In the summers, gardens and parks are full of different coloured flowers. Even during the winters there also will be some flowers.

There are many flowers in my garden. I love to smell them and touch their soft petals. I never pluck them. My parents say it is wrong to do so.

28. My Pen Friend



My pen friend's name is Edward and he is from Australia. I picked his name and address in a pen friend column and wrote him. He replied indicating his willingness to have me as his pen friend.

He is only 12 years old. Similar to my age. He has only a younger sister. All of them live in Sydney. His hobby is playing cricket and football. We both love playing cricket computer games. He is fair, has brown hair and is thin. He phoned me last

fortnight and we spoke for five minutes. His English has a wonderful accent. It was surprising to hear him.

His favourite food is pizza and his favourite colour is ocean blue. His father is a surgeon and his mother is an accountant. His ambition is to become a scientist. He insists that I should come to Australia to see the beautiful places there.

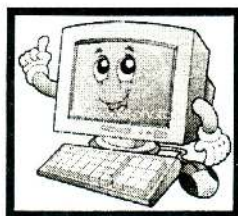
We have arranged for his visit to Sri Lanka during August. I will take him to all the beautiful places in Sri Lanka. I like him very much and await for his coming to our country.

29. Sir Isaac Newton



Sir Isaac Newton was a great British scientist. He was born in a village in England on the twenty-fifth of December 1642. He was the scientist who invented the law of gravity. It was an apple falling from an apple tree that made him think about it. He also tried to find why the earth goes around the sun and why the moon goes around the earth. Sir Isaac Newton invented that white light is made up of seven different colours and he did many other inventions and discoveries too. Sir Isaac Newton was a very learned man. But he was very humble. Sir Isaac Newton is also well known for the most number of inventions.

30. The Computer



Computer is an electronic machine which is capable of performing calculations and doing other manipulations of various type of data, under the control under a set of instructions called a computer program. The machine itself is the hardware and the instructions are the programs or software.

Depending upon size, computers are classified as main frames, minicomputers and microcomputers, palm computers etc. Microcomputers include desktop and portable personal computers like notebooks. The formation of the computer took hundreds of years. Charles Babbage is known as the father of computers. To function with a computer we should have a CPU, monitor, keyboard and a mouse. Nowadays, the computer is the main source of information. Using the computer we can find information, type documents and take a printout. The computer has also many advantages and disadvantages.

31. Marie Curie



Marie Curie was a famous scientist. She was born in Warsaw, Poland on the 7th of November, 1867. Her mother was a patient of Tuberculosis (TB) and she died when Marie was only nine years. She studied in a famous school in Warsaw, until she was fifteen years old. She went to Paris, France for her higher education. There were only twenty-three female students out of about two-thousand students at that college (university). There she met a man named Piery Curie. There on the 26th of July, 1895 they married. After that they did many experiments. Marie then invented “Uranium”. Marie and Piery Curie won the noble prize twice.

One day on a rainy afternoon Piery Curie went out alone. While he was walking at once his eyesight became weaker and weaker. When this hapenned a horse with a cart drove over him and put him to death.

Marie's daughter Irene and her husband invented the artificial radiation. They also got two noble prizes for their researches, experiments and inventions. Marie Curie died in the year of 1934 due to cancer.



32. The Vesak Festival



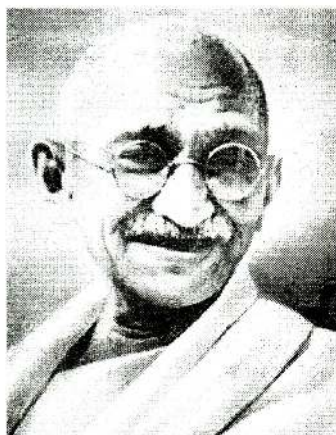
Vesak is the most religious and important festival for Buddhists. This festival falls on the full moon poya day of May. Buddhists celebrate this festival due to the triple noble incidents of Lord Buddha ; The birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Lord. Buddhists people all over the world celebrate this special full moon poya and sacred day. The houses' of the Buddhist people almost will be decorated with colourful decorating papers and lanterns which are known as vesak lanterns, to honour Lord Buddha. They hoist the Buddhist flag to indicate the festival. They all go to temples in the mornings and evenings and some observe "Sil". "Dansals" in which food and beverages are given without payment, are organized by temples, some people or by Buddhist centers. Taking in liquor and killing animals is avoided on this day. Buddhists believe in rebirth and "karma". The Buddhist people do many religious activities on this day. The best way of respecting Lord Buddha is, living up to the expectations or the preaching of him.

33. Christmas



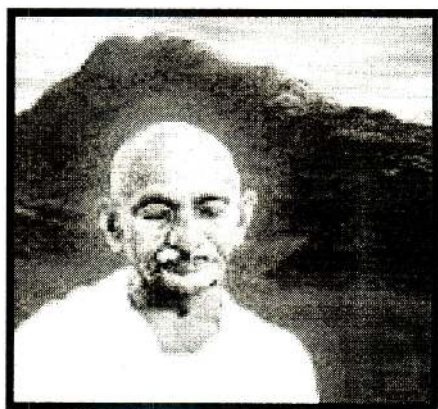
Christmas is the day on which Jesus Christ was born. Christmas is celebrated in almost in all the countries of the world. This is the most important festival for Christians and Roman Catholics. Christmas occurs every year on the twenty-fifth of December. Christians do many holy activities on this day. They gather in churches and have several masses. Decoration is done usually in the houses, churches etc. A Christmas tree will be decorated and kept in every house. The children enjoy decorating Christmas trees. The children as well as the youth enjoy singing Christmas Carols in churches as well as at home and in public places. The Christians prepare many different types of food such as sweets, cakes, doughnuts etc. Wine is the favourite drink they like to drink on this holy day. They share gifts and food with the poor, their relations, friends and neighbours. They live very peacefully and prominence to humanity.

34. Mahatma Gandhi



Mahatma Gandhi is known as the Father of India. Mahatma Gandhi was born as Mohandas Kamarachand Gandhi on the second of October 1869 at Porbander, India. He got married to a woman named Kasturba, when he was twelve years of age. He got his higher studies in England and became a barrister. He came back to India in the year of 1891 when he was twenty-two years old. After coming back to India, in 1893 he went to South Africa and stayed there for 12 years. Back in India, Gandhiji joined the

freedom struggle. At that time all the people of India were with him, against the British rulers. He also sat fasts against violence. He went many times to the prison. At last, with his kindness he won the struggle and set free the Indian nation. On January 30th, 1948, while going for a prayer meeting Ghandiji was shot by Nathu Ram Godse. On that day our father passed away leaving us alone.



35. A Rainy Day

It was on the second Wednesday of May. It was about seven o'clock when it started raining. Early morning the sky became covered by dark clouds. At once lightnings began to flash. I and my brother got ready to school and together we walked towards our school at that time. After sometime it began to rain so, we opened our umbrellas. The rain and the wind increased little by little. At last it rained so heavily that we could not hold up our umbrellas. We couldn't walk to school.

We sheltered in the shop nearby, as the other people did. After the road was under water. The traffic was blocked due to flood. It rained very heavily for more than one hour. After that the rain slowly went away. The vehicles started coming, riding through the muddy water. Then we took our umbrellas and went towards our home. On the way to home, our mother came running up to us to take us home. At home our mother gave us hot coffee. I enjoyed the day very much.

36. Thai Pongal



Thai Pongal is a holy day for Tamil-Hindu people. Thai Pongal is called by many various names such as Thaitthirunaal or Thait Thingal. This day marks the end of the month of Maargali and the beginning of the harvest season.

Ancient farmer communities offer newly harvested grains to the Sun to get blessings and to this day this rituals are followed religiously. Farmers celebrate this day to thank the Sun for helping them growing crops and grains.

Pongal (Sweetened milk rice) is cooked with newly harvested grains in a new clay pot which will be placed on a newly prepared hearth in the courtyard of the house. The hearth will be encircled with a kolam which sanctifies it. The pot will be decorated with strands of grass, ginger and saffron leaves all made into a string and tied around the pot's neck.

Then the pot will be filled with milk and the hearth will be lit by the head of the household assisted by his wife. Then they offer the pongal made to the Sun to thank him and after the family takes their share from the pongal made.

People then go to the temples and praise the God. Many activities will be done on that day. For small children there will be games and races organized by the community. Farmers in some places also have bulls races. Most of the people visit their relations and friends. Many people usually go to their villages and celebrate this religious festival there. The Tamils enjoy this festival very much.

37. Children and Television



Now-a-days children's fascination with the Television creates problems for parents. One of them how much time a child under the age of six should be allowed to watch television.

Researchers in Russia have come to conclusion that children under seven should be allowed to watch television no more than thirty minutes a day and no more than two or three times a week.

Parents should pay attention to the child's posture in front of the television set. Children often watch television while curling up in the chair or even stretching out on the floor. Bad posture affects the physiological functions of a growing child.

The child should not sit no closer than five feet and no further than eight-teen feet from the television screen. The screen must be at eye-level or slightly lower.

A child who wears glasses must have them on when he or she watches the television to prevent eyestrain. He or she should not watch the television in complete darkness. The room should be dimly lit to overcome the brightness of the shining screen.

38. My School Sports Meet



We had our annual sports meet on the 15th of March. We were all happy and enthusiastic. Our school playground was decorated in colours.

We started the preparations a fortnight ago. All of us took part. The principal declared the meet open at 10:00 a.m. The athletic captain lighted the

fire. The symbol of inauguration of the meet. Our chief guest was the minister of sports. The meet continued with the events of races, jumps and other track events. I took part in the 200 meters race and in the long jump. I got the first place in the race and the second place in the long jump. I won a small gold coloured trophy for the race and a silver medal for the long jump, which were presented to me by the chief guest. Every event was exciting and worth watching.

At the end there was a march past where all the students of the school took part. We marched grandly to the sound of the beating drums of the school band. The events finished with the prize giving ceremony at 16:00 p.m. It was a grand day for our school.



39. Nicholas Copernicus

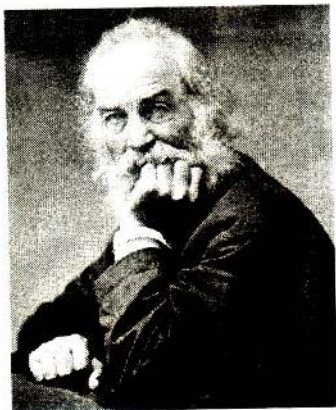


Nicholas Copernicus was born in the year of 1473 in a village called Torun in Poland. He studied mathematics and medical science. He taught astronomy when he worked as a teacher in Rome. It was believed during the time of Copernicus that the earth was stationary and that the sun and the other planets went around the earth. This was in accordance with the philosophy that the earth was the center of the solar system. Even Copernicus had to teach the same. But Copernicus maintained from the beginning that the earth was round in shape and that it rotated

around its own axis. Questions about the earth and planets made him wonder: why should all the stars appear together once in 24 hours? We observe that we go round the sun once a year and the sun seems to circumambulate us. Why should the sun cross all the planets from the east?

Copernicus wanted to find answers to these questions, which seemed to be paradoxical in the beginning for him. Copernicus felt that the earth was also a planet and like any other planet of the solar system. Unfortunately he couldn't establish this fact decisively because the church authorities firmly believed in and upheld, with high esteem, the theory of earth as centre of solar system as propounded by Aristotle and Ptolemy, - the great scholars of that time. Kepler, Newton and other astronomers later endorsed the theory of Copernicus. Immediately after the publication of his treatise, Copernicus died at the age of seventy years. Therefore church authorities could not criticize him! Later Copernicus' was accepted, it became the turning point for astronomical studies.

40. Walt Whitman



American essayist and poet Walt Whitman, was a versatile scholar. He made a great impact on American literature. He is known as the greatest American poet in the nineteenth century.

Whitman was born in West Hills, Long Island, New York, on the 31st of May 1819. His father was Walter, his mother was Louisa Van Velsor. Whitman was the third of eight children. His father was a carpenter and his mother descended from New York Dutch farmers. He was five years old when his family moved to Brooklyn, New York. He had a little formal education. He left school at the age of eleven

and took up many jobs which included office boy, printer and teacher in rural schools. He also wrote art and politics for newspapers and magazines. From the age twenty to thirty-six Whitman worked in the newspapers. He became editor of "The Brooklyn Daily Eagle" at the age of twenty-seven years.

The first edition of Whitman's immortal work 'Leaves of Grass' appeared in 1855. It was not a success. But it made him controversially famous. Whitman's poems about the American Civil War were published in a separate volume called 'Drum Taps'. His wartime experiences formed the basis of this collection of poems.

Whitman's collection of over 130 poems is now regarded as one of the most important books in American literary history.

Whitman is regarded as the 'Father of free verse in American Literature'. He wrote 'When Lilacs last in the dooryard Bloom 'd', the great elegy on the death of Abraham Lincoln, Whitman took care of wounded soldiers in a military hospital during the

American Civil War, in which Abraham Lincoln won a great victory.

Whitman collected and published his most significant prose in 'Democratic Vistas' (1871). His prose 'Memoranda during the War' (1875) is a moving account of his experience as a hospital visitor during the Civil War.

Whitman was noted for contradictions. He advocated a personal religion. At the same time he hailed science and materialism. He was sociable and intellectuals used to sit around him for discussion. There is no record that Whitman proposed marriage to any women.

Whitman suffered a stroke in 1873 when he was 54 years of age. He moved to Camden, New Jersey and lived through donations from admirers and the sale of his books. Later, he regained health and made a journey in 1879 to visit parts of the country in the far west. In 1884, he bought a house in Mickle Street, Camden which was made a memorial after his death. Whitman died in Camden on the 26th of March, 1892 at the age of 72.



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