



ENGLISH DAY SOUVENIR 2021

ENGLISH LITERARY ASSOCIATION
OF ROYAL COLLEGE



ENGLISH DAY CELEBRATIONS 2021

**ENGLISH LITERARY ASSOCIATION
OF ROYAL COLLEGE**

SCHOOL OF OUR FATHERS

Thy spirit first to life awoke
In eighteen hundred and thirty five;
Beneath the sway of Marsh and Boake,
Thenceforth did Lanka's leaning thrive.

Refrain

School where our fathers learnt the way before us
Learnt of books and learnt of men, through thee we'll do
the same.

True to our watchword "Disce Aut Discede"
We will learn of books and men, and learn to play the
game

Within thy shade our fathers trod
The path that leads to man's estate;
They have repaid the debt they owed;
They kept thy fame inviolate.

Refrain

And we their loyal sons now bear
The torch, with hearts as sound as oak;
Our lusty throats now raise a cheer
For Hartley, Harward, Marsh and Boake.



INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH LITERARY ASSOCIATION OF ROYAL COLLEGE

One of the oldest clubs in college, the English Literary Association more commonly known as “ELA” was established in 1896 as one of the first co-curricular activities in school. Since the club was formed, uplifting the English Literature standards among the young Royalists was one of the main strengths of the club. In the recent past, the English Literary Association has gone to revive projects such as RCMUN (Royal College Model United Nations) which is an important event in the year for the club & the annual English Day held in school.

The English Literary Association was initiated in hopes to engrave in the minds of young Royalists the values and strengths in learning to understand and appreciate literary texts. Through this one does not only learn how to understand the true depth and meaning of another’s creation but also to be creative, innovative and to spark a new flame in modern literacy and to convey their ideas with emotion and clarity. We give these opportunities through various projects to show case their abilities and to better improve their skills to show where they went wrong and applaud how far they’ve come. So while they will be guided they will also be gaining experience which is a better teacher than anything else.

There is a quote “you will enrich your life immeasurably if you approach it with a sense of wonder and discovery, and always challenge yourself to try new things.” There are lots of young students who are living in ignorance about the brilliance of literature and how one could simply get lost in words and the world it creates. So only by trying that one will be able to taste the boundlessness of the word and only by trying to appreciate the creations will one know whether one wants to create or get immersed in literature.



These goals of ours will help all Royalists to better their use of the English language of both the written word and the spoken language.

As they will be communicating with English hence day by day the use will be more familiar and if there once was any fear of the language it will be gone before they even know it.

The skills picked up will be useful for studies because as we all know the English language is known as the universal language and one who is fluent with the English language can do in depth studies and go through literary work of old and new in any field.

Students who possess this skill will not only have an advantage in studies but also in day to day life, As they will be able to communicate their ideas and emotions clearly throughout the world.

This club brings about a change for the better by reaching to the hearts of Royalists and showing them the advantages of studying and appreciating literature.



INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH DAY 2021

As humans, we have evolved into using speech as a method to effectively and efficiently communicate our ideas, opinions and pass on our knowledge to one another. This in turn has allowed us to make significant changes in a short time. As we come to the modern day and age, we can see that the English language is now known as the universal language accepted by most parts of the world.

Therefore, to make a significant contribution to the world, one must have the ability to employ the English language eloquently. However, there are not many occasions where an individual can showcase, rectify and improve their talents in the English language. As per the reasons stated above, the English Literary Association of Royal College will conduct the Annual English Day Competitions.

This competition will cater the needs of young Royalists from 05 age categories to present their various talents which will be assessed by teachers, whom of which the best 3 competitors in each competition from each age group will be awarded a certificate.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST

If you can't fly, then run.
If you can't run, then walk.
If you can't walk then crawl,
but whatever you do, you have to
keep moving forward.
-Martin Luther King

It gives me great joy to be a part of the first-ever Virtual English Day of Royal College. Thank you for honouring me as your Chief Guest. In my tenure spanning over three decades at this illustrious institution, I have had the pleasure of being surprised by the sheer dedication and determination Royalists have shown through the many trials and tribulations to achieve their goals and claim success. This event is yet another example of the indomitable spirit of Royalists at a time of global turmoil.

I commend the organizing committee for the innovation and creativity during this dormant lockdown in bringing students together in a wonderful celebration of the English language. To have competitions involving the four language skills for grades 4 to 11, you would have had to think “out of the box” and have meticulous planning. I applaud your effort and recollect the Centenary celebrations of our College at which President J. R. Jayawardane graced the occasion as Chief Guest and feelings of nostalgia of that day when we staged *Amphitryon* a Greek tragedy – a great achievement for our thespians. The serendipitous occasion when the sons of some of those great actors took the stage in our adaptation of *Jack and the Beanstalk* in a later year. Great traditions of theatre is but one of our repertoire – the Vijitha Weerasinghe Challenge Trophy Inter-school Debating Tournament was another popular event among the debating schools in Colombo. I earnestly appeal you to revive this competition where former Attorney Generals, leading lawyers, many CEO's and journalists honed their public speaking and language skills.

I must congratulate the 2021 organizing committee for their collaborative efforts and leadership skills. It's heartening to note how the students stayed connected through English language activities. Staying connected is of paramount importance during a pandemic.



I am amazed at the talents displayed. You have not left out any detail – it appeared to be the same physical event. I observe how the senior members have incorporated the service of junior students in coordinating communication with others; thus they too have received the necessary grooming. I praise the initiative on virtual English Day, if not the 2 dormant years would have dampened the spirits and excitement would have died out. I believe the participants and their families are also thanking you profusely.

Finally I encourage Royalists who have mastered English to learn another language and become multilingual. Perhaps in time to come you can organize a multilingual day rather than an English Day and be even more innovative and competent facing the 21st century.

“In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity.”

Mrs. C.L. Attygalle
Former Deputy Principal, Royal College



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure that I pen down this message to the English Day 2021 Souvenir. The English Literary Association, since its inauguration, has made a massive impact on improving the English Literary standards of our College.

The English Day souvenir stands as a symbol of the innovativeness and the determination of the club and its members in light of the fact that this publication is being released in midst of a global pandemic with the utilisation of online media. The souvenir will surely be a landmark of the club year as it reflects upon all the initiatives on projects that were carried by English Literary Association.

I hope that this publication along with the rest of the projects that were done by this club inspires young Royalists to further their knowledge of English literature and the language as a whole.

I appreciate the Teacher In Charge of the English Literary Association for guiding the members of the club. Even in the middle of this pandemic, the English Literary Association of Royal College has allowed students to show their English literary talents to the international community. As Marilyn Butler stated, “English literature is a kind of training in social ethics. English trains you to handle a body of information in a way that is conducive to action.”

Mr. M.V.S. Gunathilake



MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MASTER OF CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Tom Stoppard said that, words are sacred. If you get the right ones in the right order, you can nudge the world a little. Just like that the English Literary Association of Royal College has selected the right words in the right order, and they have nudged the whole world by organizing outstanding projects for the students of this school to enhance and showcase their English literary skills to the world, for 125 years.

While knowledge of English language is a definite asset to explore the global world, studying English literature opens up a world of inspiration and creativity. Also, English language is a tool for cultivating a culture of trust and understanding in multi ethnic and multi religious societies such as ours’.

The English Literary Association of Royal College has proved that they cannot be kept silent just because of a mere pandemic. Among their impressive projects, the English Day’21 stands out. This year the English Literary Association has organized the English day with a wide range of different competitions, providing a great platform for students to display and sharpen their diverse talents and to get away from the monotony of online classes.

Mr. T.D.C.P. Amaratunga

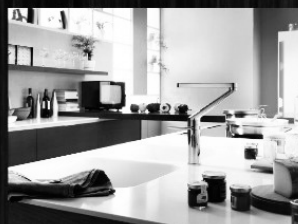
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MESSAGE FROM A JUDGE OF THE ENGLISH DAY COMPETITIONS

Covid-19 has now been a part of our lives for more than a year. It has drastically altered the lives of our students with an adverse impact on their academic and extra & co-curricular activities. However, the English Literary Association of Royal college has virtually organized their annual English day coping effectively with this challenging environment.

I was invited by these Young Royalists and had the privilege to be a member of the panel of judges, to judge one of the virtual competitions-Oratory. The event was well planned, and the committee of the English Literary Association displayed their meticulous organizational skills which are admirable. The punctuality of the participant in joining the Zoom meeting to take part is creditable and the judges had a tough time in selecting the overall winner as they were all well-prepared.

It is important that students keep themselves motivated and engaged in activities that enhance their cognitive and social skills to have a holistic personality development. Amidst all the difficulties during this New Normal atmosphere, engaging in these virtual activities will give the students a sense of achievement and boost their self-esteem and confidence. I deeply appreciate the effort taken by these young organizers who made it possible for the participants- by giving them the opportunity to take part, facilitating the virtual competitions.

Thank you very much the Chairman and the Committee of the English Literary Association of Royal College for inviting me to judge. I really enjoyed the afternoon and was amazed at the amount and quality of work the team had put into the event to achieve their objective. Everyone who contributed has much to be proud of. I wish you strength and good luck in all your future endeavours.

Ms. Lilanthi Navaratne

BEST WISHES FROM

**RAVINA
HAPUARACHCHI**

BEST WISHES FROM

**RAMITHU
SELLAHEWA**



MESSAGE FROM THE TEACHER IN CHARGE

It fills me with immense pride to compose this message to English Day souvenir published by the English literary Association.

The English Day provided a stage for the students of our college to exhibit their knowledge of English Literature. The souvenir enables a way to capture the importance of this event.

I hope that projects such as these are conducted in the years to come in order to keep inspiring these young minds and to uplift the standards of the literary skills of our college.

The organizing committee should also be admired for working through hardships in order to make this project a success.

Despite the consequences of the global pandemic and amidst a lock down situation, the organizing committee of the English Day has been able to gather our students and inspire them to participate in various competitions. It is admirable to see the enthusiasm displayed by all the students who participated. It is indeed a pleasure to see our students being inspired and organize such a wonderful event for us to admire and enjoy.

Seeing the hardships, they faced as committee members and how they have struggled to put this together with keen determination. I'm sure their experiences undoubtedly will help them in facing their lives in the future as better personalities.

Mrs. Thilakshi Illankoon



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Risking is better than regretting.

It gives me great pleasure to pen this message for the first ever English Day Souvenir as the chairman of the 125th year of this prestigious organization. At the outset, I would like to thank the Principal, Senior Deputy Principal & other Deputy Principals, Assistant Principals for the support they gave us. I would like to present a special note of thanks to our Teacher in Charge Mrs. Thilakshi Illankoon for always guiding us and the support she gave.

The souvenir reflects upon all the landmarks we crossed this year as a club and it represents all the hardships we went through and the lessons we learnt to come to this point. This year we organised a multitude of projects to enlighten t students of Royal College and other schools. Among these projects, The English Day shines as an important aspect of the club.

Through The English Day competitions, we provided a platform for the students to showcase their talents in speech and writing. In the first phase of the project, we conducted 5 competitions for students from Grade 4 to Grade 11 under 4 categories.

Organising these competitions was one of the biggest challenges we faced while initiating each and every one of these steps into action. Challenges produce resistance, which develops inner fortitude. As you go through challenges, you become stronger and stronger. Challenges are an excellent opportunity for growth.

I'm truly amazed by how my boys performed during my club year. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to our supportive teachers and parents who've been there with us since day one. We faced many challenges but we never gave up cause ain't nothing gonna break our stride even though many try to slow us down.

Tehan Liyanage



BEST WISHES FROM

**ANUJITH
ADIKARAMGE**



BEST WISHES FROM

**VARUN
IRIYAGOLLE**



BEST WISHES FROM

**DIYATH
NAVARATNE**



BEST WISHES FROM

**NAVINDU
PERERA**



PROJECT COMMITTEE OF ENGLISH DAY 2021

Project Chairman - Tehan Liyanage

Project Secretary - Ashane Munasinghe

Project Treasurer - Malaka Perera

Sandeep De Silva

Rahil Wijeyesekera

Omar Hazari

Ramithu Sellaheva

Methindu Mallawarachchi

Thenuka Fernando

Dithira De Silva

Anaka Attygalle

Ravina Hapuarachchi

A detailed line drawing of a flowering branch, likely a mimosa, with several large, open flowers and smaller buds, positioned diagonally across the upper half of the page.

BEST WISHES FROM

**METHINDU
MALLAWARACHCHI**

A detailed line drawing of a flowering branch, likely a mimosa, with several large, open flowers and smaller buds, positioned diagonally across the lower half of the page.

BEST WISHES FROM

**ANAKA
ATTYGALLE**



BEST WISHES FROM

**METH
GAMAGE**



BEST WISHES FROM

**DINATH DE
SILVA**



BEST WISHES FROM

**ADHEEB
RISHARD**



BEST WISHES FROM

**AATHIF
RISHARD**



HOW THE HABIT OF READING CAN IMPROVE ONE'S ENGLISH KNOWLEDGE

One of the first encounters of getting to know a new language is by reading a book. Reading books exposes one's mind to understanding new letters and words which deliberately improves their vocabulary in a new language. Learning English by reading books is no different. Reading a book from a new language helps individuals connect new words together, learn the flow of a sentence and improve on grammar which will also help their ability to write in a new language. At the same time, one can also practice pronunciation by reading out loud the new words one reads.

Reading story books or fiction is one of the best ways to learn the English language. Reading stories improve imagination and allows us to understand the dynamics of a conversation and spoken language of English, how it differs from written language and to enjoy the flow of words, sentences, and the plot. As result, our habit of reading grows by default. Reading stories also opens a window to learn about new cultures, lifestyles and about the country where the language originates from. As such, having a habit of reading will not only exposes our minds to learning a new language at length but also to learn about foreign cultures and lifestyles.


The more books we read, the newer words, conversations and scenarios we come across. Therefore, a habit of reading will continuously challenge one's mind to improve one's existing knowledge of English or to learn it new, refine vocabulary and stay updated with the changes of the English language that occurs with the change of time. Reading consistently helps us to write better and with comprehension due to continuously learning new vocabulary, grammar and the flow of the language. As much as listening and speaking English, a habit of reading will surely enrich one's vocabulary so that one can master the English language.

Shevanthi Jayasuriya
Country Director
Room to Read
Sri Lanka



BEST COMPLIMENTS
FOR THE ENGLISH
LITERARY
ASSOCIATION OF
ROYAL COLLEGE

FROM MUAZZAM
IMTIAZ 7C



BEST WISHES FROM

**UMAIR
HARRIS**



BEST WISHES FROM

M.I. IBRAHIM- 7D



IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO CONNECT WITH THE WORLD

*“Verbal communication is a condition of the existence of human society.”
-Barnett*

The above statement encapsulates the inseparability of language from humans. Animals also do communicate. But the way that animals communicate are biological or inborn. Although language dates back to around 150,000 years, all the linguistic evidence (when writing began) dates back to approximately 6,000 years. Humans acquire language culturally - words must be learned. That is why language has been identified as a vital part of human connection. In other words, humans are the only ones that have mastered cognitive language communication. Language allows us to share our ideas, thoughts and feelings with others.

All of us do inherit a ‘mother tongue.’ But in this highly inter-connected world we have to ask ourselves the question whether being fluent only in our mother tongue is sufficient to reach our goals and our full potential. Of the foreign languages we have been exposed to, English takes the prominent place due to our colonial legacy, thus English education in Sri Lanka dates back to the 1796. However, the nexus was mostly with the British colonial administration and evangelical missions. Of the many things British left with us English language is of importance, especially in this modern era.

English is named after an ancient Germanic people, Angles, who migrated to which is known as England today. English was the first West Germanic language spoken in medieval England. It has evolved over the course of more than 1,400 years and now it has become a global lingua franca. It is an official language in over 67 countries and has more than 35 dialects. Well over 2 billion people speak this language all over the world. It is the first language for around 375 million people and more than 750 million people speak it as a second language. Further, English has official or special status in almost 70 countries.



Considering various aspects of English usage, scholars have identified it in many ways: “General English” (Ahulu, 1977), “World Standard (Spoken) English” (McArthur, 1987), “English as a global language” (David Crystal, 1997), “English as a Lingua Franca” (House, 1999, Gnutzmann, 2000, Seidlhofer, 2001 & Jenkins, 2007) Widdowson (1997), “English as an International Language” (Modiano, 1999 and Jenkins, 2000) and “World English” (Brutt-Griffler, 2002). All these terms signify the importance and the acceptance of English as the most widely spoken and the most widely used language in the world in almost all the major fields such as Science and Technology, Education, Employment, Business, The Internet, Travel and Tourism, Entertainment Press and Media.

Sri Lanka is well known for its free education extending from pre-school to university. It may not be a well-known fact that the founding fathers of free education concept in Sri Lanka envisioned the importance of English language in the future. One of the main ideas was to have a ‘Central College’ at least in each District modelled after Royal College Colombo with all the facilities

including laboratories, gymnasium, hostel facilities, teachers’ quarters etc. to prepare students from grade 6 onwards for university selection. The students were to be admitted through a competitive examination and the medium of instruction was to be English language. So, it is a fallacy for some to think that free education is intertwined with vernacular languages in the context of free education in Sri Lanka.

It is evident that the importance of English language is increasing day by day across the world. Since English is spoken at least by one out of five people, it increases one’s ability to communicate with individuals from numerous countries and continents. Currently, international business meetings are mostly being conducted in English, university courses are being taught in English and English being a common language of many travellers and tourists etc. Also, English is one of the two main languages used in the United Nations. Therefore, learning English enhances an individual’s chances in advancing in academics and educational opportunities, securing a job, improving skills, networking and developing business and commerce. It is enjoyable to understand and observe diverse cultures, learning English will support you in doing so.



Hence, in a nutshell, it is imperative that we learn English language and use it as a foreign or second language for various purposes irrespective of regions, countries and continents as our gateway to connect with the rest of the world as it is used in all fields, predominantly as a main or official language. If we don't, we are the losers – as we will be left behind.

Dr. Chanaka Thalpahewa. PhD

Senior Diplomat & Country Programme Manager of UN HABITAT

Former Sri Lanka's Acting High Commissioner to the UK



BEST WISHES FROM

**DITHIRA
DE SILVA**



BEST WISHES FROM

**ANAKA
ATTYGALLE**



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**BEST
COMPLIMENTS
FROM A WELL
WISHER**



ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR LEGAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I have always held the belief that proficiency in the English Language is necessary for professional development in any area of activity. In this article, I will focus attention on the legal profession and also attempt to make it helpful for those young people aspiring to join the profession.

The Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka recognizes Sinhala and Tamil Languages as Official Languages of Sri Lanka, while the English Language is recognized as a Link Language*. All laws are enacted in both the official languages with a translation in the English language. As for the medium of instruction for educational institutions of the State official languages would be essential. However, it is open for a student or for parents on their behalf to choose the link language if it is available.

English is the foreign language closest to us. It is also a very formidable international language. I always held the belief that it is necessary to make our students proficient in their mother tongue. However, I strongly feel that every opportunity should be afforded to every child to gain sufficient knowledge in the English language as well. In fact, equal opportunity to learn the English language should be afforded to every child. Unfortunately, that opportunity was not made available to many past generations. The resulting position is that many children of the present era come from homes in which the English language is not used. Therefore, we have a section of our students who are children of English-speaking parents and others are children of parents who do not speak English due to no fault of theirs. The latter category is severely handicapped and is in a disadvantageous position in the modern competitive world.

This is a matter that needs urgent and serious consideration. In addition to being an officer of the Attorney General's Department, I have also been engaged in teaching at all Higher Educational Institutions involved in the teaching of law in Sri Lanka. There I have sadly observed the sense of inferiority that creeps into the young minds when they feel that they are in a disadvantaged position simply because they were not taught the English Language which has been in use in this country for several centuries. It is unfair to an intolerable degree and is one of the major causes for what is described as students' unrest.



There is no doubt that those with a sound knowledge of the English language have a distinct advantage over others in any sphere of life. I can state without any fear of contradiction that all job interviews in the private sector and most interviews for professional positions in the Government Sector are held in the English Language.

Perhaps due to our colonial attitude we still look down upon those who do not have proficiency in the English Language. This I think should cease in our society. However, at present that is the reality. I do not see any signs of change in the foreseeable future.

Education to qualify as a member of the Legal Profession, is available in Sri Lanka in the official languages. Court proceedings in the original courts, such as the High Courts, District Courts and the Magistrate's Court are mostly held in one of the Official Languages. However, proceedings in the appellate courts are held up to date in the English Language. I have hardly seen any Attorney at law making submissions before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal in one of the official languages. All official Law Reports are published in the English Language. In the circumstances, it is hardly possible for an Attorney at law to build up a practice unless he or she acquires a sound knowledge in the English language.

Legal Education in the Official Languages is possible in Sri Lanka. But we should always be aware of the fact, that our law is developed to a great extent through judgments of Indian Courts, the British Courts and also Courts of Commonwealth Jurisdictions. To acquire this wealth of knowledge we need to have the proficiency of the English Language. It is unimaginable that the legal literature available in the English language would be translated to the official languages. Therefore, legal education, though is possible in the official languages, career development would be almost impossible without grasp of the English Language. Having this in mind, at one time, it was suggested that education at the Law College should be in the English Medium. Many students at that stage felt that they would not be able to continue with their legal education if that happens for the simple reason that they do not have the language proficiency.

Those who wish to join the legal profession would naturally want to advance their knowledge in the field of law and also acquire higher qualifications in the field. This is not possible unless you have a considerable knowledge of the English Language. Pursuing higher studies in the field of law, is possible in foreign universities. Most such universities also offer scholarships. Proficiency



in the English language is essential for such higher studies. Even local Universities and other higher educational institutions offer such courses, but always in the English medium as higher studies in the field of law in the two official languages is almost impossible.

Those who join the legal profession quite often aspire to join either the Attorney General's Department, the Legal Draftsman's Department or the Judiciary. Interviews to recruit legal officers and judicial officers to these institutions are always held in the English Language.

International law is a subject that attracts professionals in the field of law. The Bandaranaike Center for international studies and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Institute offer many courses of study in international law in addition to the Local Universities. If it is the desire of anyone to enter the arena of international law, which is becoming more and more attractive today due to the concept of a Global Village, in the English Language and in addition in any other foreign language would be an added qualification.

Communication skills are as important as any other skill in all fields of activity and especially in the field of law. In addition, the ability to write in the English language is skill that should be accomplished by all those who wish the legal profession. The English Literary Society at Royal provided me with an invaluable platform to improve my communication skills and also writing skills during my days at Royal. At present, I am aware that the Society has intensified its activities and functions as one of the major societies in school. During my career, I have had the opportunity of delivering many speeches both at local and international fora. However, my first ever speech was delivered at the English Literary Society of Royal College.

On the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the Society and the celebrations in connection with it, I wish the present members good luck and all the best. I call upon all students at Royal to make the maximum out of the opportunity that is available to them, as I did almost 50 years ago. Sadly, that opportunity is not available to a large section of the student community in Sri Lanka.

*Sources: Article 18 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, as amended by the 13th amendment

Palitha Fernando, President Counsel
Attorney General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (2012-2014)
Student Chairman of the English Literary Association of Royal College (1974)



BEST WISHES FROM

**THENUKA
FERNANDO**



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**RAVINA
HAPUARACHCHI**



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**DITHIRA
DE SILVA**



AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF LEARNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The best way to learn any language is by engaging with it as much as possible, and this applies to the learning of the English language as well. In a context like Sri Lanka, the best way to engage with the English language is through reading texts available in English.

A definition of language that we commonly come across is that language is a tool for communication. Although this definition has the appearance of being a simple and correct description of language, one needs to be careful with it. A tool is something that one needs to have in her or his possession before she or he could put it to use or do things with it. If language were a mere tool the assumption is that one needs to have fully mastered the language before she or he could use it to communicate ideas in that language. It also means that it is only after one has consciously learnt and mastered the different grammar structures that she or he acquires the ability to communicate ideas using that language. There is no doubt that one needs to have a sense of the different grammar structures in order to know how they can be used in communication, but it is a misunderstanding to say that one needs to wait till she or he has mastered those structures in order for communication to take place.

Let us use an example to understand this point. Imagine a scenario where a teacher uses the sentence “Rani goes to school every day” as an example for the Simple Present Tense and the sentence “Rani went to school yesterday” as an example for the Simple Past Tense. The teacher may provide a detailed explanation of each of the two tenses based on these two example sentences, but in order to understand those explanations the students need to have understood the general meanings of the two sentences. In the absence of such an understanding, the explanation that the teacher provides on each of the two tenses is going to make little sense. The fact that the students have understood the general meanings of the two example sentences, which the teacher put on the blackboard, shows that a certain level of communication has already taken place before the two verb tenses were formally introduced. This shows that communication or meaning-making takes place at every step of the way.



Now if it is the case that one does not need to wait till she or he has consciously mastered the grammar structures in order to be able to communicate ideas or make meaning, there is nothing that should prevent her or him from reading and understanding a text. Of course she or he is going to come across words and expressions that are difficult to understand, but the broader sentence and the paragraph, which those words and expressions are part of, usually give clues as to what those words and expressions might mean. If such clues are not found she or he can easily look up the words in the dictionary and move on. This shows that reading is something that a language learner can do without waiting till she or he has mastered the language.

What has reading got to offer the language learner? One could identify a number of advantages of reading. Firstly, reading creates a setting where the learner is in full control of the learning exercise. Everything is between the learner and the text which she or he reads. Except in those cases where reading takes place in controlled environments like classrooms, there are no external individuals telling the reader how to read, at which pace reading should be done, and how a text should be understood. The absence of such mediators enhances the autonomy of the learner. With autonomy comes confidence. The feeling “I can read and understand a text” makes all the difference. It makes the learner love the language, which in turn makes her or him want to engage with the language more. Secondly, reading enables the learner to get a sense of the different ways in which the reality has been looked at. To use an example, if we take a science textbook, a children’s story book, and a literary text that describe a tree it is guaranteed that we are going to see three different conceptualizations of the tree. With these different conceptualizations come different language and expression styles. This kind of exposure to the different ways of looking at the world and also the different language and expression styles has important implications for language learning. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly from a language learning point of view, the more one sees words and grammar structures used in actual texts the greater the likelihood of those words and structures registering in the mind of the learner. What is important to note here is this happens even when the learner is not consciously paying attention to the words and structures found in the text. The acquisition of those happens at a subconscious level. Researchers in the area of second language learning have pointed out that such subconscious learning of language is more effective than trying to consciously learn word meanings and grammar structures.



Accordingly, if there is one effective way to learn a language in general and the English language in particular that would be through reading.

Dr. Maduranga Kalugampitiya
Department of English
University of Peradeniya



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**RAMITHU
SELLAHEWA**



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**JAMAL
SABRY**



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE- THE KEY TO A BALANCED ADULTHOOD

A fisherman's wife cuts open a fish and guess what happens? A troop of dancers, accompanied by drummers, whip crackers and musicians come out of the fish in procession. They had been in a Labugediya (Bottle Gourd) later swallowed by the fish the fisherman had caught and brought home to be colled. (Labugediye Thovile by Sybil Wettasinghe)

The child who is fascinated by early reading never loses the child in him or her even as an adult.

The iconic Sri Lankan writer Sybil Wettasinghe's Kuda Hora (Umbrella Thief) translated into several languages was acclaimed at prestigious international literary festivals. Her last book before her death at 93 years, Wonder Crystal which solicited endings from Sri Lankan children made a Guinness World Record as the book with the most number of alternative endings. The world-renowned writer who used to acclaim that 'a child lived in her always'.

Martin Wickramasinghe, T.B Illangaratne, Kumaratunga Munidasa are among the other popular Sri Lankan authors of children's literature who often remind that a child lives in many adults. Some children's book such as Lewis Carol's Alice in wonderland, A.A Milne's Winnie the Pooh and many such books are still widely read by adults alike.

So what is children's literature? The Britannica notes, 'the genre encompasses a wide range of works including acknowledged classics of world literature, picture books, easy to read stories written exclusively for children and fairy tales, lullabies, fables, folksongs and other primarily orally transmitted material.' In chapter one of Alice in wonderland, Alice asks what is the use of a book without pictures and conversations. Alice moves to a detached world of fantasy.

In wind in the willows by Graham Green, we meet animals who drink, smoke, own houses, drive, (and steal) row boats, escape from jail, eat ham and eggs for breakfast and even write poetry.



Tom Canty and Edward Tudor in *Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain, exchange the royal garments with rags proving the danger of judging the appearance as reality.

Madol Doowa written by Martin Wickramasinghe, read by many generations available in English, Chinese and Russian, goes beyond the spirit of its main characters- Upali and Jinna, painting a picture of the entire country accompanied by scenes of paddy fields, fishermen and customs of a nation. Research has revealed that having pastoral settings in picture books is an important way to instill curiosity and wonder for natural world in early stage.

Children's literature develops empathy which is vital as a key to social and emotional development of an individual. It also enlightens the child on diversity, inclusion and equity.

Another significant aspect of children's literature is that it applies to other fields of studies, for example creative writing, art, linguistics and psychology.

Currently more and more carefully selected stories from the world of children's literature are incorporated into teaching English as a foreign language.

Apart from the development of language and acquisition, it has bridged story telling into science and environment studies.

A very interesting experiment done by doctors found that a child's sleep cycle can affect his development and a Swedish author and a psychologist John Forssen Ehrlin wrote a book called *The rabbit who wants to fall asleep* in order to aid children sleep at the given time, thus gaining the adequate hours of sleep. In this book, the author employs psychological techniques enabling a child to fall asleep while listening to the story.

Children's literature is an attractive course of study in many world famous universities and at the same time it is a big business. Investing in children's literature has become a thriving market. China has a very vibrant book publishing market and according to *Publisher's Weekly*, the entire Chinese children's book market is expanding in terms of both sales and diversity, accounting for 25% of the country's total retail book market.



Children's literature believed to have been evolved in the 18th century is currently not only related to digital and technological influences but also the influence of a cultural movement of the late 20th century called Modernism in children literature. Scholars have highlighted important characteristics of children's books connected to postmodernism. One of the notable connections is that the picture illustrates a complete view point than words and portrayal of multiple versions of a story can be found in the same story within the same book while stories are told by multiple narrators, mixing science fiction and history.

High quality children's literature is essential for parents and teachers to foster all above mentioned benefits so that they will hopefully carry these character traits and values into adulthood.

Lakshmi Attygalle

Former Deputy Principal of Royal College

Former Teacher in Charge of English Debating and Drama societies of Royal College



FEATURE WRITING- A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

“Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader- not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon,” said Edgar Lawrence Doctorow, an American writer and professor. This is true in case of a good feature which enables a reader to share the experience of the feature writer through words. A feature could be of any subject: a place, a person, an event, a product, an object or an experience. It could explore a range of themes including business, health, history, science, nature and religion. In other words, features can be about anything from the well-known to the unknown.

A detailed and a longer piece of writing than a news story in a newspaper, a feature often covers an issue in greater depth than a news story would do; or it might look at an ongoing story from a different angle. The recent incident of the explosion of the vessel X-Press Pearl which made headlines is a good example here. While a factual news report on the explosion would answer the fundamental 5Ws and H (Who-What-Where-When-Why and How) followed in the ‘inverted pyramid style’ of news reporting, a feature would deviate from this structure and take many different angles to the story: the impact of the explosion on marine life, the necessity to give more teeth to the existing law, the health and economic toll the incident would have on the fishing community would be a few.

Feature reports must essentially deal with facts for them to become acceptable. At the same time they let feature writers and readers go beyond the daily news cycle. Features allow for the most diverse approach to storytelling ascertaining that ‘facts are stranger than fiction’. They enable writers to use their own voice and provide opportunities to share compelling stories with readers.

Shifting from traditional print, today features have even take the centre-stage of many online platforms. Found in many sizes and styles, features form the heart of a publication adding colour, life and spice to it.

A good feature would require many ingredients: originality, choice of the subject, simple and appropriate writing style, ability to engage the reader and most importantly the ‘human element’. A gifted feature writer could ‘humanize’ even the most technical subject matter to allow a better dialogue with the reader.



The opening of a feature should immediately capture the attention of the reader, which is termed the ‘punch’ of the story. A real life anecdote is often the best opening as opposed to statistics or data. For example, in a feature discussing the issues of the older people, a real life story of an old man or a woman would be the ideal opening instead of statistics of the rising ageing population.

A stylish sense of writing is the greatest gift of a feature writer. This should be matched with a ‘nose for stories.’ Over-writing or exaggerating could go against a feature writer. A feature writer should also have a liking for research and reading. Winning the confidence of interviewees and the ability to speak the language they speak could do wonders for a feature writer.

‘Writing like life itself, is a voyage of discovery’, said Henry Miller, the eminent American writer and artist. Similarly, feature writing is an art and a craft which is acquired and developed with time and experience. Sustained feature writing is essentially a voyage of discovery for a writer who is joined by his/her readers...

Mrs. Randima Attygalle
Attorney-at-Law
Award Winning Senior Journalist



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ATTYAGELLE**



USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

The world of diplomacy, and therein that of international relations has been dominated by various languages over time. Those originating in Europe, particularly French, held sway for much of these periods with phrases and words entering diplomatic terminology. The usage of a plethora of French terms, even in the 21st century, is reminiscent of the hold this language once had over the sphere of international engagement, but English has become the lingua franca of diplomacy today. It spreads further into the realm of global communication entering the sciences and business, tourism and technology, as well as education and the arts.

Whilst bilateral relations between countries are conducted in languages that are mutually understood and might vary from region to region, most of multilateralism is conducted in English. This is due to the extensive influence that the British have had on global affairs. History is responsible for the central role that this language plays on the world stage. The British Empire, on which the sun was said to never set, encapsulated countries from north America through Africa and Asia and continued to Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific. Despite the gradual disintegration of the Empire after the Second World War, the United Kingdom continued to exert influence, through multilateral environments such as the Commonwealth, and the United Nations. Thus, English remains the link language, bringing together countries as diverse as Malaysia and Mozambique, or Sierra Leone and Singapore, who all find a common denominator in the language they use.

On a wider scale, the United Nations recognizes six languages for its official purposes of communication with translation provided at its multiple fora, however English remains dominant given its reach and usage in several corners of the world. Herein it is evident that multilateralism remains the key platform on which the English language has been sustained to date. Countries, their governments, business and scientific communities, and populace find a shared space through this language.



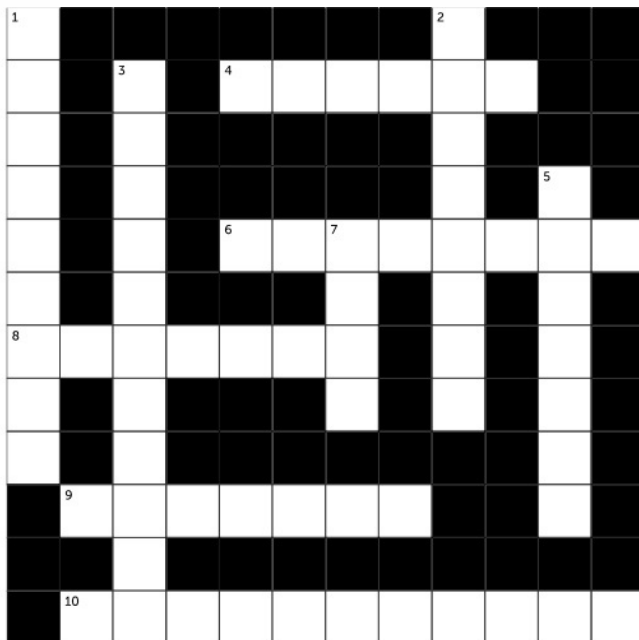
In such a world, it is vital that countries, especially those that are not large in size and population, gain adequate knowledge and make sufficient use of the language. A sound grasp of English, its vibrant vocabulary, its nuances and subtleties are certainly prerequisites in the realm of diplomacy, as diplomatic agents, state representatives and even leaders, are required to engage continuously, especially for purposes of negotiation. Being proactive, informed and harnessing all that a language can offer, diplomats are at an added advantage. While simultaneous translation is offered and widely used, it is paramount that expressions, nuanced or otherwise, are understood for what they mean, rather than what one is told they may mean.

Mastering one's own mother tongue, irrespective of where one hails from or where one resides, is paramount. Yet as global citizens, in order to engage with the world, one needs to utilize a language that is widely spoken, read and written. Herein lies the importance of English, the most used global language, especially in the domain of international relations and diplomacy.

Dr. George I.H. Cooke, PhD
Initiator, Awarelogue Initiative
Deputy Director of the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies
Visiting lecturer of the University of Colombo, and the Bandaranaike
International Diplomatic Training Institute
Visiting Fellow at the Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand
Former Diplomatic Officer in the Sri Lanka Foreign Service



CROSSWORD PUZZLE 01



ACROSS

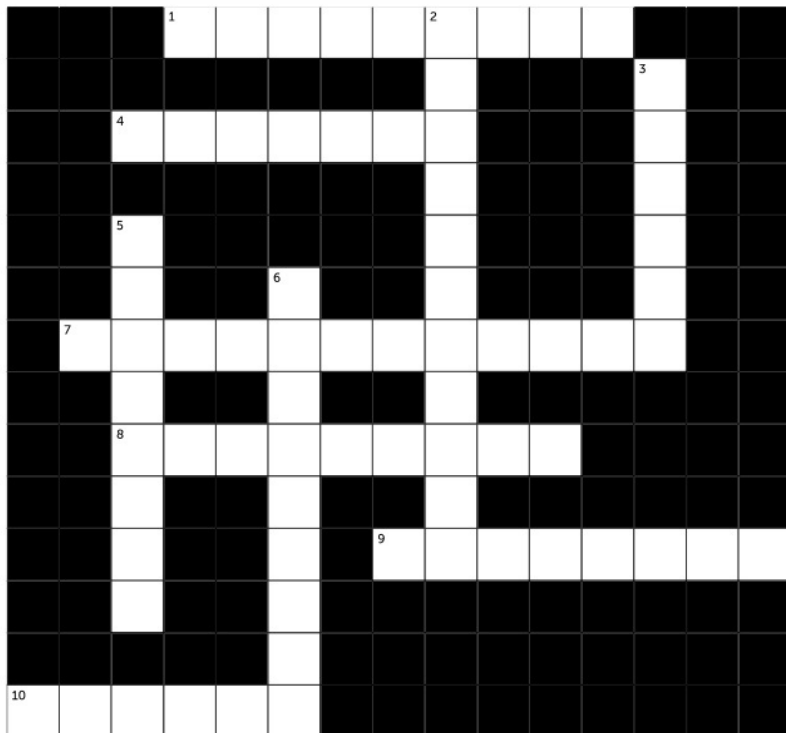
- 4 (of a clock or watch) showing the time by means of hands or a pointer rather than displayed digits.
- 6 Higher in rank, status, or quality
- 8 Fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something creative
- 9 The branch of science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy.
- 10 The leading character or one of the major characters in a story

DOWN

- 1 A person who writes plays.
- 2 A form of government with a monarch at the head
- 3 A person engaged or learned in philosophy
- 5 Have or hold (someone or something) within.
- 7 A person who writes poems.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE 02



ACROSS

- 1 The capacity of something to last or to withstand wear and tear
- 4 A track used for motor racing, horse racing, or athletics.
- 7 A reduction in the value of something over time
- 8 Give up (something valued) for the sake of other considerations
- 9 Something done, felt, or thought in response to a situation or event
- 10 A system of millions or billions of stars, together with gas and dust, held together by gravity

DOWN

- 2 Available as another possibility or choice
- 3 A stringed musical instrument of treble pitch, played with a horsehair bow
- 5 A quantity of precious metals, gems, or other valuable objects
- 6 The branch of medicine or biology that deals with the nervous system



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PRIZE WINNERS OF THE ENGLISH DAY COMPETITIONS 2021

Primary section (Age category 9-10)

Prepared Speech

- 1st Place- Chanuk Kotalawela
- 2nd Place- A.V.A.Menul Tarith
- 3rd place- Muhammad Maznavi

News Reading

- 1st Place- Janek Peiries
- 2nd Place- Nabeel Joonoos
- 3rd Place- Muhammad Maznavi

Age Category: 11- 12 Years

Prepared Speech

- 1st Place- Minindu Miyurusara
- 2nd Place- Akramus Zajid
- 3rd Place- Shayon Vanlanbenberg

News Casting

- 1st Place- Ashan Jayarathne
- 2nd Place- Nithika Jayasundara
- 3rd Place- Shayon Vanlanbenberg



Impromptu Speech

1st Place- Charu Chanud Perera

2nd Place- Remika Hewawitharana

3rd Place- Chanul Thameesha & Chanthul Perera

Creative Writing

1st Place- Vihas Weerasena

2nd Place- Muazzam Imtiaz

3rd Place- Yumeth Jayasinghe

Script Writing

1st Place- Caiu Perera

2nd Place- Chanul Thameesha

3rd Place- Rivinu Ratnayake

Age Category : 13-14 Years

Prepared Speech

1st Place- Sasen Premarathne

2nd Place- Tehan Gunathilake

3rd Place- Tharul Samarakoon

News Casting

1st Place- Jamal Sabry

2nd Place- Tharul Samarakoon

3rd Place- Tharul de Mel



Impromptu Speech

1st Place- Jamal Sabry

2nd Place- Yusef Hazari

3rd Place- Ahmed Nabil

Creative Writing

1st Place- Tharul Janage

2nd Place- Sithil Wanigasooriya

3rd Place- Tehan Gunathilake

Script Writing

1st Place- Yusef Hazzari

2nd Place- Sithil Wanigasooriya

3rd Place- Kohulan Jathusan

Age Category : 15-16 Years

Prepared Speech

1st Place- Dinath De Silva

2nd Place- Umair Harris

3rd Place- Diyath Nawarathne

News Casting

1st Place- Ammar Aliasger

2nd Place- Dinath De Silva

3rd Place- Meth Gamage



Impromptu Speech

1st Place- Ammar Aliasger

2nd Place- Meth Gamage

3rd Place- Anujith Adikaramge

Creative Writing

1st Place- Zahi Salley

2nd Place- Navindu Perera

3rd Place- Diyath Nawarathne

Script Writing

1st Place- Meth Gamage

2nd Place- Mihin Wanigasekara

3rd Place- Varun Irriyagolla



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PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2021



**"All we have to
decide is what
to do with the
time that is
given us."**

J.R.R. TOLKIEN- THE FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RING



ENGLISH DAY 2021

ENGLISH DAY CELEBRATIONS 2021

As the world is moving towards a global village, the role of English as an international language has become prominent more than ever before. It is the language of science, aviation, diplomacy, banking, business and tourism. It is the common language of the Internet. Therefore, studying English assures future educational prospects and career progress for young students. In view of the above, to motivate young Royalists and appreciate their English Language skills, the English Literary Association of Royal College has decided to organize English Day 2021.

WEEKLY MUN PRACTICES

The Royal College Model United Nations (RCMUN) Conference has been The Royal College English Literary Association's pioneering project for over half a decade. Over the years, the RCMUN Conference has been known for attracting novice as well as seasoned delegates from the Model United Nations community from around the island. With the intention of helping novice MUN'ers, the RCMUN Workshop was introduced for the first time this year. This workshop conducted by the Sri Lanka Model United Nations (SLMUN) Organising Committee, facilitated both the novices as well as MUN veterans by delving into the basics of MUN such as introduction to the MUN procedures, to the more complex areas, including writing winning Position Papers. The RCMUN Workshop 2021 was held on the 15th of August 2021, successfully attracting almost 300 delegates.



PITCH IN'21

In Sri Lanka English is taught as a link language from grade three onwards, to better equip the students for the globalized world and to diminish a social gap between those who can communicate in English and those who can't, and also to restore communal harmony in the multiethnic society. Since the children in orphanages receive English education only from their schools and as they cannot afford tuition facilities, the only means that they can develop their knowledge in English is reading books. However, most of the orphanages which are funded by the government do not have sufficient budgets to purchase the required English books for their children.

Therefore, fulfilling their social responsibility, and upholding their vision, the English Literary Association of Royal College executed *Pitch in'21*, through 7 phases. Each phase aimed to donate books and stationery to different orphanages. Below is the list of the 7 orphanages that were selected for each of the 6 phases.

Phase 1 – Boys industrial home

Phase 2 – Shilpa children's home, Colombo 5

Phase 3 – Parakrama Children's Development Home, Ragama

Phase 4 – Hope home, mount Lavinia

Phase 5 – Rainbow Children's home, Kelaniya

Phase 6 – Shepherd Children's home, Rajagirya





THE TABLOID 2021



In the present society, newspapers have become a very popular yet comprehensive and influential way for people to share their thoughts, views and ideas to the public. Authors get the opportunity to present their ideas by writing articles and the readers get the chance to understand things from different perspectives by reading newspapers. Writing articles not only help you to strengthen your writing skills, but they also help you to gather more knowledge regarding the field of research you have engaged in. Therefore, the English Literary Association of Royal College organized '*The Tabloid*', a 'newspaper article writing competition' which served as a platform for the young students to showcase their writing skills by allowing them to create their own newspaper articles.

The competition was held under 3 different age categories with 3 different topics for each category as well as attractive graphics released throughout a course of time, '*The Tabloid*' released its first poster on the 3rd of June and the final on the 13th of August. The winners were announced on the 13th of August and the project concluded in a successful manner.

INSPIRE'21

Inspire 21' was a series of videos focused on telling the life stories of some of history's greatest and unforgettable literary minds. With a roster of household names such as Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare, Stephen King, J.K. Rowling, George Bernard Shaw and William Wordsworth, this project served to educate the public and make people more aware of these great individuals and honour their contributions to the world of literature.



FLAIR' 21



FLAIR' 21

Flair' 21 is an inter-school competition focusing on the theme of "Classical values in the modern world". This competition will allow the participants to explore their creative side with the use of technology while also managing to spark an interest in English literature within themselves. We believe that the merging of these two art forms will be a major step in bringing English Literature back into the modern world.

YOUNG POET 2021



Young Poet 2021 - A competition that served as a platform for young students to showcase their creative talents in poetry composition by giving them the opportunity to send their own creations. The first teaser poster about the competition was shared on the 5th March 2021 and the competition was concluded on the 13th May 2021, announcing the winners of both Interschool and Inner school categories. The Inner school and Inter school competitions were held under three age categories and the top 3 winners of each category were awarded. Receiving a large number of entries for every category, we believe that Young Poet 2021 helped to uplift the art of composing poetry throughout.



THE RCMUN WORKSHOP 2021



A PROJECT BY
THE ENGLISH LITERARY ASSOCIATION OF ROYAL COLLEGE

THE RCMUN WORKSHOP 2021

The Royal College Model United Nations (RCMUN) Conference has been The Royal College English Literary Association's pioneering project for over half a decade. Over the years, the RCMUN Conference has been known for attracting novice as well as seasoned delegates from the Model United Nations community from around the island. With the intention of helping novice MUN'ers, the RCMUN Workshop was introduced for the first time this year. This workshop conducted by the Sri Lanka Model United Nations (SLMUN) Organising Committee, facilitated both the novices as well as MUN veterans by delving into the basics of MUN such as introduction to the MUN procedures, to the more complex areas, including writing winning Position Papers. The RCMUN Workshop 2021 was held on the 15th of August 2021, successfully attracting almost 300 delegates.



TALES OF TOMORROW 2021



During these trying times where the whole world is facing a pandemic, people have had to get used to the term we refer to as the “new normal”. With this new normal we face many challenges, few of which being the sunder of student-teacher relationships causing a vast strain on effective education and often students are affixed to their homes where they don’t get much of a chance to interact with people and train the language skills. This will stunt their improvement of language and ability to commune greatly.

This will all boil down to the inability of the students to learn how to express themselves in a meaningful modus operandi, which will cause a lot of miscommunication and a great feeling of isolation. We believe that by taking small steps we can overcome these challenges and make ready our fellow young royalists to face the world.

To aid in overcoming these challenges we the English literary Association of Royal College have organised the project tales of tomorrow.

We organised 2 seminars on prepared speech and poetry composing with young royalists conducted by well-reputed lecturer's, which we hope will be a fun activity as it will be an interactive and useful session.



THE MUN DICTIONARY

Model United Nations has been a vital part of the English Literary Association of Royal College and has produced prominent MUN delegates who have won many awards in prestigious conferences in the nation. Our mission was to develop the future MUN delegates skill set by delivering the basics of Model United Nations through a series of videos namely Secretary General, Head Table, Delegates, IPC and Head of Administration. We related to topics such as who that individual is, duties and responsibilities and also importance in a conference. These videos helped refresh the memory of our young delegates due to the lack of practice during the pandemic and also increasing the number of students interested in MUN, as it is a skill that will benefit them greatly in the future. This project gave us great success and also good feedback from our young delegates.

TRANSCEND: THE HOSTELLERS' PROJECT

The English language plays an essential role in our lives as it helps in interpersonal communication and it is one of the main languages for studying any subject all over the world. English is important for students as it broadens their minds, develops emotional skills and improves the quality of life by providing job opportunities. In order to improve the English writing skills among the hostellers of the college, the English Literary Association of Royal College has decided to organize 'Transcend', The Hostellers' Project'21, 02 days- Creative Writing workshop at which a qualified lecturer will teach the hostellers the importance of creative writing, its techniques and how it will benefit them in the long run and also their creative writing skills will be assessed with a topic given at the moment. By this project, the English Literary Association hopes to improve the English writing skills of the hostellers which will not only help them in their academic life, but will also help them in their future endeavours as adults, too.



THE MUN DATABASE



Model United Nations has been a vital part of the English Literary Association of Royal College and has helped the club in achieving its Vision and Mission. The English Literary Association of Royal College has produced prominent MUN delegates who have won many awards in prestigious conferences at national and international levels. Having MUN as an explorable avenue of the English Literary Association of Royal College helps in cultivating an array of skills necessary to society such as critical thinking, knowledge on geo-politics, diplomacy skills, negotiation skills as well as developing confidence in speaking and learning to express yourself in a convincing manner.

English Literary Association of Royal College Annual Report for the Year 2021
Several capable individuals with excellent public speaking skills fall behind in understanding the uptight nature of diplomacy in MUN. To combat this issue as well as to guide young and talented novice speakers and to enhance their knowledge on MUN, the English Literary Association of Royal College decided to re-introduce the “MUN database” which consisted of a complete guide on how the MUN functions such as,

- Introduction to MUN
- How to research
- Rules of procedure
- Points
- Resolution writing

And other aspects related to the Model United Nations.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The English Literary Association of Royal College wishes to extend their most sincere and grateful thanks to the following:

- Chief Guest, Mrs. Lakshmi Attygalle for accepting our humble request and attending the event
- Principal of Royal College, Mr. M.V.S. Gunathilake, for his continuous encouragement and generous support.
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- Our parents for all their support & patience throughout these hectic months of co-curricular activities.
- Last but not least, the Organizing Committee, without their support this publication would not have been a success.
- All those who contributed, yet to stay anonymous.



ENGLISH DAY CELEBRATIONS 2021

FELICITATION CEREMONY

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