

National Heroes and Scholars

5

Deshan : Ashan, what are you reading?

Ashan : I'm reading a book on national heroes and scholars of Sri Lanka. You know, it is said 'Reading makes a full man.'

Deshan : True, I think we should take this proverb seriously.

Ashan : Yes, when I read this book, I feel very proud of our national heroes.

Deshan : Yes, we won our independence by fighting together.

Ashan : United we stand, divided we fall.

Deshan : Yes of course ! The most important lesson that we learn from our independence struggle is how people of all races and religions fought together leaving aside their differences.

Ashan : That's right, you can't judge people by their race, religion or appearance.

Deshan : I agree and that's what we should all try to be if we are to make this country and the world a better place.

Activity 01- Vocabulary

Match 'A' with 'B' to make proverbs and write them in your writing book.

A

1. United we stand
2. Reading makes
3. Every cloud
4. Don't judge a book

B

- has a silver lining
- by its cover
- a full man
- divided we fall

b. Read the following proverbs and their meanings and do the activity that follows:

Proverb	Meaning
a. Birds of a feather flock together.	People of similar tastes enjoy the company of one another.
b. Cut your coat according to your cloth.	Learn to live within your means.
c. Never judge a book by its cover.	Do not form an opinion of a person's character by his / her outward appearance.
d. Two heads are better than one.	Two people together may solve a problem which one alone cannot.
e. Waste not, want not.	Be thrifty and you may never be in need.
f. One good turn deserves another.	People who are kind to others deserve the same treatment themselves.

- c. Write the number of the proverb which suits the following students.
1. Mr. Perera looks rather unfriendly but once you get to know him well, you realise how friendly he is. (...)
 2. If you earn Rs.5000 a week you should not spend all of it. (...)
 3. Hasitha couldn't solve the problem on his own so he solved it together with Mehan. (...)
 4. Ravi plays the piano, Kavindu plays the guitar and Gagana plays the drums, so they decided to form a band together. (...)
 5. Amith helped his poor friend Ajith to study. Later Ajith became a doctor and saved Amith's life. (...)

Activity 02 - Reading

Match the names of the national heroes with the pictures.

- a) b) c) d) e)



- f) g) h) i)



- Venerable Weliwita Saranankara Sangaraja
- Venerable Wariypola Sri Sumangala
- Venerable Kudapola

- T.B. Jayah
- Ponnambalam Ramanathan
- King Parakramabahu, the 6th
- Venerable Ananda Maitreya
- Anagarika Dharmapala
- C.W.W. Kannangara

The students of Saraswathi Maha Pirivena are at the assembly. It is Venerable Madurasara's turn to make his speech at the assembly.

Announcer: Good morning, everybody! I would like to invite Venerable Madurasara of grade 4 to make his speech.

Venerable Madurasara : Thank you.

Good morning, dear teachers and my dear friends, let me speak a few words on one of our well-known Buddhist scholars, Venerable Ananda Maitreya.

Born on 23rd August, 1896 in Kirindigala, Balangoda, Ananda Maitreya Thero was a well-respected scholar and a Buddhist monk. Before he was ordained, he studied at Kumara Vidyalaya, Balangoda. He was ordained at Sri Nandaramaya in Udumulla, Balangoda in 1909 under the guidance of Venerable Gampaha Dhammananda and Deniyaye Seelananda Theros. Venerable Ananda Maitreya went on to study at Ananda College, Colombo, where he became a teacher in 1922.

When we speak of Venerable Ananda Maitreya, we cannot forget his contribution to Buddhist education. He established the Sri Dhammananda Pirivena in Colombo in 1930. In addition, he was the author of a number of books on Buddhist Philosophy, meditation and different languages such as Sanskrit, Pali and English. Do you know that he also compiled an English – Sinhala dictionary? He was also the first teacher of Buddhism at Nalanda College when it was established in 1925. In fact, it is said that it was Venerable Ananda Maitreya who gave the school its name and the

motto which is used even today.

Now let me move on to his involvement in the field of higher education. Venerable Ananda Maitreya was appointed as the Professor of Mahayana at the Vidyodaya University, currently the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, where he was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Buddhist Studies in 1963 and later as the Vice Chancellor in 1966.

Venerable Ananda Maitreya's contribution to Buddhism was not limited to Sri Lanka. He travelled to many parts of the world and his valuable services were recognised by many countries. He participated in the 6th Buddhist Council in Myanmar in 1969. In recognition of his services, he was conferred with the title "*Agga Maha Pandita*" in 1956 by the Burmese government. It is the highest Sangha title which is equivalent or similar to the *Sangharaja* title given to any Buddhist monk.

Despite all these achievements, Venerable Ananda Maitreya is mostly remembered and respected for his achievement of a higher level of spiritual development through meditation and the simple, modest life he led.

This great son of Sri Lanka passed away on the 18th July, 1998 in Colombo leaving an indelible mark in our lives forever.

There's much more to be said about this great monk. However, given the limitations of time, I have to conclude my speech now. Hope you enjoyed my speech and thank you very much for being such a lovely audience.

Thank you.

Activity 03

Find the following features of a speech from the above text.

- a) Greeting :-.....
- b) Asking for permission :-
- c) Title :-
- d) Moving on to a new idea :-
- e) Ending :-

Activity 04

A) Complete the grid using the information given in the above speech.

1. Name	
2. Born in	
3. Date of birth	
4. School attended	
5. University worked at	
6. Titles conferred	

Activity 05

Describe the following nouns using the adjectives from the speech.

Adjectives	Noun
1.	scholar
2.	level
3.	development
4.	life
5.	service

Activity 06

Find words from the above speech with the following consonant clusters.

1. st -
2. ch -
3. nt -
4. sp -
5. rn -
6. nk -
7. lv -
8. lt -
9. bl -
10. tr -

Activity 07 – Listening

Listen to the teacher and complete the grid.

Name of the scholar	
Born on	
Born in	
Most famous debate was in	
Henry Steel Olcott arrived in	

Activity 08 – Writing

a. Use the following details and write a speech on Anagarika Dharmapala.

Born	17 September 1864 Matara
Nationality	Sinhalese
Other names	Don David Hewavitarane
Father	Don Carolis Hewavitharana
Mother	Mallika Dharmagunawardhana
Education	Christian College, Kotte St. Benedict's College, Kotahene St. Thomas' College, Mutwal Colombo Academy (Currently Royal College, Colombo)
Known for	Sri Lankan Independence movement Revival of Buddhism, One of the representatives for Buddhism at the Parliament of World Religions (1893)
Passed away	29 April 1933 (aged 68)

b. Follow the structure of the above speech and make a speech using one of the following topics.

1. Venerable Wariyapola Sri Sumangala
2. Ponnambalam Ramanathan
3. Venerable Thotagamuwe Sri Rahula
4. Venerable Narada
5. T.B. Jayah

Enrichment

When things go wrong
As they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging
Seems all uphill,

When the funds are low
And the debts are high,
And you want to smile
But you have to sigh
When care is pressing you
Down a bit –
Rest if you must
But don't you quit.

Life is queer
With its twists and turns
As every one of us
Sometimes learns;
And many a person turns about
When they might have won
Had they stuck it out.
Don't give up though

The pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the struggler has given up

When he might have captured
The victor's cup;
And he learned too late
When the night came down,
How close he was
To the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell
How close you are
It may be near when it seems afar.

So stick to the fight
When you're hardest hit –
It's when things are really worst
That you must not quit

John Greenleaf Whittier

Activity 09

A) Find rhyming words from the poem.

1. will
2. high
3. bit
4. turns
5. slow
6. up
7. down

B) Write these verbs in your writing book and underline the silent letters.

1. Debt
2. Wrong
3. Trudging

- 4. High
- 5. Often
- 6. Doubt

Activity 10

Read the following descriptions and write in the spaces the names of the heroes and scholars given at the end of the activity.

- I. He is known in the history of Sri Lanka as a brave leader who contributed immensely to the independence struggle. He worked closely with Gongalegoda Banda and Puran Appu, who were guided and advised by him.
.....
- II. A Buddhist monk from the state of Sikkim. He was a poet and author, and an active participant in the Sri Lankan Independence movement.
.....
- III. He served as Prime Minister since independence in 1948 until his death in office in 1952. He is considered as the “Father of the Nation”.
.....
- IV. A king who belongs to the Polonnaruwa era. He built religious monuments, hospitals, social welfare units, canals and large reservoirs. The most well-known reservoir built by him is the Parakrama Samudraya.
.....
- V. A Buddhist monk and national hero who is known for re-hoisting the Sinhalese flag, before the convention that handed over control of the country to the British in 1815.
.....

- a) Wariyapola Sumangala Thero
- b) D.S. Senanayake
- c) King Parakramabahu
- d) Kadahapola Thero
- e) S. Mahinda Thero



King Parakramabahu The Great

As a young boy, King Parakramabahu spent much of his time without the company of his uncles who ruled different parts of the country. He was crowned as the King of *Dakkinadesa* around 1140 AD after the death of his uncle King Kirthi Sri Megha. Over the next decade, King Parakramabahu developed the military as well as other facilities in Dakkhinadesa. Around 1153 AD, he managed to secure the power of the entire country, after a civil war. He held this position until his death in 1186 AD. During his reign King Parakramabahu gave leadership to a campaign against the Kings of Burma and helped the Pandyan dynasty fight the Chola dynasty in South India. He also maintained strong trade relations with China and the Middle East. As for the development of the country, he built religious monuments, canals and large reservoirs, such as the Parakrama Samudraya as well as hospitals and welfare centres. During his reign, Sri Lanka was known as the 'Granary of the East' since the country was self-sufficient.

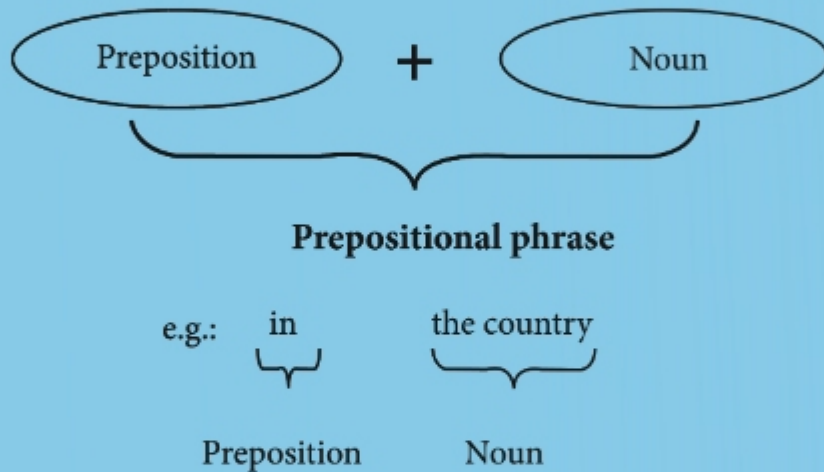
Activity 11

Read the above text and answer the questions.

- I. Who is this passage about?

- II. When did he start ruling over the entire island?
- III. How long did he remain in this position?
- IV. Name the reservoir mentioned in the text?
- V. What do the following words taken from the above text refer to?
 - a. his
 - b. he
 - c. this

Learning Point



Activity 12

Find prepositions from the text to form prepositional phrases.

- I. Dakkhinadesa
- II. the country
- III. the next decade
- IV. the King
- V. a campaign
- VI. China

VII. the development

Activity 13

Use any five prepositional phrases to form meaningful sentences.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.