

Unit Two

Children

Language Focus

Language Functions

Talking about people

eg. He was only eight years old.

Using adjectives

eg. A small boy named Hans Brinker
lived in Haarlem

Using adverbs

eg. Ask them to come quickly

Grammar

pre-modifiers

eg. **big** eyes

Post modifiers

eg. feathers **soft** to touch

Adverbs

eg. come **quickly**

Past Continuous tense

eg. 1. The king **was talking**.

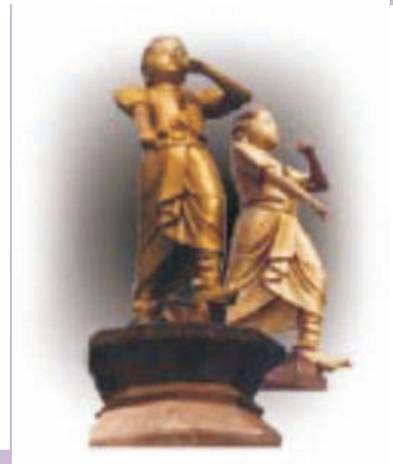
2. His brother **was sobbing**

Madduma Bandara

On the Children's Day Sharanya of grade seven made a speech on Madduma Bandara. "I am Sharanya. I am going to speak about Madduma Bandara. Have you heard of him?"

Madduma Bandara was only eight years old. His elder brother was eleven. He had a baby sister too.

One day they had been called to the palace. He started thinking; 'Why is no one smiling with us today? On other days, when I came with my father Ehelepola Nilame, people talked to me, they stroked my head and asked me many questions. Today they are only looking at me.'



He looked around. His mother was trying to show that she was not crying. He saw her dry her tears, twice. His brother too looked frightened. His big eyes were full of tears. His lips were quivering.

Suddenly he heard his father's name. The king was talking about him. His father had done something wrong. He had betrayed the country. How could that be? He knew his father. He was a good man. He loved his father, and his father loved him. So what had he done?

Madduma Bandara thought hard. "I will die for my father, I will die for my family. I will die for my country." He had never seen anyone die. Once he had seen a little bird dead. It looked as if it was sleeping. Madduma Bandara had picked up the dead bird. It had been in his hand; its feathers were soft to his touch. Then he had laid the bird down under a flowering bush, and covered it with the flowers that had fallen.

Madduma Bandara looked up from his thoughts. His brother was sobbing. People were all looking at them.

“Look elder brother, I will show you how to die,” he said and walked up to the man clad in red.

There was silence. The man looked at the king. Others looked at the king too. “Kill him, the brat, his father’s a traitor,” the king ordered. “No! he’s not,” said Madduma Bandara, “kill me for his sake.”

The man lifted up his sword. All the people looked at the brave boy and then the boy was no more; only his torso was there. His head had fallen apart, but still the little boy lives forever in our hearts.



Activity 2.1 Comprehension

Reading / Writing

1. How many members were there in Madduma Bandara’s family ?
2. Who is ‘he’ in the third paragraph ?
3. Who were frightened ?
4. What did Madduma Bandara think of doing ?
5. What did Madduma Bandara remember about his father ?
6. Why did Madduma Bandara think of a little bird ?
7. Read aloud paragraph 5 using the name ‘Madduma Bandara’ and ‘Ehelepola’ where necessary.



Activity 2.2 Vocabulary

Look for the words or group of words in the passage that have the same meaning as the following words / group of words and write them in your writing book.

- touched tenderly with love
- trembling
- dressed
- mourning
- breathe sharply and irregularly from sorrow or pain.
- person who is disloyal to the king.



Activity 2.3

Writing

Write five sentences on Madduma Bandara mentioning his country, father, family, elder brother and qualities.



Activity 2.4

Reading / Writing

Read the text and answer the following questions.

1. What was said by:
 - a. Madduma Bandara to the man in red ?
 - b. the King to the man in red ?
 - c. Madduma Bandara to the king ?
2. Describe what Madduma Bandara did to the dead bird.
3. Why does Madduma Bandara live forever in our hearts ?

Reading

Kid inventors

1. In 1873, 14 year old Chester Greenwood created the world's first pair of earmuffs. He manufactured them in his own factory.
2. The first popsicle was made by Frank Epperson when he was eleven years old. By the time he was grown up, his frozen treats were selling nation wide.
3. In 1966 a young girl, Mary Spaeth, invented the reclosable cereal box still in use today.
4. A boy named Ralph Samuelson created the first pair of water skis back in the 1920 s.
5. Tom Sims a student in grade 8 at New Jersey created the snowboard in 1963.
6. Becky Schroeder, aged ten, invented phosphorescent glo-paper for writing in the dark.



(Adapted from Eureka ! kids whose inventions made them rich.)

Reading / Spelling

check the dictionary meaning of invent-inventors, discover-discoverers.

Which of the above do you think is more important to discover or to invent?

Give reasons.



Activity 2.5 Pair work

Reading / Writing

Copy the chart on to your writing book.

Read the text given on the previous page and complete the chart. Write in your writing book. Check with your partner.

Name of the kid inventor	Invention	Age	Year
1.			1873
2.	popsicle		
3. Mary Spaeth			
4.			1920
5.	snowboard		
6.		ten years	



Activity 2.6 Group work

Ask five of your friends about their favourite kid inventor out of the six kid inventors given.

Begin your question like this:

e.g A. Who is your favourite kid inventor?

B. I like

Mark in the grid as follows.

Copy the grid on to your writing book. Enter their answers. Add yours too.

Favourite Inventor	Name
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

Report your findings to your class. You may use the sentences given below.

Vocabulary

- | | |
|--|--|
| (A) 1. friends like | one of my friends
two / three of my friends
two / three others
most.... |
| 2. others like | |
| 3. students like | |
| 4. The most favourite inventor is | |
| 5. The least favourite inventor is | |



Activity 2.7

Write answers to the following questions.

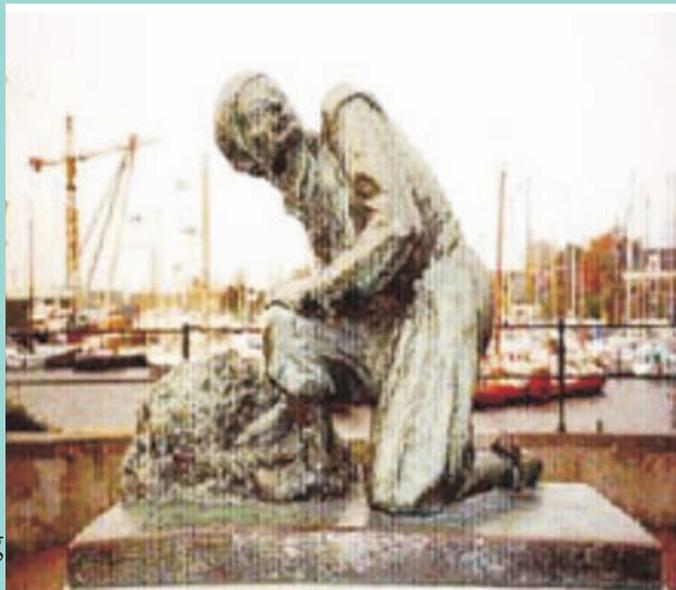
- (A) 1. Is there a young inventors' club in your school ?
2. Are there any young inventors in your school ? If any write their names and their inventions.
3. List the posts that have to be filled in organizing a club e.g. treasurer.
4. How can a person become a member of a club ?
5. Copy the dictionary meaning of 'club' into your writing book.

Reading

Legend of Hans Brinker

*Savindi's speech for the Children's Day was on
"The Hero of Haarlem"*

Long ago there was a small boy named Hans Brinker. He lived in Haarlem. It was one of the main cities of Holland. His father was a sluicer. A sluicer is an important person. The country depended on him. Holland is below sea level. It is also called Netherlands for this reason. It was protected from flooding by means of strong dykes. When Hans was about eight years old he was sent to the other side of the dyke on an errand. His parents told him to take some cakes to a blind old person.



Hans spent about an hour with the old man and then said good bye to him and started back for home. He was happy. He was humming a song. He was thinking of his father's work as he was passing the dyke. He also thought of the old man living by himself. He felt a little frightened when it was growing dark. Then he started to run home. Just then he heard a sound of trickling water. He looked up and saw a small hole in the dyke. A trickle of water was flowing through it.

The boy understood the danger of this. As quick as a flash he clambered up the dyke. He reached the hole. He stopped the water by inserting his chubby little finger.

He took away his finger. The water started flowing again. There seemed to be more water. He stuck his finger again. The water stopped. He was frightened to pull out his finger. He knew the water would then gush out.

Time went by. He was trembling with cold and fear. He shouted out aloud. He screamed but no one heard him. The cold grew worse. His little finger and the arm became numb.

Soon he was frozen with his finger in the hole. At daybreak a clergyman passing by saw him. The clergyman thought that it was a bundle of clothes. When he bent down he saw Hans and exclaimed, "Boy, what are you doing there?" Hans could hardly speak. Then the clergyman saw what he had been doing. He quickly got the villagers. Hans was very ill. But everybody was proud of him, most of all his parents.



Activity 2.8 Comprehension

Reading / Writing

Read the text and answer the following questions.

1. What was the sound Hans heard ?
2. What did he do when he understood the danger ?
3. How did he stop the flow of water ?
4. Hans Brinker was a thoughtful little boy. Write three things he did to show that he was thoughtful.
5. Why did he feel proud when he thought of his father's work ?
6. What did the clergyman do when he saw what Hans had done?
7. Why did Hans become ill ?
8. Say in your own words;
what the clergyman said to the villagers.
what the villagers told Hans' parents and
what the parents told Hans.