

6

Communication & Information

Language Focus

Language Functions

Grammar

Passive Voice

■ Asking for things

eg. Will you please give me a dictionary?

■ Asking for information

eg. Will you please tell us something about libraries?

■ Giving information

eg. Well, in Babylonia they had clay tablets.

■ Describing People places and processes

eg. Having finished his school education he entered the University.

Simple Present Tense

eg. All sports news items **are sent** to the sports section

eg. He **is regarded** as the father of ICT in Sri Lanka.

Simple Past Tense

eg. In the ancient world archers **were employed** to pass messages

eg. With the help of the telephone, people in distant places **could be contacted** within a very short period.

■ *Reading*

Communication, Then and Now

Sewmini is a grade 11 student of the Doladeniya Maha Vidyalaya. She is the **chief** organizer of the School Media Club. This year, for the school's annual **exhibition**, Sewmini and her friends are going to **organize** their stall in a **novel** way. Their topic "Communication and Information", is very much **related** to what they do as the members of the Media Club and they have decided to **produce** a short video on the **Evolution** of Communication from ancient times. Mr. Samansiri, teacher-in-charge of the **Media** Club has asked Sewmini to write the **narrations** for the video programme.

Activity 6.1

■ *Reading*

List the words given in bold type under noun or verb as used in the text here in your writing book. Find the words that can be used both as a noun and a verb. Construct sentences to show the difference.

Activity 6.2 Pair work

List in your writing book the information you can gather about Sewmini.

Name :-

Class :-

School :-

Interests :-

Contribution to the annual exhibition :-

Activity 6.3

■ *Writing*

Write a description of a friend of yours or any senior schoolmate gathering information in the same way.

Activity 6.4 Group work

Design a poster giving information about the exhibition stall that Sewmini and her friends are going to organize. Include the following in your poster.

- Topic
- Date/ Time
- Venue
- Special events

Activity 6.5

■ *Speaking / Writing*

The following questions were put to the audience by Sewmini before she gave her talk. Discuss in groups and write notes on the questions.

- What does an archer use?
- How were archers employed in battle?
- How does an archer get speed?

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a presentation on communication in ancient times.

We have heard how archers occupied an important place in battle in ancient times. Velusumana was renowned for his archery. In ancient times archers performed another important function. They were employed to send messages to kings. Archers were posted at fixed distances, the message was tied to an arrow and the arrow with the message was shot from one point to the other point. In this way, messages from distant places were sent to the destination within a short period. These messages contained information about war, enemies, trade etc.



Activity 6.6

■ *Listening / Writing*

Put numbers in your writing book and get ready for the listening activity. Your teacher will read out the text. Listen and mark whether they are ✓ or ×.

- (1) The drummers announced the king's orders.
- (2) African tribes passed messages by singing.
- (3) Deaths of tribesmen were announced.
- (4) The listeners responded to messages.
- (5) Stone inscriptions were used by messengers.
- (6) Stone inscriptions were used to convey messages.
- (7) There were messages of donations of kings on stones.
- (8) Asoka Sthamba is not a stone inscription.

Sewmini continues her speech :

Another common means of communication used by the ancient kings was to employ drummers to pass the messages.

These drummers went round the country announcing the orders issued by the king. Such messages contained information about the administration of the country mostly. In this way, within a few days' time the whole country would get the information.



African tribes along the Congo had a very significant way of communication. They beat drums to pass the message. Different rhythms were used to pass different messages.

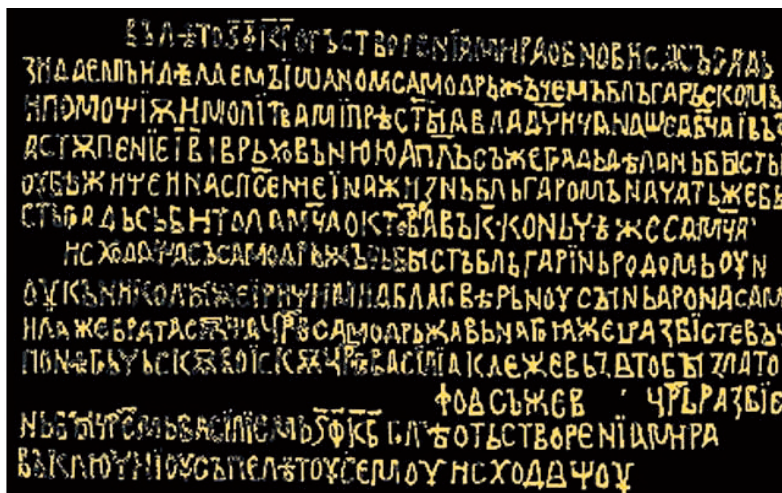
Messages such as the death of a tribesman, announcing a forthcoming battle etc. were passed in this way. They had a system of answering or responding to messages sent by the drummers from distant places.



Stone Inscription was a means of communication used by our ancient kings. The message was carved on a stone sheet or at the entrance of a cave.

The stone sheets containing information were placed at prominent places so that the people could get the message. These messages were on various topics such as, donations of the kings, the rules and regulations imposed by the kings etc.

Galpotha, in Polonnaruwa, and the stone inscription pillar at Badulla are classic examples of stone inscriptions. “Ashoka Sthamba” in India is another example of a stone inscription.



Activity 6.7 Group activity

■ Reading / Writing

Study the pictures of drummers given by Sewmini.

Now describe the drummers in relation to their different activities.

Activity 6.8 Comprehension

Read the speech of Sewmini and answer the following questions.

1. What are the different ways of communicating used in the ancient world ?
2. Write down the names of stone inscriptions mentioned in the narration.
3. How did African tribes communicate with each other ?

Now read the last part of Sewmini's speech.



After the invention of the telephone by Sir Alexander Graham Bell in 1876 communication became very much easier. With the help of the telephone people in distant places could be connected within a very short time . Information started flowing from one end of the world to the other end freely, after the telephone was invented.

Soon the wired network was replaced with the wireless network. Instead of fixed telephones mobile phones started to invade the world . Today, we are in a multimedia world where not only voice but also text and graphics can be sent from one mobile phone to another.



The ordinary mail system where you can post a letter or you can send a telegram when you want to communicate was the most popular means of communication until the electronic mail came. With the introduction of the internet where you connect computers with the help of telephone, receiving and sending information became very fast. But we have to remember that ordinary mail still remains important where official matters are concerned. It still is the most convenient system of communication for those who cannot afford to have telephone or internet connections.



Thank you.

Activity 6.9 Pair work

■ *Reading*

Read the text and find one word that matches the description given.

- | | | |
|--|---|-------|
| 1. One who shoots arrows with a bow | - | |
| 2. The way of ruling a country | - | |
| 3. Messages carved on stone sheets | - | |
| 4. Answer a message sent by somebody | - | |
| 5. Can carry from one place to another | - | |

Check with the pairs to find out whether all the pairs have got the same response.

Write down the information you found most interesting from this passage.

Write down the information the majority of the class found most interesting.

Activity 6.10 Group activity

■ *Writing / Speaking*

Organize an inter – class debate on the topic “Modern means of communication to improve human Life”.

List five arguments ‘for’ and ‘against’. Check with each group and get all the arguments listed separately under ‘for’ and ‘against’. Then present your arguments to the class.

Activity 6.11 Group activity

■ *Writing*

Copy the following onto a piece of paper. Fill in the blank with a suitable name of a friend. Fold the paper and give it to the teacher.

I think should be in the debating team because he/she speaks clearly.

Now count the votes and select the two debating teams with the help of your teacher. Write the names under for and against in your writing book, using the correct punctuation.

Given below are the main events in holding a debate. List the steps that must come in when organizing a debate in your writing book.

Selecting the topic - Time - Venue

Activity 6.12 Group activity

■ *Writing*

List in your writing book the features that must be there in a poster. Then prepare a poster on the communication system in ancient Sri Lanka.

Extended Activity 6.13 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Find information about other means of communication that are not mentioned in the text but are much used today. List them and write two sentences on each describing (a) the instrument (b) the medium

Activity 6.14

■ *Listening*

Write numbers 1-5 in your writing book. Listen to the teacher and write the words that would complete the blanks 1-5.

(Your teacher may read the passage)

1. One who shoots arrows with a bow. -----
2. The way of ruling a country. -----
3. Messages carved on stone sheets. -----
4. Answer a message sent by somebody. -----
5. Can carry from one place to another. -----

Activity 6.15 Group work

■ *Writing*

Study any notice you can find on the school notice board. Write what should be there in a notice in your writing book. Then write a NOTICE giving information about your debate already planned.

Write a short letter to the media seeking publicity for your debate. Say you will annex your notice too.

Libraries



Sewmini and her friends wanted to find some information on the topic“ Library.” For this, they thought of meeting Mrs.Nandani Samaranayaka, the school librarian.

Sewmini :- Good morning Madam! We are from the school Media Club. We are going to organize a stall for the annual exhibition. Our topic is “Communication and Information”. Will you please tell us something about libraries?

Librarian :- Good morning. There are many things I can tell you about libraries. What exactly do you want to know ?

Sewmini :- Madam,will you please tell us something about the origin of the library?

Librarian :- Certainly, before that I will tell you what a library is. A library is a place where a collection of books for reading or study is kept. The history of the library goes back to the third millennium B.C . Do you know how they had stored information ?

Sewmini :- Sorry Madam, we do not know.

Librarian :- Well in Babylonia they had clay tablets . These clay tablets contained information and knowledge about geography , history, science and so on . There are records of a temple in the Babylonian city of Nippur,where such clay tablets were kept. Come , I will show you how to find information about libraries. Have you ever referred to an encyclopedia ?

Sewmini :- Yes Madam. Once I referred to the Encyclopaedia Britannica to get some information about William Shakespeare and William Wordsworth.

Librarian :- Good , see, here you get all the information about the history of libraries . Here , there is information about the clay tablets .In the 17th century B.C. an Assyrian king called Ashurbanipal had assembled a large collection of clay tablets.

Sewmini :- Thank you very much Madam. I will refer to this and prepare a document on the history of libraries .

Librarian :- Very good. You are welcome anytime to access whatever information we have here.

Activity 6.16

■ *Reading*

Now answer the following questions.

1. What is a library?
2. How did people record information in the ancient times ?
3. What is the name of the city mentioned in the dialogue ?
4. Write the name of the king who collected clay tablets ?
5. From where can you get more information about the history of libraries ?

Activity 6.17 Pair work

■ *Reading / Writing*

Study the dialogue between Sewmini and the librarian and prepare a leaflet on the history of libraries.

Activity 6.18 Pair work

■ *Speaking*

Find out information about the libraries you have in your area. There may be libraries at temples, kovils, churches, banks, other state / private institutions.

The following questions will help you to get the information.

- i Do you have a library / reading room ?
- ii Do you have books and newspapers there ?
- iii When is the library / reading room open for use ?
- iv Do you have a person-in-charge of the library / reading room ?
- v How old is your library / reading room ?
- vi Who are the regular users of the library ?
- vii How many books do you have in your stall ?
- viii What do you do with your old newspapers ?
- ix What are the most popular magazines ?

Write a short account of the closest library. At the end make suggestions for the improvement of this library.

How News Comes to Us

Mr. Sumanasiri, the teacher - in - charge of the school Media Club, is a schoolmate of Mr. Sumith Thilakasiri, the editor of a prominent newspaper. One day he organized a field visit to the newspaper company where Mr. Thilakasiri works. Students went round the printing section first and saw how the newspapers are printed. Then they went to the editorial section. There, Mr. Thilakasiri gave a presentation on how news is processed and how news comes to us. Now you are going to read his speech.

Good morning, dear children. My name is Sumith Thilakasiri and I'm the editor of the daily English newspaper. In our newspaper, we publish three types of things basically.

- news
- other articles
- advertisements

Today, in my presentation I'm going to explain how news comes to the reader.

The news process of our newspaper starts with our reporters. We have two types of reporters : staff reporters and provincial reporters. We get news everyday from these reporters.

All the news items from the reporters come to the news editor or the editor of the newspaper. We sort out those news items and send them to the particular section to which the news item belongs. For example all the sports news items are sent to the sports section. In these particular sections the news items are sorted out again and sent to the sub editor's section .

In the sub editor's section there is a chief sub editor and there are several sub editors. Each sub editor is responsible for a page of the newspaper. The chief sub editor is responsible for the first page. When news comes to the sub editors, they edit the news items. They look for language and the content of the news items and decide on the headings. Then the news items are sent for type setting.

Once the type setting is over each sub editor has to decide on the lay out of the page he or she is responsible for. The items to appear on the particular page are set accordingly at the page designing section. There are page designers to do this task. When the page lay out is designed, it is sent back to the sub editor for approval and the approved page is then sent for printing. The printed newspaper never comes to

the reader if not for the support of the distribution section and the transport section. They distribute the newspapers all over the country. Finally, you buy the newspaper and read it leisurely. But the hardships and labour going into it are always hidden.

Activity 6.19 Comprehension

■ *Reading*

After reading the text, answer the following questions.

- (1). Name the two types of reporters mentioned in the text.
- (2). Who is responsible for the first page of the newspaper?
- (3). What are the responsibilities of the sub editors?
- (4). Where is the page lay out designed?
- (5). What is the final stage of publishing a newspaper?
- (6). Why do you think the distribution and transport sections are important?
- (7). List out the different people who help in the process of publishing a news paper with each person's responsibilities.

Activity 6.20 Group activity

■ *Reading*

Read the text and state whether the following statements are true or false.

- A. (1). The news editor is responsible for the page lay out of a newspaper.
- (2). Each sub editor is supposed to be responsible for a page of the newspaper.

- (3). Language and content of a news item is checked by the page designer.
 - (4). Headings of the news items are decided by the sub editors.
 - (5). Distribution and transport sections are not very important in the process of publishing a news paper.
 - (6). Type setting is done by the sub editors.
 - (7). Page lay out is designed at the page designing section.
 - (8). Page is sent for printing straight away from the page designing section.
- B. Read the text ‘How News comes to us’ again and discuss the production process of the newspaper till the reader buys it.

Extended Activity 6.21

Organize a class newspaper / wall newspaper. Follow the given instructions to complete this activity.

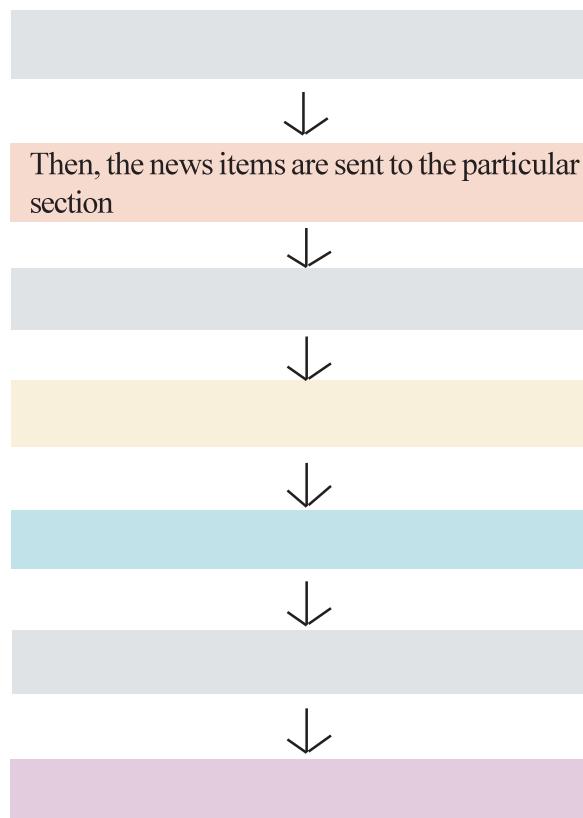
- Hold a meeting in the class and discuss a plan.
- Appoint an editor, chief sub editor and some sub editors.
- Appoint the other staff like type setters and page designers.
- Get some students to be reporters.
- Now activate the process. Your teacher will help you to publish the newspaper.

Activity 6.22

■ *Reading / Writing*

Copy the flow chart in your writing book.

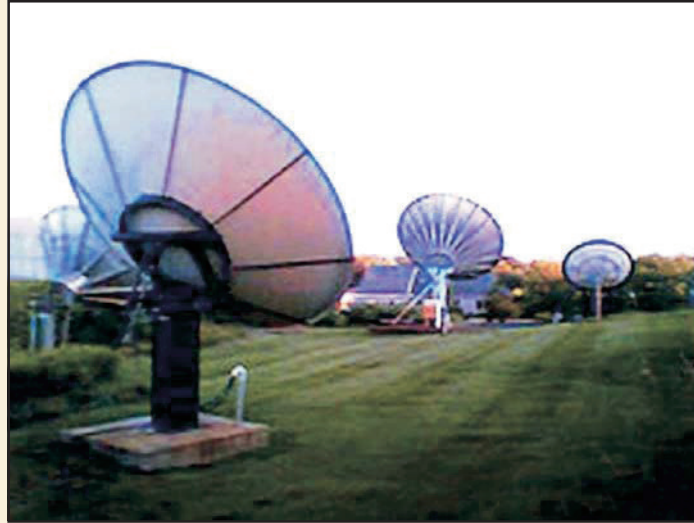
Read the text “How News Comes to Us” again and write a sentence in each box of the flow chart giving a step of the process of publishing a newspaper. Use the words first, next, then, finally, after that to give sequence. (One is done for you)



Activity 6.23 Group activity

Write what you will do in preparation for a poster display. Describe how long you took to do the poster, where you did it and who helped you to do it.

Satellite Communication



Have you looked at the sky on a cloudless clear night? What do you see there high up in the sky? There are millions of stars hiding the secrets of the universe. Among them, if you look at the sky very carefully for sometime, you can see blinking stars moving from north to south or south to north and you will understand that their movement is very fast. What are they? Why are they moving so fast? They are man made stars; they are called artificial satellites.

An artificial satellite is a spacecraft. It orbits the Earth at a fixed distance. Artificial satellites are sent to space on various purposes such as communication, remote sensing, military purposes, space astronomy. However, the main purpose of satellites is communication. They bring the world together. It is with the help of communication satellites that we enjoy the thrill of Olympic Games, World Cup Football, Asian Games or the World Cup Cricket Finals. How does CNN or BBC news come to us? How does the weather forecast come to us? They all are communicated with the help of satellites orbiting the Earth.

The first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1 was launched by Soviet Russia (USSR) on 4th October 1957. It was a competition between the USSR and the United States of America (USA) at the beginning. Later, other countries like France, China, India, and Japan too started launching their own satellites for various purposes, mainly for communication. In 1945 the honoured Sri Lankan citizen Arthur C. Clarke made a very famous statement about making communication possible with countries all over the world with the help of a spacecraft orbiting the Earth. The world became a single village as a result of satellite communication. There are commercial communication satellites like TELSTAR, INTELSAT etc. providing communication facilities for the whole world.

Geostationary satellites orbit the Earth at a distance of 35900 km and take 24 hours to orbit. That's why they appear almost at the same time of the day in the sky. If you observe the sky for a few days you will be able to see these artificial stars orbiting the Earth everyday at the same time. At the moment there are more than 3000 satellites orbiting the Earth.

All these satellites communicate with communication stations built at various places on the Earth. Dish antennas are used to communicate between a satellite and a communication centre. In countries where there are satellite television services people can receive T.V. programmes telecast by hundreds of T.V. stations all over the world with the help of a dish antenna. In Sri Lanka the main satellite communication centre is stationed at Padukka, a few kilometers away from Colombo.

Activity 6.24 Comprehension

■ *Reading / Writing*

Answer the following questions.

1. What is an artificial satellite?
2. What are the different purposes of satellites being sent to space?
3. Who made a historical statement about satellite communication?
4. Name five countries that have sent their own satellites to the space.
5. How do satellites communicate with the Earth?
6. Why is Padukka mentioned in the passage?
7. What do you think is a commercial communication satellite?
8. What are the international events mentioned in the text that come to us as a result of satellite communication?

Activity 6.25

■ *Reading*

Read the passage and find a phrase to describe the following.

Artificial satellites	
USSR	
USA	
Sputnik 1	
TELSTAR	

Activity 6.26

■ *Writing*

Write an article to the school magazine explaining how helpful the satellites are for human beings.

Father of Information and Communication Technology in Sri Lanka



Professor V.K. Samaranayaka is a landmark figure when talking about the Information and Communication Technology in Sri Lanka. He is regarded as the father of the field of ICT in Sri Lanka.

He was born in 1939 and studied in Rajagiriya Hewawitharana Vidyalaya, Ananda College and Royal College in Colombo. Having finished his school education, Mr. Samaranayaka entered the University of Ceylon in 1957. He was a brilliant student there. In 1961 he was awarded a first class honours degree in Mathematics. In the same year, he joined the University of Colombo as an assistant lecturer in Mathematics. In 1966, he was awarded the Ph. D degree by the University of London.

It is Professor Samaranayaka who introduced computer technology to the University of Colombo in 1987. Since then he has dedicated his whole life for the improvement of ICT in this small island. Even before that, as far back as in 1981, he taught computer technology to his students using the one and only computer available which was a total stranger to Sri Lanka's education system. Prof. Samaranayaka's devotion to the field of computer education and his devotion to his students is always remembered by his students who, today, are responsible for the future of ICT in Sri Lanka.

During his period as a senior Professor in computer science at the University of Colombo, he pioneered in establishing the School of Computing of the University of Colombo in 2002. He was the chairman of the council for Information Technology of Sri Lanka over a period of 12 years from 1987 to 2000. From the year 2004, he headed the Information and Communication Technology Agency in Sri Lanka and did a great service to improve the field of ICT in the country. He played a key role in introducing ICT into the rural areas of the country establishing 'Nenasala' centres in the villages. Most of the centres were based in the village temple, which he believed is the most prominent place in the village. He always believed in the leadership given by the temple in the Sri Lankan culture. In recognition of his services, he was awarded the honour of 'Vidya Prasadini' in 1997 and 'Vidya Jothi' in 1998 by the Government of Sri Lanka.

This eminent son of Sri Lanka breathed his last on the 6th of June in 2007 while attending a review of the Swedish Government's ICT development assistance programme in Stockholm, Sweden. Though he is no more, his name will be remembered and honoured as a proud Sri Lankan who took his country to the global village.

Activity 6.27 Comprehension

■ Reading

(a) Read the text and answer the following questions.

1. What does ICT stand for ?
2. When did Prof. Samaranayaka enter the university ?
3. What is the subject area of his first degree ?
4. Write the things he did to improve ICT in Sri Lanka.
5. What are the awards he got from the Government ?
6. Prof. Samaranayaka is called the 'father of ICT' in Sri Lanka.
Why do you think he is called so ?

(b) Give the meaning of the sentence “Though he village” in your own words.

Write 3 sentences giving your own ideas about Professor V.K Samaranayaka.

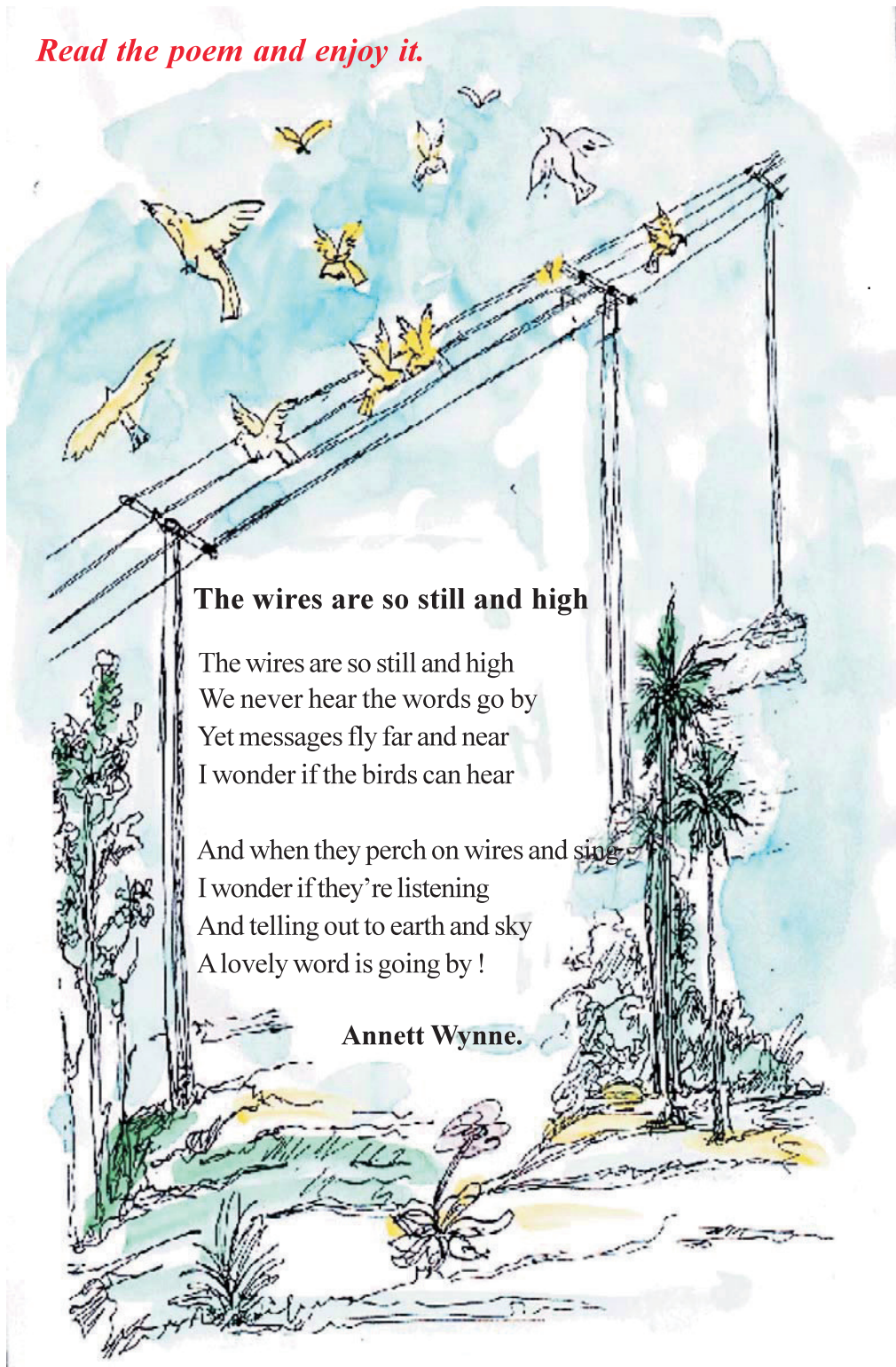
Activity 6.28

■ *Reading/ Writing*

Fill in the following grid. Do it in your writing book.

Year	Event	Place/ Country / Organization
	birth	Colombo
1957		
	was awarded the first degree	
1961		
		University of London
	started teaching computer technology with one computer	
1987		
1997		
1998		
	pioneered the establishment of the school of computing	
2004		
		Stockholm, Sweden

Read the poem and enjoy it.



The wires are so still and high

The wires are so still and high
We never hear the words go by
Yet messages fly far and near
I wonder if the birds can hear

And when they perch on wires and sing
I wonder if they're listening
And telling out to earth and sky
A lovely word is going by !

Annett Wynne.

Activity 6.29

Answer these questions orally. Then write down the answers in your writing book.

- (a) 1. What are these high wires?
 2. Where do the messages fly to ?
 3. Who perch on wires?
 4. Discuss the meaning of these two lines with the teacher “And telling out to earth and sky. A lovely word is going by !”
- b) 5. Write the meaning of the poem in your own words.

Grammar

In this unit you come across the following sentences. Underline the verb forms of the sentences.

- eg. 1. In the ancient world archers were employed to pass messages.
2. The message was carved on a stone sheet.
 3. Clay tablets were kept.
 4. For this, a reader should know the way books are arranged in a library.
 5. Each class can be divided into ten groups.
 6. The news items are sorted out again .

Discuss with your friends and the teacher to find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the name of this construction?
2. When do you use this construction?
3. What is the nature of the verb of a sentence in this structure?
4. Write the tense of each sentence in the space provided.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |
| 5. | 6. |

Activity 6.30

Now try to change these sentences into the passive voice.

1. Students organized the exhibition
2. Mr. Thilakasiri gave a nice presentation to the students.
3. She writes these poems for children.
4. You can handle these machines easily.
5. They print newspapers here.