



Dear Year Two,

I have heard that you are learning all about Sri Lanka over the next couple of weeks. Your teachers asked me to write to you to tell you all about my country.

My name is Mallika and I am 8 years old. I have an older brother called Ananda and he is 12. We live in a village called Turuwila which has a Buddhist Temple, a tank and the paddy fields. I call my father is Tatta (Daddy) and my mother Amma (Mummy). My older brothers have left school and help my father on the farm. I still go to school, so I help on the farm on afternoons and holidays.

Our village is very beautiful. We often walk from the tank to our house. The tank is a lovely lake with pink and white lotus flowers growing at the far end.



*On one side there are coconut trees and paddy fields. On the other side there is a thick forest where wild elephants live.*



*My favourite place to play is the bund (the bank of the tank) especially during the windy season in May when we fly paper kites.*



*Our house is surrounded by coconut trees and some banana trees. It is made of mud and wattle, and thatched with straw and cadjan (coconut palm leaves).*





We grow nearly all our own vegetables, but rice is our staple food which we grow in the paddy fields. We usually sell our rice to buy the things that we need.



In the morning my mother gets up first, at about 4:30 in the morning. She goes to the well to wash and to fetch water. She carries the water in a kalaya (pottery jar) and a bucket. Then she brings in stick of wood and makes a fire.



Next she wakes me up (at about 5:15). I sweep the floor of the house and round the outside to make it beautifully clean. My mother prepares rotis (thick pancakes) and sambal (grated coconut mixed with chilli powder) which we have for breakfast. At about 6 o'clock my mother wakes my brothers. We have breakfast together and then Ananda and I walk to school. School starts at 7:30am.

*I go to Turuwila primary school. We start with morning assembly.*

*We sing songs to honour the Lord Buddha in front of our little temple in the school grounds. The subjects we do are Buddhism, Sinhala, English, history, geography, maths and art. I like drawing very much and also reading aloud in front of the class.*



*I hope you have enjoyed finding out about my life. I would love if you could write back and tell me all about where you live?*

*In true friendship,*

*Mallika xx*