

# විද්‍යා කතුවේ



## The Birds



Birds were sleeping in a nest. A snake came and then the birds woke up and fled away.

Then they did not have a home and fled everywhere looking for a home.

First they went to a desert. They thought it was too hot.

Then they went to a lake. They thought it was too wet.

Then they went to a playground. They thought it was too crowded.

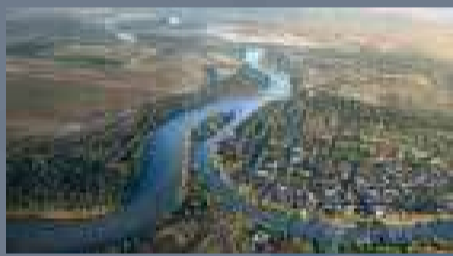
Finally, they went to a flower garden. They thought it was perfect. Then they lived there happily ever after.

The end.

Sanuli Minaya Polkotuwe  
(6 years old)  
Sydney Australia

## The Murray-Darling Basin Situation

The Murray-Darling Basin is the catchment for Australia's largest river system. It was a massive, multi-billion-dollar agreement, designed to help save and look after Australia's most important rivers. The basin is one of the most significant agricultural areas in Australia as over a third of Australia's food supply comes from the farms using the Basin. Australia's three longest rivers are part of the Basin, the Darling/Barwon river system, which is 2,740 km, the Murray, 2,530 km, Australia's longest standalone river and the Murrumbidgee, which is 1,690 km in length.



The Basin covers an area of more than 1 land Australia. The Basin consists 75% of Queensland, 8% of South Australia, Basin is the 20th largest river catchment and Southern areas. Most of the and far inland, and receives little direct the basin are long and slow-flowing, surrounding the basin are home to more livelihood, research or for fun, and many

was once home to many indigenous Aboriginals. But, over the past decade or so,

In the mid-2000s, Australia suffered one of the worst droughts ever recorded. crops and animals was from the rivers in the Murray-Darling Basin. While farm-enough water going back into the Basin. With hardly any water in the Basin, there Areas that need water from the Basin began to get sick and very dry. So, in 2007, called the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. Their main job was to make sure Basin. They got all the states to agree because what happens at one end of the river makes a huge difference to the other end. After years of discussion and research, the Murray-Darling Basin plan was finally signed in 2012. A big part of the plan was that the government was going to pay farmers to put water back into the rivers from their dams. It also made sure that farmers kept track on how much water they took, especially when the river levels were low. Altogether, the government put \$30 billion dollars into the project but, 5 years later, it isn't going as well as expected.

The ABC's Four Corners program because growing cotton takes more being taken but those counters have taken and some experts think this was run out of water. Over Christmas 2018 first numbering 10,000 and the second perch and bony herring. Little or no conditions which caused a catastrophic made people very angry, saying things accused the New South Wales govern-Basin authority says their plan was of Australians will continue to use and call these great rivers home.



million square kilometers, which is 14% of main-New South Wales, more than 50% of Victoria, 15% and all of the Australian Capital Territory. The in the world. The Basin is split into the Northern 1,061,469 square-kilometer basin is flat, low-lying rainfall. The many smaller rivers that are part of and only carry little amounts of water. The areas than 2 million people, some use the rivers for their also have deep connections to the land as the basin the Murray-Darling basin has struggled to survive.

The only way for farmers to acquire water for their ers were taking water from the basin, there wasn't wasn't enough for the rivers and land to survive. the Australian government created a new group people were not taking too much water out of the

discovered that certain cotton farmers are taking more water than they should water. Their irrigation pumps have counters that keep track of how much water is not been working. So, they haven't been recording how much water is actually being done on purpose. This made people very angry because the town of Broken Hill had and January 2019 there were two mass deaths of fish in the waters of the basin, the in the 100,000s. Species that were affected were Murray cod, golden perch, silver flow in the Darling River and a drop from high temperatures are likely to have led to drop in oxygen levels leading to the extensive fish kills at Menindee. These events like ' Our river system is in crisis and the environment is in collapse.' Some people ment of not following the Basin plan and not doing enough to enforce its laws. The created for a reason, and that everyone needs to do their part to make sure millions

By Nethuli Bandara  
13 years  
Muthuhara 2514 Melbourne

ඕනෑම දරුවෙක් ලෝකයට ආධුනිකයෙක්. කාලයත් සමගින් ආධුනික ලෝකය තමන්ට ම නතු කර ගන්නට දරුවා සමත් වේ. ඉතා සරල උදාහරණයක් ගතහොත්, දරුවකුට යම් විනයක් දෙස බලා විය නැවත විනයට නගන්නට කියු විටෙක, දරුවා තමන් කැමති ආකාරයට, කැමති වර්ණ යොදමින් නිදහස් අවකාශයක් තුළ තම සිතැති පරිදි විනය වර්ණ ගන්වයි. මෙහිදී, ඔහු වම වස්තුවේ ස්වභාවික වර්ණ ගැන වතරම් තැකීමක් නොකරයි. අලියකු විනයට නගන දරුවකු අලියාගේ නියම වර්ණය වෙනුවට තමන් බෙහෙවින් ප්‍රිය කරන වෙනත් පැහැයක් යොදා විනය නිමා කිරීමට පෙළඹෙන අවස්ථා ඔබත් ජීවිතයේ යම් අවස්ථාවක අත්විඳ ඇතිවාට සැකයක් නැත. කාලයත්, වයසත් සමග වැඩෙන දරුවා නිවැරදි දේ අවබෝධ කර ගන්නා තුරු, ඔහු නිදහස් ලෙස සිතීමට, තම අදහස් විවිධ මාධ්‍ය ඔස්සේ නිදහස් ලෙස ප්‍රකාශ කිරීමට නිරායාසයෙන් යොමුවනු ඇත.

සෑම දරුවකු තුළම අඩු වැඩි වශයෙන් කලාකරුවෙක්, විද්‍යාඥයෙක්, ඉංජිනේරුවරයෙක් හෝ කිසියම් දක්ෂයෙක් ජීවත් වෙයි. දරුවා තුළ සැඟවී ඇති හැකියාවන් හඳුනාගෙන ඒවා ඔප්පුකරවීම මගින් සමාජයට පමණක් නොව තමන්ටත් වැඩිදායී පුරවැසියකු බිහි වනු ඇත. තමන්ට හුරු නොවන, රළු නොවන විෂය ක්ෂේත්‍රයකට බලෙන් දරුවා වඩිබවීම මගින් දරුවාගේ නිර්මාණශීලී පරිකල්පනය විනාශ වනවා පමණක් නොව ඒ දරුවාට සහ දරුවා හරහා ලෝකයට අනාගතයේ ලැබිය හැකි බොහෝ දේ අහිමි වීමක් ද සිදු වේ. දරුවකු තුළින් වැඩිහිටියකු සෙවීම කිසියෙක් ම නොකළ යුත්තේ වීනිසා ය. දරුවා දරුවකු සේ දැකීමත් ඔවුන්ගේ නිදහස, නිර්මාණාත්මකභාවයත්, කලාත්මකභාවයත් නිසි ඇගයීමකට ලක් කිරීමට සන්නස පුවත් මාධ්‍යය තුළින් ගන්නා වූ උත්සාහයකි,