

BOOKBRIDGE STORY COMPETITION 2018/2019

The Girl inspired the nation with her kindness

**By Shashiru
Bandarawela Learning Center (Sri Lanka)**

Once upon a time there lived a small girl called Otara. She was born on 30th August 1964. Her father is Norman Gunawardhana and her mother is Delisiga. She was born in a rich family. Her father was a former chairman of a group of company called Aitken Spence. Little Otara studied in C.M.S Ladies collage in Colombo. She was very much talented for athletics and swimming. Same as that, she loved animals.

The interest in animals made her to choose biology studies at Green State University. She was also interested in fashion. When she came home on holidays, she did some fashion modellings. She got married 1990 with Raju Chaminda. Otara has two sons. In 1990, she opened her first store for fashion named ODEL commenced. The stores were very successful. Up to 2010 she started 18 stores throughout Colombo. Her interest of animals replicated in her garments. She was the first Sri Lankan used Animal pictures in the t.shirts. Using her profits in her Stores, she organized awareness programmes for baby elephants and leopards.





One day when she was going back home after work, she saw some stray dogs on roads. She felt sorry. This made her to think of a new project.

She created a foundation called Embark to help stray dogs. Over many years she was delighted serving for these dogs.

She has won many awards and screened in many news articles as Sri Lankan Goodwill Ambassador for Habitat for Humanity, and named as Most Powerful Woman in Sri Lanka.

She was selected and honoured as one of the 'Prominent Women of the Country' by the Women's Parliamentarians' Caucus, for her achievements in business and for her service to the country.

Writer's Note: As the future generation of our country, we have to take her as our role model not only to be a successful women in business but also to have a concern in the society. We have to help others not only people but animals as well. Have a great heart as Otara. If you help to others at the needed time, the entire society will respect you.