



**BOOKBRIDGE STORY COMPETITION 2018/2019**

# The brave women

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Long ago there lived a 3 years old girl called Jayaweera Manike. She is a very kind girl. In her family there were mother, father and two brothers. They lived in Kandy in a village called Medarigama.

The family was distressed because; her father occupation was plucking nuts. Therefore, they could live only in a muddy house. During rainy days the house was fully wet. They lived earning only a little money.

One day, there was very heavy rain. Manike's all the book and uniform got wet. She was unable to go to school. She had to wait until the book get dried.

Days after, Manike asked her mother "mother, I want to go to school and want to earn lot of money to live a good life".

Mother said "I don't have enough money to send you to school darling"

Manike was worried. She said "Please mother".

Mother couldn't help.

Months later, to earn money she was sent to make beedi (a kind of cigarette). That wasn't enough for the family to live. Their life became more difficult.

Then the parents and Manike discussed and got ready to send her mother abroad for laborer work. After sending mother abroad, the family faced a different problem. Her father's attitude changed. He started spending money unnecessarily. Manike has to look after the family. Then she decided to go to Colombo searching a job. She was employed in a ready-made garment factory.

She informed her mother to come back to Sri Lanka because she has a job. Later she understood that her brother is suffering a lot at home and not even sent to school.

She felt sorry and came back home. She worked in the same beedi factory and sent her brother to school.

Years later, Manike got married and handed-over her younger brother to her mother.

Her marriage also wasn't successful. Her husband was addicted to liquor. She suffered a lot with him. To overcome all these difficulty, she decided to go abroad as a housemaid and worked in Qatar. After earning lots of money, she delivered a baby.

She left her baby with her mother and she flew back to work. She spent a long time in

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abroad. At that time she got a message saying her husband was passed away for overtaking liquor. She was unable to visit her country at that time. She was sad but bared all her difficulty.

Her daughter is Tharaka. She studied very well. Manike was able to find a very good husband for her daughter.

One day the daughter asked mother, "how can you do all these by yourself mom?" Her reply was "Love the family, work hard, plan your life, take your life to your hand".

*Writer's words: Manike is my Aunty. She was a very good daughter, sister, wife and mother. She dedicate her entire life to her family. She is a brave woman. Her story made me to think of my family. From her story I learnt not to give up at any stage. If we work hard, we will succeed.*