

Theme Three – What cultural elements influence our history?

The Malays brought the pickle

And dodol black as coal

The Burghers brought the baila

And baked their Christmas stol

The Tamils cut the Kottu

The Chettis made a quip

The Moors stirred up their sweetmeats

And all their kindership

The Parsees brought their brilliance

The Sinhalese their wit-

What a feast in what a land

If they could all be knit!

The poem by Sandesh Bartlett delightfully reminds us that Sri Lankan culture is made up of exquisite flavours and influences from various communities,

But although these communities have made great contributions to the island, they aren't always unified as one.

The theme compels us to explore familiar concepts such as food, language, music, clothing, sports and various historic influences that make up our shared Sri Lankan culture and identity with an open and inquiring mind.