

Summaries of the Stories in *Gökyüzünde Balonlar* (Balloons In the Sky)



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13.5 x 19.5 cm
120 pages
Age: 8+



REDHOUSE



Balloons In the Sky

(Turkish title: Gökyüzünde Balonlar)

A new shopping mall is opening at the city and the hero of our story is very excited to go to the big opening. All the family is getting ready and every one of them is wearing their most fancy clothes. It is almost as if they are going to a fancy party! The little boy is trying to convince his grandfather to come with them too. But the grandfather is not so excited as he thinks he can find everything he needs in the neighborhood.

In the end, they all get inside the car and they are on their way to the mall. But there is such a long line of cars trying to get inside the mall that it seems it will be hours for them to get in. The wait in the car gets more and more frustrating, so they turn into a small street and instead of going to the mall they sit at an old-fashioned pastry shop. The granddad buys the little boy colorful balloons and he is not so unhappy any more.

As the importance of shopping malls increases for today's children, the author tries to show the value of traditional past time activities in this one-day story of an ordinary familiar.



Granny Doesn't Want to Talk to Me

(Turkish title: Ninem Bana Küstü)

In this story, the grandmother is very angry with her grandson because he made fun of her old age. The author introduces us to a ninety-year-old grandmother who seems like she does not know much about computers and cellphones but in fact she is secretly not very bad with the new technologies. She loves it every time her granddaughter makes her hair with a curling iron. She even uses the kid's İpads and whenever something goes wrong, she puts the blame on the device saying "I haven't even laid a finger on it, it broke down by itself!"

As we read the argument of the granny and her grandson, we see how technology affects the life of the elder people in a very humorous way.



The Secret in the Backyard

(Turkish title: Bahçedeki Sır)

When the hero of our story drops a vase from the balcony, he goes to the backyard to clean up the broken pieces of it – so that his mother doesn't see them. But when he is picking up the pieces, he discovers a secret diary hidden in their backyard. As the diary is written with nicknames and codes our hero gets more and more curious and starts making conspiracy theories which includes even secret agents!

But in the end, he discovers that the diary belongs to his neighbor who is a little girl. She hides her diary, as she doesn't want her parents to find out that she can read and write by herself.

"Why don't you want your parents to know?" I asked.

"Because then, they will never read stories to me again"
the little girl says in tears.



The Worms in My Salad

(Turkish title: Salatamın Solucanı)

Our heroine of this story comes from school both a bit angry and sad because she has argued with her best-friend Suna. Suna is a quite pretentious girl and likes to show off every time she buys something new. On that day, Suna boasts about her new cellphone and our heroine is fed up with her best-friend's attitude, so she borrows the phone and secretly turns on its volume. When the cellphone starts ringing during the lesson, their teacher gets angry with Suna and takes her cellphone away. (In Turkey in most schools, it is forbidden to bring the cellphone to the school.) Two best friends argue and Suna thinks she can never trust her friend again.

So our heroine tells this story to her mother and while they are preparing the dinner her mother decides to teach a lesson to her. So she tells her daughter that she never washes the vegetables or fruits while preparing the meals. "I just add the lettuce and tomatoes to the salad. You wouldn't even notice if there are worms in it as I cut the lettuce into little pieces anyway" she says. While they are having the dinner our heroine does not want to eat anything and her mother says to her: "You have lost your trust in me as the cook of the house. Now I must prove myself to you again, so that you will start eating my meals." So in the end, our heroine realizes that she must also work very hard to gain her best-friend's trust too.



No Cakes and No Lemonades

(Turkish title: Limonata Da Yok, Kek De!)

In this story, the grandparents of our hero are quite out of the ordinary. His grandmother dyes the tip of her hair to purple and his granddad grows a small ponytail. And both of them are very interested in the Internet. They keep asking questions about facebook and twitter to their grandson and he gets more more tired of answering every single question of theirs. One day all of a sudden, his grandparents stop visiting his house, so our hero is worried about them. He thinks they might have got upset at him for not answering their questions properly. But when he goes to their house, he discovers that the truth is quite different... His grandparents are so caught up in their social media accounts that they forgot how the time passed. They even got a big screen as they cannot read those tiny lines on a laptop. Their grandson is expecting to eat some cake with homemade lemonade as he always does when he visits his grandparents, but apparently they forgot to make a cake too.

When he is leaving his grandmother calls out: “Don’t forget to turn on your computer when you go back to the house. We have added you as a friend on facebook, and you still haven’t answered us!”



The Better and The Best

(Turkish title: İyinin İyisi)

We read about a quite bossy mother in this story. Her daughter is in her forties and she still tells her how to comb her hair and that she needs to eat cheese to be healthier. After a while the doorbell rings and the granddaughter comes in. This time the mother who was so fed up with all these criticism starts telling her own daughter to eat more and that she should spend more time with her family.

“When I leaned down to fix her collar, I suddenly realized something. What was I doing? Did I become my mother too?!”

In this story the author introduces us a sweet tale and shows the value of empathy.



Who is This Clown?

(Turkish title: Kim Bu Palyaço?)

Our heroine meets a clown while walking down the street and as she will soon have a birthday party, she wants to call the clown to the party. So the preparations begin... She tries to count how many people will come and therefore how many presents she will receive. On the day of the big party most of her friends come and the clown make a hilarious show. Only Aslı is missing and she arrives when the party is almost finished. We learn that Aslı's mother is very sick and they are having some financial troubles. When it's time to say goodbye our heroine hugs and kisses everyone and she discovers some white paint on Aslı's neck. It is only then that she discovers the clown was in fact Aslı.

In this story, the author tells us a sweet and touching story about these two friends.



New Year Crisis

(Turkish title: Yılbaşı Krizi)

There is a belief that whatever you do when the clock show 12.00 AM on New Year, you will keep on doing that same thing all throughout that year. So a little girl is preparing for the New Year and she tries to figure out how to eat some chocolates and ice-cream while watching her favorite show and listening to the music all at the same time. In the meantime, her little sister comes to her and tells her that she prepared a New Year's gift for her, which is a photo album made from the photos of her big sister. Our heroine is quite embarrassed as she totally forgot to buy her a gift. So she comes up with a clever plan.

"I have a special gift for you. Make a wish and I promise I will fulfill it."

My little sister showed the book she was holding and said: "Will you read this book to me at twelve o'clock this night?"