

The Girl and the Little Bat



Çınar BİBER

The Girl and the Little Bat

Çınar BİBER



Mia was a curious girl with warm brown skin, curly black hair in two puffy buns, and a gap-toothed smile. She wore a yellow t-shirt with a lightning bolt and red sneakers. Every evening, she sat by her window and watched the sky turn dark. 'I wonder what animals do at night,' she said. Her green backpack sat ready for school the next day.



One night, a tiny creature fluttered into Mia's room. It was a little brown bat, no bigger than her palm. The bat had soft chestnut fur, huge round ears, and a tiny silver bell on a blue cord. 'Hello,' Mia whispered. 'Who are you?' The bat squeaked softly and landed on her curtain. Mia named him Pip.



Pip flew around the dark room without bumping into anything. Mia gasped. 'How do you do that?' she asked. Pip opened his mouth and made tiny clicks. The clicks bounced off the walls, the bed, and the lamp. Pip listened to the echoes and knew exactly where everything was. 'That's echolocation!' Mia said. 'Bats use sound to see in the dark.'



The next morning, Mia hurried to school with a big idea. She found Ms. Rosa, who wore round glasses and a green cardigan. 'Ms. Rosa, can I share something amazing?' Mia asked. Ms. Rosa smiled warmly. 'Of course, Mia. We love new discoveries.' Mia told her all about Pip and echolocation. Ms. Rosa nodded. 'Let's make it a class demonstration!'



Mia stood in front of the class. Her friend Leo, in his orange striped sweater and backwards blue cap, raised his hand. 'What's echolocation?' he asked. Mia explained, 'Bats make sounds that bounce back. They listen to the echoes to find their way.' She clicked her tongue softly. The class listened closely. 'Let's try it together!' Mia said.



Mia asked everyone to close their eyes. 'I'll make a click,' she said. 'When you hear it, clap once.' Mia clicked, and the class clapped. The sound bounced around the room. 'Now clap twice!' Mia said. The echoes grew. Leo clapped the loudest and grinned. 'It's like the walls are talking!' he shouted. Everyone laughed and clapped again.



Ms. Rosa picked up her wooden pointer stick. 'Let's make an echo chain,' she said. She tapped the desk, and Mia clicked. Then the class clapped in a pattern. The sound traveled around the room like a wave. 'Listen to how the sound changes,' Mia said. 'Bats can tell if something is near or far by how long the echo takes.' The class tried again.



Leo asked, 'Can we play a game?' Mia nodded. 'I'll be the bat. You hide behind desks and make small sounds. I'll find you using echoes.' Leo hid behind a bookshelf. Mia clicked and listened. She walked straight to him. 'Found you!' she said. The class cheered. Leo laughed. 'That's amazing! It's like you have super hearing!'



Ms. Rosa gave each student a turn. They clicked, clapped, and listened. The room filled with happy sounds. Mia explained how bats use their big ears to catch even the smallest echoes. 'Their ears are like satellite dishes!' she said. Leo tried to wiggle his ears. Everyone laughed. 'I wish I had ears like that,' he said. Mia smiled. 'Me too!'



After the game, the class sat in a circle. Mia told them more about Pip. 'He has a tiny bell on his neck,' she said. 'It jingles when he flies.' The children asked many questions. Leo asked, 'Does he ever get lost?' Mia shook her head. 'No, his echoes always guide him home.' The class was amazed by the little bat's secret sense.



Ms. Rosa said, 'Let's thank Mia for sharing her discovery.' The class clapped loudly. Mia blushed. 'I couldn't have done it without Pip,' she said. 'He showed me that animals have extraordinary senses.' Leo raised his hand again. 'Can we learn more about animal senses?' Ms. Rosa smiled. 'What a wonderful idea, Leo. We can study one animal each week.'



That afternoon, Mia went home and told Pip all about the classroom demonstration. Pip squeaked happily and flew around her room. 'You're a star, Pip,' she said. 'You helped my friends understand echolocation.' Pip landed on her shoulder and jingled his bell. Mia gave him a tiny piece of fruit. 'I'm so glad you visited me,' she whispered.



The next day, Mia brought a picture of Pip to school. She showed it to Leo and the others. 'This is my night-time friend,' she said. The class passed the picture around. Leo said, 'I want to meet a bat someday.' Mia smiled. 'Maybe you will. Bats are all around us, using their echoes to find their way.' The children looked out the window, hoping to see one.



Weeks passed, and the class learned about many animals with extraordinary senses. They studied owls, dolphins, and even ants. But Mia's favorite was always the bat. She and Leo became good friends, sharing books and drawing pictures of animals. 'Learning together is the best adventure,' Mia said. Leo agreed. 'And it all started with a little bat and a big idea.'



One evening, Pip returned to Mia's window. He had a tiny message tied to his bell: 'Thank you for sharing our secret.' Mia smiled and held out her hand. Pip landed softly. 'You're welcome,' she said. 'Friends share everything.' She knew that her classroom had discovered something wonderful: nature is full of surprises, and every creature has a special gift.



Mia lay in bed, thinking about the fun demonstration. She realized that curiosity and sharing made learning exciting. She drifted to sleep with a smile, dreaming of bats, echoes, and friends. The little bat with the silver bell had taught her that even the smallest creatures have amazing secrets. And the best part was sharing those secrets with others.