

The cool night wind blew and opened the three little windows on the earth with a squeak. As the kids who woke up from their sleeps watched the sky from the window and they noticed the shining star in the darkness of the sky. The star was looking for friends from the world in the silence of the night. Three beautiful faces were looking towards it as it increased its brightness and it drew the three children toward itself from the window. The children were on the star now.

“Hello kids, my name is Bright Star” it said.





The first kid said: Hello, my name is Yanek and I'm from Poland.

The second kid said: Hello, my name is Maria and I'm from Italy.

The third kid said: Hello, and my name is Zeynep and I'm from Turkey.

Bright star said "I always watched the world from up above, I'm curious about the places you live. I guess the world is a beautiful planet. Would you accept me as a guest in your world? Could you introduce me to the places you live? Believe me dear kids, you will enjoy traveling on my back very much. We can start our journey if you are ready." and it put crowns on the heads of the kids, which have little stars that shines in the dark.



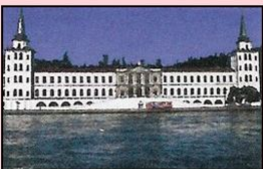
Among the kids Zeynep said;

“Look bright star! There is my country Turkey. Let's go.” And the star moved towards Turkey leaving a bright tail behind itself.





Bosphorus

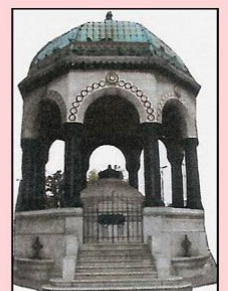
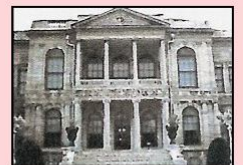
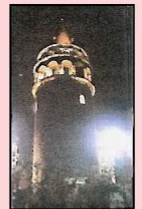


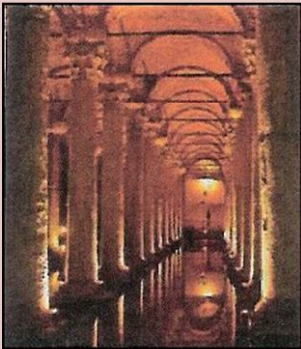
“Here is my country, a peninsula which has a role of being a bridge between Europe and Asia and which is surrounded by 3 seas, divided into seven regions. Here in my country you can see all four seasons.” said Zeynep smiling to the other kids. The Bright Star increased its brightness and illuminated the city like a giant lamp. The whole beauty of the city came out.

Zeynep: “Dear friends, Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey with a population around 13 million. Also, it is one of the most populated cities in the Europe and in the world. Because that it is considered to be a metropolis, Istanbul is the center of economics, culture and education of Turkey. Bosphorus divides the city into half. The east side of Bosphorus is connected to Asia, whereas the west side of Bosphorus is connected to Europe. No other city in the world has this property, thus we consider Istanbul as a bridge between two continents. Additionally, Istanbul has an estuary on its southeast part, which is known as Golden Horn. In 1502, Leonardo da Vinci designed a single span bridge with 240 meters length for Golden Horn; however, the bridge was never built.”

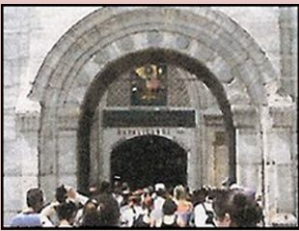
Bright Star said; “Would you like to take a closer look to the city? Tell me, do you know how to ride a bicycle?”

The kids were delighted and replied “Yes!” enthusiastically. Then, Bright Star turned into a bright bicycle with three paddles and the kids excitedly started to cycle the pedals of the bicycle.





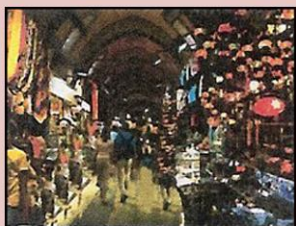
Zeynep: "Here is the Sultanahmet Square. Sultanahmet Square is the heart of the historic Istanbul in both Byzantine and Ottoman Empire, which was founded by our ancestors and which existed before the foundation of the Republic of Turkey. Also, for almost 1500 years, Istanbul was the capital of Byzantine and Ottoman Empire. Thus, there exist a lot of architectural, historical and cultural artifacts in Istanbul."



Zeynep: "This is where you'll find Topkapı Palace, Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Camii), the Byzantine Hippodrome, Yerebatan Sarayı (Basilica Cistern), Binbirdirek Cistern, the Istanbul Archeological Museums, Great Palace Mosaic Museum, etc."

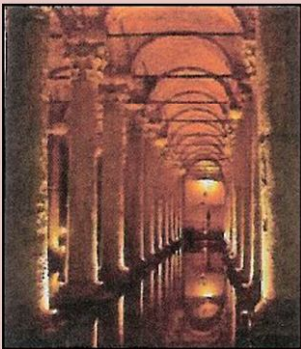


Yanek: Zeynep what is this place? It has a really different architecture.



Zeynep: This is Sultanahmet Mosque. It is also known as Blue mosque (because of its blue ceramics). Like the churches you have to pray, places of worship for Muslims are mosques.





Yanek asked "Hey, what's this nice smell?".

Zeynep said; "I guess you are hungry. Then, you should certainly eat kebab, one of the famous foods of my country." And the kids entered a restaurant and sat at a table.

The waiter asked with a smiling face "Welcome(Hoşgeldiniz), what would you like to eat?".

Zeynep told the waiter "We will have kebab certainly." After a while, the waiter put the delicious smelling foods in the copper plates and three ayran on the table.

While the kids were eating the food with appetite, Zeynep said: "This place is Grand Bazaar, which is a big and historical bazaar, where you can find the goods that reflects the culture of our country. Tourists who come to Istanbul, definitely visit this bazaar."

Yanek: "Thank you very much for introducing us to this delicious food and having us taste it."

Zeynep said: "Bon appetit."

Maria excitedly said: "Let's pay the check and continue travelling

