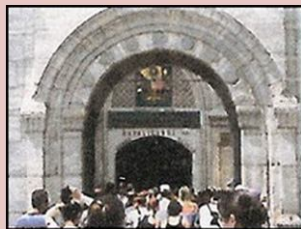


As Zeynep took out the money from the wallet she carried (*the little money sac that she carried on her neck*) and she said "My country's currency is Turkish Lira my dear friends."

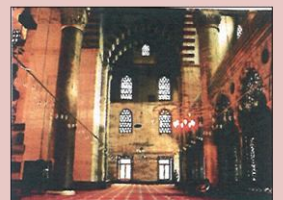
As they got out of the restaurant, the waiter waved them off and said with a smile "Good night dear kids. Take some well-known Turkish delight as an indication of our hospitality and sweeten your mouth."



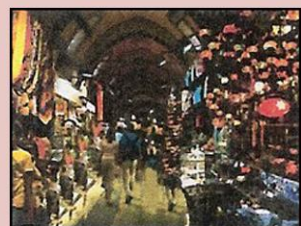
Yanek: "What a delicious desert, I would like to take some with me for my family."

Waiter: "There is a patisserie over there; you can buy Turkish delight from that shop."

Kids entered the patisserie enthusiastically and took 2 packages of Turkish delight.



Maria asked "How much does one package of delight cost?" Salesmen answered with a smile: "It costs 20 TL".



Zeynep said "My dear friends, let these delights be a friendship gift for your families from me" and paid the price of the delights.

Zeynep said: "Come on bright star, we have got to hurry a little bit. You have got to turn into a star again and we should get on the road immediately."



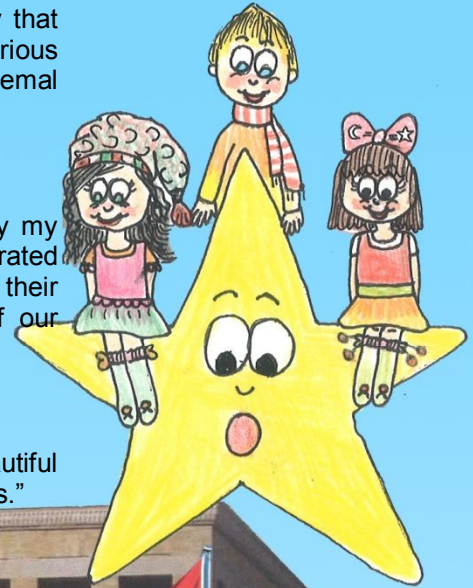
And when the star was sliding(gliding) Zeynep said: "The city that you see below is Ankara, the capital my country. The huge and glorious building you see below is the mausoleum of our great leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk."

Bright Star asked: "Zeynep, why is it so crowded down there?"

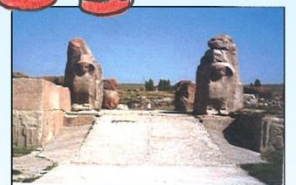
Zeynep: "You have visited my country on such a special day my friends. 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day is being celebrated in my country today. Children from all around the world are presenting their folklore parade down below. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our republic, was first in the world to give this feast to the children as a gift."

Bright Star asked with a smile "Don't you invite the stars?"

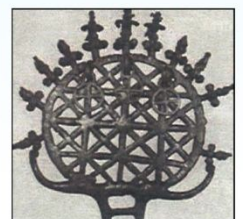
The kids laughed and Zeynep told "The stars are the most beautiful lanterns that decorate our festival just like in our flag which represents us."

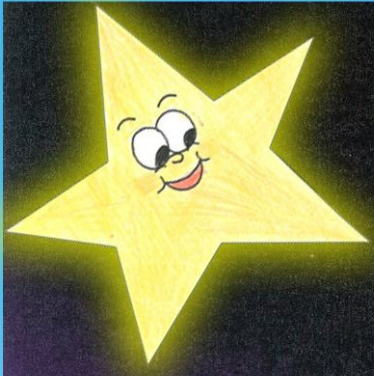


Maria: "It is really wonderful that there is a festival in your country that is only for children. It means that the children hold a special place for your country."



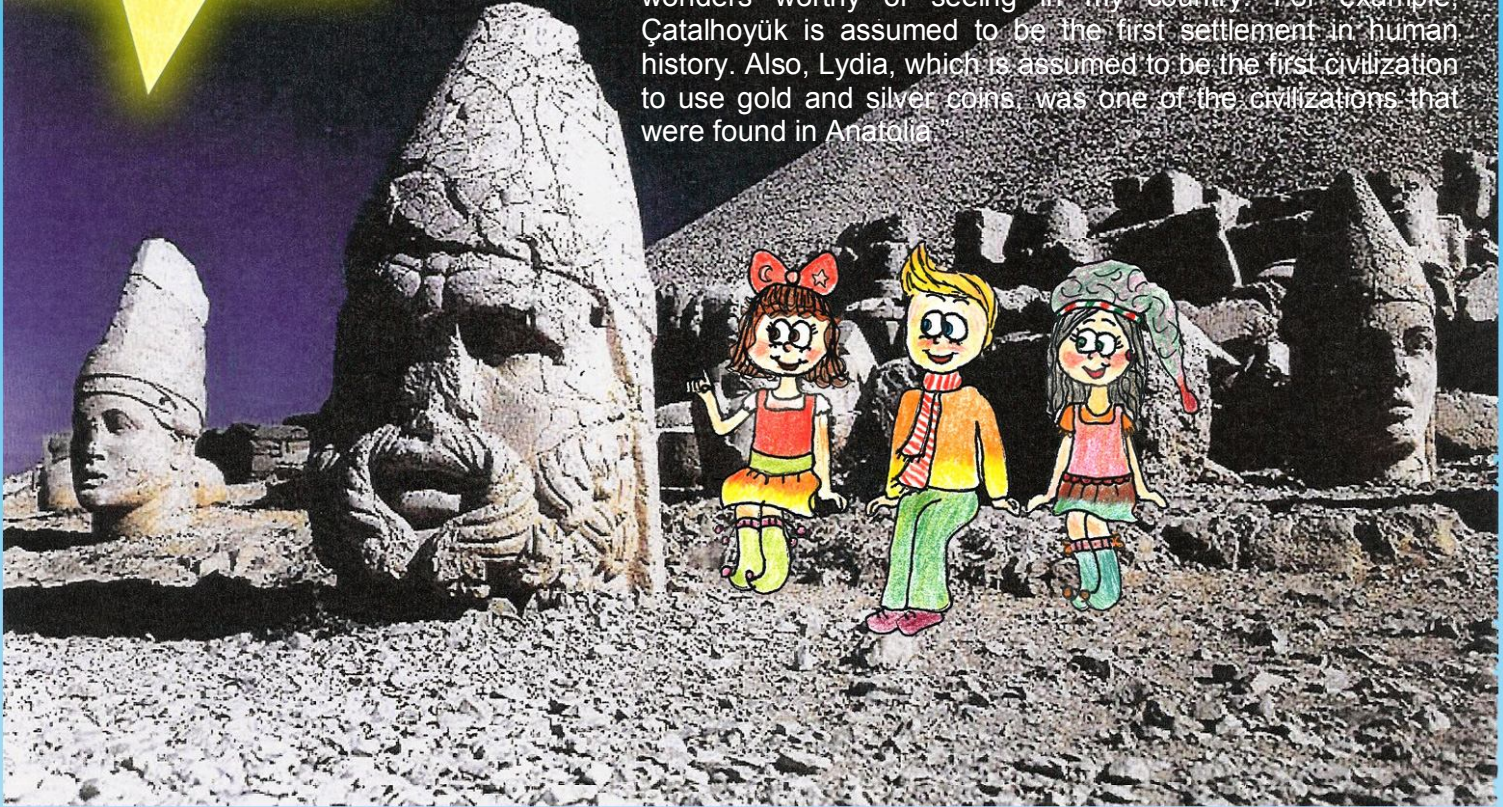
Zeynep: "Yes, that is right. Also it is the first festival which is only for kids in the world and was the only one since 1979 when UNESCO declared it universally. It is organize in order to improve the feelings of fraternity, love and friendship among children, while blending in different cultures around the world and also contributing to a world, where all children will live in peace. As Atatürk once mentioned "Today's kids are the adults of future". "





As the smile from the festival continued on kids' faces, Bright Star slowed down all of a sudden. The kids asked in wonder "What is the matter Bright Star, are you tired?" "No, I'm not tired. I think there are so many other places to see right, Zeynep?" asked Bright Star.

Zeynep: "Yes, there are many historical and natural wonders worthy of seeing in my country. For example, Çatalhöyük is assumed to be the first settlement in human history. Also, Lydia, which is assumed to be the first civilization to use gold and silver coins, was one of the civilizations that were found in Anatolia."



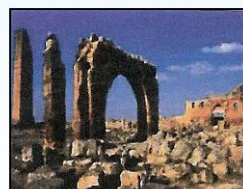
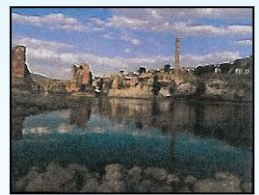
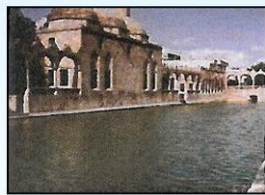
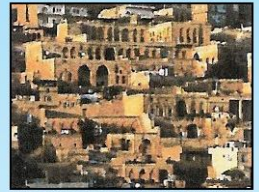
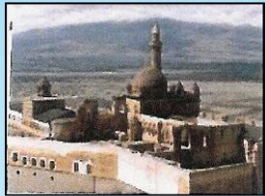
"Now, what do you say we go to mount Nemrut which is among Unesco Cultural Heritage Sites and greet the rising day together?" asked Zeynep.

When Bright Star approached the top of the mountain Yanek and Maria were amazed by the sight they saw. The giant sculptures of gods were like they were (seemed to be) welcoming and greeting them from the top of the mountain. The three kids got off from the Bright Star and sat on the top of the mountain.

Zeynep: "Nemrut is a mountain in the southeastern Turkey and the hill on the top of the mountain is not natural but human made. The hill was made as a tomb for the king of the region in the first century, and there exists sculptures dedicated to and symbolizing Gods around the tomb which watch the sunrise and sunset. Look, the sun is about to rise! This is one of the greatest places to watch sunrise and sunset. Also, in this part of my country, there are many historical and touristic places besides Nemrut."

The kids' eyes shined with the first lights of the day and the kids saw the brightness of the Bright Star which was increased with the excitement of this great adventure, was starting to decrease.

Bright Star: "Come on kids, we need to hurry. We have to go down from here before sun rise completely and then I can turn into a bicycle. We will continue our journey on bicycle from now on."





Kids quickly jumped on to the Bright Star.
 Zeynep said "Now, let's go to one of the valuable heritage of the West Anatolia which remained from ancient times" and showed the way to the Bright Star with her finger.
 When they reached to Ephesus, the sun rise completely and the Bright Star turned to a bicycle again. When the kids looked around, they thought as if they traveled between past and present time.

Zeynep said: "Although the first city in Ephesus was first found in 6000 BC, the ancient city that we know was founded by Alexander the Great in third century. In Ephesus, there are remains of the first church constructed for Blessed Virgin Mary. Also, Temple of Artemis is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World." She added: "In this region, there are lots of ancient cities and ruins."

As the kids continued to travel in the region, they found themselves in whiteness (in a completely white place).

Maria: "Zeynep, look! It looks like water is flowing through the clouds. Where is this place?"

Zeynep: "Pamukkale, is one of the unique natural beauties of the world and every year thousands of tourists visit this place. With the ancient city Hierapolis standing on top of it, Pamukkale is considered as UNESCO World Heritage Site. Pamukkale is formed from the travertines, thermal springs and terraces that took shape as a result of the carbonate minerals which the flowing water left. These terraces and travertines were shaped by thousands of years of corrosion caused as a result of the hot water springs.

Yanek: "Can people swim in here Zeynep?"

Zeynep: "Of course they can. Meanwhile, this place is used as a thermal spa and the reputation of this spa is worldwide."

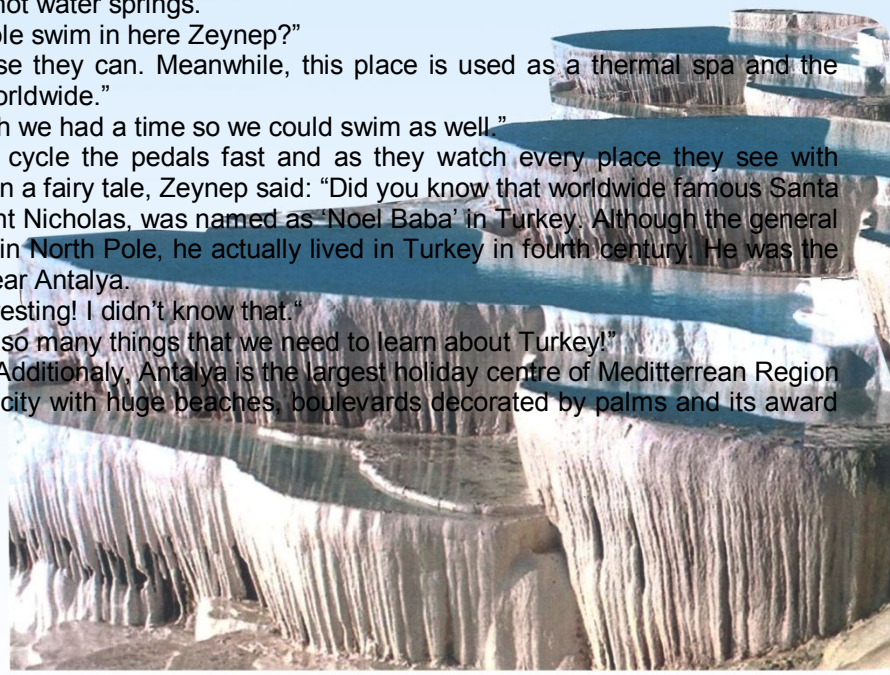
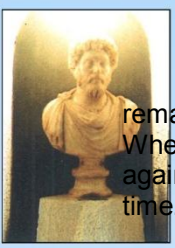
Yanek said: "I wish we had a time so we could swim as well."

As the kids continued to cycle the pedals fast and as they watch every place they see with admiration as characters in a fairy tale, Zeynep said: "Did you know that worldwide famous Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas, was named as 'Noel Baba' in Turkey. Although the general opinion was that he lived in North Pole, he actually lived in Turkey in fourth century. He was the Bishop of Myra, Demre near Antalya.

Yanek: "How interesting! I didn't know that."

Maria: "There are so many things that we need to learn about Turkey!"

Zeynep said: "Of course! Additionally, Antalya is the largest holiday centre of Mediterranean Region of Turkey. It is a touristic city with huge beaches, boulevards decorated by palms and its award winning marina."





Without wasting any time, the kids started to travel to north. While they were passing through small and large cities, they sang the songs they loved which belong to their country. When they reached to Konya, Zeynep said: "This is the city of Mevlana."

Maria asked: "Who is Mevlana?"

Zeynep: "Mevlana was a famous philosopher and poet, who was known with the importance he gave on love and tolerance. Mevlana had seven advices to humanity:

In generosity and helping others be like a river,
In compassion and grace be like the sun,
In concealing others' faults be like night,
In anger and fury be like the dead,
In modesty and humility be like the earth,
In tolerance be like the sea,
Either exist as you are or be as you look.

Yanek said "As the love and tolerance in the world increases, the wars will end (come to an end). Look, neither of us speak the same language, however, we are still together" and they hugged each other with love.

Maria: "This is an amazing place. Everyone must come and see."

Yanek: "Turkey is a very rich country with all of its cultural assets and historical places."

Zeynep said "Dear friends, our next stop is Cappadocia, which is famous for its fairy chimneys. Let's look at our natural beauties." and three kids continued to cycle the pedals fast. Through the bending roads, forests, hills that reach the sky and valleys, they arrived to Cappadocia.

Zeynep said: "It is a must-do to watch this valley by travelling with a balloon, like everybody that visit here do. Now it's our turn, come on!" and the balloon started to get high.

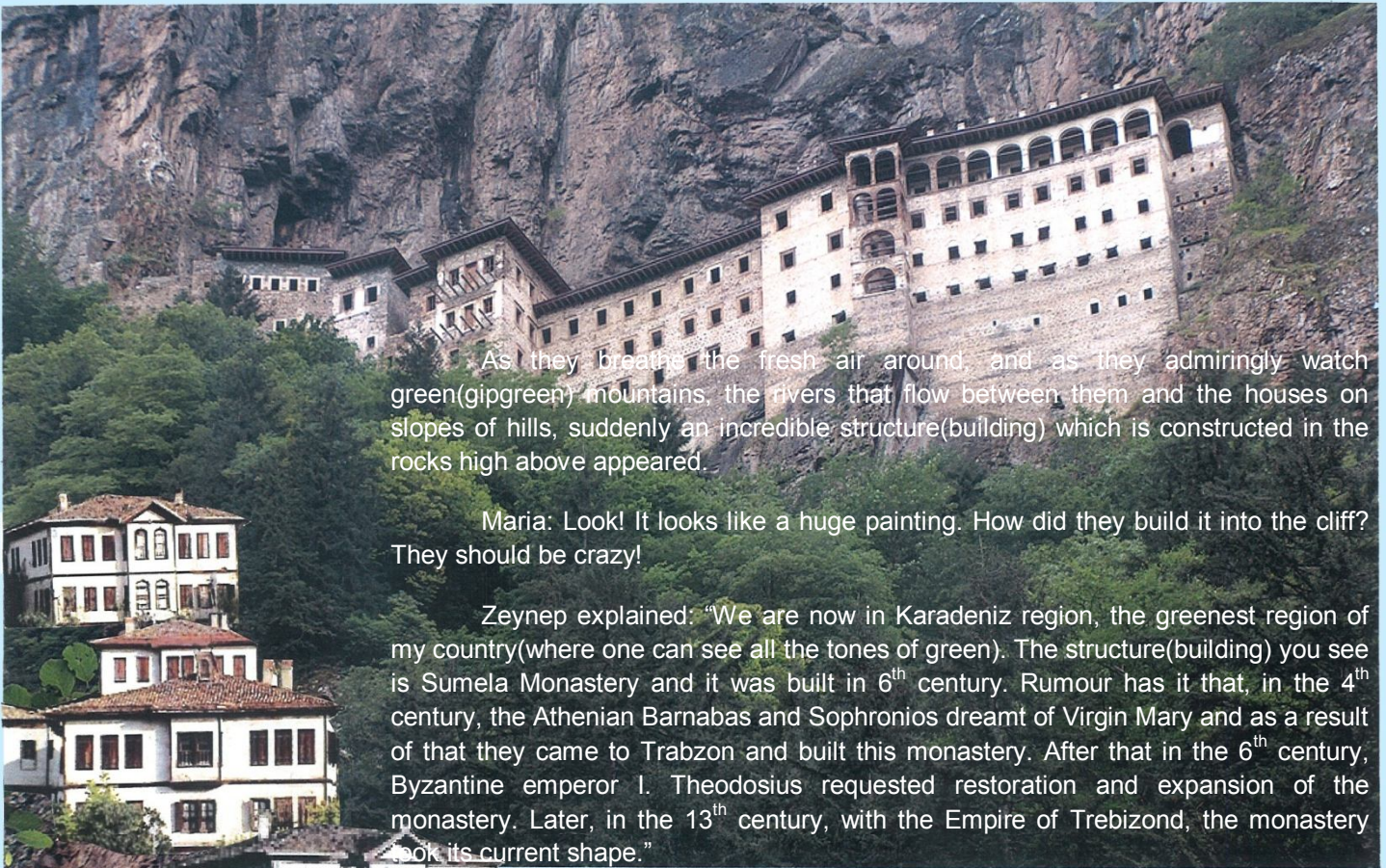
Maria: "The view is amazing, like we are on another planet."

Yanek said "Valley is full of rocks shaped like mushrooms." and asked "Do fairies live here?"

Zeynep smiled and started to explain: "Winds and rains eroded and shaped the rocks which are made of tuff so that these interesting fairy chimneys were formed. The name of fairy chimneys came from local myths. It is told that the pigeons lived in the chimneys were the fairies that helped people at ancient times."

When the balloon landed, three kids got on the bike and continued their journey with the excitement of discovering and learning new places.





As they breathe the fresh air around, and as they admiringly watch green(giggreen) mountains, the rivers that flow between them and the houses on slopes of hills, suddenly an incredible structure(building) which is constructed in the rocks high above appeared.

Maria: Look! It looks like a huge painting. How did they build it into the cliff? They should be crazy!

Zeynep explained: "We are now in Karadeniz region, the greenest region of my country(where one can see all the tones of green). The structure(building) you see is Sumela Monastery and it was built in 6th century. Rumour has it that, in the 4th century, the Athenian Barnabas and Sophronios dreamt of Virgin Mary and as a result of that they came to Trabzon and built this monastery. After that in the 6th century, Byzantine emperor I. Theodosius requested restoration and expansion of the monastery. Later, in the 13th century, with the Empire of Trebizond, the monastery took its current shape."

Maria: "It is so high!"

Zeynep: "Yes, it is approximately 300 meters above the valley."

Yanek: "Why did they build a monastery to that height?"

Zeynep: "The first Christian societies(tribes) in the region was trying to avoid and run away from the Roman soldiers. Thus, they build it so high. Also, the monastery was built to that place because of the healing water that drops from the rocks above. With that water Christian kids were baptized. This place is one of the twelve places that the Christians are considered as a pilgrim when they visit."

Yanek said "It must be very difficult to build. It is one of the amazing views that I see." And then they continued to their journey. As they travelled West, they saw Safranbolu houses which represent the traditional Turkish architectural aesthetics.

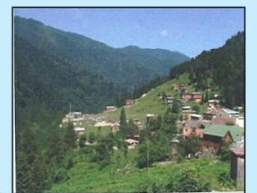
Maria: "Wow, these are very interesting and beautiful houses!"

Zeynep: "The most important feature of Safranbolu houses is that they represent respect. They built in such way that no house will block other's view of sun. "

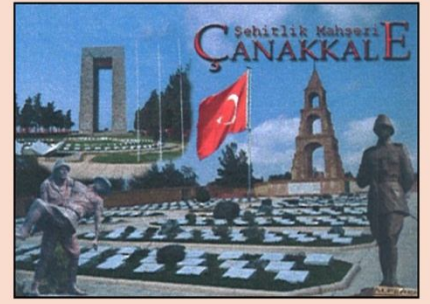
Yanek said "Zeynep, your country is really beautiful. I would also like to host you in my country." and asked "What do you say(Is it OK?)?"

Maria: "Why not! Then we will continue to my country."

Zeynep said "It will be a very exciting journey but I have one last place that I want to show you." And the kids started to travel to the West Anatolia again.



Zeynep said "Now we are in Troya, in Çanakkale. This is our last stop! Let's see around." and added: "Here is the ancient city in which the war of Troya mentioned in the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer took place. According to the legend, Greeks built a wooden horse to pass the walls of the city and get in to the city, so that they could invade it.



The wooden horse you see is a model which was used in the movie Troy and it is currently displayed in Çanakkale for people who have interest in history and culture." And continued: "Let's go up and see more".

Kids climbed up the wooden horse and watched the environment excitedly. Then they went down the creaking stairs one by one.

Yanek was waiting for them impatiently. He began to sing a song. Others noticed the joy and happiness in his voice. It is now time to go to his country, Poland.

