



# At the Marketplace

Sevim Ak



We believe that stories are not just for testing and assessing students' knowledge of the English language. We believe that stories should be read, told, shared and loved.

“**Stories for Schools**” is a British Council project to provide students with high-quality English language short stories. We have asked children's story book writers **Sevim Ak** from Turkey and **Sophie Smiley** and **Guy Bass** from the UK to produce a series of **12 stories** written specially for students in Turkey.

Local teachers in Turkey (**Aylin Koyalan, Merve Oflaz, Özge Karaoğlu**) have written sets of resources to accompany each of the stories. These resources can be used either in class or as homework.

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<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/turkey-story-kits>

Stories written by Sevim Ak, Sophie Smiley, Guy Bass

Materials developed by Aylin Koyalan, Merve Oflaz, Özge Karaoğlu

Illustration by Canan Barış

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Resource packs are available online and in printable worksheet form on our Teaching English website

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/turkey-story-kits>

## Introduction to this edition (2014)

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We call this cultural relations.

*Stories for Schools* is a project to provide students with high-quality English language short stories especially written for British Council Turkey. Well-known children's story book writers Sevim Ak from Turkey and Sophie Smiley and Guy Bass from the UK have produced a series of 12 stories on themes of interest to Turkish young learners which have been kept short enough to serve as ideal classroom or homework material.

- At the Marketplace by Sevim Ak
- At the Metro Station by Sevim Ak
- Ex-footballer by Sevim Ak
- Journey by Sevim Ak
- Moving House by Sevim Ak
- Sewing Day by Sevim Ak
- The Guitar by Sevim Ak
- The Heat by Sevim Ak
- A Beast by Guy Bass
- The Tale of Uzay Yavuz by Guy Bass
- Changing Colours by Sophie Smiley
- The Long Journey Home by Sophie Smiley

In keeping with our aim to localise the stories to appeal to Turkish young learners, all of the activities have been designed by teachers/teacher trainers working in this country (Aylin Koyalan, Merve Oflaz and Özge Karaoğlu).

As well as being fun, each story contains subtle messages around themes such as social responsibility and inclusivity which teachers may want to focus on in class. On another level, the stories can be used just to entertain and help develop an appreciation of reading and enjoying stories in a foreign language.

Each story forms part of a 'kit' which also includes downloadable activities based on the story for students to complete either in class or at home. The kits also include detailed notes for teachers to support them in exploiting the materials.

All of the materials are free of charge and can be downloaded from TeachingEnglish Website (<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/turkey-story-kits>). We hope both students and teachers enjoy the stories and would be delighted to hear your comments along with any original ways you found for using the stories in class.

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## Our Writers

### Sevim Ak

Sevim Ak was born Samsun, Turkey and spent much of her childhood observing and writing about all the details of everyday events in her Samsun neighbourhood. After following her father's advice and becoming a chemical engineer, she continued to write as a personal creative outlet.

Her first book to be published was a collection of her short stories entitled *My Kite is a Cloud Now*. Sevim Ak's talent was evident from the beginning, and this first collection won the Akademi Bookstore's Children's Literature Story Prize. Sevim Ak's talents also extend beyond short stories to writing novels, journals, and plays.

Sevim Ak has participated in many programs that increase children's literacy by encouraging them to read and write. To this end, she has worked with such organizations as The Association in Support of Contemporary Life (ÇGYD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GAP. One of the most notable acts of civil service to come from Sevim Ak's work was the use of thirteen of her short stories in a project to help young survivors of the Marmara earthquake in 1999 deal with their traumatic experiences.

### Sophie Smiley

Sophie Smiley was born in a monastery near Cambridge. She now teaches English and is also a staff member of Forest School Camps, working with both able students and those with learning difficulties. She is the daughter of the philosopher and logician Timothy Smiley. Smiley is best known for her series of five stories about a football-mad family. Her books include *Bobby, Charlton and the Mountain, Man of the Match, Team Trouble, Pirates Ahoy, Pup on the Pitch* and *Snow Goalie*.

*Bobby, Charlton and the Mountain* is the first story in the series and is centred on the female character Charlie, whose family are keen football fans. Her brother Bobby has been chosen to present a bouquet to the Queen, and he is desperate to earn a football strip to wear for the occasion. The Times Educational Supplement described it as "*An excellent story . . . so immediate, so animated*".

### Guy Bass

Guy Bass is an award winning writer, author and illustrator. In 2010 he won the Blue Peter Book Award for Most Fun Book With Pictures for *Dinkin Dings* and the *Frightening Things* and has twice won the Portsmouth Book Award (Shorter Novel) for his *Dinkin Dings* series. Guy grew up dreaming of being a superhero – he even had a Spider-Man costume. The costume doesn't fit anymore, so Guy now contents himself with writing children's books and drawing the occasional picture. He has written plays for both adults and children, including three series of children's plays for The Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. Guy's latest creation is *Stich Head*, the almost-human creature resulting from crazy Professor Erasmus's experiments in the dungeons of Castle Grotteskew. Fans of *Stich Head* are eagerly awaiting the next book in the series.