

MIA
and
the invisibility hat



Manolya Yatman
Illustration: Maya Kiliç



I always love books where the good wins over the bad. I want to believe that this is how it works in real life....

When I usually write a story I make sure that protagonist overcomes all difficulties, no matter how hard they are. While I was writing this book I thought of other stories and fairy tales like "Cinderella", "The Tale of Desperaux" and "Matilda". They inspired me a lot, as joy, creativity and passion brought the heroes to success.

I've started writing the story about Mia and her Invisibility Hat at my school, Keystone International Schools in Istanbul. When I first heard that I was accepted to summer program at Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth I was so overjoyed!!! I've joined the three-week Writing Workshop on Modern Fantasy at Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth in USA. It was my first time visiting the USA. The workshop took place in New York City and it was an amazing experience for me. I've learned many new things on how to create a story plot, develop characters, overall, writing a story as real novelists do.

Special thanks to Anna Grabolle Çeliker, my ELA teacher from Keystone International Schools and Leah Zander from Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth for tirelessly teaching me and helping to improve my writing skills while crafting the story. Thanks to Sema Sever, the Founder of Kilittaşı Schools and Keystone International Schools, Veronique Tran Dinh, our principal and Liz Alberts, Director at Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth for making all this happen. Thanks to Maya Kılınc, Kilittaşı Okulları 2nd grade student, who illustrated the book. Most importantly, thanks to my loving parents who are always by my side.

Manolya Yatman
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Mia and The Invisibility Hat

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Book 1

A New Family

CHAPTER 1

It was a dark night on March 20th. It was raining crazily! Mia looked out of the window and watched the little drops of rain drip on the ground. She took a step back and closed the curtains. She looked at her room. It was small, but cute. And it was enough for Mia. It had portraits of her family and her mom, who had died in a car accident. She took a deep breath and laid on her bed. She turned off her lamp and stared at the low ceiling for a while. She thought about that hat she had seen in the box besides the entrance door. It was a very light blue, just like the sky, and it had white thin lines. She really liked it. She couldn't sleep that night. There was something sort of different about that hat. She did not know what she liked about it. She really liked the color blue, but that was not the reason why she liked it.

The next morning, she crept out of her bedroom, ran down the stairs and saw the hat at exactly the same place it had been the previous day. Mia held the hat in her trembling hands. A piece of paper fell on the floor. She picked it up. She started reading it:





If you are reading this note, you are lucky. This hat has special powers that you won't believe at first. When you wear this hat, no living or nonliving thing will be able to see you. In other words, you will be totally invisible. When you take it off, you will be visible again. Use it carefully...

Mia didn't believe it. But she wanted to. She didn't know what to do. "I should not tell this to anybody," she said to herself. Then, she heard her stepmother, Rebecca's foot steps. She thought she should try the hat. This was her only chance! She took the hat, sighed, and put it on. "MIA! COME HERE AND CLEAN UP THE MESS IN THE BATHROOM! MIA! COME HERE, I SAID, YOU STUPID GIRL!" screamed Rebecca. But it was no use. Mia would not take the hat off. "I... I... guess it works!" she thought. Rebecca came closer and closer to Mia. At last she was only five centimeters away from her. She had no place to run. Then, she heard her step-sister, Griselda's voice coming from the hallway. Rebecca took a few steps forward. "Griselda," she said. "Did you see that little rat anywhere?" Rebecca went closer to her daughter. This was the chance! Mia ran upstairs to her room. She did not take the hat off until her dad, James, woke up.

CHAPTER 2

Griselda was almost as mean as her mother. However, both of them could not do anything bad to Mia unless her dad was not there. Rebecca, who married with James after his wife's death, didn't like Mia at all. She always tried to make Mia look like a bad person so James would love her more than Mia. Well, this was not a great possibility because James and Mia both loved each other so much. Mia always tried to explain what Rebecca and Griselda were trying to do, but unfortunately her dad would not believe her.

But Mia's best friend would always believe in her. Her name

was Claire. She always helped all living things including people, animals and even plants. She was not only a good friend, but she was also a great student. She always finished everything on time. She was very neat too. She was the only person in this world who would believe Mia. Mia decided to talk to Claire about the Invisibility Hat.

Even though Rebecca was mean to Mia, she was a really great cook. After a delicious lunch, Mia hurried up the stairs to her untidy room. She took the hat from under her bed. She held the hat very tightly in her hands and wondered if it was a good idea to show it to Claire or not. Maybe Claire would laugh at her. But Claire was her best friend! She stuck the Invisibility Hat on her head and rushed out of the house.

Claire was her neighbor, so she didn't have to go on the bus. Her house was only about two streets away. She ran as fast as she could. She could feel the cold wind touch her face. But she had no time to think about this. She ran faster and faster! Then, she slowed down and then stopped in front of Claire's house. She took her hat off.

The house was colored in a pinkish white paint and had a big garden. The garden was full of huge plum trees which would bloom every spring and give delicious plums every fall. There were also many tulips. Claire and her mother would plant at least three every year. Claire and Mia had been playing in that garden since they were two years old.

Mia rang the bell. The door made a creaking sound and Claire's mother, as beautiful as always, was standing right in front of her. She was wearing her favorite dress and earrings. The dress was pink and had a cute little bow tie at the very top. The earrings looked like golden rings and they each had a pink flower made out of crystal on them. Her name was Chloe. "Mrs. Chloe," Mia called her. She wondered why she was wearing those on a weekend. Was she going somewhere?

“Come in, Mia. Claire is in her room. I need to go somewhere. I will be back in half an hour or so,” she said with her sweet voice. Mia went in the huge house. She slowly went up the stairs. She knocked on the door and heard Claire’s voice saying, “Come in!” Mia opened the door and stepped in. Claire was in her bed, reading a book. “Oh, hi, Mia! You’re frowning again. This time is it Griselda or Rebecca?” Mia thought for a while. How could she explain it? “No” she said simply. “Then what? There must be a reason why you have come. We are already going to see each other tomorrow at school.” Mia stared at her face and then she showed her the Invisibility Hat. “This is what I came for. I saw this hat in a box near our house entrance. When you wear the hat, you become invisible. This was the note next to it,” she answered. She handed over the note and the hat to Claire. She started reading. “Mia, come on now, you don’t believe these kid stories, do you?” Mia got mad, “It is not a ‘kid story’ OK? It is real. If you don’t believe me, I can try it on!” Mia grabbed the hat from Claire’s hands. “It’s all right, Mia. You don’t have to get so mad. It is normal for me not to believe it. In fact, this is impossible. But you could still try the hat on.”

Mia put the hat over her head. “Wait, what? Aaahhh, Mia! Are you OK? Oh my God! It is working! Oh my God!” “Calm down... Calm down, Claire,” Mia pleaded. She took the hat off. She smiled at her friend and said, “I told you it works. You should learn to trust me, Claire. Don’t panic. I’m all right. But, are you sure you are okay?” Claire was frozen, with her mouth slightly open. “Ok... But what do you want to use this for?” she asked. “That’s why I’m here. I need your creative ideas to think of some ways we can use it. I already thought about something. I will use it to hide from Griselda and Rebecca. Do you have any more ideas?” she asked Claire. “Well, I need to think. Remember the thing we just learned at school: the brainstorm. Let’s do that!” So that is what they did and they got so many good ideas. The one that Mia liked most was to scare Rebecca and Griselda so they would leave that city, just like Mia and Claire had seen in a movie.

CHAPTER 3

The next day, just when Mia was going out of the house to go to school, Griselda woke up, got out of her room and saw Mia. “You! How dare you steal MY precious necklace from MY room! You BEAST! CRIMINAL!” Mia had no idea what she was talking about. “Griselda, leave me alone, I am going to school. And I never stole your necklace. You know I don’t like necklaces and stuff. Now bye. See you AFTER SCHOOL!” Griselda started laughing. She came closer to Mia, stood in front of her, slammed the door and stared at her neck. “Then what is this tied to your neck? How dare you lie to me!” She pulled her necklace off Mia’s neck. Mia couldn’t understand. She had never stolen anything before. She pushed her stepsister aside, went to her room, and put on her hat. Then, she ran downstairs, stopped to stick her tongue out to Griselda, took off her hat and jumped into the school bus which was waiting for her outside. She found her place and sat down to wait for Claire.

After school, she went to Claire’s house to discuss this problem. “I’m sure she put that necklace on you while you were sleeping,” suggested Claire. Mia frowned in anger. She really wanted to get rid of her stepmother and stepsister. Claire went with her to the bathroom and helped her wash her face. “Don’t worry,” Claire cried. “One day, Rebecca and Griselda will go to a very far place where you will never see them again. I know it.” She smiled.

Mia put on her shoes. Just when she was about to get out of the house, Claire’s mother came to say: “Mia! Don’t you have a coat or anything? It is so cold outside. And it is raining. If you get wet, you will get sick. If you want, you can stay here for today. You can wear one of Claire’s pajamas. I will call your dad.” Mia was so happy. She hugged Mrs. Chloe as hard as a bear. Then, she thanked her. Mrs. Chloe kissed her on the cheek and went to call Mia’s dad.

But that night, they didn’t have a normal sleepover, watching movies, playing games and stuff. They sat down and thought about what they could do to show her dad how badly her stepsister and

stepmother were treating her. One day, those two witches would leave her alone, in her house, with her dad. One day, Mia would live without them and be happy ever after. She could not wait for that day. But she started to lose hope from day to day. It had been three years living with them and whatever she told her dad, he would not believe. He would always say that he loved Rebecca. He thought his wife would never do anything bad. Mia loved her dad, but she would get angry and sad whenever her dad would not believe her.

When Mia was in bed, she thought again about how she could make her dad believe her. She couldn't get Rebecca or Griselda to tell her dad what they had done. She thought about all her ideas, made a list and drew a plan for her stepmother and sister. Then she read each one again. First one, no. Second, trash. Third, of course not! Fourth... Fifth... Sixth... They were all useless. She crumpled up everything she had written and drawn and threw it on the floor with her pen. She decided she would stop for now and went to bed.

CHAPTER 4

A few days later, she woke up just like it was a normal morning. She realized that her house was so quiet. She looked at her watch. She got terrified. It was quarter to ten! The school bus was already gone. So she decided she would not go to school that day.

She made breakfast for herself. After she was done with breakfast, she put on her jeans and her favorite shirt. She also got her roller skates and went outside. A very sunny day, it was. She walked until the nearest park, found a bench and put on her roller skates.

Two hours later, she went back home to eat lunch. Suddenly, the bell rang. She opened the door and saw Mrs. Chloe. "Mia, what are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be at school?" she asked. Mia explained her that she woke up late and missed the bus. "Oh by the way, Mrs. Chloe, why are you here? If you are looking for

somebody, I am the only person at home.” Mrs. Chloe told her that Claire had called and said that Mia was not at school that day. Then, Mrs. Chloe wondered what had happened to her and came to pick her up.

Mia went in Mrs. Chloe’s car and she drove Mia to school. Mia thanked Mrs. Chloe when she arrived at school and rushed into her classroom. Mia sat next to her best friend and thanked her. Then, she apologized to her teacher.

CHAPTER 5

The last bell rang and Claire pulled Mia aside. She said that they should go ahead with their idea about scaring Rebecca that day. Mia was very happy. She went to Claire’s house, again. Claire explained to Mia how and when they would do this. They set off to Mia’s house. Her dad would come late that day, so there was lots of time to make their plan come true.

While Rebecca was watching the news, they started their plan. Claire was outside, watching Mia through the window to see if everything was fine. Mia wore her hat. Then, they started. Mia opened and closed the windows. She switched off the lights and put on the candles. Later, she made things in the house look like they were flying by lifting them up. Rebecca started screaming. Griselda was also scared, but at the same time she managed to take a video of what was happening. Neither Mia, nor Claire realized this. Then, Rebecca fainted. Mia went out of the window and closed it. She took her hat off. Finally, they would get rid of them.

“Yes! Good job Mia, that was awesome!” said Claire, as soon as Mia came next to her. “I know right,” replied Mia. “Finally, we are going to get rid of them.” Claire frowned. “Look, Mia, we are not sure yet. I mean, this might not make them run away. I don’t want you to get disappointed.” “Oh, don’t be silly, Claire,” cried Mia and she turned Claire’s frown into a smile with her hands. They both giggled





loudly. But unfortunately things didn't work out the way they had planned it.

CHAPTER 6

Mia saw that Griselda was showing something to Mia's dad. It was the video that Griselda had taken while they were doing their plan. Later, he came to Mia's room and told her they were moving because Rebecca and Griselda told him that there was something wrong with that city. They had even shown him a video of things in their house flying around! Then she understood. Mia ran to her best friend for a plan B. Mia told Claire that if they couldn't find a plan B, they would move to another city! Claire started smiling. "I thought a lot yesterday. You know I always make a plan B. So that is what I did. Listen. I am going to take your dad out of your house. Then you are going to call Griselda and annoy her. She needs to know that your dad is not there, then, most probably she will call her mother. They will start shouting. Then, we will go in with your dad. He will see everything and leave Rebecca," she explained.

Mia hugged her best friend as hard as she could. "And you should then show him your Invisibility Hat the way you showed me," Claire added. Mia was very glad to hear that Claire had a plan B.

CHAPTER 7

On Sunday, they started their second plan. Claire went to Mia's house. She called Mr. James and told him to come outside with her for a while. He did as she said. He closed the door and their plan started. Mia called Griselda and said, "Hey, Griselda. I want to say that I think you should wear your yellow dress today. It is very sunny. It doesn't look that nice on you, but I guess it will be fine if you make a bun and—" Griselda got really mad. Griselda was a really spoiled child. She would start screaming and shouting for every little thing. She called Rebecca, told her what Mia had said to her and

started crying. Then, the door opened and Mia's dad came in. But nobody realized. Rebecca screamed at Mia and shouted, "I'm lucky that your stupid dad is outside!" She stared at Mia's face in a very annoying way.

Mia's dad got really, really, really angry and went in front of Rebecca. "How dare you scream at my daughter! How dare you speak of me like that! Get out of my house! You are not my wife anymore. Go! And take your daughter with you!" Rebecca went upstairs to get all her clothes. They packed and left Mia's life forever. Mr. James hugged his daughter. He begged for Mia's forgiveness. Mia said that it was all right. She turned to Claire and thanked her. Then they all went upstairs. Mia got her hat and wore it. Her dad's mouth was left open. And Claire folded her arms and smiled as if saying "I knew he would get surprised."

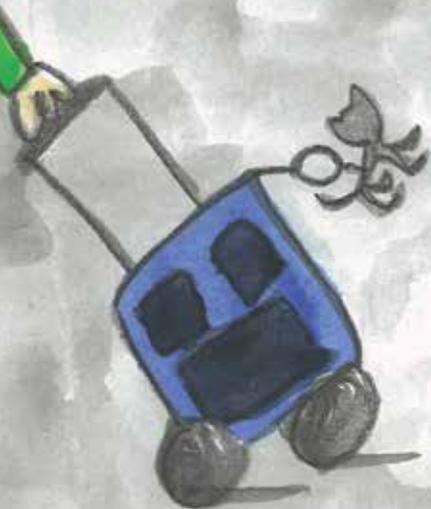
Mia explained to her dad about all the plans they had made with her best friend, Claire. She told him about their plan A and how they didn't realize that Griselda was taking a video. Mia explained how sad she felt when he said they were moving. She told him how she had run to Claire for a plan B and how Claire said she had one. And the last thing she told him was how they made their plan B come true. Mr. James couldn't believe his ears. He apologized again for not believing her and promised he would always believe his daughter from now on.

Mr. James decided he would never marry again. He learned that he could look after his daughter by himself. After all, he learned that Mia had looked after herself all the time because Rebecca had never done anything for her.

From that day, Mia never cried again. She was always very happy. She had her dad. She had her house. She had her best friend and also Claire's mother. She knew that she did not need anything else in life.

The End of Book 1







Book 2

A Bully, a Puppy, and a Hat

CHAPTER 1

It was 2 a.m. already but Mia still couldn't sleep. She was still thinking about her Invisibility Hat. She was kind of addicted to it, the pretty, feathered hat, with its blue and white stripes. How could she sleep when her hat was still in Eliza's hands? "C'mon Mia, go to bed!" cried her father. "Turn off the TV and go to bed." Mia loved her dad really much, but sometimes she didn't really listen to him. Mia didn't listen to him when he told her to turn off the TV, too. She didn't want to sleep. She had tried but no use. Mia was thinking so much that she didn't even realize when her dad came into the living room and turned off the television.

That day, she had brought her hat to school. She thought that it would be a great idea to use it during the 'silent reading' lesson. She hated that lesson more than any other lesson. Unlike Mia, 'silent reading' was Claire's favorite. Claire loved reading very much. During the break right before 'silent reading', Mia saw all the other girls playing hide and seek. "This is a great chance to use my hat," she thought. She asked the girls if she could join the game. They all nodded. One of the girls started counting. Mia found a good

hiding place so that people didn't see her when she was becoming invisible. She wore her hat and went outside of her hiding place. She ran as fast as she could to tag the girl who was counting but the girl saw her before she got to her. Mia couldn't understand. She checked her hat to see if it was still there and she realized that it was not there! She looked all around the garden to see if the hat had blown away by the wind when she realized Eliza, a girl from the elder grades, was holding it.

Eliza was in eighth grade. She was one of the prettiest and smartest girls in the class. Everybody in her class admired her and fought each other to sit next to her. But these things don't change the fact that she was the leader of the bullies in school.

"Are you looking for this, Madam Invisible?" she asked Mia. Mia didn't like being called 'Madam Invisible' but she didn't mind. How did Eliza learn about her hat. "Oh yeah," Eliza started, "I forgot that you are not 'Madam Invisible' without your hat, are you?" This was too much for Mia. "Give my hat back," she commanded. Eliza smiled in a foolish way. "What if I don't? Are you gonna cry?" Mia felt cold cold sweat coming down her cheek. "Ok, I won't tell anyone about it. But if I hear you telling this to any of the teachers or students, you are in big trouble. Oh, and don't tell your parents."

"What happened, Mia?" asked her dad. "Nothing," Mia replied, "I just can't sleep." Her father didn't seem to believe her much but he said: "Maybe you need to rest". Mia didn't reply. "Why don't we read a book together?" he suggested. Mia didn't like reading so she simply replied: "No." She realized that her father looked upset so she added, "but thanks anyway, dad".

Mia went up to her room. She jumped on her bed which is on the left side of her room. She took a picture from a drawer to the right side of her bed. It was a picture taken when she was three years old, on her birthday. When she saw her dead mother on the picture, she quickly put the picture back into the drawer.

She tried to stop thinking about her hat but it didn't work. Maybe she could just do something else. She got a piece of paper

and started to draw. It was so boring that she fell asleep.

The next morning when she woke up, she realized that it was already 10 a.m.. She was supposed to be at school right now. She wore her uniform and went down to ask her father why he hadn't woken her up. "You are not going to go to school today," he told Mia. "I thought that maybe we could go outside somewhere, like an amusement park, if you wish. Wherever you want to go." Mia was very happy to hear about this, she really needed to rest, after all, she couldn't sleep very well last night.

She ran upstairs and changed her clothes. She wore her favorite shirt, her black leggings and went downstairs to the kitchen. She hugged her father. "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" she screamed. They ate a delicious breakfast and went outside hand in hand.

CHAPTER 2

Mia and her father decided to go to the cinema. They watched the movie "Matilda". This was Mia's favorite movie. "The movie was awesome! Wasn't it, dad?" she asked her father. James had watched this movie three times already, so it wasn't that exciting for him. But he still liked watching it.

"Now what do we do?" Mia asked. "Let's go somewhere else. We don't need to go back home right now. Where do you want to go?" he asked. Mia started thinking. "What about laser tag? is that fine?" Her dad loved the idea. They went on the car. Mia opened Google Maps and found the closest places that have laser tag. She found one close to her school so that is where they went.

When they arrived at the place, they found out that Mia's school

came to the same place as a fun field trip. Every grade higher than sixth grade was going so her class wasn't there, and Claire wasn't there. She didn't really worry about it until she saw Eliza. Now it was time for panic.

"Dad, can we go somewhere else please, this place is too... umm... Dirty. Yes. And it smells like sweat. Yes. Can we go?" Mia's dad was surprised by this. He looked around. It wasn't dirty at all. He smelled the air. It smelled fresh. James would be fine with it if Mia really wanted to go. But he couldn't figure out what the problem was. He decided to ask her: "Mia, what's the matter. This place is really clean and shiny, and it doesn't smell bad." He turned around and realized that Mia was gone.

"Mia, didn't I tell you not to bring your hat everywhere? I mean, I know you love it but you don't need it, do you?" he asked. There was no answer. Where had she gone? Was she hiding?

CHAPTER 3

"Eliza, leave me alone," Mia whispered so that nobody would hear. Eliza took off the Invisibility Hat. "Good job, at least you are not screaming. No, I won't let you go," she answered. Mia tried to understand how Eliza's mind works but she failed.

"Oh, what do you want then? Are you going to kidnap me or something?" she asked. Eliza laughed at this idea, "Of course not, you idiot, then the police would catch me. I locked us in the bathroom so that nobody would see or hear us. Look, I brought you here just to warn you, one last time, when I say last I really mean it." Mia looked at her hat and the key to the bathroom.

"Mia, are you listening?" Eliza asked. "Yes, of course," Mia answered. Eliza kept talking. Mia wasn't listening but she acted like

she was. At last, Mia got an idea. She dropped the bracelet that Claire had given her on the floor.

“Oh, let me get it,” she said. She bent down, got her bracelet and kicked Eliza on her back without even standing up. Then she ran as fast as she could. She got the key, opened the door and went out to find her father. Her father was still searching for her.

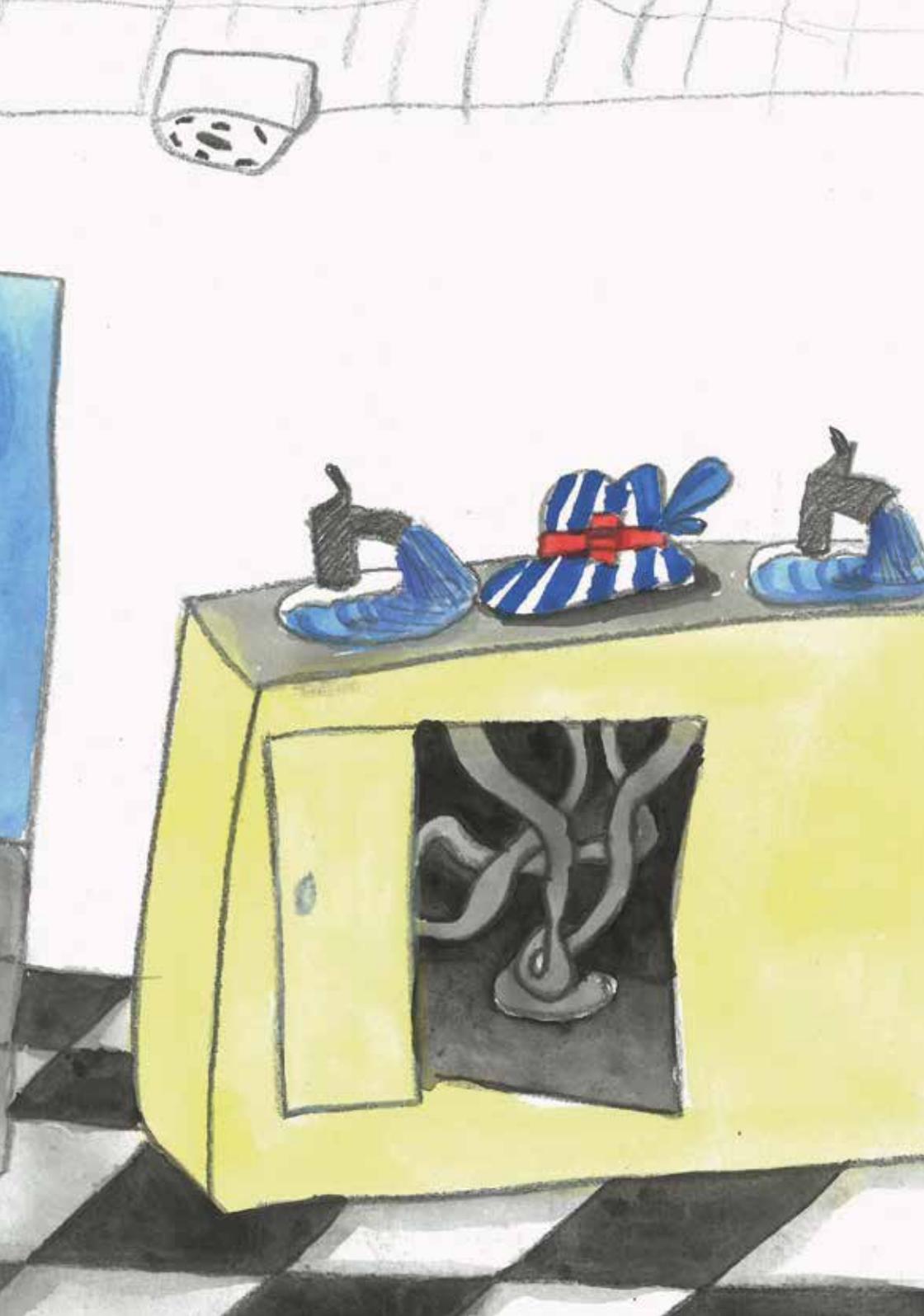
“Mia, where have you been? I was searching for you everywhere!” he asked in a loud tone. “I went to the bathroom, dad, didn’t you see me?” she asked. Her father replied, “Oh, whatever, you are fine and that is what matters.” They started playing lazer tag. They had so much fun. James said that he felt like he was in “Star Wars”. Mia agreed with him. They went back to the car. They were laughing, and talking, and laughing some more. They started to drive back home. They knew the way so they didn’t get lost but it was a long way home. Mia looked at all the people, trees, and pretty buildings they passed by. She never had realized how wonderful, and full of color life was. She smiled at everybody who passed. She even said hello to many strangers.

Then she saw this lady with a pink feathered hat. “My hat is the prettiest ha...” She was going to say something else when she remembered something. Her hat! She had forgotten it in the bathroom with Eliza! Her hat was still at Eliza. She thought about this over and over. How could she be so stupid? The hat was right next to the key, and she could of gotten it! She frowned and kept staring out of the window. Now life looked so dull and grey. Everyone was sad and frowning. Just like her.

CHAPTER 4

She decided to tell everything to Claire. “I must not be afraid of Eliza. Yes, I’ll tell everything to Claire. She will help me,” she thought and headed towards Claire’s house.





Of course, she told her dad before she went. Or he would search for her and he would get mad at Mia for not telling him she was gone. When she asked her dad to go to Claire's house, he nodded and Mia headed towards Claire's house.

When she arrived at their front door, Mia thought if this was a good idea. If Eliza heard about this, she would tell everybody about Mia's hat. But she thought Claire could help her. And she trusted Claire not to tell Eliza. She knocked on the door.

"Hi Mia, how are you?" Claire asked. She let Mia in. Mia answered with a smile. But it was fake, as you might of guessed. "Claire," she started, "We... I... I need to tell you something... about my hat," she finished. "I'm listening," Claire responded.

Mia didn't want this to take long so she simply said, "Eliza stole my hat... the... Invisibility Hat," she finished. She looked at Claire waiting for an answer. But Claire didn't even open her mouth. She just stared at Mia, for about half a minute, which was a really long time, in this situation. "No," she thought to herself, "Eliza cannot have the hat, no way, not Eliza." But it was true. Eliza had gotten the hat and she couldn't be persuaded to give it back.

Claire started talking, "We have to make a plan, just like we did against your stepmother and stepsister, do you remember? We can make a plan just like that. But this time we won't have the hat." Mia nodded and replied, "I agree. But we need to be quick. Or we might lose our chance. You see, it's the last month of school."

"Alright then, Mia. Come to see me tomorrow. It's late now. We need to sleep, you know. You are coming to school on Monday, right?" Claire asked. "Yes, I am. Goodbye Claire. See you," she said.

After Mia said bye to Claire and her mother, Chloe, Mia went back home. Her father had made dinner. It was Mia's favorite: grilled chicken and beans. After a while, they went to bed. Mia saw an awesome dream where she was wearing her Invisibility Hat and she was getting revenge from Eliza. Oh, if she hadn't woken up, she

would of seen how she got her hat back. But unfortunately, a big fire truck had passed and woken her up.

She got dressed and went downstairs for breakfast. But her father was at the door with a big picnic bag. “What are you doing with that bag, dad? Are we going out for a picnic?” she asked. “Good guess,” her dad replied. “Indeed, we are going out for a picnic. If you are ready, let’s go.”

They had a great day at the park. After a delicious breakfast, they played many games. Mia’s favorite was frisbee. When they returned home, Mia was so tired so she fell asleep as soon as she laid down on her bed.

CHAPTER 5

“Good morning, Claire,” said Mia as soon as she got on the bus, she sat next to Claire. “Good morning to you, too,” she replied. When they got to school, they raced to their class. Mia won, as she always did in races.

“Everybody, please take out your Word Problem books and your math notebooks,” cried their math teacher, Mrs. Gibbons. She was a nice teacher but she could be really strict sometimes. She wrote “pages 62-76” on the board. There was a soft sigh heard from almost all students in the class.

“Ugh, that was the most horrible math class in the world. At least we didn’t have an exam,” started Mia during break. Claire replied, “I like math class. Oh, and, just reminding you, we have silent reading next lesson,” and she giggled. Mia frowned, “You didn’t have to remind me, I know the schedule.” “Hey, cheer up, at least we don’t have exams in silent reading,” Claire said, making Mia smile.

Mia changed the subject as soon as she saw Eliza, “Did you

find a plan to get my hat back from Eliza?” Claire replied: “Yes, I did.” A huge smile showed up on her face. “Listen carefully, so first— ”

The bell rang.

“I’ll tell you today, if you come to my house. Someone can hear us if we talk about it at school,” Claire finished. “Ok,” Mia replied as they headed towards class.

She got a book from the library and started reading it. No, ACTED like she was reading. Mia had a trick for silent reading class. Usually, you were supposed to read a book during silent reading class and when you were finished (after a maximum of two months later) to bring back a summary of the book. Mia’s trick was to act like she was reading the book, turning the pages and after she finished “turning the pages” she would find a summary of the book from the internet and rewrite it in her own words.

Mia never studied or did any work. All teachers and students knew this. But that didn’t change the fact that she was the smartest. In a way.

“Mia,” said the silent reading teacher. “This time, I want you to read your book out loud so that I can listen.” Mia started: “But Ms. Luna, I—” Miss Luna cut in, “start, right now.” Mia opened a random page, acting like she was trying to find the page she left off. Then, she started reading.

“Jack run... I mean ran to... umm... get his axe and he... cut the bean stew... beanstalk. There is... was... a loud bang head... heard and the giant—” Miss Luna frowned. “Mia, you need to read more books. I know you never read any books in class, and I know that you don’t like reading but reading is creativity,” she said, trying to encourage her.

As soon as Mia went home, she asked her dad to go to Claire’s house and after he called Claire’s mother to see if it was ok, he let her go. Mia rushed out of the door to Claire’s house.

CHAPTER 6

“So, Mia, first of all, you are going to write a note on a piece of paper,” Claire started to explain their plan. “It should say that Eliza should come to a certain place at a certain time to see you because that you need to show, do or maybe talk something with her. Oh, and don’t forget to write that she should bring your hat.” Mia raised her hand to ask a question: “Will you help me with the note?” Claire replied to her question: “Yeah, of course I will help you. Ok, so during break, you will slip the note into Eliza’s locker, where she keeps all her books so she will see it when she needs her book during class.” Mia raised her hand again to ask another question: “But what if she doesn’t need any books? I mean like, you know, sometimes we don’t use books in class. Then she won’t see the note right?” Claire thought for a moment for an answer. Then she said: “Well, you are right but we use books everyday. And there are eight lessons and I’m sure she will need to use a book in at least one of the lessons. And besides, her bag will probably be in her locker so she will see your note at the end of the day to get her bag.” Mia raised her hand one more time and started speaking: “But how will I get my hat back from her after we meet?” Suddenly Claire made a slightly sad face, “well, to be honest Mia, umm... I’m not sure. That part is up to you. You will have to find a way.”

They sat down on the chairs in the living room. They started talking and sharing their ideas. But they were all useless. “You know what, you should just try to get your hat by yourself. You don’t need a plan. I know you can do it. Remember, last time you got the key all by yourself. Why can’t you do it this time?” cried Claire. Mia didn’t know what to say. Was she really capable of doing this? “I’ll think about it. See you tomorrow,” said Mia, and left without another word.

“I’ll think about it,” Mia repeated to herself, as she exited Claire’s house. She heard the frightened barks of a puppy. She ran towards the noise. She saw kids throwing pebbles at a poor puppy. She went in front of the kids and started shouting at them. “What are you going to do?” they cried, “Call your mommy? Don’t think you are stronger than us. You are only a GIRL—”





class

She punched him. He started crying. All the other boys crowded around him. Mia grabbed the puppy and ran home. "I can do it," she said, "and I will."

When she arrived home, she told her dad everything about what had happened with the boys. Well, almost everything, she skipped the part where she had hit one of the boys. Then she showed him the puppy. Then, her dad saw something that Mia hadn't realized before. The puppy had a name. "She has an owner," started her dad, "see here, it says Ginger," he pointed at the leash the puppy was wearing. "But you can keep her until we find her owner," he added when he saw his little girl's frown.

She took Ginger and started washing her. She made her a nice bed out of a tire and a pillow. She took as much care of Ginger as possible. She loved Ginger. But her dad reminded her that she couldn't keep Ginger forever.

CHAPTER 7

A week later, it was "Bring Your Pet to School Day". Mia didn't have another pet so she brought Ginger to school. She never let Ginger go off her because there were cats and even worse, bulldogs, which Ginger was very afraid of.

The school was full of cats, dogs, birds, fish, turtles, bunnies and even a pony which belonged to the richest girl in school, Odelyn. Unlike most typical rich girls, Odelyn wasn't mean. But she just wasn't really Mia's type. She was a little too... girly. Mia had always thought that her name, Odelyn, really fit her because it meant "little wealthy one".

Then she saw Eliza, who hadn't brought her pet to school. And, for the first time, at least the first time Mia had seen, Eliza was crying. But that didn't interest her. She still wondered why Eliza hadn't brought a pet. She had seen Eliza bring her puppy to school

every year on that day. Then it hit her. Ginger... Ginger belonged to Eliza. Now she understood why she hadn't brought her pet, and of course why she was crying. Then, she got an idea. She was going to give Ginger back to Eliza, this made her sad but she had to do it, and she was going to ask for her hat instead.

She headed towards Eliza. When Eliza saw her puppy she stopped crying. "Hi, Eliza," started Mia, "I was wondering if this puppy belonged to you." Eliza looked wide eyed towards the little golden puppy Mia was holding. "Ginger? Where did you find her? Give her back, please." Mia responded with a smile, "Ok, I'll give her back, if you give me my hat." Eliza ran away. Mia didn't understand. She thought it would work. She stared at the way Eliza had ran. Just when she was about to turn away, she saw Eliza, rushing towards her, with her hat. "Here is your hat. I don't need it. And I hate blue." She gave Mia's hat back. Mia said goodbye to Ginger. Eliza snatched Ginger away.

Mia walked away with a smile on her face, and her blue hat in her hands.

The End of Book 2



For years I have had the pleasure and happiness of touching children's lives during their education. For each one of them my greatest wish is this: when they are adults and talk to their friends about their school days, their love for those days should be forever reflected in their smiles.

I want to congratulate the writer of this book, our middle school student Manolya, and also our student Maya, who has added joy to this book with her pictures. They have created an amazing book! I am proud of you and all of our students. You are all special in your own way.

Sema Kızılkaya Sever
Founder of Killittaşı and Keystone Schools

Maya KILINÇ is a talented Killittaşı Okulları 2nd grade student. Her previous teachers in Keystone International Preschool, in French Class and English Class, understood already very early that she had some special artistic skills. She excels in drawing and other technics like painting and collage, and has already developed her own style. Maya demonstrated very early also special skills in learning languages; her mother tongue is Turkish, she speaks fluently English and French besides!



As Picasso said, in our school, we think that "each child is an artist!" and each child has special skills anyhow. It's up to us, educators and parents, to give them the chance to develop it and make the best of it.

We hope Maya and all children will keep on following their dreams...

Véronique Tran Dinh
Keystone and Killittasi Vice Principal

**“After Mia finds the Invisibility Hat,
her life changes.**

**The hat is an opportunity to get rid of her stepmother
and stepsister.**

But these are not the only challenges Mia has to face...”

