

SELİM

A World
Without School



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My Dad's Surprise

My dad has been acting strange lately. When he comes home after work, he immediately sits down at the computer and doesn't get up at all until dinner. I don't know what he is doing, but I don't get a chance to use the computer.



One day, when I came home after school, I sat in front of the computer. I don't remember how long it was. My dad came home. As soon as he came in, he said,

“Excuse me Selim. I need to use the computer.”

I stood up. My father sat in the chair at once and went on the internet. He was tuning out the outside world. It was weird to see him act that way. I couldn't satisfy my curiosity and asked,

“It's a surprise.”



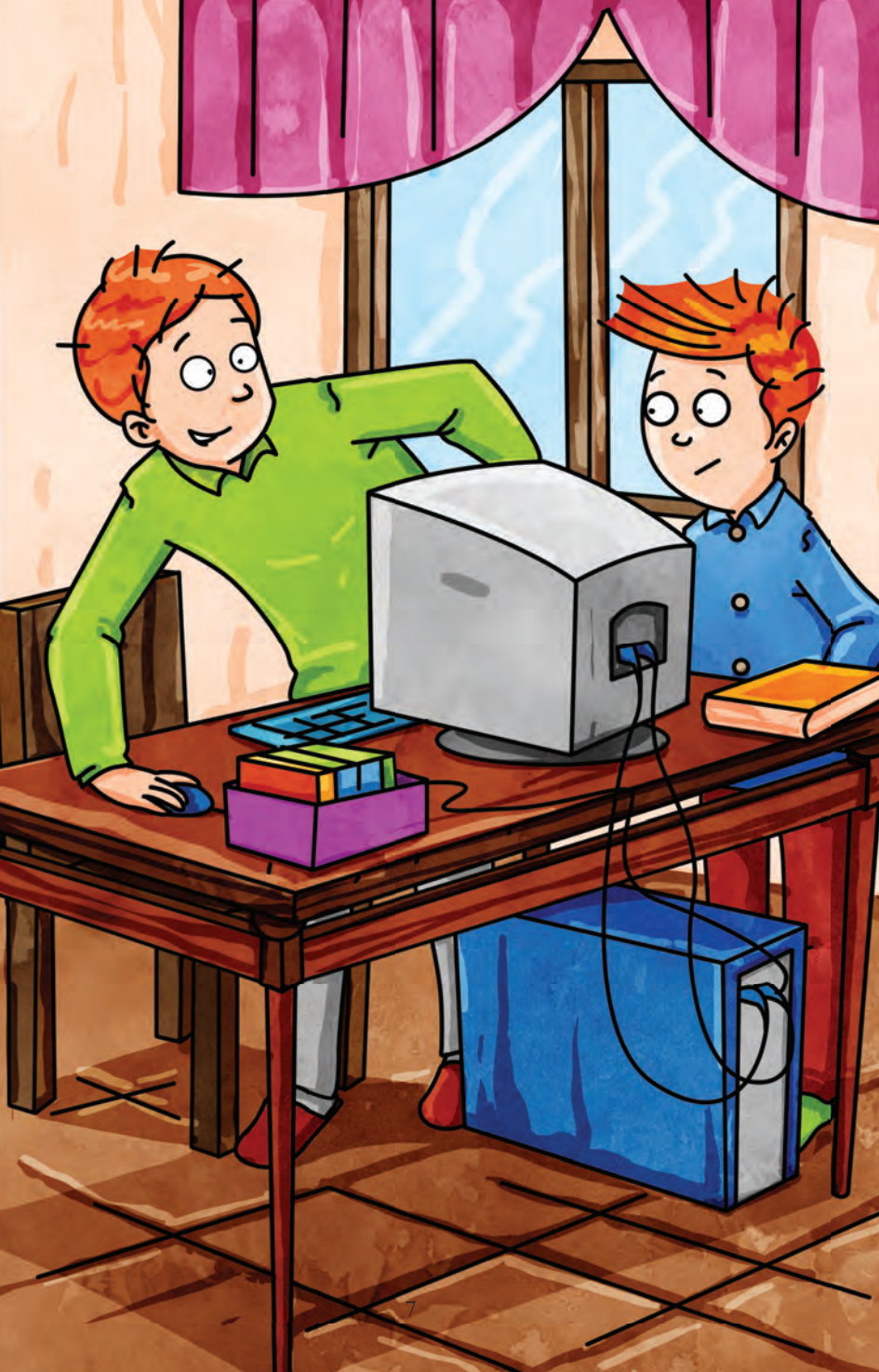
“What are you doing, dad?”

“What's the surprise, dad?”

“If I told you, it wouldn't be a surprise then, would it?”

I said “okay,” but I was still very curious.

And I asked my mom,



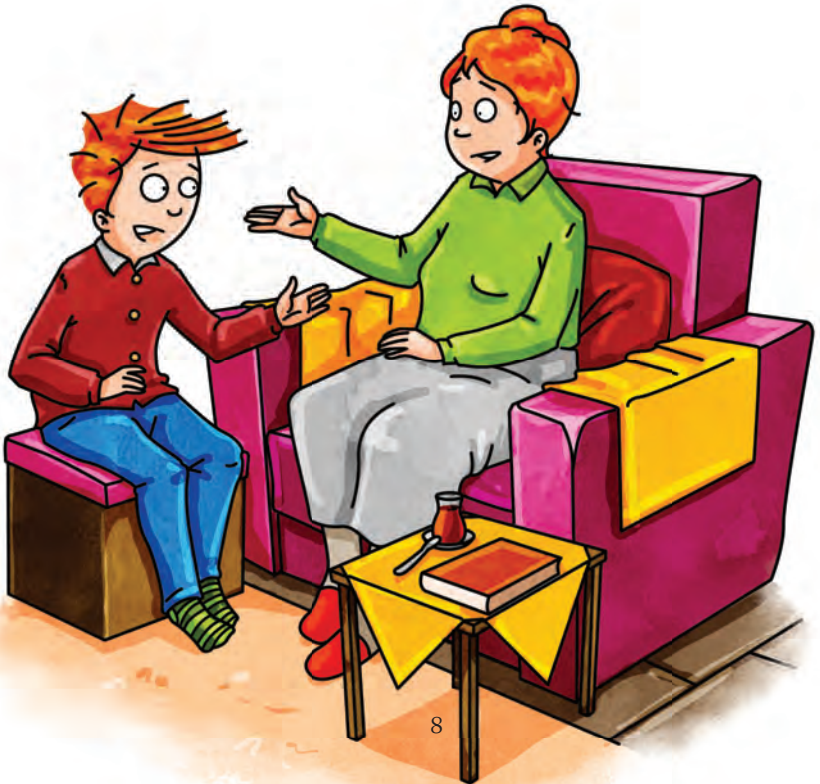
“Mom, what is dad doing in front of the computer so much?”

“I don’t know, why don’t you ask him.”

“I did but he wouldn’t tell me.”

“I don’t know, Selim.”

But it helped to ask my mom. She grew curious too. While I was going to my room, I heard my mom and dad talking.



My mom was saying,
"You're joking! Really?"

"It's about time now,
isn't it?"

"Right, it's
time but—"



When they saw me, both stopped talking. I said,

“Why did you stop talking? Won’t you tell me what happened?”

But as if they had made a deal, they said together,

“We won’t say. It’s a surprise.”

I couldn’t wrangle a single word out of them. My curiosity was piqued. I started to brood on how I would learn the surprise.



One day, I got caught up playing football after school and came home late. I again found my dad in front of the computer. Since he didn't notice me coming, he hadn't changed the page on the screen. But what was that! There on the screen was a photo of Healthy. Healthy is our car.

“Oh! Dad, did Healthy become famous? Why is its picture on the internet?” I asked innocently.



My dad smiled when he noticed me. He said,

“Selim, now you can learn the surprise that you are so curious about. You know our Healthy has grown old. We need to change it. I put an ad on the web. We will sell our car and buy a new one.”

I was stunned. I could only say,

“Dad, you can’t sell it.”

“But Selim, if we don’t sell it now, we won’t ever be able to sell it again.”

“But dad, it isn’t an ordinary car! It’s even got a name, **Healthy!**”

“We can give the name ‘Healthy’ to our new car, too.”

“No, we can’t. Healthy is like family. Remember when Adam cried when he was a baby and you would take him for a drive with Healthy to make him quiet?”

