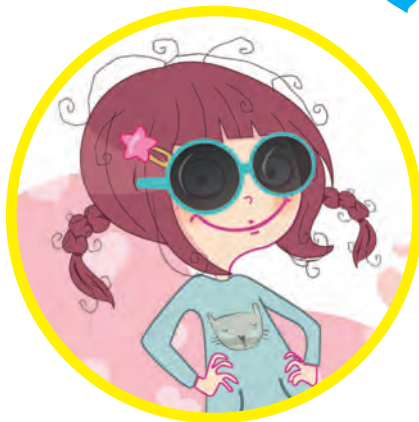


Shirin

Somebody Call
911!



Writer: Birsen Ekim Özen

Illustrator: Sernur Işık



Şhirin

Somebody Call
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Writer: Birsen Ekim Özen
Illustrator: Sernur Işık

Print and Binding: Seçil Ofset
100. Yıl Matbaacılar Sitesi 4. Cad. No: 77
Bağcılar / İSTANBUL
Telephone: +90 (212) 629 06 15

2014



TİMAŞ KIDS

Timaş Basım Ticaret ve Sanayi AŞ
Alay Köşkü Cad. No: 5 Cağaloğlu, İstanbul - Turkey
Telephone: +90 (212) 511 2424 (pbx)
Fax: +90 (212) 512 4000
Timaspublishing.com - info@timaspublishing.com

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Unconstitutional Pizza.....	5
Our Neighbor Helen.....	15
Henna Night.....	21
Smoke Attack.....	53
I've Got Milk	83

Unconstitutional Pizza

I like when my teacher teaches us useful things. She doesn't do this very often.

One time our teacher taught us something useful. She warned us to be careful not to make any mistakes while we were doing it. We prepared the cards she wanted at home the day before. We were supposed to write our most important telephone numbers on this card. I



thought about what the most important phone numbers to know might be. I had them immediately.

A pizza place and a
candy shop. Done. 😊

This card was going to be very useful for me. Now I wouldn't need to beg my parents to buy me pizza anymore. With this card I could do it all by myself.





After our teacher called the roll she told us to take out our cards. My card was yellow and I drew pictures of a detective on it, because my favorite stories are detective stories.

I like daydreaming before I fall sleep. In those moments I imagine myself as a detective in a long overcoat in search of bad people.



What is our teacher talking about?
Whatever.

I am a very good detective. The only thing is that I don't have a detective dog. I do have a detective cat, though. Tiger is the wildest cat on our street.



You can't think less of him because he is a cat. Tiger scares away not only mice, but dogs too. He walks around the street with his long, messy fur and big thick tail like he's not afraid of anyone.

This is the number for the police, the ambulance and the fire station. Write it carefully.



Tiger is my best friend. He looks like a panther. I take him all of our best food. When my parents learn that I do this, they will be very happy.

They always say,
"Be good to animals."

How could I possibly be better to Tiger? In my dreams Tiger sits on my shoulder. I have a magnifying glass. I am standing up tall and my

hair is blowing in the wind.



Shirin! Hey,
Shirin!

“Shirin, are you in there?”

What is that? Is someone calling my name?

“I’m sorry teacher. What did you say?”

“Is your card ready?”

I showed her my card right away.

“Tell me, what are we going to write on that card today?”

“The most important telephone number.”

“What is the important telephone number?”

“Those are the ones that our parents know but we don’t.” Our teacher thought for a minute and tried to understand what I meant. “Yes! They have this number memorized, but you should write it somewhere for yourself, just in case you ever need them.”



Right!
Then we
call them
whenever we
want.

Our teacher frowned,

“Shirin! We should call them not when we want!”

Gosh! What the heck was that supposed to mean?

“Teacher, why would I call them if I didn’t want to call them? First I want to call them, then I call them.”

“Come on! Don’t do that. I wonder whether I should even give you this number. I’m afraid that you will call them whenever you want.”

“Why should I call them more than I want to? Do I need to call them every day to ask them how their mother is doing?”

Come on
Shirin!

“Will I call them only once a year, like my parents do? I’ll call them every afternoon. Then they will come every night.”



Our
teacher took a deep
breath.

“Shirin, if you call them when you
don’t need to, you show a disregard for
other people’s rights.”

**When did ordering pizza become
unconstitutional?**

“I can call them. I have rights, too.”

“That’s enough, Shirin! I want to talk with your
parents. They need to talk to you about this.”

“We don’t need to bring my parents into this.”

“And why not?”

“Because they are very picky about food. They might
try to keep you from teaching this lesson. They
wouldn’t be very happy if they knew that you were
giving these numbers to us.”

“But why? This is a very important number. I’m
giving them to you so that you can call it when
you need to.”

“Okay. I will call it whenever
my stomach needs it.”

“Where?”

“The pizza shop!”