

The Girl and the Little Bat



Aysel Banu YAVUZAL

The Girl and the Little Bat

Aysel Banu YAVUZAL



Mia was a curious girl with warm brown skin and curly black hair in two puffy buns. She loved bugs, birds, and everything that fluttered. Her yellow T-shirt had a bat printed on it, and her red sneakers were always ready for adventure. On her neck hung a tiny silver bat necklace. 'Bats are the best,' she whispered, 'I wish I could meet one.'



One night, Mia sat in her backyard as the sky turned purple. A little bat swooped and dipped above her head. It had soft grey-brown fur, big round ears, and a tiny blue ribbon tied around one ear. Mia held her breath. 'Hello, little bat,' she whispered. The bat squeaked and fluttered, then landed on the fence.



Mia named the little bat Pip. Pip's ears were huge and round, like tiny satellite dishes. 'Why are your ears so big?' Mia asked. Pip squeaked and wiggled his pink nose. Mia's eyes grew wide. 'You make sounds and listen for echoes!' she said. 'That's called echolocation. You can see with sound!' She smiled, her gap-toothed grin shining in the moonlight.



The next morning, Mia hurried to school, her curly buns bouncing. She told her best friend Zoe about Pip. Zoe had a high ponytail and a colourful bead bracelet. 'A bat that sees with sound?' Zoe said, raising an eyebrow. 'That sounds made up.' Mia shook her head. 'It's real! I'll show you!' She pulled a small notebook from her pocket, full of bat facts.



In class, Mr. Lopez wore his green shirt and tan cardigan. He had round glasses and a friendly moustache. Mia raised her hand. 'Mr. Lopez, can I show the class something about bats?' Mr. Lopez smiled warmly. 'Of course, Mia. Learning is an adventure.' He gave her time to present her sound demonstration. The other children leaned forward, curious.



Mia stood at the front of the classroom. 'Bats use echolocation,' she said. 'They make high sounds, and the echoes tell them what's around.' She held up a picture of Pip with his big ears. 'These huge ears catch the echoes. It's like having a map made of sound!' The class listened closely, and Zoe stopped frowning.



Mia had a plan. 'Zoe, can you help me blindfold some friends?' Zoe nodded and tied a soft scarf around two classmates' eyes. Mia placed a few chairs around the room. 'Now, I'll clap my hands,' she said. 'Listen to the echoes to find your way.' The blindfolded children took slow steps, following the sound of her claps.



One by one, the children followed the claps and reached the other side, laughing with delight. 'I could hear the sound bounce!' said one. Zoe's green eyes sparkled. 'It really works!' Mia explained, 'Bats make sounds and listen to the echoes to know what is around them. That's how Pip flies in the dark without bumping into things.' The class clapped and cheered.



Zoe tried next. With the blindfold on, she tilted her head like Pip. Mia clapped, and Zoe moved toward the sound. 'I can picture the chairs in my mind!' she giggled. Mia beamed. 'That's echolocation!' The classroom buzzed with excitement. Mr. Lopez watched from his desk, his round glasses reflecting the happy scene.



Mia drew a big bat on the board. 'Bats are adapted for the dark,' she said. 'Their ears are like cups that catch echoes. Their sounds are too high for us to hear, but they hear them perfectly.' She pointed to the picture of Pip. 'My little bat friend inspired me. Animals have amazing adaptations that help them survive.'



Just then, Mia imagined Pip fluttering above her. He squeaked and wiggled his big ears, showing how echoes bounce off walls and trees. 'He's saying, 'Well done, Mia!' she laughed. The class imagined Pip too, and they all pretended to be bats, squeaking softly and listening to the echoes in the room.



Mr. Lopez stood up, his tan cardigan swaying. 'Mia, that was a wonderful demonstration,' he said. 'You showed us how sound can help us see without our eyes. And you reminded us that nature is full of clever surprises.' He handed her a gold star sticker. Zoe gave Mia a high five, her dimples showing. 'Best science lesson ever!'



Mia felt warm and proud. She touched her silver bat necklace and thought of Pip. That night, she whispered to the stars, 'Thank you, little bat, for teaching us about echolocation.' She knew that bats had extraordinary adaptations, and she felt lucky to share them. Her heart fluttered like bat wings.



The next day, Mia brought a drawing of Pip to class. 'We can make a bat corner,' she suggested. Zoe and the others helped. They hung paper bats with big ears and tiny ribbons. Mr. Lopez gave them a shelf for books about animals. The bat corner became the class's favourite spot, full of facts and wonder.



Mia and Zoe sat together at recess, their sneakers touching. 'I'm sorry I didn't believe you at first,' Zoe said. Mia shrugged. 'That's okay. Now you know that sound can be a map!' They laughed and made a pact to explore more animal secrets. 'Next, we'll study how birds find their way,' Mia declared, her gap-toothed smile wide.



That evening, Pip returned to the backyard tree. Mia watched him swoop and catch bugs. 'You're a little superhero,' she whispered. Pip squeaked as if to say, 'So are you.' Mia knew that animals have extraordinary adaptations, and she promised to keep learning and sharing. Nature, she thought, is full of clever surprises—and so am I.