

On Puf, Pufpuf, Cuf, Cufcuf and Cino
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Child and Literature (Çocuk ve Edebiyat)
2008, Tudem Publishing, pg. 107-110

In Sevim Ak's fantastical story *Puf, Pufpuf, Cuf, Cufcuf and Cino*, a well-developed and dynamic protagonist takes the readers on an imaginary journey. The story begins when a goose leading an ordinary life on Red Butterfly Farm falls in love with a TV star named Bo. Through an extraordinary plot, the events that take place in the story are successfully intermingled with real life events.

By creating a reality fed by dreams, Ak's story suits the nature of children and makes them a part of the protagonist's efforts to attract the attention of her love interest, Bo. In the book, the goose's characteristics of the protagonist are described by the farm's cook Berta: *"She was neither small nor feeble! She was covered with dust and dirt. It was obvious that it had only been a few days since her birth. The stableman's brother found her by the riverside. Having lost her mother and siblings, she was wandering all alone and looking totally puzzled.*

Feeling sorry for the little thing, the stableman's brother brought her home. Everyone who saw the little goose didn't think she would live long. Although Berta knew that it would be quite difficult for the little goose to survive without its mother, she decided to take the responsibility of looking after the poor thing. Berta is one of those people who always try to do their best in life... She took care of the little goose as if she were her own child. She prepared delicious food and did all that she could for the little goose." (pg. 9-10)

After learning about the very first days of the little goose, the reader gets to know the character better with the help of the other characters' thoughts and comments. Eventually the little goose runs away from Red Butterfly Farm to find Bo: But the goose's disappearance is a mystery to Berta: *"Honestly, she wasn't like the others. She wasn't greedy. She would eat something when I told her to do so."* (pg. 11)

"She couldn't have run away... First of all, she was meek... I never saw her fighting with the other geese. She always seemed happy to be here. When it was dark, she was the first to come back. I couldn't understand why she disappeared all of a sudden. She had everything here. Maybe she didn't run away but got lost." (pg. 12)

Extraordinary events start to happen when the goose attends the famous TV star and musician's birthday party with an egg she laid especially for him as a gift. Within the plot, the thoughts, emotions and reactions of the protagonist are depicted in detail. The character's self-assured and dynamic personality stands out in the story. The little goose becomes increasingly more interesting as she adapts to ever-changing conditions, overcomes difficulties, and tries to be self-sufficient: *"Lately, the little goose has been spending most of her time thinking about Bo. She has been trying to figure out a way to attract him. She just sits for hours thinking about how to get his attention."* (pg. 37)

"She had a purpose in life... She was trying to avoid being an ordinary goose. Bo was a musician, a TV star and a TV producer. In his line of work he had to continually improve himself and become more resourceful." (pg. 43)

The goose looks up to Bo. She thinks that she should also improve herself and avoid mediocrity in every aspect of her life if she wants to be with him. She joins a choir to learn how to sing, starts to read and learn more about the world, and she travels to many places and makes new friends.

Throughout the story; the importance of learning, the value of being self-taught and improving one's self are presented to children in a narrative rather than instructive fashion.. The individual values of people in today's society are highlighted. Through the subtle use of personification, some clues about developing healthy relationship with other people are addressed: *"The bond between the goose and Bo would be possible only if the goose improved and adapted her behavior. Once the goose improved herself, Bo would find more in common with her."* (pg. 43-44)

The minor characters in the story such as Yellow Dog, Seagull, Berta and Tortop help us to get to know the protagonist. The fairy tale told by Berta represents “the importance of hard work”. The goose’s general outlook is that “Life is difficult. You’ll never succeed if you don’t move forward”. The goose’s attitude in life and her dynamic character are supported by the other characters in the story.

In her efforts to attract Bo, the goose successfully learns how to imitate other animals’ voices. When Bo cries: “*It’s a miracle! Never has a goose used its voice so successfully before!*”, the goose’s transformation is recognized. In the final chapter, our protagonist appears as a guest on Bo’s TV show, and stirs the interest of the audience.

The little goose is forced to face reality when Berta picks her up from Bo’s mansion and brings her back to Red Butterfly Farm: “... *The goose stopped eating. Berta tried in vain to feed her. The goose even refused to eat her favorite snack.*

She started to shed feathers, and got weaker. With each passing day, she got uglier. She even stopped cleaning herself. She started to look filthy.” (pg. 64-65)

Finally, the goose is diagnosed with depression and set free to go and live with Bo. With the help of Bo and other friends, she is soon back to life. In her marriage, her desire for change and self-improvement never ceases. She teaches her point of view to her husband, Pufpur. They have three babies, Cuf, Cufcuf and Cino; and impart their wisdom about life to them. As a big happy family, they begin to star in a new TV program.