

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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# CALIKUSU / THE WREN (1922)

## RESAT NURI GUNTEKIN (1889 – 1956)

### Apropos

*The Wren*, one of the Resat Nuri Guntekin's best-known novels and one of the most important novels that brought him his fame, was first published serially by Vakit newspaper in 1922 and then by Ikbal Library. After being published four times by the same publishing house, the literary work was re-published for the first time by Inkılap Publications in 2007. The literary work, which was originally written as a theater play rather than a novel, was fictionalized under the name *Istanbul Girl*. However, considering the length of the play and the difficulty of creating village sets, it was decided to publish the literary work in novel form. The main plot of the narrative revolves around Feride, who was raised by a wealthy family in Istanbul, goes to Anatolia to work as a teacher due to some personal issues and tries to realize herself. In the first four chapter of the narrative, the narrator is Feride, the protagonist. In the last chapter, the fifth chapter, the point of view of the third-person narrator is observed. The real-time and historical-time narration of the narrative begins during the Constitutional Era and extends until after WWI. The storyline is generally proceeding in a synchronic plane. There are also flashbacks in time to introduce some narrative characters and to clarify events and situations. It is seen that the events that make up the storyline take place in real spaces such as Istanbul, Bursa, Izmir, Kusadası, Tekirdag and Canakkale.

### Synopsis

"Feride, the daughter of a military officer from Istanbul, loses her parents at an early age. Under the protection of her aunt, she attends the French boarding school "Notre Dame de Sion". Because of her mischief, her friends at school nickname her "Wren" Feride spends her summer vacations at her aunt's mansion. She and Kamran, the handsome son of her aunt, fall in love and get engaged. On the day of wedding, Feride learns from a letter brought by a woman that Kamran had an affair with a sick girl named Munevver while he was in Switzerland and he promised to marry her. She leaves everything in the lurch and runs away. Feride works as a teacher in various parts of Anatolia (Zeyniler village, Bursa, Canakkale, etc.) She is quite idealistic. Her beauty causes trouble for her. There are various rumors about her. She meets Dr. Hayrullah, whom she had met in Zeyniler village, for the second time in Kusadası. Mr. Hayrullah, a fatherly man, protects Feride like a daughter; he marries her on paper due to public gossip, but they only have a "father-daughter" relationship. When Feride starts teaching, she keeps a "diary" and writes down everything that happens to her day by day. Mr. Hayrullah finds this diary, reads it and keeps it. When he falls ill, he bequeaths Feride to visit her aunt from time to time after his death and to deliver the sealed envelope to Kamran. After Mr. Hayrullah's death, his will is executed. Feride gives the envelope to Kamran. Inside the envelope is a letter from Mr. Hayrullah and Feride's "diary". In his letter to Kamran, Mr. Hayrullah advises him never to leave Feride again. Kamran reads the letter and Feride's diary until morning and learns everything. He does not leave Feride, who is leaving the next day, and the get married." (Edebiyat Fakültesi).

### People

<i>Feride</i>	The protagonist of the novel is a woman from Istanbul who goes to Anatolia to teach.
<i>Kamran</i>	He is aunt Besime's wealthy, handsome and kind son. He is Feride's cousin whom she falls in love with.
<i>Hayrullah</i>	He is a doctor who has dedicated his life to humanity and his country.
<i>Munise</i>	She is the young girl Feride adopts in Zeyniler who has experienced various misfortunes.
<i>Besime</i>	She is the aunt who raised Feride. She is like Kamran's mother.
<i>Mujgan</i>	She is Feride's cousin and the daughter of her aunt Ayşe.
<i>Ayşe</i>	She is Feride's aunt who lives in Tekirdag.
<i>Seyfettin</i>	He is Feride's brother-in-law and Kamran's father.
<i>Shayh Yusuf</i>	He is the music teacher Feride met at the school where she worked in Bursa.

*Mr. Resit* He is a wealthy businessman living in Izmir.  
*Cemil* He is Mr. Resit's arrogant and snobbish son.

The names of other background characters in the narrative are as follows: Nadide, Ihsan, Hafiz Kurban, Nazmiye; she is a teacher, Feridun, Burhanettin, Uncle Aziz, Mistress, Education Manager, Ferhunde, Sabahat, Munevver, Necdet, Mr. Mumtaz, Province Public Works Engineer, Rasit Nazim, Guzide; she is Feride's mother, etc.

### **Elaborative Storyline**

**Feride was being raised by different people in different places** On 8 September 19... Feride, twelve years old fourth grade student, begins to write her first memoirs on a homework given by her French teacher Sir Alexi. Feride, whose father was an artillery major moved constantly during her parents' lifetime. Her life started in Istanbul and then continued in Diyarbakır, Syria, various provinces in Arabia and finally in Karbala. When Feride was two years old, her mother fell ill and Fatma, who lived in one of the villages in the region, was hired as a nanny. Fatma takes a very close interest in Feride and becomes a mother to her. Feride, who was raised by Mrs. Fatma during Mr. Nizamettin's tenure in Mosul, is quite happy. However, when Fatma is remarried in accordance with Arab traditions, she feels great sadness. When Feride reached the age of four, the family moved to Karbala. Huseyin, who is Mr. Nizamettin's orderly officer, becomes interested in Feride. Feride is very happy as she plays various games with Huseyin and rides the horse he steals from backgammon from time to time. But when Mr. Nizamettin learns that Huseyin is taking Feride for a ride, he reprimands him. After his marriage, Mr. Nizamettin was appointed to Diyarbakır, could not return to Istanbul again. Although she never complained about this situation, Feride's mother always missed Istanbul and dreamed of returning there one day.

**Feride moves into her aunt after losing her parents** When her mother fell ill and was brought to Istanbul, where she died after a while, Mr. Nizamettin enrolled Feride in *l'Ecole des Soeurs*. Feride, who starts studying here as a boarding student, turn into a very mischievous student. She constantly talks to her friends, makes fun of her teachers and walks on trees during recess, is called Wren. Feride is called to the principal's office while she is misbehaving again in class, learns that Mr. Nizamettin is on his deathbed. Feride takes the news of her father's death on the nose and starts to live in the house of her grandmother who owns a mansion in Kozyatagi. During this period, Feride becomes close to Kamran, the son of aunt Besime, and becomes jealous of his close relationships with other women. In particular, she is deeply disturbed by the blonde Neriman, a twenty-five-year-old widow, hanging around Kamran.

**Feride falling in love with Kamran** In August, Feride goes to her aunt Besime's house and gets close to Kamran. However, Feride does not know how to get close to Kamran because she is still a little girl and has a pugnacious temperament. She is jealous of how easily he talks to young women about topics that interest women. She even jokingly tells Kamran that he should have been born a woman and she should have been born a man, so that they can get married. The girls around say that the two can get married even in the current situation. Feride is very embarrassed by the girl's words. As she climbs a tree, she sees Kamran and Neriman walking together and coming under the tree. Although she does not want to listen their conversation, Feride cannot control herself and is noticed by the couple because of the noise she makes. When Feride returns to Dame de Sion, she learns that one of her classmates, Mathilde, has told her that she cannot flirt with anyone and she afraid of getting a bad reputation. Therefore, she tells her friends that she is flirting with her cousin Kamran and tries to appear warm with him during his visit. In fact, Feride realizes that she is being watched by Mathilde, who does not speak Turkish, and hugs Kamran and says sentences containing words like "love" and "affection".

**The rapprochement of Feride and Kamran** After Feride, who tries to deceive Mathilde with her manners and speeches, moves away from Kamran and she sees her looking for the notes of the music class and realizes that her efforts were in vain. Impressed by the attention shown to him, Kamran frequently visits Feride at school in the following days and spoils her with various gifts. Feride offers her friends the candies and desserts brought by Kamran and gains their sympathy, and everyone is convinced that Feride has a lover. When Feride meets and talks with Kamran, she succumbs to her excitement and becomes childish and shy. When she learns from her schoolmates that Neriman, a widow, has married an engineer and moved to Izmir, she realizes that her suspicions

are unfounded. During the summer, when classes are suspended, Feride goes to her brother-in-law Aziz's house in Tekirdag and starts spending time with her cousin Mujgan. They sit and chat together in the garden of the house and have a fun-filled time at the farm. Mujgan notices how Feride gets excited and embarrassed when Kamran is mentioned and realizes that she is in love with Kamran.

**The couple's engagement and having problems in their relationship** Kamran arrives in Tekirdag at an unexpected time starts to spend time with Feride and get closer to her. Feride attributes Kamran's interest in her to fact that Neriman has married someone else. But Feride, who gets very excited around Kamran and shows her love for him, becomes childish. Mujgan tells Feride that she should not be shy and afraid. She says that Kamran is a good person and that she can be happy with him. The two get engaged in Tekirdag as a result of the rapprochement between them. Immediately afterwards, they return to Istanbul to aunt Besime's house. But Feride, who is quite cold to Kamran and does not show enough interest in him who wants to get attention, returns to school when classes start. Feride cannot be a good fiancée for Kamran because she is very shy and looks at things in a childish way. Even though Feride is aware of the situation, she can't give up her childish behavior. After a while, it is learned that Kamran has received a job offer from his uncle in Madrid and will be going there soon. Thereupon, Feride returns home under the pretext of hearing that aunt Besime is sick and demands to know the truth from Kamran. Kamran tells her that his uncle in Madrid has offered him a job but he is undecided whether to go or not. Feride, who is proud and does not want to be seen as weak person, tells Kamran that he can go and that he has to work, even though she actually wants the opposite. Realizing that Feride is not sincere in what she says, Kamran says that there is still time ahead of them and that he will think about it.

**Feride's leaving home** During this period, Feride's behavior makes Kamran feel that she is still a child. Feride is afraid of getting close to Kamran and does not behave like a lover or a fiancée. Feride, who leaves the house to meet Kamran, notices a woman in a chador waiting outside the door. The woman in chador who introduces herself to Feride is forced to tell her the truth about Kamran. Kamran, who had previously gone to Switzerland for a few weeks, met a woman named Munevver during this stay and had an affair with her. Munevver, the daughter of one of the chamberlains, fell in love with Kamran and after months of their relationship, she fell into a sick bed as a result of being abandoned by Kamran. The woman in chador tells Feride that she is afraid that Munevver will die of grief if she marries Kamran and that she should not have this marriage. Although Feride is angry with the woman in the chador, she is even more angry with Kamran's carelessness and indifference and leaves the house, leaving a letter to her fiancée. Having decided a plan for the future, Feride decides to go to Anatolia and become a teacher. Until she leaves Istanbul, Besime decides to stay at the houses of people she rarely sees in order to avoid being found by her aunt and her circle.

**Feride's appointment in Anatolia as a teacher** Feride goes to the house of the wet nurse of an old acquaintance who lives in Sahrayıcedit. She stays in the muhajir woman's house who for a while. As the procedures required for her passage to Anatolia took about a month, she had to be a guest in the other people's houses. She goes to the house in Eyupsultan of forewoman Gulmihal, who had taken care of her mother when she was sick. Gulmihal, seeing Feride for the first time after many years, recognizes her as Guzide (Feride's mother). As Feride grows up, she becomes much like her mother. Gulmihal, who gets extremely emotional every time she sees Feride, cannot control her tears and gladly hosts her in her own home. Feride goes to the Ministry of Education in order to get a teaching position in Anatolia, comes face to face with the bureaucracy in the for the first time. Since she is away from her school and family for the first time, she has to take care of her personal care on her own. Thanks to the help of Mr. Sahap and the old clerk working at the Ministry of Education, the official procedures are completed in shorter time than they should have been. Feride, whose application was initially rejected because she had been educated in a French-medium school, gets a positive result with the intervention of another manager. The Director of Education appoints Feride as a Geography and Painting teacher at Bursa Central Junior High School. Having achieved what she wanted, Feride and moves to the city where she will start her duty without wasting any time in excitement.

**Feride takes office in Zeyneler instead of Bursa** Feride, who has started to stay at Foreman Hacı's hotel since the day she is appointed to Bursa, goes to the school where she is going to work after completing her paperwork. The mistress tells Feride that a teacher from Gallipoli was appointed to the same branch a while ago and that there might be a mistake. But Feride, who presents the appointment order given by the directorate to the mistress, has to meet with Director of Education in

the province. Mrs. Huriye, who has just been transferred from Gallipoli, has a nervous breakdown when she learns that someone else has been assigned to the branch which she will be working and starts to blame Feride. Feride responds to Mrs. Huriye in the same way and does not back down. After the unfortunate incident, although the Mistress wants to meet Feride in her own room, Feride returns to the hotel where she is staying. After a while, the Director of Education comes to meet Feride and tells her how difficult a situation Mrs. Huriye is in. Mrs. Huriye pities herself by telling Feride that she is in a very difficult financial situation and has a family to take care of. A bearded old man around also supports Huriye. In a very difficult situation, Feride is forced to accept an offer made to her by the Director of Education. A foundation school was built in Zeyniler, a village in Bursa. The Director of Education manages to win Feride over by telling her that she will be more comfortable both financially and spiritually in Zeyniler. Necessary correspondence is made with the relevant authorities and Feride's place duty is changed to Zeyniler village. But later, Feride learns that the governor's office preferred her to be assigned to the high school instead of Mrs. Huriye, but that the Mistress and Huriye schemed to turn this situation to their advantage.

**What Feride experienced in Zeyniler** The week spent at Zeyniler seemed quite long to Feride. Because the village is very quiet and there is nothing to do. Feride starts to teach in school that is made out of a barn and teaches in a classroom where there are mostly girls, except for a few male students. She learns that the boys are doing hard works in the village and therefore cannot attend classes much. She also learns that most of the peasant boys go to another village school an hour away. The inconsistent behavior of the village children deeply affects Feride. Because although they can be quite quiet, cold and shy in the classroom, they can become quite rough when playing games or talking among themselves. Mrs. Hatice, who had previously taught children, helps Feride in every aspect. Mrs. Hatice helps Feride to adapt to the village and with other tasks. Feride, who tries her best to teach the children new things, to open their horizons and to make them behave like children, faces great obstacles. Because it is very difficult to change the habits and mindsets of children. The fountain near her house, the animals she takes care of and the students she loves give Feride the strength to endure. The three male students in her class, Vehbi, Cafer Agha and Asur, catch Feride's attention. One of the male students tells Feride that she can marry his brother who is a gendarme. Feride is amazed at how young children can easily talk about issues that only adults can think about.

**How Feride and Munise met** After a short period of time, Feride sees a new student has joined the class. Admiring the beauty and dignity of a new female student named Munise, Feride's motherly instincts are aroused. Feride, who takes a close interest in Munise and observes her both break of classes, tries to get know and understand the little girl closely. Having lost her mother a while ago, Munise's father married for the second time. Since her stepmother makes her housework, she is sometimes unable to come to school. After her father retired forestry service and lost his wife, he started to neglect his daughter greatly. The most important reason for this is that there were rumors that Munise's mother is a bad woman. During the class break, the girls in the class are seen attacking Munise and squirting water onto her from their mouths. Feride, who witnessed the incident, wants to intervene without wasting any time. But one of the male students intervenes before Feride. Feride takes the semi-conscious Munise into her arms and takes her to her room.

**Feride protects Munise** Feride, who passes over her student in the class for a while and takes care of Munise, is very saddened by her situation. She is inwardly devastated by the fact that she is despised by her mother, that her mother has become an unwanted woman in the village and that the little girl is constantly subjected to pressure and torment. Munise, who could not attend classes because she was made to work at home by her stepmother did not come to school for three days. Feride asks Vehbi to bring news about why Munise couldn't come to school. Munise, who was beaten by her stepmother after her brother fell off the swing while trying to remove the neighbor's cow from their land, cannot attend classes because of the work she is assigned. With the arrival of December, Zeyniler village is covered with snow. Feride, who loves winter and snowfall, feels joy as if it is spring. Munise, who tries to walk from home to school during heavy snowfall, couldn't be reached for a long time. Thereupon, it is feared that she was attacked by wolves. Feride's worries increase exponentially when there is no news from Munise in the evening. After a while, Munise is found almost frozen and when she is delivered to Feride, she faints in her arms. Feride takes Munise to her house and warms her up and feeds her. Feride, who never leaves Munise's side and watches over her, sees that Munise is getting better and better as time goes by. From that day, Munise starts to stay at Feride's house and live with her.

### **Feride adopts Munise and forced to leave Zeyniler**

With the arrival of spring, Director of Education Rasit Nazım and Provincial Public Works Engineer Mr. Mumtaz visit Zeyniler village. Accompanied by Feride, the two inspect the school, find constructional problems in the building and decide to demolish it. It is decided to demolish the school and build a more solid building. This caused great sadness among the villagers. Because Zeyniler people do not want their school to be demolished and they do not want to lose their teachers. Mrs. Hatice, the former teacher of the village, is the most upset about the current situation. Upon the news that the school will be demolished, it is decided that Feride will be given a job elsewhere and that she will go to Bursa and meet with the authorities. Before leaving Zeyniler, Munise disappears for a while. When she returns home, Munise is asked what she did. Munise tells Feride that she met her mother before she left and that she had to do it secretly. Feride feels very sorry for Munise who had to meet her mother secretly and wants to meet her face to face before leaving the village. Munise brings her mother back halfway and they meet in front of a lodge. Feride is very upset about Munise's mother. She promises Munise's mother that she will take good care of her daughter. She shares her pain with the mother who was not given the opportunity to be a mother her own daughter. After receiving the mother's approval, they go to Bursa.

### **Feride becomes a French teacher in Bursa**

Upon arriving in Bursa, they meet with the Director of Education. He decides to transfer Feride to another village school and initiates the necessary procedures. But, it is learned that some journalists from France are inspecting the building. One of the journalists is Feride's old school friend Christian Warez and she is with her husband Pierre. The French, who have come to interview the Director, forget the purpose of their visit by engaging in conversation with Feride. The employees of the institution watch with open mouths how fluently Feride speaks French with foreigners. Provincial Public Works Engineer Mr. Mumtaz is among those who listen to the conversation between Feride and her friends. Because, while they were examining the school in Zeyniler, he told Rasit Nazım in French to make Feride uncover her face. It is then understood that Feride, who had not shown that she could speak French, could speak French. After the scene they see, the institution management decides to transfer Feride to Bursa Women's Teachers Training College. Feride goes to her new place of assignment and Mrs. Sehnaz, the deputy teacher, shows her around. Not only is Feride satisfied with the school, but she is also satisfied with the staff and students. Students do not leave their teacher even during breaks. Apart from female teachers, there are also a few male teachers at the school. Mr. Zahit is a religion teacher, Mr. Omer is a geography teacher and Sheikh Yusuf Efendi is a music teacher. Mr. Yusuf, the sheikh of Bursa Mevlevi Lodge, is highly respected by everyone. Mr. Yusuf, whose face is very bright, creates a good impression on Feride.

### **Friendship between Feride and Mr. Sheikh Yusuf**

Feride, who has started teaching in Bursa province, celebrates the first anniversary of leaving her home with the arrival of May. On the occasion of May Fete, the students of the school are taken on a field trip. There is a rapprochement between Feride, who is particularly interested in music, and Mr. Sheikh Yusuf. They enjoy chatting and spending time with each other. One day, Feride enters the school's storage room to get supplies and starts playing the keyboard she has seen. Hearing the sound of the organ she plays, Mr. Sheikh Yusuf starts listening to Feride's performance. At the end of the performance the two cannot control their tears. After this incident, a more intimate relationship is established between the two. On a rainy evening, a hard knock is heard on the door of Feride's house. Initially frightened, Feride opens the door when she looks out of window and sees a woman in a chador standing at the door. The person who has come to visit Feride urgently is Mr. Yusuf's sister. Mr. Yusuf, who has been ill for about ten years, is completely bedridden and struggling with death. At the request of Mr. Yusuf, who had told his sister that he wanted to see Feride one last time when he came to his senses, his sister came to Feride's house. Upon receiving the news, Feride goes to Mr. Yusuf and does not leave his side until the moment he dies. Feride kisses the eyes of Mr. Yusuf, who opens them for the last time.

### **Feride constantly changes location due to men's harassment**

Feride, who decides to change location after the tragic event she experienced and the rumors circulating among the local people, asks the Director of Education to be assigned to another place. Finding it inconvenient for Feride to stay in Bursa, the Director of Education approves her request and thus Feride is assigned to Canakkale Junior High School. Feride, who starts teaching in her new workplace, is very pleased with Canakkale. She especially enjoys spending time in a place called Sogutluk. She enjoys attending people's entertainments and going to weddings. Feride, whose beauty becomes a source of gossip among the locals, is nicknamed Gülbeseke (Rose Jam). Feride is asked for her hand by Captain Ihsan, the older brother of Nadide, one of the rich and vulgar students at the school. But Feride

refuses to marry İhsan. One of the neighbors, Hafiz Kurban, sends his wife to Feride and proposes marriage to her and wants to take her as his second wife. Nazmiye, one of the teachers working at the same school, tries to introduce Burhanettin, a rich and flirtatious major, to Feride at the nighttime party under the pretext of introducing her to her fiancée. Although Feride rejects Burhanettin, he is seen to be insistent. Thereupon, a trick is played on Feride to try to bring the two together. However, Feride firmly rejects Burhanettin. After incident is heard and talked about by the local people, the mistress meets with Feride. The mistress tells Feride that she finds her too airy, that she attracts too much attention with her beauty and behavior, and that the right thing to do is to be transferred to another place because of events that happened.

**Feride's learning that Kamran got married** Feride, who had been waiting for three months in İzmir to be given an assignment, meets with Resit Bey. Although Feride does not get a good result in the written exam, she is quite successful in the oral exam. Mr. Resit tells Feride not to waste herself in the public school and offers her to teach French to his daughters. Her tells her that she will both earn more money and be more comfortable. Feride finds the offer reasonable and moves into Mr. Resit's mansion with Munise. However, after moving into mansion, Feride starts to be harassed by Cemil, Mr. Resit's son. Even though she wants to leave the mansion, Feride decides to hold on for a while due to the fear of not finding a job. While looking through the photo albums with Mr. Resit's daughters, Ferhunde and Sabahat, Feride sees a photograph of Kamran. Feride learns that Kamran is married to Ferhunde and Sabahat's aunt Munevver. Following this information, Feride wants to leave the mansion once and for all. Although Mr. Resit proposes marriage to Feride, she rejects this proposal and goes to Kusadası.

**The experiences of Feride after moving to Kusadası and her relationship with Mr. Hayrullah** When the war break out, while she was teaching in Kusadası, Feride temporarily starts to work as a nurse at the school which is converted into a hospital. While working as a nurse, Feride meets again with Dr. Hayrullah, whom she had met in Zeyniler. Mr. İhsan, who was wounded in his face during the war, is brought to the hospital where Feride works. After the surgery, Mr. İhsan is discharged from hospital after regaining his health. Feride, who tells Mr. Hayrullah about Kamran and why she hates him, makes a marriage proposal to Mr. İhsan to prove that she does not love him. But Mr. İhsan, thinking that the marriage proposal was made out of pity for him, rejects the proposal. With end of the five-year war, the school is restored and classes begin. Munise, who falls ill and falls into sickbed, cannot regain her health and passes away. Feride cannot get out of bed for seventeen days in an unconscious state due to the painful event she has experienced. Dr. Hayrullah takes care of Feride, shows her almost fatherly affection and takes her to his farm. But, Feride is forced to quit her beloved teaching job after rumors of an extramarital affair with Dr. Hayrullah. Dr. Hayrullah makes a fake marriage with Feride in order to end the rumors and prevent possible bad events. Dr. Hayrullah turns his farm in Alacaköyü into an orphanage.

**Happiness after sadness** After his wife Munevver fell ill and died, Kamran returns to Besime's house in Tekirdag with his son Necdet. When Dr. Hayrullah also dies, Feride gets back surprisingly to Tekirdag. When old lovers reunite, the feelings that have faded away are ignited. Necdet treats Feride as if she were his mother. Before leaving, Feride delivers the envelope left by Dr. Hayrullah to be given to Kamran before he dies her aunt's daughter Mujgan. Mujgan delivers the envelope to Kamran before the promised date and inside the envelope is Feride's diary that she had kept for years. In his letter, Dr. Hayrullah states to Kamran that he knew that Feride had always loved him and that he married her only to protect her. He also states that he shared the diary with him for Feride's happiness and that he does not care about Kamran in the slightest and that all he thinks about is Feride. He also expresses that he does not understand what honest and virtuous girls like Feride find in reckless and carefree men like Kamran. Motivated by the letter he read, Kamran prepares a marriage ceremony with his uncle Aziz on the day Feride leaves home. Thereupon, Feride and Kamran get married.

## Themes

**Patriarchy** Feride, the protagonist of the novel *The Wren*, leaves her aunt's house in Istanbul and goes to Anatolia and starts working as a teacher. From the day she leaves her aunt's house and starts her life, she is faced with a male-dominated world. The Director of Education, to whom she applies to teach in Anatolia, is a male. Because she is a young woman, she is sometimes belittled and despised. She is often harassed by men in the Anatolian provinces where she goes to work as a teacher. Cemil,

the arrogant and snobbish son of Mr. Resit, Burhanettin, Hafiz Kurban and some other male characters insist on being with her. Trying to stand alone in a world completely under the control of men, Feride struggles to protect her honor and dignity. Kamran, to whom she is engaged, has an affair with a woman he met in Switzerland, and after a while, he leaves her in the lurch and returns to his country. Years after leaving her home, she learns that her ex-fiancé, whom she could not forget, married another woman and had a child. Despite being the protagonist of the narrative, Feride remains quite ineffective in the face of events and situations. However, she resists the negative situations she encounters by saying "No".

*Love* Feride, the female protagonist of the narrative, starts to live in her aunt Besime's mansion in Istanbul after losing her parents. Although she is still a little girl while she is studying at Dame de Sion, she begins to have sincere and deep feelings for her older cousin Kamran. When she makes others realize this with her attitudes and actions, others suggest that there might be a relationship between the two. As a result, the two get closer to each other, especially Feride. Kamran begins to visit Feride frequently at her school and make surprises for her. Notwithstanding Kamran wants to experience good things and share a lot with his new fiancée, Feride, who is still a young girl, does not do anything that a lover or fiancée should do. Therefore, when Feride finds out that Kamran is having an affair with another woman in Switzerland, she leaves home. She works as a teacher in various provinces in Anatolia. Years later, when she returns to his aunt's house, Kamran reads the letter sent by the late Mr. Hayrullah and learns what Feride has been through over the years and how much he is loved by her. Then he organizes a surprise wedding ceremony and marries Feride. Feride forgets what happened in the past and accepts Kamran's child Necdet and marries the person she loves.

*Search* After falling in love with her aunt's son Kamran and later getting engaged to him, Feride leaves Kamran and goes to Anatolia when she learns that the man she loved left a woman with whom he had an affair in Switzerland and made her very upset. Feride, who has always lived in sheltered places throughout her life, whose basic needs have always been supplied by others and who has never faced the difficulties of life, embarks on an uphill struggle. Feride, who began to work for the first time and has started to struggle with life on her own, faces many difficulties and tries to discover and get to know herself. While she was teaching in provinces such as Bursa, Canakkale and Izmir, she encounters important problems in both her professional and personal life and tries to overcome these problems. The broken-down bureaucracy of the state, the ignorance of the locals, the oppression of men, poverty, greed, backwardness and indifference are the main problems Feride has to constantly struggle with. Feride, who takes brave steps to create her identity, struggles against all the difficulties she faces and tries to emerge victorious from struggle as much as she can. Feride, who left Istanbul and went to Anatolia is quite different from Feride who returned to Istanbul from Anatolia. Feride returns to where she came from as a mature person.

*Degenerateness* When Feride learns that Kamran, the son of her aunt with whom She was in love, was seeing another woman while he was in Switzerland, she leaves her aunt's house in Istanbul to go to the Anatolian provinces, where she will be away from the urban class to work as a teacher. From that moment on, Feride confronts the bureaucratic structure of the state many times and witnesses the corruption in person. State institutions run by unqualified, uncaring or corrupt administrators are no longer functioning properly and as they should. Even for the simplest civil service jobs, people are unable to find work in state institutions without the advice or favor of an occupant or a fat-cat. "As Feride is an educator, the social criticism of educational institutions and administrators especially in Anatolia is revealed in the work. In the work, which is about the post-Constitutional period of the ottoman Empire, there are even episodes in which the flawed education policy of the period and its reflection in Anatolia take precedence over The Wren's love affair. (...) The slow functioning of the bureaucracy and the difficulties caused by the civil servants come to light again on the days when Feride comes to B. from Zeyniler. The efforts of the civil servants in charge to ensure the running of the affairs in the society and the difficulties they create in order to show themselves knowledgeable are again brought to the attention by the narrator with veiled sarcasm" (Kanter 2008, 109-111).

## **Character Analysis**

**Feride** (Open/Social/Emotional) Feride, who had to live in various parts of the Ottoman Empire due to being the daughter of an artillery major father, lost her sick mother at a young age and her father

after a while. After losing her parents, Feride is taken in by her aunt Besime, who had a mansion in Kozyatagi, Istanbul, and begins studying a Dame de Sion as a boarding student. Because she is an extremely mischievous and talkative girl and jumps from tree to tree during class breaks, she is nicknamed Wren by the students. Feride falls in love with Kamran, the handsome son of her aunt Besime, and in time, as her feelings begin to be understood by others, they begin to be reciprocated. Later on, the two get married. However, Feride, who is still a young girl, cannot behave like a fiancée and leaves all of Kamran's attempts fruitless. When she learns that Kamran has been with a woman during his trip to Switzerland and that he has failed her, she decides to leave her aunt's house in Istanbul and go to Anatolia to work as a teacher. "When Feride's personality traits are carefully analyzed, it is seen that she actually has a morbid state of mind. Feride has found different ways to transfer her love to others by getting out of the loveless environment of her childhood, and she has imprisoned her pain inside and wore a mask against the outside. Feride has a sensitive, delicate, narcissistic and complex personality underlying her playful and mischievous personality. Therefore, there are differences between Feride's personality before she goes to Anatolia and her personality after Anatolia" (Kanter 2008, 93).

*Understanding* Feride, whose inner world we follow through her diary and internal monologues, is seen to have an understanding and sensitive character: "Let them do whatever they want, what does it matter to you? you will say. "What do I care? Kamran is my cousin, even if he's my enemy... Do I want some unknown woman to corrupt his morals? What was I saying?.. Yes, it was an August moonlight night" (Güntekin 2017, 38).

*Lover* She falls in love with her aunt Besime's older son Kamran: "Mujgan started running. On the contrary, I slowed down my gait. I felt short of breath, my knees were weak" (Güntekin 2017, 33).

*Idealist* She wants to give his student a good education and instill in them progressive values: "I will have a small school. I will decorate it with flowers from head to toe. My children, I will have a whole range of children. I'll make them call me "sister". I'll sew black school uniforms by hand for the poor" (Güntekin 2017, 127).

*Honest* When she begins to work, she sees injustice and corruption, but she is not a part of it: "- It seems that you are new in this profession. Don't you know anyone in supervision? he said. – No. Maybe there is someone I know, but I don't know, I said. But why is that necessary? – He said, "You'll understand that later, my daughter" (Güntekin 2017, 130).

*Ardent* In addition to opening up her feelings to others, she is quite exuberant and agile: "Whenever I am deeply saddened, my eyes light up, my demeanor and actions brighten up, and I become hysterical. I laugh as if I were disregarding the world, and I babble and rave about all sorts of things. However, I think it is better for people who have no one close to them and no ability to open up to others" (Güntekin 2017, 10).

*Offended* When she learns that Kamran had an affair with a woman in Switzerland and abandoned her, her love turns to hatred: "Mr. Kamran! We read the romance "Yellow Flower" from cover to cover. We won't see each other again until die. I hate you" (Güntekin 2017, 54).

*Merciful* She reflects all her maternal affection on Munise: "That day, I neglected my students a little bit and I was busy with Munise. I cleaned her beautiful body and her light blond hair, almost white, like a lily that had been battered by storms" (Kanter 2008, 79).

*Sad* Her sadness always continues because she has never been able to forget Kamran: "Kamran, it's today that we are actually separated from each other. It is today that I become a widow... Despite all that happened, all that passed, you were still mine; I was yours with all my soul..." (Güntekin 2017, 115).

**Kamran** (Open/Social/Rational) Kamran, who grew up as the only son of a wealthy family, is an Istanbul gentleman with a full bourgeois upbringing. He is the son of Besime, who lives in Istanbul. He has been abroad many times for various purposes and has been blended together with Western culture. Therefore, he has a completely open character and is mentally more of a Westerner than an Oriental. It can be said that Kamran, who gets along very well with women and easily impresses them

with his attitude, stance and knowledge, is almost a local Casanova. Even though Feride, who is still a little girl, thinks that Kamran looks like a thin and delicate girl rather than a young boy, she falls in love with him in time. Realizing this situation, Kamran makes Feride fall in love with him even more and makes his intentions clear with the attention he shows to Feride and the gifts he buys her. Kamran, who had begun to visit Feride frequently by going to Dame de Sin with various gifts, marries her. Though over time, it becomes clear that Kamran is seeing other women and letting them down. When Feride becomes aware of Kamran's insensitivity and indifference, she leaves him. "The love theme, which constitutes the plot of the novel, is a tool-object that enables the protagonist to mature. The object to which is reciprocated I Kamran. (...) Kamran complements the kind and gentle aspects that Feride lacks as a girl. In contrast to Feride's seemingly insensitive attitude towards life, Kamran is seen in a more romantic and polite nature" (Kanter 2008, 95).

*Vigilant* Feride thinks that Kamran has a cunning character who looks for opportunities to get what he wants: "I called Kamran a fool, but only out of anger... Otherwise, I know that he's a dark horse cunning" (Güntekin 2017, 17).

*Interested* He is particularly interested in the opposite sex and is knowledgeable about what they like: "Don't be offended then... While you were talking to ladies about the frocks, I thought that God had made you wrong... You were supposed to be a girl... But not at your current age... Maybe around thirteen or fourteen..." (Güntekin 2017, 15).

*Sympathetic* He is very good at communicating with others and endearing himself: " – What can we do? Since children's gifts are no longer acceptable, from now on, we will inquire after your well-being with serious things peculiar for adults, he said" (Güntekin 2017, 25).

*Generous* He likes to share things with his loved ones: "That year, Kamran came to the school many times. So many times, that my heart was jumping every time the door opened, as if he were coming to call me to the parlor. I can say that whole class lived by the chocolates, cookies and cakes her bought me" (Güntekin 2017, 28).

*Beloved* Feride has a sincere and deep love for Kamran: "Since that day, you were nothing but a stranger, an enemy to me, Kamran!... I knew we would never meet face to face again, never look at each other with the eyes of this world, never hear each other's voices. Even so, I couldn't get the feeling of being your fiancée out of my heart (Güntekin 2017, 114).

*Understanding* He patiently endures Feride's caprices and childishness: "Ah, Wren, even if you turn a hundred years old, you will still not stop being crazy and joking, Kamran was saying" (Güntekin 2017, 116).

*Polite* In general, he has a very kind and gentle character: "I deeply resented this boy, who looked more like a girl than a boy, with his white peau de Suède shoes on his little girl-like feet, his silk socks, his delicate body that seemed to sway like a twig when he walked, his long white neck protruding from the open collar of his sadakor shirt" (Güntekin 2017, 28).

**Munise** (Open/Social/Rational/Emotional) Munise, who lives in the Zeyniler village, initially appears to the reader as a primary school child. It is emphasized how physically beautiful she is with her blonde hair, white skin and blue eyes. Unlike other children from Zeyniler, she speaks Turkish properly, almost close to Istanbul Turkish. Again, unlike other peasant children, she is more mature in character. Munise raised by her stepmother after her mother becomes unwanted in the village where she was born for some unknown reason and is abandoned by her husband. But stepmother makes Munise do chores and beats her at every opportunity. Her father, a retired woodsman, remains silent about all the injustices committed against his daughter. Munise, who is constantly belittled and despised by her friends in the village, is adopted by Feride. Feride satisfies her maternal instincts through Munise. After getting the approval of Munise's birth mother, Feride takes Munise with her because she has to leave the Zeyniler. After that day, Feride treats Munise as if she were his own daughter. "Little Munise is the norm character who makes the protagonist Feride forget the pain of being motherless at a young age and supports her with her presence in the days when she is alone in Anatolia. This little girl, who fills the lack of motherly love in Feride, appears before Feride at school in Zeyniler. Feride, who first approaches her with pity, is saddened when she sees that she is being forced to do hard labor by her stepmother despite her young age" (Kanter 2008, 95).

*Beautiful* The beauty of Munise's inner world is reflected in her physical appearance: "At the margin of the desk, which is at the back of the class, a girl with pale blond hair, almost white, clear white skin and beautiful angelic face was smiling at me with her pearly teeth" (Güntekin 2017, 76).

*Smart* She is more mature than other children, speaks proper Turkish and is very polite: "With her clear Istanbul pronunciation and her unbelievably sweet voice: - "My name is Munise, teacher. - You study at this school? - Yes, teacher. - Why didn't you come for days? My mother didn't send me, teacher, we had work to do. I will come after this" (Güntekin 2017, 77).

*Unfortunate* Because of her mother's notoriety in the village, she is also disliked and shunned by everyone: " - Thank God they looked after her so much, anyone else would have thrown her out in the street. - Hay? - This girl's mother is a bad woman. - Maybe, Mrs. Hatice, but what is this child's fault?" (Güntekin 2017, 78).

*Oppressed* She is oppressed by her stepmother and abandoned by her father: "The girls were forced to retreat against this attack. I took Munise in my arms, half conscious, and took her to my room" (Güntekin 2017, 78).

*Desperate* She doesn't have the power to change her destiny: "She pities me and I pity her, she said. Neither of us has anything..." (Güntekin 2017, 79).

*Beloved* Feride, who sank into her maternal instincts, loves her like her own daughter: "Chances are, I won't have Munise either. My hair will slowly turn gray. I hope and endure, it's fine. I'm willing to do this, but why and to wait for what?" (Güntekin 2017, 105).

*Sympathetic* She establishes very friendly and cordial relationships with others: "My sister, you are like velvet. When one looks at your face, it's like looking at oneself in a mirror" (Güntekin 2017, 211).

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