

**KAHRAMANMARAŞ**  
**KÜLTÜR**  
**SANAT**  
**E-NEWSLETTER**

**READER-WRITER**

**BRIDGE:**

**AUTHORS IN SCHOOLS**



## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CITY OF WORDS AUTHORS IN SCHOOLS

A land where countless poets were inspired to take up the pen, where writers turned thought into spark, is now preparing to become a home for the voices of the future. And along this path, a dream is quietly growing month by month, inside schools. With the project "Reader-Writer Bridge: Authors in Schools," literature gently slips between the rows of desks. Poetry sometimes enters a classroom quietly, right after a math lesson; a novel smiles at a student from between the pages of a notebook during recess...

### THE CAPITAL OF LITERATURE YOUNG PENS ARE BEING NURTURED IN KAHRAMANMARAŞ

"Reader-Writer Bridge: Authors in Schools" Project carried out in collaboration between Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality and the Provincial Directorate of National Education, the "Reader-Writer Bridge: Authors in Schools" project brought together students and distinguished authors from the literary world throughout the 2024-2025 academic year.

The project included 5 schools from the Dulkadirođlu district and 15 schools from the Onikişubat district. Participating schools from Dulkadirođlu were: Hoca Ahmet Yesevi Imam Hatip High School, Dulkadirođlu Anatolian High School, TOKİ Kazım Karabekir Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, Fatih Anatolian High School, and Hacı Mehmet Kalay Girls' Anatolian Imam Hatip High School.

From the Onikişubat district, the following schools took part: Kahramanmaraş Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, Aziz Sancar Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, Süha Erler Anatolian High School, Ali Rıza İşbilir Anatolian High School, Şehit İlhan Güleç Anatolian High School, Kahramanmaraş Science High School, Çukurova Electricity Anatolian High School, 19 Mayıs Anatolian High School, Erdem Bayazıt Anatolian High School, İbrahim Çalık Anatolian High School, Kahramanmaraş Social Sciences High School, Kahramanmaraş TOBB Science High School, Merkez Atatürk Anatolian High School, Necmettin Erbakan Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, and Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School.

Held in the months of November, December, February, March, and April, the events brought 30 authors from various cities to different schools across Kahramanmaraş. Each month, 5 authors visited 20 schools, engaging with students in literary talks where they shared the power of writing, the value of ideas, and the importance of reading.

“Imagine a city where verses echo through its streets, where the wind carries poetry, and the sidewalks trace the footprints of literature...  
Imagine a city that grew in the shadow of the Seven Beautiful Men, nourished by words, breathing through sentences an ancient city...  
This is Kahramanmaraş.”

## NOVEMBER

### A JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE MAGIC OF WORDS

The first step of the project was taken in November. As part of this initial phase, prominent figures from the literary world were invited to take part in author talks held at 20 schools. Ali Emre, known for his historical novels and whose literary journey began during his student years; Mustafa Könençoğlu, an educator, poet, and author recognized for his poetry collections; Kaan Murat Yanık, a writer whose short stories and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals and who is also well-known for his historical novels; Salih Zengin, a notable name in children's literature and Betül Nurata, a writer of short stories all gave inspiring talks to students.



On November 19–20, 2024, the authors met with students at two different schools each day, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., sharing their personal writing journeys and the enchanting world of books. These interactive sessions sparked excitement and awareness among students about reading and writing.

## DECEMBER

### THE POWER OF LITERATURE MEETS THE YOUTH



In these talks, esteemed voices from the literary world engaged with students. Celal Fedai, known for his essays, poetry, and criticism; Aykut Nasip Kelebek, recognized for his poetry; Zafer Acar, noted for his novels and critical writings; children's author Ali Oturaklı; and Saadettin Acar, known for his essays and analytical pieces all conveyed the inspiring power of literature to the students.

As part of the project, December was once again filled with days immersed in literature. During this period, author-student meetings continued in 20 participating schools. On December 19 and 20, 2024, each author visited two schools per day at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. meeting with students in a total of four schools.



During his session at Kahramanmaraş Science High School, Celal Fedai encouraged students to express themselves in their own words, saying, "Reading and writing are personal journeys, independent of one's identity or profession."

## FEBRUARY

### THE LITERARY JOURNEY CONTINUES WITH AUTHOR-READER ENCOUNTERS

The February guests included the accomplished writer Sadık Yalsızuçanlar, renowned for his works in genres such as short stories, novels, tales, and essays, along with promising young voices of the literary world. Among them were Merve Uygun, known for her children's books and short stories; Yasin Taçar, recognized for his philosophical and reflective essays; Samet Karataş, a poet; and short story writer Gülşen Funda Çelik. By sharing their writing journeys, they helped cultivate awareness about reading and writing among students.



In his talk, Sadık Yalsızuçanlar shared his path to becoming a writer, his professional experiences, and personal memories with sincerity and wit. Through his words, "Writing is a path that leads to the heart. In this sense, one can say that being a writer means touching the heart," he emphasized that writing is not merely a means of expression, but also a way to establish emotional connections between people. Enthusiastically followed by both students and teachers, the talk transformed into a truly literary journey thanks to its warm and engaging atmosphere.





## MARCH

### THE JOY OF SPRING AND THE BLESSINGS OF RAMADAN IN THE CLASSROOM

In March, the author-reader meetings brought not only literary inspiration into classrooms but also the joy of spring and the spiritual abundance of the holy month of Ramadan. With the freshness of the season, these gatherings touched students' hearts and combined their enthusiasm for writing and intellectual creativity with the Spirit of Ramadan. Each talk opened the door to a new beginning for young writers.

As part of the project, 20 schools and 5 authors participated in the events throughout the month. On March 18, 19, and 20, author talks were held at various times and schools, allowing students to continue engaging with the colorful world of literature.

This month's guest authors included: Melikşah Sezen and Muhammed Yazıcı, known for their works in religious studies, philosophy, and thought; educator and writer Hüseyin Akın, recognized for his cultural and reflective essays; Melih Tuğtağ, known for his contributions to children's literature; and poet and writer Mustafa Könençoğlu.





In these sessions, the authors highlighted the cultural significance and spiritual meaning of Ramadan, using literary language to express its impact on young people. Students were introduced to inspiring reflections on both the inner world of Ramadan and the writing experience. The talks delivered powerful messages, fostering both personal and social awareness.

Drawing inspiration from literary texts, the authors conveyed the values of unity, sharing, and spirituality that characterize Ramadan, inviting students to explore these themes through literature. The events not only reinforced students' love for literature but also helped them gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of Ramadan. Thus, the March edition of the "Author-Reader Bridge: Writers in Schools" program brought together the Spirit of Ramadan with the transformative power of literature.



## APRIL

### A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON LITERATURE WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

The April edition of the "Author-Reader Bridge: Writers in Schools" program was held under the theme "Literature as a Way to Understand the World", as part of the 5th International Kahramanmaraş Poetry and Literature Days. On April 24–25, students from 18 different high schools came together with both local and international authors.

In these special gatherings, 12 writers from a variety of literary genres met with students for literary conversations. Among the national authors were poet Rıdvan Ardıç; short story writers Kürşat Çelik, Murat Murat, Sabahat Meraki, and Betül Nurata; novelist and short story writer Silvan Alpoğuz; and Mustafa Aplay, known for his work in interviews, novels, and short fiction. The events were further enriched by the presence of international authors. Ibrahim Nasrallah from Palestine, Lauren Mendinueta from Colombia, Toyin Adawele-Gabriel from Nigeria, Sonnet Mondal from India, and Fernando del Val Sanz from Spain all highlighted the universal power of literature during their sessions with students.

At Hacı Mehmet Kalay Girls' Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, Palestinian author Ibrahim Nasrallah also emphasized the Palestinian issue, stating: "Peace in the world is a poem where broken hearts reach out to one another, where languages speak with love, and where hopes quietly take root."





The authors held meaningful discussions with students on intercultural dialogue, the human experience, and the transformative power of poetry and literature. The international perspective enriched students' literary worldview, and the schools themselves were transformed into cultural meeting grounds. The foreign authors were welcomed with great interest and curiosity. Seizing the opportunity to view literature through a global lens, students eagerly asked questions about the writers' cultures, daily lives, and literary traditions. Every question sparked excitement; every answer brought new insight.

## A FUTURE SHAPED BY LITERATURE EACH ENCOUNTER AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

The cultural bridges built through literature have broadened young people's perceptions of both art and the world, while also helping to create a lasting literary atmosphere within schools. Students had the opportunity to engage directly with authors whose works have been published both in Turkey and abroad, to listen to their experiences, and to ask them questions.

The "Author-Reader Bridge: Writers in Schools" project went beyond being just a cultural event it left a lasting mark by deepening the intellectual world of young people and expanding their imagination. These meetings were not merely conversations. Sometimes, everything begins with a glance, a word, or a single sentence... Perhaps one of them will become the next shining star of Turkish literature. Perhaps, from the very last row of a classroom, another "Gentle Man"\* will emerge.



READER-WRITER

BRIDGE:

AUTHORS IN SCHOOLS

