



Tonguç Baba

(Series: Kendi Yolunu Çizen
Hayalperestler)
Boncuk Publishing, 2022
26 x 21 cm, 32 pp
4+ ages

World rights are available
except for Turkish



This book was
featured in The
White Ravens
2023 selection.



Father Tonguç

Nihan Güner & Mavisu Demirağ

This non-fiction picture book tells the story of Turkey's early 20th-century educational reform. It presents İsmail Hakkı Tonguç's history and sheds light on the development of Turkey's Village Institutes, which enabled children in rural areas to get a free education. The curriculum in Village Institutes is noteworthy for encapsulating interdisciplinary coursework ranging from science to arts while synthesizing local knowledge and practical know-how. The subtle illustrations inform the reader of the hardships of those years and show the developments in primary education. The book is significant in presenting one child's devotion to education and the importance of following one's ideals. In Tonguç's case, this benefited all of society in the end. The pastel colored palette illustrations convey the atmosphere of tough times and well-rounded, tranquil images help the reader easily follow Tonguç's life path. Maps, architectural landmarks, and many cultural details such as stamps, tiles, etc. enrich the book.

