



**“THE EUROPE OF MYTH AND LEGEND”  
USING ICT AND MYTHOLOGY IN DEVELOPING LITERACY**

# HIDIRELLEZ

**It is said that whatever you wish for on that night will come true!**

Hızır and Ilyas were the soldiers in the Turkish army in Anatolia. One day the Emperor and his army set off to look for the elixir of life called Abu Hayat (the fountain of youth). On the way Ilyas and Hızır got separated from the other soldiers. They sat down on the banks of a river and got out some dried fish from their bags to eat.

As they were eating some water from the river splashed on the fish; suddenly the fish came alive and jumped into the water. They realised they had found the elixir of life. At the same time an angel appeared. The angel told them that they would live till the end of the world. Hızır would always help the people in need on the land, while Ilyas would always help people in need at sea. In order to fulfill some of their missions, these two prophets wander around the land and the sea throughout the year.

Every year on May 6th a festival called Hıdırellez is celebrated as the day on which Hızır and Ilyas meet on the earth.

Hıdırellez is the traditional spring festival to celebrate the end of the winter, enjoying the spring sunlight, picknicking, relaxing, performing wedding parties, sacrificing, and making wishes. The day of “Hıdırellez” has been generally celebrated on May 6th. In some regions May 5th has been accepted as the day of Festival and May 6th as the day of “Hıdırellez” and ceremonies have been arranged accordingly. According to the legend, a rainy 6th of May is a sign of the tears of joy which reunite Ilyas and Hızır. It is believed that nature comes back to life with Ilyas and Hızır’s reunion as a sign of summer’s arrival. So Hıdırellez is the celebration of spring.

It is said that Hızır has the qualities of helping the poor, bringing abundance and making wishes come true. Bread is cooked, eggs are painted and seeds are planted. At night, silver pennies, quarters and red clothes are tied on rosewood trees. Young women throw rings and jump over fires to make their wishes come true and people have feasts, sing songs and play games with the sounds of drums. People don’t pick flowers on Hıdırellez and new seeds are planted instead. It is the day of celebrating the love of nature and consolidating the emotions of friendship, unity, solidarity and peace.

Hıdırellez is the story of spring and hope in our land, Anatolia....

**Hıdırellez**: is a celebration of arrival of Spring or Summer which means revival of Nature and its starting to live again.



SOURCE: FOR  
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By ERYAMAN TÜRKKENT İLKOKULU