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INTRODUCTION TO

Alperen Acar

1. What is EBA?

EBA (Educational Informatics Network) is an online education system that aims to educate primary, middle, and high school students according to a syllabus. It includes lecturing, assignments, and online classes. Its importance is understood better during the pandemic.

1.1 What is EBA TV?

It is a network of tv channels that includes lecturing. There are two different channels for every level, one is SD and the other is HD. There are six channels in total.

2. Who can access to EBA?

The students, their parents, and teachers can access to the content in EBA. The materials and courses they can reach depends on the students' grades and classes for students, teachers and parents.

3. How can people see the content in EBA?

To reach the content in EBA, students have to login with their id number and a password which is given by the Ministry of Education. The password is also suggested to be changed by students.

4. Is EBA Efficient?

The education has been cut because of the pandemic. To continue to education, many countries developed different strategies. EBA was the key of ministry of Education in Turkey. But teachers, students, and parents questioned its efficiency since it is released. EBA provides great convenience for teachers. However, it is important in terms of being a useful system for students rather than the convenience it provides to teachers. Since there are countless contents within EBA, students who log into EBA can access rich contents instantly and completely free of charge. Not only teachers but also students can share the content they have prepared for EBA. Students can easily access these presentations, visuals, and notes, and they can support their education processes by making use of these materials free of charge.

5. How Can Parents Support Their Children?

During the online classes, parents are the biggest supporters of their children. They must be careful about whether the students attend courses regularly. Before the class, children should have had their breakfast. If the child has a sibling, he must be in another room which quiet and should listen to their teacher there. After classes, parents and they can repeat the subject.

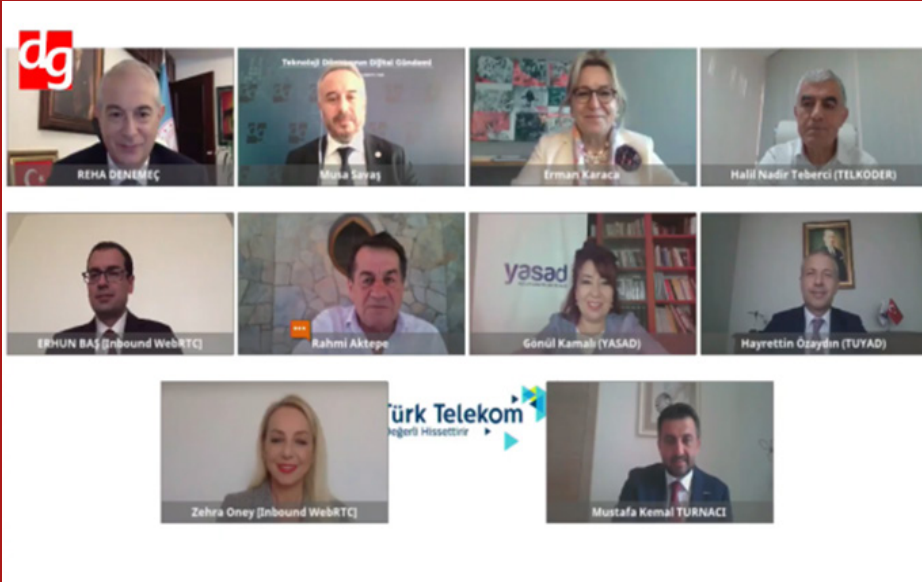
EBA TV Breaks Rating Records

OYKU KIY

On the second day of July 2020, The Deputy of the Ministry of National Education, Reha Denemeç, has attended Dijital Gündem's live video conference under the title of "The Education During the Pandemic and Aftermath" and he revealed some details about the broadcast statics of the EBA TV.

Denemeç remarked that: "Indeed, EBA TV is the most viewed channel in terms of ratings. Which channel claims that they are the number one, they do not declare the valid since it is EBA TV."

Whilst mentioning the fact that 3.1 billion clicks have been received. He added, "The ones in this sector should know, this is a substantial number. After news channels' websites, EBA TV is the 10th most visited web site in Turkey. Among the world, it is the most visited education web site." Also, he stressed that the usage of EBA TV generally happens via smartphones which is an important information according to their vision and mission. He said that their main purpose is to set up a system that can serve up to 5 million people at the same time in three years with the method of trial and error.



Designed by starline / Freepik

EBA LANGUAGE LEARNING PORTAL: ENGLISH

IREM SİLA ÖZER

Eğitim Bilişim Ağı or EBA is an educational content network in Turkey. This network gives online access to teachers and students for course materials. Among these materials, there are some materials intended for language learning. English language materials are categorized into three groups: publishers-educational publications, videos, and visual-audial aids.



The first category is “the publishers and educational publications”. These publications generally support students with textbooks. But there are also tests, and other kinds of books to help students to assess themselves before their exams. There are YDS publishing, TEGM, TEAM ELT, Speed Up, Kurmay, Hız, Dilko, and Ata publishing among these publishers. All these materials are free for students. In addition to these, there are some global publishers. University of Cambridge, British Council, and Global

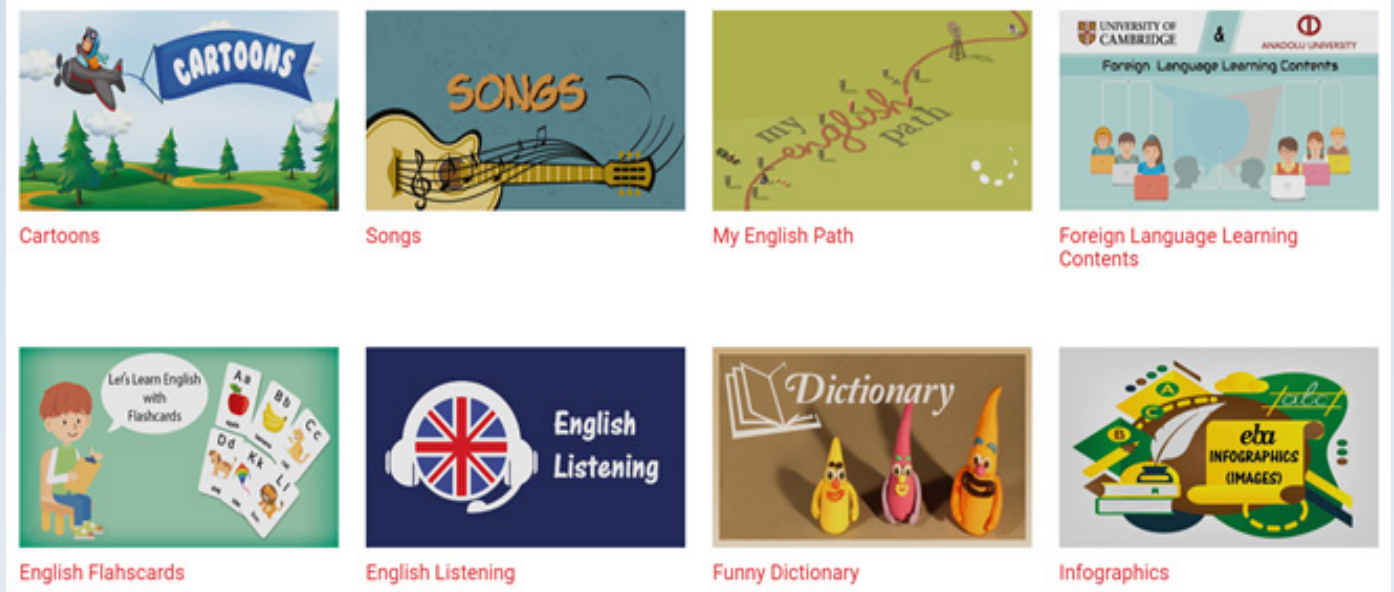
Kids Academy are providing materials for students as well.

The second category is “videos”. Videos are seen in three different sub-categories. These categories are arranged considering the levels of students as primary school, secondary school, and high school. Primary school video materials consist of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-grade materials. All videos are arranged according to the objectives of the lessons. The language of the videos is very easy and understandable for students. Secondary school video materials consist of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. General revisions, activity videos, and game videos are some of these video materials. High school video materials consist of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. These videos consist of alike videos. But 12th grade videos are a little different from others because it is the last year of high school. So, students are provided with some videos which will help them prepare for the university entrance exam.



The third category is “visual and audial aids”. There are eight different sub-categories. These are cartoons, songs, My English Path, foreign language learning contents, English flashcards, English Listening, Funny Dictionary, and infographics. Cartoons have diverse topics such as occupations, Ramadan, free time activities, or do it yourself. All of them are supported with subtitles. My English Path is a mobile application that allows students to level up by answering the questions that they encounter in the path. Students are expected to answer those question and gain the competences of a lesson. English Listening is almost the same as the previous one. When the page opens, four content appear on the screen. Art, jobs, people and society, and tourism. Students choose a topic and listen to the text that they want. Funny Dictionary consists of videos teaching students some words according to the content of the video. As the words are taught with the help of the videos, students learn words better and have fun.

In brief, EBA aims to support students and teachers with materials to make teaching more effective. It has lots of different visual and audial materials. These materials are arranged for students’ levels and their lesson objectives. If they are used effectively, students can benefit from them and learn English better.



<https://www.eba.gov.tr/dil-ogrenimi/ingilizce>

INTERVIEW WITH

Edibe Yılmaz

The Coordinator of EBA Distance Learning's
English Teaching in Secondary School

Translated by Gulnihan Altınay

1- What are the preparation stages of EBA TV broadcasts that we see in the course contents on the EBA electronic content network?

First of all, our EBA Distance Education Middle School English team carefully examines the curriculum prepared by the Board of Education and makes a list of the target achievements. After the achievements are determined, the course outline is drawn by discussing the contents that will provide the content of these achievements. Task sharing is done, and team members complete the sections assigned to them with the utmost care. All sections are brought together and presented to the review commission. In the review commission, evaluation is made in terms of field knowledge, scientific accuracy and compliance with publication principles. Anticipated changes are communicated to the team by the commission. After the team has made the necessary regulations, the lesson is now ready to be presented. After rehearsing the presentation, the narrator goes in front of the camera. After the shooting is completed, the editing-montage process begins. After the editing-montage process is completed, the content is re-examined. Changes are made if any is required. After these reviews, contents that are considered as appropriate are ready to take its place on EBA.

2- What is the efficiency of the exams held on EBA electronic content network?

In the EBA electronic content network, teachers send their students the exams that they find suitable for their students to take. This network is designed to

allow teachers to follow and evaluate these exams they send to students. The results of the exams are presented to the teacher as a report. By examining these reports, teachers can prepare new contents that they can overcome the learning deficiencies that they observed. In addition, since students can see the results, they can get instant feedback and notice their faults. I believe that these exams conducted within the EBA electronic network contribute to the ability to take the responsibility of learning expected from 21st century learners.

3- There are many negative stimuli that affect students' motivation and performance. Given this, may normal assessment criteria be directly transferred to distance education?

It is inevitable to establish different relationships between students and teachers, depending on the physical differences between the environment where face-to-face education is applied and the environment where distance education is applied. Within the scope of process evaluation, in distance education, the possibility of the teacher to form an opinion according to the participation of the students in the course is limited unlike face-to-face education. However, I believe that it will be possible to carry out continuous measurement and evaluation activities at every stage of education, provide effective and timely feedback, and evaluate both the process and the product by using different measurement methods and especially by benefiting from the developments in the field of artificial intelligence.

4- How does distance education continue in other countries? Is EBA made by taking a sample from any country/program or is it completely our product?

EBA, the digital platform of distance education, has not been made by taking an example from any country or program. EBA, which is a completely domestic and national electronic network, has ranked first in the field of education on a global scale. If we talk about other countries, according to the information we have received from our partners through various international projects we have conducted, there is no structure like EBA in any country that can be reached by the whole country and designed according to the needs of the country. Of course, there are other educational channels in the world. However, these channels produce their own educational content. EBA, on the other hand, publishes contents exactly in line with the school lessons and exactly the achievements prepared by the Board of Education. In other words, it is a channel that only takes into account the needs of our country's students and moves in the direction.

5- In the creation phase, how is the pilot implementation process progressing or is there any?

Our contents are prepared in a way that support the achievement of the goals of the education programs created by the Board of Education.

6- Not all achievements can be transferred to EBA. Is there anything done for this?

We prepare lots of auditory-visual videos to convey our achievements about reading and listening. We include reading-comprehension activities about the contents we have prepared. By ensuring that we have a teacher in the role of a student in our lessons, we create dialogues between the narrator teacher and the teacher in the student role and try to be a role model for the acquisition and use of the language. In addition, at the end of our classes, we make efforts to improve their writing and speaking skills by asking our students to send us the work they have written or videotaped within the scope of the "Project time" assignment.

7- What is EBA assistant and how does it work?

EBA Assistant is a system based on artificial intelligence developed by Turkish engineers. It has a structure that is constantly evolving and responds instantly to frequently asked questions in distance education.

What Do We Expect From EBA TV?

Bircan Nur Kavrazlı



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost every system has changed the way it operates. The education system had to go through a sudden shift from the physical classroom to a virtual space. Every government around the world found itself in a situation where they had to create a new teaching system through technological devices.

Our country, Turkey, created a television network and an advanced website called “EBA TV” to assist our students. Since the “What is Eba Tv?” question answered already, this part will answer another important question.

What do we exactly expect from EBA TV? Not just only as a student and as a parent but also as a citizen of this country.

First of all, we are all aware that the situation we are going through is quite challenging for everyone. Every work field had to undergo different changes. The students are taking their classes from their houses and trying to cope up with this new system. The teachers cannot see their students all the time compared to face-to-face education, but just like everything else, the education system must go on. Thus, our first expectation from EBA Tv is to continue to give students enough knowledge required by their level. It can be hard to maintain the information balance since the teachers cannot see their students, and taking feedback is more difficult than normal. However, we still want them to have all the necessary information at the end of their terms.

Secondly, motivation is another important topic. No matter what their ages are, students are in an unfortunate situation. They cannot go outside as they please, relieve their energies and spend some relaxing time with their peers. All these factors make the learning process more burdensome, and students lose their motivation easily. Thus, it would be really helpful if the teachers behave in a more understanding and encouraging way. Reminding students that it is okay if they do not get everything at once can be very beneficial. Also, smiling at them through the screen may change so many things sometimes.

Lastly, every student has a different learning level, and it is important to acknowledge that. Finding the average pace while teaching through a screen is very crucial. Being too slow or too fast can make some students feel insufficient. They can lose their interest, and this fact can affect their further studies in a negative way. It is necessary to talk clearly, being positive and creative. Preparing learning materials, catching their attention, and making them stay focused can help as well. There are so many distractions around them, but it is possible to take them in a classroom where only their teachers and peers exist. Even that classroom is an artificial one.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRT_EBA_TV



INTERVIEW WITH **VAHIT SAPAR**

Mert Yazıcıoğlu

1. Could you introduce yourself and your academic career?

I started teaching over 30 years ago. I was born in Reyhanlı, Hatay and had all my basic education there. Later I went to Erzurum for university education. I started my teaching career in Şebinkarahisar, Giresun and worked there for a few years when I also completed my military service. Then I moved to Balıkesir where I started working as a lecturer, as you know. And here I am. I have been here since almost Balıkesir University was founded. When I started teaching here at Balıkesir University, I was naturally the youngest of all lectures of English but not anymore.

As for my academic career, I graduated from an English Language Teaching Department, of Atatürk University, but was interested in cultural studies and for my master's degree I decided to study at the socio-cultural structure of the European Union at Istanbul University. After completing my master program, I could not go further for my PhD for several reasons, the first of which the Higher Education Council (YOK) of the time did not approve lecturers (or instructors) travelling to other cities for graduate studies for inexplicable reasons practised quite illogical to any academic point but they were the only authority so everybody had to be obedient. Those who lived in cities where they could access PhD programs were luckier in a sense that they were at least allowed to. Then things have changed and I have had three daughters who I really have really been known by everybody around to be very fond of and years later I decided to do something, however, I was not the same me. I decided to study speaking skill for my PhD degree and again I struck an invisible wall of very old-fashioned academics who only give way to nothing but obedience, a quality I have never acquired. All included, I can say that I have studied English teaching all my life with a special interest in second or foreign language teaching, linguistics, European Cultures, the relationship of culture and language, speaking skills and constructivism. I have read hundreds of books and articles about each of the above for the last 35 years and used some of them in my own classes.

2. Some people believe that the British accent is superior than other accents of English. Do you think that is true? Is there a superior accent?

I never believe in superiority about accents as we all know that the existence of a superior language or accent came to an end at the beginning of the 20th century for all languages including English although someone went on seeing London English or more commonly the received pronunciation and the British Accent to be superior simply because before the 20th century it was widely accepted as a sign of being “educated” in English society as education was only accessible to the children of noble families, a small minority group who controlled everything in England, British Empire, United Kingdom or whatever you call. The highly growing spread of schooling in English society in the 20th century like many other countries gave way to ordinary people to get the education and the level of the education has been growing rapidly since then, just like schooling, which, as we know, has recently reached to 100 %. At the beginning, the use of London English was dictated to the society as it gave a feeling of superiority practically as a result of the prescriptive approach in linguistic studies but linguistics has changed through time and the prescriptive language understanding was replaced by descriptive approach, by which any kind of accents, dialects and even languages accepted to be unique and valuable, which was discussed and encouraged officially by organs European Union and regulated at the beginning of 1980s. As for the dominance of the British accent, I am not sure if superiority is the right word for it, perhaps popularity is a better term, it was not until the end of the second world war that everybody became aware of the fact American accent became much more popular throughout the world, except in the countries of formerly or presently British colonies. Although once seen by many as a language of American cowboys and quite inferior to the British accent, the American accent became much more popular than the British one, just as the American way of life or the so-called American dream was popular everywhere. Everybody should accept that American English has been more common, and popular, for more than 70 years. But as I stated before,

I do not agree with superiority in terms of accents. Not only for English but also all other languages the existence of different accents and pronunciations gives a flavour of diversity to a language and I believe that diversity makes a language richer and richer. If one ignores different uses of a language, s/he won't be enjoying that language as a whole but see only parts of it. Without different accents, a language is incomplete and short. Only with its different accents will a language be complete. Popularity is different, and the popularity of the American accent is known by everybody today.

3. Is accent a must in speaking English?

Absolutely yes. No language can be thought without an accent. Fluency can only be achieved by imitating one of the accents. It was harder years ago to gain the proficiency of an accent cause not everybody was lucky to hear an accent properly as listening is the first and essential step of acquiring an accent. But nowadays with the ever-improving means of technology, the internet specifically, one can easily access an accent from his own room at home simply by clicking some buttons of his personal computer. We can not only listen to the voice (and pronunciation) of native speakers but also personally participate into a conversation through the screen. For this reason, the students of today and prospective teachers of tomorrow are luckier and enjoy the accents better than many old-fashioned teachers of English. The thing is they should be patient with one accent only and spend quite a long time with that specific accent, which is harder as we all want to learn everything and not away from other accents.

4. What can be done to promote better speaking?

I think I gave an answer to this question in the previous question. Be patient and persistent with one accent. We naturally acquire the accent of our parent(s) because we spend enough time with them listening to their language, imitating the way they express themselves and unconsciously acquire their accent in the course of time. The same period, I mean spending time listening, reading, writing and speaking like someone, is inevitably necessary for an accent of a target language, English in our case.

5. There are always some students who feel anxious to speak English in classrooms. What is the reason behind their anxiety? How can that difficulty be overcome? What can teachers do to encourage their students to talk freely?

Anxiety is an important issue in speaking English and for this simple reason, you can find quite a lot about speaking anxiety in the literature of our branch. Anxiety is a problem for speaking in general to the public but here my focus will be on speaking English, of course as I have been giving English speaking courses for a very long time. Once upon a time, we had Anatolian high schools in our country where students were taken to prep classes where they spent a year with quite intensive courses of English sometimes 24 hours a week. As practitioners, we worried when the government decided to abolish prep classes for high schools because we believed that without prep classes the students were not going to learn English properly and the practice would kill speaking skills. But time showed that we were wrong and the students of recent times without prep classes could express themselves much better than the students of the times with prep classes through music, movies, soap operas and even computer games, which like and as parents we were not happy with our pupils or children to spend so much time with those things we previously saw as nonsense and unnecessary. As a senior member of academy and family I totally changed my mind about them in recent years when I saw the students of my own classes to be able to express themselves in a really proper way, at least better than former students by means of the skills and competence they earned mainly from the films they watched or games they played.

We all know that, if not a psychological disorder, anxiety is a starting problem and can be overcome once you start speaking and that when you are not able to overcome anxiety, it turns into stress, fear and panic respectively and stops and even kills the speaking ability. This is for those who normally can speak but do not implement it properly because of their psychological state. The problem seems here to be limited to the starting point only. But it is wrong because, for speaking proficiency, the time after anxiety is also important and when you start speaking only, you can show yourself and your abilities to say something with the proper vocabulary, pronunciation and intonation needed to express your ideas.

The teacher has a very significant role here. He should be a good guide and encourage the student to say anything he thinks. If he puts other limitations on the student about what to say and what not to say in the classroom, the student will have more difficulty overcoming the natural anxiety that everybody might feel at the beginning of a conversation, especially with someone you do not know very well. You should suppose that he knows the general rules in society about choosing the appropriate words and expressions and knows about manners and encourage him to express himself. I, myself, try to facilitate the process by means of giving my students the chance to choose the topics they want to talk about themselves believing that a person can speak about something he knows and something he wants to talk about. In this way, they do it better and gain a lot of advantages to overcome the anxiety problem. Nevertheless, I remind from time to time that being anxious is quite normal, human and fine as long as they keep it under control as human beings are excited about something they like or enjoy doing it. However, the anxiety problem I have been dealing with my students is at the tertiary level and relatively easier than that of high schools and secondary schools which might be totally different in terms of being handled.

6. What are your expectations of future English teachers?

I am pretty sure teachers of English today are better than those of yesterday and teachers of tomorrow will be much better than those of today. Any aspect of teaching English has been better every other day and so will be the teachers. With growing opportunity to access to any kind of technology and new ways and techniques to teach English, teachers of the future will, without doubt, be much better and they will teach English to their students as a language, not as a useless course in the curricula. Teaching English is different from teaching other branches of teaching such as, for instance, teaching Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics as they are sciences but English is a language and different from Turkish as in this course teachers teach the language their students can already speak but in English teaching, we teach a language they do not know to speak. This is known by everybody today but English courses are still the same. But teachers are not the same as they were in the past. They are much better.

April Activities of E66



EBA UZAKTAN EĞİTİM
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Balıkesir Üniversitesi
İngilizce Öğretmenliği
Öğrencileri ile
Buluşuyor!

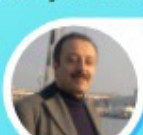
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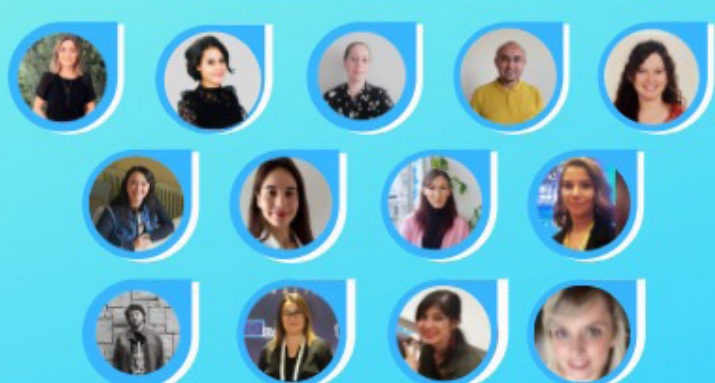
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Edibe YILMAZ
EBA UZAKTAN EĞİTİM
Ortaokul İngilizce Koordinatörü



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Necatibey Eğitim Fakültesi





BOOK CORNER

COLLECTED BY IREM SILA OZER

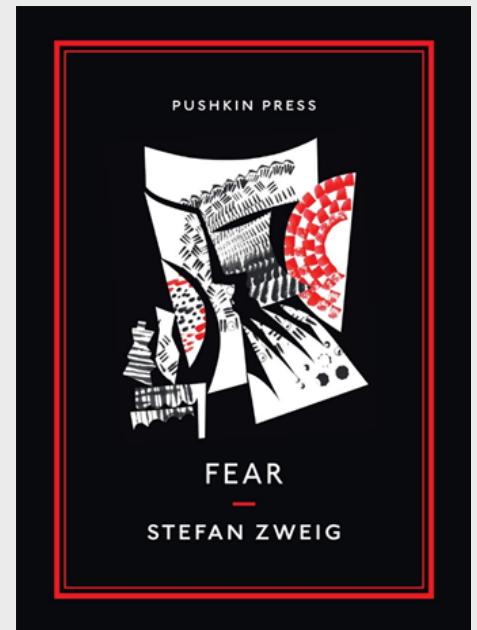
#FEAR

"That fear was worse than the punishment, which after all is something definite, and whether it's hard on her or not, it's still better than the terrible uncertainty and cruel suspense she was feeling earlier. As soon as she knew her punishment she felt all right."

Finding her comfortable life as a wife and a mother predictable after eight years of marriage, Irene Wagner brings a little excitement into it by having an affair with a rising young pianist. However, things do not go as planned and, her lover's former mistress begins blackmailing her, threatening to give her secret away to her husband. Irene is soon in the grip of agonizing fear. Her world begins to crumble and shrink, as she knows that disclosure of her affair would end everything.

Fear is a gripping psychological thriller, which makes you feel whatever the characters are feeling. Panic, suspense and of course, fear.

- Bircan Nur Kavrazlı



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE

One Hundred Years of Solitude is a novel written by Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez that tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family, whose patriarch, José Arcadio Buendía, founded the (fictitious) town of Macondo.

The novel houses so many emotions, rises and falls of humankind in both mythical and realist ways capturing the reader magnetically into the flow of changing lives. While focusing on both strong and feeble family bonds narrating the nature of the human in a most demonstrative way, it features a shuddery and epic closure thanks to its mystical texture.

Being considered García Márquez's magnum opus, it remains widely acclaimed and is recognized as one of the most significant works in world literature.

"He really had been through death, but he had returned because he could not bear the solitude."

- Oyku Kiy

