



To listen

What little Momo could do like no one else was: listening. This is nothing special, some readers will say, everyone can listen. But this is a mistake. Very few people can really listen. And the way Momo knew how to listen, it was completely unique. Momo could listen so well that stupid people suddenly had very clever thoughts. Not because she said something or asked what gave the other person such thoughts, no, she just sat there and just listened, with all the attention and all the sympathy. As she did so, she looked at the other with her large, dark eyes, and the person in question felt thoughts arise in him that he had never known were inside him. She could listen in such a way that perplexed or indecisive people suddenly knew exactly what they wanted. Or that shy people suddenly felt free and courageous. Or that the unhappy and depressed become confident and happy. And if someone thought his life was utterly wrong and meaningless and he himself was just one of the millions, one who doesn't matter and who can be replaced as quickly as a broken pot - and he went and told all this to little Momo Then, while he was talking, he realized in a mysterious way that he was utterly mistaken, that he, just like him, existed only once among all people and that he was therefore important to the world in his own special way was.

So Momo could listen!

From: Michael Ende MOMO