

PERSEPOLIS

THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD



Teacher's Guide



MARJANE SATRAPI



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PERSEPOLIS

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION



Dear Educator,

Ever since television turned American opinion against the Vietnam War by broadcasting night after night of fallen soldiers arriving at Dover Air Force base, dramatic steps have been taken to ensure that the American public feels as unaffected by war as possible. As a result, many modern Americans (who haven't served, of course) can have a hard time imagining and understanding the personal horrors of war. Like the proverbial frog-in-a-pot, we are hard-pressed to notice its slowly growing costs other than the occasional focus on wounded veterans and growing deficits.

How fortunate for us that Marjane Satrapi was able to explain her profound struggle so eloquently and relatably. Her story is a must-read for anyone who lacks a sense of the personal cost of war and revolution. We see, through a child's eyes and mind, the oppression and horror that rocked a country from the heights of power down to the streets and slums. At the same time, we see the human side of conflict; real people have to navigate through their daily lives in the middle of terrifying events. In the midst of it all, we see in Marji a free spirit yearning for joy in the face of a rather joyless time.

When taking your students through *Persepolis*, I encourage you to show them the big picture as well as the fine details. Draw connections between the ebb-and-flow of Iranian politics and its effects on the individual. I also encourage you to draw parallels between the struggles of early 80's Iranians with more recent events. The Arab Spring revolutions, as well as the Syrian Civil War, remind us that themes of conflict and

human suffering are evergreen. From a sociocultural perspective, the government corruption that intrudes upon the lives of Marji's family members can relate to a number of events in the story of America. Satrapi writes her story to connect with us as personally as possible. As educators, we owe it to our students to help them learn from and emphasize with the struggles of children just like them; they need to see that, save for a lucky dice roll from fate, they too would be born in tragic times and places.

I'm ecstatic that you chose *Persepolis* for use in your class! As you can tell, I believe that Marji's story is endlessly relatable and will help you build a more engaging curriculum as well as more socially-conscious young people!

Looking Forward!
Jason Nisavic



PERSEPOLIS PLOT SUMMARY



It's 1980 in Iran, and Marjane Satrapi isn't rocking out to Michael Jackson or watching *Dallas*; she's being forced to wear a veil at her school, which is now segregated. The boys and girls are separated.

This marks the beginning of years of political and religious turmoil in Iran. Marjane's mother and father often attend political protests, kind of like a more violent Occupy Wall Street, and support revolutionaries when they can, including many of Marjane's relatives, like Uncle Anoosh. Uncle Anoosh had fled to the U.S.S.R. because the Iranian regime believed him to be a spy. Uncle Anoosh teaches Marjane much about the world. He also gives her a swan carved out of bread, which is a lot nicer than a swan made from origami paper (because you can probably eat it). Marji grows very close to Uncle Anoosh, and she takes it very hard when he is executed.

Because of her mother, father, Grandma, and uncle, Marjane's passions lie in social activism. At a young age, she wants to fix social inequalities and make the world into a place where old people don't have to suffer. That's kind of hard to do when there are bombs falling on Tehran and killing Marjane's friends and family members.

Eventually, Marjane's parents decide that Iran is not the place for the daughter they've raised.

Marjane is a girl who is headstrong, independent, and outspoken. Her behavior gets her expelled from school, and mom and pop are afraid that a worse punishment will befall her as the regime gets stricter. They ship Marjane to Vienna, [and hopefully to a better life...]

Source: Shmoop.com



COMICS TERMS/GLOSSARY



Bleed - images that run outside the border of the panel

Border - edge or outline of the comic page

Captions - contain information about a scene or character

Colorist - This person gives the comic color, and add to the weight and vibrancy of the image. The colorist is often responsible for helping set tone and mood via color.

Dialogue Word Balloons - contain character dialogue; communication between/among characters

Emanata - text or icons that represent what is going on in a character's head

Frame - lines or boxes around a panel(s)

Graphic weight - a term that describes the way some images draw the eye more than others, creating a definite focus using color and shading in various ways

Gutters - space between panels where the reader infers movement and action between panels

Panels - squares or rectangles that contain a single scene

Penciler - Primary artist. This person takes the script and draws the comic. They draw the comic in pencil which then gets inked and colored later on.

Sound Effect - words that show sound is happening

Thought Balloons - contain a character's thoughts

Writer - The writer writes the story and has the overall vision of how the story will go. They write the dialogue and how the story will progress.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 3:

Islamic – The religion of Islam, a religion that has a lot in common with Christianity and Judaism. People who practice Islam are known as Muslims.

Revolution – A big effort to change the way that a country is run. Revolutions sometimes fail, but when they succeed they usually destroy and replace the government.

Obligatory – Forced, something that must be done.

Giddyap – A word that horse trainers have used to tell their horses to move.

Page 4:

Bilingual – Someone who knows two different languages, like knowing both English and Spanish.

Capitalism – The idea that people’s desire for money will make society work fine. The United States and many other countries use Capitalism but not everyone agrees that it works well.

Decadence – Having a lot of fancy and pleasurable things because you are wealthy.

Cultural – The things and behaviors that make a group of people special. For example, “Hispanic culture” or “German culture.”

Page 5:

Demonstrations – Large groups of people coming together to demand something from the government.

Journalist – Someone who writes and reports important news.

Published – To make something public so that everyone can see it.

Page 6:

Avant-Garde – Adventurous, likes to do things that most people haven’t tried.

Prophet – According to some religions, this is someone who has been chosen by god and speaks directly with him about his wishes.

Page 7:

Predecessors – People who came before. For example, an older sister would be your predecessor because she was born before you in your family.

Disciple – Someone who follows a teacher and tries hard to use what they learn in life.

Page 8:

Celestial – Holy, coming from god or heaven.

Disturbed – Insane, mentally ill.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 9:

Puzzled – Confused.

Page 10:

Unshakable – Something that is firm and can't be stopped.

Page 11:

Tyranny – When one ruler controls everything and doesn't worry about what the people want.

Submission – Doing what you are told to do without fighting.

Imperialism – When a country fights and takes over lands that are not theirs in order to build a mighty empire.

Page 12:

Enlighten – To teach somebody about something.

Revolutionaries – People who try to make a **revolution** (pg. 3) succeed.

Dialectic Materialism – The idea that animals, people, and society are all growing and becoming better all the time.

Material World – All of the things that you can see, smell, taste, touch, and hear.

Page 14:

Forbade – To tell somebody that they aren't allowed to do something.

Page 15:

Shah – Ruler, king.

Fanatics – People who are willing to do anything to achieve a goal, including hurting themselves and others.

Perpetrated – To do something, usually something bad.

Massacre – When a lot of people are murdered.

Page 16:

Obviously – Clearly, easily seen and understood.

Page 18:

Degenerate – Fall apart, to get worse.

Page 19:

Putch – Push, a violent effort to take over.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 20:

Republican – A person or group that fights for a **republic**, a government in which people vote for their leaders and can remove them from power if they abuse it.

Secular – Not having or belonging to a religion.

Illiterate – When someone can't read.

Bolsheviks – Another word for **Communists** (pg. 46), people who want everyone to be equal in every possible way. Although it is a noble idea, communism is easily abused by leaders.

Page 21:

Succeeded – To come after someone.

Page 23:

Confiscated – When an authority figure takes something away from you.

Entourage – A group of people that closely follow and support someone.

Diplomas – Degrees that prove that you graduated from school.

Cultivated – Educated, carefully grown.

Rabble – A disorganized group of people.

Intellectuals – People who have a lot of education.

Conscience – The voice in your head that tells you what is right and wrong.

Condemned – Doomed.

Bleak – Grim, not very happy.

Page 25:

Rheumatism – A disease that is painful and can keep someone from moving properly.

Page 26:

Poverty – Being poor.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 27:

Dynasties – A family of rulers where the title is passed from parent to child.

Splendor – Wealth and fame.

Page 28:

Frivolities – Unnecessary things, stuff you don't need.

Revolting – Gross, disgusting.

Page 29:

Strictly – Narrow, limited.

Page 31:

Martyr – Someone who dies because of something they believe or because they are trying to achieve a goal. They are often celebrated by other people who believe in the same thing.

Cadaver – Corpse, someone who has passed away.

Royalist – Someone who supports the king.

Page 33:

Clandestine – Secret.

Porter – Someone who carries luggage.

Social Classes – Groups that people are put in because of how much money their family has. Some countries force people to stay with other people in their class and some work hard to keep the poor from rising up to a higher class.

Page 35:

Peasants – Poor people who work for very little money while rich people take advantage of them.

Apparently – Clearly, the way that something seems.

Page 36:

Fiancé – The person that you are about to marry.

Jealousy – Wanting something that somebody else has.

Clarify – To make something easier to understand.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 40:

Declaration – Announcement.

Democracy – When the government gives people the power to vote together for what they want.

Page 41:

Freemason – A member of a secret group that sees itself as bigger than any country or government.

Suitable – Something that fits and belongs.

Effigy – A symbol for something. “Burning in effigy” means that someone burns a symbol to send a strong message.

Departure – To leave.

Page 42:

Refuge – A safe place.

Exiled – Sent away.

Pact – An agreement or a contract.

Politics – Running a government.

Sentiment – The feelings that you have toward someone or something.

Page 44:

Misfortune – Having bad luck, when a terrible thing happens to you.

Phenomena – Unique events, special things that happen.

Liberty – The freedom to do what you want.

Page 46:

Euphoria – A powerful moment of happiness.

Communists - People who want everyone to be equal in every possible way. Although it is a noble idea, communism is easily abused by leaders.

Page 49:

Flatterer – A person who gives compliments and says nice things to people to make them feel better.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 50:

Torturers – People who cause people a lot of pain to punish them or to get them to reveal secrets.

CIA – “Central Intelligence Agency,” A government organization in the United States that gathers information about its enemies.

Nerves – Tiny cells in your body that tell your brain when you are hot, cold, being touched, or in pain.

Page 51:

Assassinated – Killed.

Guerillas – People who fight against the government, usually in secret.

Cyanide – A drug that is used to kill people quickly. When some soldiers or spies are about to be captured by the enemy, they sometimes take it and die so they can't be tortured for their secrets.

Page 53:

Diabolical – Evil.

Page 55:

Proclaimed – Announced.

Province – A piece of land that belongs to a country.

Tormented – Tortured, caused pain.

Page 57:

USSR – The “United Soviet Socialist Republics,” a Communist empire that used to belong to Russia.

Page 58:

Executed – Put to death, killed.

Shunned – To be sent away from people, when people refuse to be your friend.

Page 59:

Doctorate – A degree that says you have enough education to be a doctor in a subject.

Page 62:

Nationalism – A love for your country. Although this can be a good thing, it becomes bad if you start treating people from other countries unfairly.

Page 63:

Regime – A government.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 65:

Transitional – When something is turning into something else. For example, a caterpillar transitions into becoming a butterfly.

Page 69:

Proletariat – The “working class,” people who work hard and keep their country and businesses running.

Page 72:

Embassy – A building where two countries can talk to each other and figure out problems.

Fundamentalist – Someone who deeply believes in a very specific idea of religion and follows it as faithfully as they possibly can.

Page 73:

Decreed – Officially announced.

Revised – Edited, changed.

Astray – Away from the path you are supposed to be on.

Page 74:

Incident – Something important or interesting that happens.

Page 75:

Ideological – The details about what you believe, usually around economics, political, or religious beliefs.

Opposition – A person or group who resists or is against something.

Progressive – Someone who tries to change society in a way that they think is better.

Madam – Another word for Ma’am or miss, a way to address a woman.

Page 77:

Abruptly – Quickly, suddenly.

Page 79:

Shiite (Pronounced like “Shee-ight”) – A branch of the Islamic faith, just like Protestantism and Catholicism are branches of Christianity. Shiite Muslims and Sunni Muslims disagree about some important details about how Islam should be practiced (again, just like Catholics and Protestants!)

Pretext – The important details that help explain how something happens later.

Page 81:

Maniacs – Crazy people who might do scary things.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 82:

Coup d'état (Pronounced like "Koo-Day-Tah.") – An attempt to overthrow and replace a government by force.

Page 83:

Defeatist – People who say negative things about an effort to do something, people who talk or act like they've already lost a contest that hasn't ended yet.

Patriot – Someone who loves their country.

Page 86:

Entitled – To feel like you deserve something.

Conquest – To take control of something or someone by force.

Page 87:

Civilized – Respecting other people, the laws of your country, and the rules of politeness.

Page 88:

Jerry Cans – Containers, usually made of metal, which hold gasoline or sometimes other fluids.

Press – Another word for the journalists (pg. 5) who tell the public about the news.

Page 92:

Flatulence – Bodily gas, farting.

Page 93:

Prostituting – Having sex or committing a sex act with someone in exchange for money.

Dignity – Being respected as a person.

Humiliating – Embarrassing.

Intolerable – Something that you can't stand.

Page 94:

Casualties – People who have been hurt or killed in a disaster or battle.

Philosophy – Ideas about how the world works and how we should live in it.

Resignation – Allowing things to happen to you without fighting them.

Page 95:

Mourn – To remember people who have died.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 96:

Initiation – The things that you have to do to get into a club.

Flagellated – To beat or hurt someone.

Page 101:

Trance – When you are calm and not really focused on anything, kind of like when you are about to fall asleep.

Page 104:

Instinctive – Things that you do without thinking, like pulling your hand away when it touches something hot.

Page 105:

Interiors – The insides of houses.

Denounce – To say bad things about what someone is doing, to announce that you are not with someone.

Page 106:

Psychologically – Having to do with your mind, your emotions, and your stress levels.

Vintner – Someone who makes wine as a hobby or for a living.

Page 107:

Maternal Instinct – The idea that mothers will protect their children before even thinking about protecting themselves.

Page 110:

Diabetes – When a person's body has trouble handling the sugar in foods. A person with diabetes can get really sick or even die if they don't properly balance their diet. Sometimes they even need to take insulin to help.

Page 112:

Repression – Keeping people from doing what they want.

Ignorance – Not knowing something.

Latter – The last one.

Page 113:

Dictator – A ruler who has absolute power and does not allow their people to have freedom.

Page 114:

Reconstruction – To rebuild something.

Imposed – Forced.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 115:

Belligerent – Aggressive, mean, willing to fight.

Gory – Bloody.

Page 117:

Systematically – Step-by-step, an organized and planned-out way of doing something.

Page 118:

Persecuted – To go after someone, to try to make them pay for a real or imagined crime.

Abroad – Away from home.

Invoked – To call forth, to talk about.

Page 119:

Blunt – Saying things plainly without care for the feelings of other people.

Page 121:

Permit – A paper that allows you to do something.

Passport – An official booklet from your country of citizenship that allows you to travel between countries.

Authorization – Officially allowing someone to do something.

Page 122:

Strapped – Short on supplies or money, having almost nothing.

Veritable – Real, true.

Page 123:

Acquaintance – Someone that you know, but isn't really close enough to you to be called a friend.

Asylum – To find protection in a different country when your home country is unfairly trying to jail or kill you.

Page 124:

Equivalent – Something that's equal to something or as good as something.

Page 125:

Ransacked – To mess up a place, stealing or destroying things in an area.

Page 126:

Brutes – Scary, bad people.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 127:

Hypocrite – Someone who tells people that doing something is right, but then they do the opposite. For example, if your aunt tells you that it's good to stay away from cigarettes, but then she smokes herself.

Page 129:

Smugglers – People who sneak things (or people) in and out of countries illegally.

Page 131:

Permissive – Someone who allows a lot of misbehavior, doesn't punish very often.

Page 133:

Straight and Narrow – The right path.

Alternative – A different choice.

Page 135:

Opted – Chose.

Ballistic Missile – An explosive weapon that is launched high in the air and falls on its target.

Exaggerate – To describe something as bigger or more than it really is. For example, "I ate like a million hot dogs today" is an exaggeration because no one can eat that much in a day!

Optimism – Believing that good things will happen.

Skeptical – Refusing to believe what you are told without evidence to prove it.

Page 136:

Pessimism – Believing that bad things will happen.

Page 137:

Fatalism – Believing that our lives are already pre-planned and written down by forces outside of our control, so there's no sense in fighting what happens.

Circumspect – Being aware of the situation and how to behave.

Page 138:

Espadrilles – A type of shoes.

Currency – Money.

Page 141:

Sabbath – Holy day.

Observant – Closely following the rules of your religion.



PERSEPOLIS VOCABULARY



Page 142:

Discreetly – Secretly, quietly.

Page 143:

Rebel – Someone who doesn't follow the rules and challenges authority.

Aggressor – Someone who attacks or uses the threat of violence to get their way.

Page 144:

Bureaucrats – Government workers who control daily business.

Political Prisoners – People who are put in prison for speaking out against the government.

Page 146:

Dowry – An amount of money given to a groom by the bride's family in exchange for marrying her.

Page 147:

Visa – An official permission slip that says you can go stay in a specific country for a while.

Page 148:

Independence – Freedom to do what you want and not have to rely on anyone for support.

Page 150:

Eve – The day or evening before something. For example, "New Year's Eve."

Bitterness – A type of sadness mixed with anger about something that you think is wrong.

Vengeance – Getting back at someone for hurting you.

Bosom – Breast, Chest.



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PRE-READING ACTIVITY: THE STRUGGLE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

For the following intro. activity the teacher should start the class on the “cats” writing prompt, but then quickly and constantly interrupt them by introducing and implementing the new rules on the next pages. It should result in frustration, which is what we want.



When Marji Satrapi’s people kicked out an unwelcome ruler in 1979, the little girl saw her life turn upside down. Suddenly, she had to deal with all sorts of new rules and changes under the new government.

Please read the bold text:

As a minor demonstration of what the Iranian people experienced, let’s begin an activity.



In your notebook, write down everything you know about cats.

Wait, stop. Put your pen or pencil down and look up. There’s a new rule.



PRE-READING ACTIVITY: THE STRUGGLE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE



In your notebook, write down everything you know about cats, but you have to stick out the pinky finger of your writing hand like you're drinking tea.

Stop! New rule! Put your pen or pencil down and look up.



In your notebook, write down everything you know about cats, but you have to stick out the pinky finger of your writing hand like you're drinking tea and your new writing hand is your off-hand (if you are right-handed, write with your left & vice-versa.)

PRE-READING ACTIVITY: THE STRUGGLE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

Hold on! New rule! Put your pen or pencil down and look up.



In your notebook, write down everything you know about cats, but you have to stick out the pinky finger of your writing hand like you're drinking tea and your new writing hand is your off-hand. Also, cross out everything you wrote about house cats. The kind of cats we're describing now are tigers.

Halt what you're doing! New rule! Put your pen or pencil down and look up.



It's been decided that boys and girls shouldn't be educated side by side. Too distracting. Everyone in the room that identifies as female is going to move to the right side of the room and face that way. Those who identify as male or non-binary will go to the right and face that way.



PRE-READING ACTIVITY: THE STRUGGLE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE



Good. Now, like we were saying.



In your notebook, write down everything you know about fish.

I'll be walking around to check your work. If I see that anyone has written about any other animal they will receive a detention.

- How did you feel about this experience? Were you irritated? Upset?
- Did you try and follow all the directions? Did you give up and start rebelling?
- At the end, were you afraid for a moment that I would spot the stuff you wrote about cats and tigers? Did you scribble it out?

Imagine living day-to-day in a society that you thought would be a free one but begins to restrict the liberty of its citizens and especially its women. Unlike our silly exercise just now, the sort of oppression that Marji and the Iranian people experienced from their fundamentalist government was extreme and sometimes deadly. To save her from a world turned upside down, Marji's parents had to think about sending her away from the only home she had ever known.

Together, we will read *Persepolis*, the story of Marji and the country that was transformed by a revolution gone horribly wrong.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. The Veil... (Pgs. 3-9)

- (Pg. 3-4) – In your opinion, are the changes being made to the children’s lives and their school a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
- (Pg. 5) – Based on the clues you see at the bottom of page 5, why would Marji’s mother dye her hair and hide?
- (Pgs. 6-9) - Based on what you can tell from the clues on pgs. 6-9, would you want to be a prophet or not? How do you know?

2. The Bicycle... (Pgs. 10-17)

- (Pgs. 10-17) - Why are the Iranian people having a revolution? What are the things that they are trying to fight?

3. The Water Cell... (Pgs. 18-25)

- (Pgs. 18-21) – Even though Marji’s dad reveals that the shah was not chosen by god, why would the shah spread around the story that he was?
- (Pgs. 22-25) – How would you describe Marji’s emotional state on page 25? Why is she soaking herself in the tub?

4. Persepolis... (Pgs. 26 -32)

- (Pgs. 26-28) – Look at the top panel of page 28. Based on the clues from the first three pages of this section, how does Cyrus (the big guy in the ground) feel about the Shah? How do you know?
- (Pgs. 31-32) – Read Ebi’s story about the widow. Think about this: why is that story funny to Marji’s parents?

5. The Letter... (Pgs. 33-39)

- (Pgs. 33-37) – In the bottom-right panel of pg. 37, Marji thinks “we were not in the same social class but at least we were in the same bed. Based on the story from the previous pages, why would Marji be so upset about social classes?
- (Pgs. 38-39) –
 - o Why was Marji’s mom so upset that they had fun going to the demonstration?
 - o Based on the panels on pgs. 38-39, did Marji and Mehri have the right attitude about going to the demonstrations? Why?

6. The Party... (Pgs. 40-46) –

- (Pgs. 40-41) – Why did the shah’s attempts to make the country more Democratic fail?
- (Pg. 44) – What is strange about people’s behavior now that the shah is gone?
- (Pgs. 44-46) – After Marji forgives Ramin on page 46, is his reaction what you expected? Why or why not?

7. The Heroes... (Pgs. 47-53)

- (Pgs. 47) – Both Siamak and Mohsen’s crimes were related to “subversion” and being a “revolutionary”, respectively. Both crimes are related to wanting to change the government in a big way.
 - o If the people in charge of you say that you’re not allowed to criticize them, what might that say about THEM? (List some things)
 - o If you go ahead and criticize them anyway, even when they threaten to put you in prison, what might that say about YOU? (List some things)
- (Pg. 48) – Why was Marji punished for telling what she thought was the truth? Would you have done the same thing? Why or why not?
- (Pgs. 49-51) – Did Siamak, Mosen, and Ahmadi deserve their punishments? Why or why not?
 - o Is there a crime that someone like YOU could commit that would make it ok for the government to do the same to you? If so, what is it and why? If not, why not?

8. Moscow... (Pgs. 54-61)

- (Pgs. 54-58) – After reading the story of Uncle Anoosh, take a look at Marji’s expression on the bed at the bottom of page.
 - o How do you think Anoosh’s story made her feel?
 - o Is she right to feel that way? Why or why not?
- (Pg. 61) – If somebody in the lunchroom gave us a cut-up piece of bread, most of us would probably throw it away. Why is Anoosh’s gift to Marji so special?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



9. The Sheep... (Pgs. 62-71)

- (Pgs. 62-66) – What are the first signs that the revolution isn't ending in a good way? (List some things)
- (Pgs. 67-70) – After reading these pages, why do you think Marji tells her friend to get out on page 70?

10. The Trip... (Pgs. 72-79)

- (Pgs. 72-78) – What are more signs that Marji's country of Iran is changing for the worse? (List some things)
- (Pg. 77) – How does Marji's trip compare to her experiences at home lately? How can you tell?
- (Pg. 79) – Why do you think Marji is ready to defend her country when it is threatened?

11. The F-14s... (Pgs. 80- 86)

- (Pgs. 80-82) – Why do you think hearing the old national anthem made Marji's family cry?
- (Pgs. 83-84) – Why would the Iranian pilots only agree to attack the enemy if the new government played the old national anthem
- (Pgs. 85-86) – "I wish my father were alive and in jail rather than dead and a hero." What do you think this means?

12. The Jewels... (Pgs. 87-93)

- (Pg. 87) – What is funny about Marji's mother's behavior on this page?
- (Pgs. 90-91) – At the bottom of page 91, what is the emotion on Marji's face as she looks at the two boys? Why would she be feeling like this?
- (Pgs. 92-93) – Why do you think the women in the supermarket would say such hurtful things where Mali (a woman from the south) could hear them?

13. The Key... (Pgs. 94-102)

- (Pg. 94)
 - o What does Marji's mother mean by "When a big wave comes, lower your head and let it pass?"
 - o Do you agree with Marji's mother about the war? Why or why not?

• (Pgs. 96-97)

- o Why might someone hurt themselves like the Iranians? Is there ever a good reason to do this? If so, what? If not, why not?
- o How does Marji's reaction to the "torture sessions" make you feel? Do you agree?

• (Pgs. 98) – Who is right in this situation, the teacher or the parents? Why?

- (Pgs. 99-102) – Why might the women be having such a hard time convincing Mrs. Nasrine's son not to join the military?

14. The Wine... (Pgs. 103-110)

- (Pgs. 103-104) – What causes the "other kind of anxiety" that Marji talks about at the bottom of page 104?
- (Pgs. 105-106) – "Without parties, we might as well just bury ourselves now." The Iranian people took great risks to do the things they loved to do. What are some things that you absolutely couldn't live without? (List some things)
- (Pgs. 106-107) – What does Marji's "maternal instinct" experience make you think and feel? (Free-write for 1 minute.)
- (Pgs. 108-110) – "A few bills were all he needed to forget the whole thing!"

- o What did we learn about Marji's family from this encounter?
- o What did we learn about the religious police in Iran from this encounter?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



15. The Cigarette... (Pgs. 111-117)

- (Pgs. 111-114) – “Dictator!” Read about Marji’s little rebellion and her conversation with her mother.
 - o What about her experience as a kid on these pages is similar to your own experience?
 - o What about her experience as a kid on these pages is different from your own experience?
- (Pgs. 114-115) – “To die a martyr is to inject blood into the veins of society.”
 - o What do you think this Iranian slogan is supposed to mean?
 - o Do you agree with it? Why or why not?
- (Pgs. 116-117) “It was awful, but this was not the moment to give in.” Why do you think that Marji was so determined to finish that cigarette?

16. The Passport... (Pgs. 118-125)

- (Pgs. 118-119) – Could you survive alone as a 14-year-old in a different country that doesn’t speak your language?
 - o What would your biggest challenges be? (List some things)
- (Pgs. 120-125) – What would you say the lesson of this story would be?

17. Kim Wilde... (Pgs. 126-134)

- (Pgs. 126-130)
 - o What is funny about the story of Marji’s parents’ trip?
 - o What is scary about the story of Marji’s parents’ trip?
- (Pgs. 131-134) - Marji was willing to risk her life and safety to express herself with clothes and music. Are there any songs or clothes that you love which inspire you in the same way? What are they?

18. The Shabbat... (Pgs. 135-142)

- (Pgs. 135-142) – “No scream in the world could have relieved my suffering and my anger.”
 - o What do you think Marji learned from her experience on these pages?

19. The Dowry... (Pgs. 143-153)

- (Pgs. 143-145) – Based on all you’ve read so far, why do you think Marji is having such a hard time following the rules of the Islamic Regime?
- (Pgs. 147-153) – From the clues in this section, does Marji’s family expect to see her again? How can you tell?



PROJECT IDEA: PUNK ROCK PROPAGANDA POSTER



Run this project with students in pairs or (for high-achievers) solo.



- Begin with a short overview of the punk movement and why it was so rebellious.
- Search online for images of punk rock posters.
- After filtering through the results for reasons that will become obvious, collect some examples of punk rock posters to show your students as inspiration. Then, show them examples of propaganda posters. Students will use the inspirational examples to create a punk rock propaganda poster that highlights an important theme or detail in the book.
- Just like a punk rock poster creates an immediate impression of a band, we want our posters to give an immediate impression of our topic. Students know they've succeeded when the audience comes away feeling a strong emotion (positive or negative.)
- The poster will have a front and a back, with both sides relevant to their grade. Of course these can be created with digital tools, but care should be taken not to plagiarize existing posters through copy-and-pasting.
- For the subject of their poster, students can choose:
 - a. To celebrate a positive characteristic of Marji (e.g. her bravery, her rebelliousness)
 - b. To highlight a negative aspect of the Iranian government that emerged from the revolution. (e.g. its crackdown on specific freedoms)
 - c. To illustrate the freedom and promise of escaping to another country (i.e. Austria)

Before we begin:

- Decide how to let students decide topics. Perhaps assign them a few pages each to explore and decide what to focus on.

- Students should claim their ideas and submit them to you for final approval. No two students should have the exact same idea.

The Front:

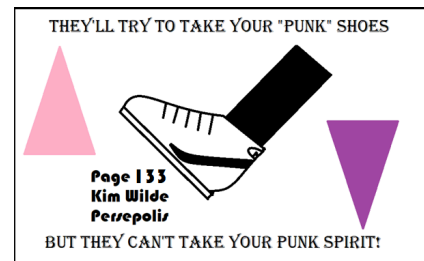
The front of the punk posters should be exactly that: a parody of a punk-rock band poster. It should have:

- a. A slogan that makes their topic clear (e.g.: "Fight for your Music!" or "Be Yourself No Matter What!")
- b. A punk-style illustration that helps communicate the subject and a clear emotion.
- c. In the place where a band's show date, time & venue would go, have the students include the page numbers, the section title, and the book name.

The Back:

The back is where explanation & analysis happen (see example below). It should include:

- a. The title of their subject (e.g.: "Marji's Rebellious Spirit")
- b. A description of the scene in the book that inspired the poster.
- c. An explanation of the intent of the poster.
- d. An explanation of the emotion that the poster is supposed to inspire.



Exemplar: Back

Subject: Marji's Rebellious Spirit

- This poster illustrates Marji's fiery determination not to let the Guardians of the Revolution take her style away on page 133. She argued with them even at the risk of being severely punished.
- The intent of the poster is to celebrate her bravery.
- The emotion this poster is meant to inspire is pride.



EXAMPLE PUNK ROCK POSTER PROJECT RUBRIC



	0 POINTS	3 POINTS	5 POINTS
TOPIC	Both the topic and the artist's attitude about it are difficult to discern.	Either the topic or the artist's attitude about it are difficult to discern.	The topic of the poster is clear and the attitude of the artist towards it is easily seen.
ART	The art is incomplete, unrelated to the topic, or missing altogether.	Effort is put into the art, but isn't very helpful or related to the topic.	Effort is put into the art and helps communicate the topic and the artist's attitude.
EXPLANATION	The back is missing most or all of the following: a title, a clear explanation of the book scene, the poster's intent, and its emotion.	The back is missing one or two of the following: a title, a clear explanation of the book scene, the poster's intent, and its emotion.	The back includes a title, a clear explanation of the book scene, the poster's intent, and its emotion.
PRESENTATION (WORTH 10 POINTS)	0 POINTS	5 POINTS	10 POINTS
	Students do not explain either the front or the back of their poster.	Students clearly present and explain either the front or back of their poster, but not both.	Students clearly present and explain both the front and back of their poster.
TOTAL POINTS: _____ / 25			



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



1. BBC's The Iranian Revolution in Pictures - http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/pop_ups/04/middle_east_the_iranian_revolution/html/1.stm
2. Iran's Revolutions: Crash Course World History 226 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w4Ku6l70EI>
3. Emma Watson Interviews Marjane Satrapi - <http://www.vogue.com/article/emma-watson-interviews-marjane-satrapi>



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Igniting Imaginations.