

## **Persepolis Discussion/Study Questions**

We will use these questions as part of our discussions. There is also a chance they will appear on a final exam after we finish reading *Persepolis*. You are welcome to take notes as we discuss, or to bring notes to class for discussion.

### I. The Veil (p. 3)

1. Why does Marji's mother disguise herself?
2. Why do women have to wear the veil?

### II. The Bicycle (p. 10)

1. Why did the police and the Shah burn the people in the movie theater?
2. Why does God leave Marji?

### III. The Water Cell (p. 18)

1. Is Grandpa for or against the government?
2. Why does he get arrested for being a communist?

### IV. Persepolis (p. 26)

1. Has the revolution already happened?
2. Which side are her parents on?

### V. The Letter (p. 33)

1. Why was the book-signing clandestine?
2. Why does Marji feel shame?
3. What is the revolution for?
4. Who exposes Mehri's relationship?

### VI. The Party (p. 40)

1. Why does the Shah attempt to create a democracy?
2. Why wouldn't any countries accept the Shah?

### VII. The Heroes (p. 47)

1. Why did the CIA train the torturers?
2. Why does the author/artist portray Marji's image shrinking?

### VIII. Moscow (p. 54)

1. Why does Marji's grandfather remain loyal to the Shah?
2. Why does Fereydoon stay to meet the Shah's soldiers?

### IX. The Sheep (p. 62)

1. What are the idealistic differences within the revolution?
2. Do you think the elections were faked? Why or why not?
3. What dangers make Marji's friends leave?
4. Which war starts?

X. The Trip (p. 72)

1. Why does the government close the universities?
2. Why does Iraq attack Iran?

XI. The F-14s (p. 80)

1. Why does Marji's father not believe the news?
2. Why does Marji think her father is not a patriot?

XII. The Jewels (p. 87)

1. Why are the Iranians turning on each other?
2. Why does Mali's family move to Tehran?

XIII. The Key (p. 94)

1. Why would virgin martyrs need "carnal knowledge" in heaven?
2. Why do people beat their chests for the martyrs?

XIV. The Wine (p. 103)

1. Why are parties and other activities banned?
2. Why do the police ask to search Marji's parents' apartment?

XV. The Cigarette (p. 111)

1. Why didn't Iran accept the proposed peace?
2. What does "To die a martyr is to inject blood into the veins of society" mean?

XVI. The Passport (p. 118)

1. Why did Iran close its borders?
2. Why is it so difficult to obtain a passport?

XVII. Kim Wilde (p. 126)

1. Why are posters and other Western items illegal?
2. Why do you think Marji's mother is permissive about letting her go out?

XVIII. The Shabbat (p. 135)

1. Why is this chapter entitled "The Shabbat?" What is the Shabbat?
2. What does Marji see in the rubble?

XIX. The Dowry (p. 143)

1. Why do the police give a dowry to Niloufar's parents?
2. Give three reasons Marji's parents decide to send her out of Iran.