

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Persepolis - Response to Literature Questions

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### "The Water Cell"

1. Why does Persepolis love the king? What do her parents think about that reason?
2. What explanation does her father give her for how their current king attained his position?
3. Who was her grandfather? How was he treated in prison?

### "Persepolis"

1. What was the only food available to Persepolis's grandmother?
2. What does Persepolis' father take pictures of?
3. What does Persepolis do when she is confused about adult reactions?

### "The Letter"

1. Why did Persepolis feel shame?
2. Why did Mehri have to work as a maid? How old was she when she began working for Persepolis' family?
3. What does Marjane's dad mean when he says, "Because in this country you must stay within your own social class" (37)?

### "The Party"

1. What happens to the Shah? Why does Persepolis' father think that the US will not let the Shah live here?

2. Where does the Shah go? Why? What happens in schools after the Shah leaves?

**"The Heroes"**

1. What were Jari and Shakiba arrested for?
2. What torture did the men endure?

**"Moscow"**

1. Who was Anosh?
2. What happened to Fereydoon?
3. Where did Anosh go for safety? How long was Anosh in prison when he returned to Iran?
4. What made Marjane happy?

**"The Sheep"**

1. What did the Republic want to be called? Why could this happen?
2. What was the problem with religious leaders running the country?
3. What was the percent of people voting for the religious leaders? Why is this number unrealistic?
4. What happened to many of Marjane's friends and family members? Why didn't her dad want to emigrate?
5. What happened to Siamak's sister? How did Siamak and his family leave the country?

6. How do Marjane and her family know the war began?

**"The Trip"**

1. What embassy is occupied? How did this affect Marjane?
2. What closed a few days later? Why? How long were the universities closed?
3. What happened to Marjane's mother?
4. Describe the two kinds of men and women.
5. Where did Marjane's family go for a vacation?
6. Who was Iran at war with?

**"The F-14s"**

1. What city was bombed? How did Iran retaliate?
2. Analyze the quote: "War always takes you by surprise" (81).
3. What does Marjane mean on page 86: "I wish he were alive and in jail rather than dead and a hero?"

**"The Jewels"**

1. What problem did the war cause in supermarkets? What did Marjane's father desperately need?
2. What happened to border towns?

**"The Key"**

1. What was a headline story?
2. Why did Mrs. Nasrine have a gold key? Who was the Key to Paradise for?

**"The Wine"**

1. What became a target for bombing? Where did Marjane and her family go during bombings?
2. What two reasons did Marjane's mother give for covering the windows?
3. What happened to Tinoosh's dad?
4. What do Marjane and her grandmother do once they get home?

**"The Cigarette"**

1. What does Marjane do instead of going to school? How does her mother react?
2. How many people die in the war?
3. When did Marjane feel she was an adult?

**"The Passport"**

1. Why does Marjane's uncle feel there are a lot of people who oppose the government in his neighborhood? What does her uncle worry about?
2. What happened to the uncle? Where does he need to go for surgery?
3. Who supplied the Iranians and Iraqis with chemical weapons?

4. Why does Niloufar have to hide? What happens to Niloufar?

5. What happens to Marjane's uncle?

**"Kim Wilde"**

1. What happened for Marjane's family to rush to get passports?

2. What does Marjane want her parents to bring her? How do they smuggle in her presents?

3. Who stopped Marjane when she was on the street? Where did they want to take her?

**"The Shabbat"**

1. What began happening to Marjane's town? Why did the Baba-Levys stay?

2. What was bombed? Why did the bombers choose that day?

3. What does Marjane find in the ruins?

**"The Dowry"**

1. What does Marjane wear that her teachers finds objectionable? How does Marjane react?

2. What happens to young girls who are arrested?

3. Why do Marjane's parents worry about her being arrested? Where do they want to send her?

4. How old is she when they make this decision? How does Marjane's mother react when Marjane looks at her parents before getting on the plane?
5. What does Marjane's grandmother mean when she says: "In life you'll meet a lot of jerks. If they hurt you, tell yourself it's because they're stupid. That will keep you from reacting to their cruelty"? (150)

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## Persepolis Three-Paragraph Essay Question

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**Directions:** Pick one of the following questions below. On a separate sheet of paper, write a three-paragraph mini-essay, answering the questions with details from the text. Hand-written rough drafts will be stapled to a typed final draft.

1. What does Persepolis do that pure text narratives cannot? In what ways do Satrapi's drawings help us visualize things that words alone, or more "realistic" images, might be unable to portray? How does Persepolis differ, both in its subject matter and visual format, from other comic books you have read?
2. Consider the Islamic regime in Iran after the Revolution. In your opinion, which is the most restrictive practice of the Iranian government? Explain your choice with examples from the text. How does Marjane react to the new rules? Would you have handled the rules any differently?
3. The Iranian government is considered the Islamic Republic, one of the only Theocratic governments in the world. In 1979, the Iranian people overthrew the monarch and replaced him with a government ruled by Muslim leaders. Is this portrayed as a positive or negative event in Persepolis? What are some of the benefits/consequences of the Revolution on Iranian society? How is it different from our government here in the United States?
4. "Every situation has an opportunity for laughs." (p. 97) Give some examples of how the ordinary citizens of Iran enjoyed life despite the oppressive regime. What made you laugh? How does Satrapi add comic relief? How are these scenes relevant to the story as a whole?