

Discussion Questions

1. What is the human cost of war and political repression?
2. In what way does the presentation of this book (a story told in black & white pictures) add to the narrative of the story?
3. In her introduction to *Persepolis*, Satrapi explains that she wrote this book to show that Iran is not only a country of “fundamentalism, fanaticism, and terrorism.” How does Satrapi go about challenging this myth?
4. How did the revolution exert power and influence over so many people, including many educated and middle class people like Satrapi’s parents?
5. Why do you think Marjane's parents sent her off to Austria while they stayed in Tehran? Why don't they leave/escape as well?
6. “In spite of everything, kids were trying to look hip, even under risk of arrest.” (p. 112) what do you think you would have done had you been a child in this environment?
7. What do you think Satrapi is saying about religion’s effect on the individual and society?
8. How are the Islamic fundamentalists represented in the book? What suggestions does Satrapi make about the relationship between faith and fanaticism?
9. What does the book suggest about the role of religion in Iranian culture, especially in the lives of people like Marjane’s family?
10. How does the author describe the distinctions between the classes before and after the revolution?
11. Discuss the role of religion in Iran. How does Marjane’s perception of religion change?