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Discussion Questions: ***Persepolis*** by Marjane Satrapi

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1. Satrapi realizes that freedom of thought and action accompanies adolescence and adulthood. Yet, as we know, with freedom comes real costs and responsibility. Contemplate the balance between freedom and responsibility in your world.
2. Have you read any other Graphic Novels? *Maus* by Art Spiegelman or Joe Sacco's *Palestine* are both examples of well-known Graphic Novels. If so, what are your feelings about the format?
3. What are the benefits of developing a compassionate and critical understanding of historical events? What are the challenges?
4. One of the ways Satrapi seeks meaning in her life is through education. What links are there between education and your life?
5. Satrapi understands that the traditions of Persian culture helped her cope during difficult times. Consider your own traditions. How do they help you endure in the face of crisis?
6. What is the human cost of war and political repression?
7. *Persepolis* both tells a story and comments on the importance of stories in our lives. What is the importance of stories in our own lives and how do stories shape our lives?
8. In what ways does the presentation of this book – a story that is told in black/white and Graphic Novel (comic book) format – affect the reader? How do the drawings add to the narrative of the story?
9. In the book *Persepolis*, Satrapi explores the different kinds of captivities and freedoms people face in their lives. What stifles or prevents people from being completely free? How do they circumvent and defy the rules imposed on them? How do people attempt to live ordinary lives despite revolution and war? Give examples of specific acts of rebellion from the book, from the world, or from your life.

10. From where and from whom do people derive their strength when living under an oppressive regime, war, or a natural disaster?

11. Do you think this book attempts to change or shape public attitudes? On what do you base your opinion?

12. Marji's father says, "As long as there is oil in the Middle East, we will never have peace." Do you think he is right? What would one need to know in order to have an informed opinion about this?