

Persepolis Group Work< 1 - Pages 31 to 71

{a lot of questions - but some answers are meant to be short - you have the entire period and this is worth 150 points - give me a lot!}

1. Who is Marji's favorite author? What kind of stories, books does he write? How is the maid who comes to work for her family like the subjects of those books (do you feel another meta-question coming up)? Why must Marji write the letters for her maid to the boy next door? Is her family partially responsible for the maid's illiteracy? What does Marji's father do when he finds out the truth? Why is Marji so mad at him for what he did?

2. Do you see any behavior on the part of Marji's parents that she (Marji) might see as being contradictory to their belief in class equality? Find two very specific examples. On page 38 (from the very first panel) - what does Marji decide that she must do? Why now (link with what has just happened)?

3. Look at the last panel on pg. 39 - what is the effect (figuratively) of showing the marks lingering on Marji and the maid's faces? A kind of equality is achieved. Equality in what? Lastly, explain the last words on the page (pretty neat, eh?)

4. The evil Shah leaves - and Marji's mother - in the 2nd to the last panel on pages 43 says "NOW THAT THE DEVIL HAS LEFT!" - How does the picture in this panel belie (if you don't know the precise meaning of "believe" look it up) her words? Look at "the devil's" claws - do they echo anything else from earlier (see question 2)? How does this remind you of Candide (remember his remarks about the New World (before he got there)). HINT: In a short while - when Marji's friends and family members are fleeing Iran - her father says that they just don't understand - things will be better...

5. What does Marji's mother tell her when she discovers Marji and her friends tormenting Ramin (the son of the secret policeman)? Specifically- what does she say that Marji (and the rest of her country) must do in order to move on? How do we know Marji takes this lesson to heart? (Give a quote - or a description - to back up your answer).

6. Why won't Siamak's daughter play with Marji? What does Marji learn about the torture of her guests (pages 50-51)? What mistake do her parents make regarding this?

7. What happens on page 52 that contradicts what her mother had told her earlier (see question 5)? Why does her mother react this way? When everything that Marji believes in seems to be falling apart - who does she seek solace in? Why?.



8. **BIG TIME THINKING QUESTION** - (I want you to discover this yourself so forgive the vagueness of what I give you). How is what happens- or what is hoped will happen with the new government- an echo of the title of this book (ah, are you starting to see the bigg2r metaphorical eo-r ,,, FACT IT wAs R.EAU.v cuR. owN wfiO H"10 ATTAC<eo US.

9. **EVEN BIGGER MORE NEURON-FIRING QUESTION:** Look at the last panel of 59 and the 2nd to the last panel of page 60. What surprising fact does Marji's uncle tell her? Given the amount of torture and suffering he underwent - this is a huge thing to say. Even further - how does this echo the contradiction you talked about in question 7.

10. **MetaQuestion:** How are Marji's uncle's words (and their greater implication about differences between cultures) belied by the effectiveness of *this* book, and how it "reaches, touches" us - though it was written by an Iranian in a completely different language (French). Ok, does anyone in your group remember a similarly ironic quote from *Candide* (it talked about translations), or from *All Quiet* (Paul in his room).

11. Now, look over page 63 -for all of the incredible, sad, tragic, and evil things that are happening to her country



what is that is at that moment effecting Marji the most? (see question 9) Again - remember

Marji's mother being overcome by tales of torture and calling for justice (revenge). Connect this to Martin's comment (answer) to *Candide* -yes, the one about having to look into someone's heart (if you're not 100% sure about the specifics of this quote - ask another group).

12. Look at the last panel on page 62 - link it with what happened with what Marji said about the Shah (taken from her textbook) right after the revolution. She gets "everything wrong." (ah -yes that's the poem that's been referenced in earlier questions). Is it her fault? Who is misleading her? How does this fit with in with her parents' Marxist leanings and the incident with the maid.

13. On page 66 we see the name of this section ("Sheep")- how does that heading make sense? I can think of three good reasons at least - the first being a reference to the previous page - and now that Marji is telling the truth (about her uncle) - noone believes her because of previous lies and exaggerations. Think of at least one more reason for calling this "Sheep" (look over the section).

14. I have asked you to look for the meaning of *Persepolis* - that ancient longed for civilization of Iran - I have hinted there are at least three very powerful meanings (and probably more). Write down specific candidates your group has seen so far.

15. Take a few minutes and each member look over your reading- look for a picture (a panel) that you believe does a great job of conveying what is being said - in the picture itself. Write down your examples (one for each group member) - the page#, a brief location (ie 3rd panel or upper left panel) and a sentence why you felt it was so effective.

ANY TIME LEFT- WORK ON DANTE PLAYS- DUE A WEEK FROM TODAY!