

***Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas**

Lesson: Food is the Window to the Soul

Discussion Questions for “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Persian Food”

- What does food symbolize to the Persian community? Be sure to cite examples from the text to support your discussion
- According to Minazad, what about the practice of cooking and eating Persian food conflicts with American values?
- What realization does Minazad come to by the end of her essay? How is she able to reconcile American and Persian values through the art of cooking?

Discussion Questions for “Swoosh, Swoosh”

- Why is Firoozeh’s mother shocked by American cuisine? What, according to her, is the biggest difference between food in Iran and in America?
- What kinds of foods do Firoozeh’s relatives try upon coming to America? What do you think these foods suggest about American culture? How is this different from what food means in Iranian culture?
- On page 25, Firoozeh writes that her relatives “picked foods for the pictures on the containers, inadvertently proving that American marketing is sometimes better than American cooking.” How might this serve as a metaphor for the incongruence between American media and reality?