*Persepolis*: The Veil, The Bicycle, The Water Cell: to page 25

1. In the introduction, Satrapi gives a brief overview of Iran’s history – its importance in the Ancient world, the interest by the British and Americans in its oil in the 1900s. Why might understanding this history be important to understanding the events of the book – the Islamic Revolution of 1979 and the rejection of the Western world?
2. Satrapi also writes, “Since then, this old civilization has been discussed mostly in connection with fundamentalism, fanaticism, and terrorism.” How does this motivate her to write this book? What do you think her **purpose** for writing is based on the introduction?
3. What **point of view** is the story told from? Why do you think Satrapi chooses this POV? Why do you think she chooses to write a **graphic novel**? How do the images add to the story?
4. Look at the final frame on page 3: what does this image suggest about girls’ reaction to wearing the veil? What in the picture makes you think this?
5. Note the **verbal irony** on page 4 – what does the response to “They are symbols of capitalism” show about Satrapi’s view of the revolution?
6. **INFER:** Why is Marjane’s mother afraid? (page 5) Does Marji the narrator understand?
7. Overall, how do women seem to feel about wearing the veil? Why? How does Satrapi seem to feel? Note her **tone** in this chapter.
8. Explain the **metaphor**: “The revolution is like a bicycle. When the wheels don’t turn, it falls” (p.10). What is being compared? What does this mean?
9. Throughout “The Bicycle,” Marji talks about different revolutionaries (Marx, Che Guevara), and her desire to be one. Why do you think Marji wants to be a revolutionary?

\*\*\*Marx is a frequent allusion in the text. If you don’t know who he is, look him up!

1. What happens at Rex Cinema? Why is this important?
2. On page 19, Marji tells her father what her textbook says about the King. What does HER father tell her about Reza Shah’s rise to power? Why does it matter who tells the story?
3. Who do we find out Marji’s grandpa was? What happened to him? How might this influence her parents’ view of the current revolution?
4. **Characterize** Marji. How does Marji’s age affect her telling of the story? Is she a reliable narrator? Why or why not?