*Persepolis Discussion Questions: I must go home again to Iran*

Today, you are seeking to understand the graphic novel *Persepolis* as a whole as well as to understand the author, Marjane Satrapi, and her views as expressed in the novel and her essay, “I must go home again to Iran.” To complete today’s assignment, you must have out your novel AND the essay. Remember, you are shooting for big, elevated ideas – show me how much you know!

**Part one: The novel’s message**

**GENRE:**

1. Why do you think Satrapi chose to write *Persepolis* as a graphic novel, popularly called a “comic book”? What does the visual element add that might otherwise be lacking? Did it help you understand the story – why or why not?
2. *Persepolis* is a memoir. (Discuss what a memoir is if you are unsure.) Does this make the novel more powerful than fiction? Why or why not? How does it compare to other memoirs you have read?

**THEMES**:

1. On page 97, Satrapi writes, “Every situation has an opportunity for laughs.” Give some examples of how the ordinary citizens of Iran enjoyed life despite the oppressive regime. What made you laugh? How does Satrapi add comic relief? How are these scenes relevant to the story as a whole?
2. What is the role of women in the story? Compare and contrast the various women: Marji, her mother, her grandmother, her school teachers, the maid, the neighbors, the guardians of the revolution.
3. Discuss the role and importance of religion in the story. What do you think Satrapi is saying about religion’s effect on the individual and society?

**PURPOSE:**

Satrapi writes that with *Persepolis* she sought to explain what it was like growing up in Iran. Furthermore, she was trying to argue that the people of Iran are very much like the people of any other country, including the United States. Did she succeed or fail? Do you find it easy to identify with the people of Iran or difficult? Why?

\*\*\*HINT: Write an ACES paragraph here ☺\*\*\*

**Part Two:** **I must go home again to Iran**

1. In this essay, Satrapi discusses her desire to return to Iran before she dies. She says, “I suppose it’s that way for everyone: Home is the place where one is born and raised.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or Why not?
2. Why does Satrapi argue this generation is different from her own? How are they brave? Would you be willing to do what they have?
3. Satrapi writes, “From now on, nobody will judge Iranians by their so-called elected president.” How does this statement support Satrapi’s goal in *Persepolis*?
4. Satrapi concludes by saying “I will one day live in Iran…or else my life will have no meaning.” What do you think she means by this? Do you agree with the sentiment? Can you relate?