

One Campus, One Book Teacher's Resource Guide: Persepolis

Persepolis, the graphic novel by Marjane Satrapi, is a very fitting One Campus One Book selection for the upcoming Year of Democracy. The author depicts her childhood and adolescence in Iran during the Islamic Revolution of the early 1980s, when political upheaval left many citizens without basic freedoms. Satrapi's young narrator provides a unique perspective on government and on the relationship of the West to the Middle East. Today, as the Iraq War continues and Americans debate our role and the role of democracy in a global society, the issues raised in Persepolis are especially relevant. Persepolis has something for everyone--politics, history, religion, education, art, music, geography, psychology, and more--students and teachers across campus will have lots to discuss both during class and at campus-wide events, including a screening of the acclaimed Persepolis movie.

Library Reserves: 5 copies of Persepolis, 2 copies Complete Persepolis (student use only); 2 copies Persepolis DVD (student and teacher use), 1 copy Persepolis movie soundtrack (student and teacher use). **Bonus:** 5 copies of August, 2008 issue of National Geographic, cover story and photos on Iran/Persia. Accompanying **maps** (modern Iran and ancient Persia) have been laminated and are also on reserve.

ISBNs for texts:

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, 037571457x

If you're interested in the sequel:

Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return, 0375714669

The Complete Persepolis (both together in one vol.), 0375714839

World Language considerations:

In the **original French**, Persepolis came out in four volumes.

Persepolis has been translated into **many other languages** as well. Perhaps use amazon.com to research translations in the language that you teach!

Preliminaries

Random House, Pantheon Graphic Novels Marjane Satrapi page:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/pantheon/graphicnovels/satrapi.html>

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Persepolis lesson plan:

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=1063

Some dubious research sources (including wikipedia), but provides a good scope of basic cultural background questions for students to research.

Movie info: <http://www.sonypictures.com/classics/persepolis/>

NY Times movie review: <http://movies.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/movies/25pers.html>

Washington Post article on Satrapi and the film: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/18/AR2008011800957.html?referrer=emailarticle>

Persepolis, Ancient City John Menary/Geography

Although your focus is on the graphic novel, Persepolis is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/114>) To the ancient Persians, the city was known as Parsa, meaning The City of Persians. Persepolis is the Greek interpretation of the name of the city. We discussed it in our **World Regional Geography** class as it is becoming a major tourist attraction. If its reconstruction is completed it will be a beautiful reminder of the Cyrus/Darius capital...an empire which contributed much to the political geography of the modern-day world.

<http://www.3dparse.com/>

Interesting Movie of the Reconstruction <http://www.iraninfo.dk/persepolis-recreated-filmen-om-genskabelse-af-persepolis.html>

Library Research Sources

Reference Books

- American Decades. Ref. E 169.1.A471900 1999.
- American Decades: Primary Sources. Ref. E 169.1.A471977 2004.
- American Immigrant Cultures. Ref. E184.A1A63448 1997.
- Civilizations of the Ancient Near East. Ref. DS 57 C55 1995.
- Encyclopedia of Fundamentalism. Ref. BL238.E63 2001.
- Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World. Ref. BP40.E525 2004.
- Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion. Ref. BL65.P7E53 2007.
- Encyclopedia of the Stateless Nations. Ref. D 860.M56 2002. (*Useful for references to Kurdistan*)
- Encyclopedia of World History. Ref. D21.E577 2000.
- Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America. Ref. E 184.A1G14 2000.
- Greenwood Encyclopedia of Women's Issues Worldwide: The Middle East and North Africa. Ref. HQ1115.G74 2003
- Historical Atlas of Islam. Ref. G1786.S1R9 2004.
- Historical Dictionary of Iran. Ref. DS270.L67 2007.
- Key Words in Islam. Ref. BP40.G396 2006.
- Muslim Almanac. Ref. BP40.M83 1996.
- National Geographic Atlas of the Middle East. Ref. G2205.N342003.
- New Encyclopedia of Islam. Ref. BP40.G42 2001.
- Pride and Prosperity: The 80s. Ref. E 169.1.O85.
- Qur'an: An Encyclopedia. Ref. BP133.Q87 2006.
- Religion and Politics. Ref. BL65.P7.S762002
- Seventies in America. Ref. E 169.12.S447 2006.
- St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture. Ref: E 169.1.S764 2000.
- State of the Middle East. Ref. G 2205.S653 2006.
- Women in the Third World: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues. Ref. HQ1870.9.W6548 1998.

Circulating Books

- Abdo, Geneive. Answering Only to God: Faith and Freedom in Twenty-First Century Iran. DS 318.9.A23 2003.
- Ebadi, Shirin. Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope. KMH 110.I23A3 2006
- Gheissari, Ali. Democracy in Iran: History and the Quest for Liberty. DS316.6.G47 2006.
- Hiro, Dilip. Neighbors, Not Friends: Iraq and Iran After the Gulf War. DS79.75.H57 2001.
- Islamic Fundamentalism: An Introduction. BP 60.D38 2003.
- Kousha, Mahnaz. Voices from Iran: The Changing Lives of Iranian Women. HQ1735.2 K68 2002.
- Little, Douglas. American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East Since 1945. DS63.2.U5L58 2002.
- Nasr, Seyyed Vali Reza. The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future. BP 194.185.N37 2006.
- Oren, Michael B. Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present. DS 63.2.U5 O54 2007.
- Religious Fundamentalisms and the Human Rights of Women. K 3243.R451999.
- Ritter, Scott. Target Iran: The Truth about the White House's Plans for Regime Change. DS 316.3.K42 2003.
- A World Between: Poems, Short Stories, and Essays by Iranian-Americans. PS 508.I69W67 1999.

Music

- Kurdish Folk Music from Western Iran. Q Iran KFM S 03 Compact Disc Collection.
- World Music Sampler. Q Coll WMS-2 CD collection, Ref. HQ1236.W6527 2001
See vols. 1, 2, 3.

Websites—Culture and History

- BBC News Country Profile: Iran.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/790877.stm
- BBC Timeline: Iran.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/806268.stm.
- BBC Timeline: Iraq. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/737483.stm
- Columbia University Libraries Middle East and Islamic Studies.
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvm/iran.html>
- Columbia University School of International and public Affairs Middle East Institute. <http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/regional/mei/>
- Council on Foreign Relations: Iran. <http://www.cfr.org/region/404/iran.html>.
George Washington University National Security Archive. Scroll to “Middle East and South Asia.” <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/index.html#mesa>.
- Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP). <http://www.merip.org/>
- National Public Radio (NPR) series: The Partisans of Ali. Audio, downloadable mp3. 5 parts, approx. 9 min. each.
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7346199>
- The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/>
- UCLA Library Collections and Internet Resources in Middle Eastern, Armenian, and Central Asian Studies. <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/url/colls/mideast/>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 2008, International Year of Languages.
http://portal.unesco.org/culture/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=35344&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201
- University of Texas at Austin Middle East Network Information Center (MENIC).
http://menic.utexas.edu/Countries_and_Regions/Iran/
- Washington Kurdish Institute. <http://71.18.173.106/>

Websites—Current Issues

- ACLU. Racial Profiling. <http://www.aclu.org/racialjustice/racialprofiling/index.html>
- Amnesty International. Summary of “Threat and Humiliation: Racial Profiling, National Security, and Human Rights in the United States.”
http://www.amnestyusa.org/Racial_Profiling/Report_Threat_and_Humiliation/page.do?id=1106664&n1=3&n2=850&n3=1298
- BBC. Q&A: Iran and the Nuclear Issue.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4031603.stm.
- Carnegie Endowment. Nonproliferation: Iran.
<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/npp/index.cfm?fa=view&nppID=1000089>.
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In Focus: IAEA and Iran.
<http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/laealran/>.
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence Press Release: National Intelligence Estimate. Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities.
http://www.odni.gov/press_releases/20071203_release.pdf.
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
<http://www.opec.org/home/>
- U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Country Analysis Briefs: Iran.
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Iran/Background.html>

Library Database Resources

To access Library databases, go to the Library website, http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/services_for_students/library/index.shtml, and click on **E-Resources**. If you are off campus, you will be prompted for your WebStar log-in information. Note: JSTOR is accessible on campus only. If you have difficulty accessing databases from home, please call the Reference Desk at 805-378-1472. Most database articles can be printed, saved, or e-mailed; look for the icons indicating these options when your article of choice is open on your screen.

Biography and Book Reviews

"Marjane Satrapi." Contemporary Authors Online. Literature Resource Center. Thomson Gale, 2008. Moorpark College Library, Moorpark, CA. 24 Jun. 2008 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com>>.

Note: The Library databases Literature Resource Center, InfoTrac One File, and JSTOR have ample reviews and author biographies. I especially recommend one book review which is done in **graphic/comic strip format**:

Camper, Jennifer. "Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return, by Marjane Satrapi." Women's Review of Books 21.12 (Sept. 2004): 8-9. JSTOR. Moorpark College Library, Moorpark, CA. 24 Jun. 2008 <<http://www.jstor.org>>.

Teaching the Graphic Novel

Gallo, Don and Stephen Weiner. "Bold Books for Innovative Teaching: Show, Don't Tell: Graphic Novels in the Classroom." English Journal 94.2 (Nov. 2004): 114-17. JSTOR. Moorpark College Library, Moorpark, CA. 24 Jun. 2008 <<http://www.jstor.org>>.

See also the following book on reserve in Library:

Abel, Jessica and Matt Madden. Drawing Words, Writing Pictures: A Definitive Course from Concept to Comic in 15 Lessons. First Second, 2008.

Scholarly Articles

Inquire with Diane Scrofano:

Davis, Rocio G. "A Graphic Self: Comics as Autobiography in Marjane Satrapi's Persepolis." Prose Studies 27 (Dec. 2005): 264-79.

Naghibi, Nima et al. "Estranging the Familiar: 'East' and 'West' in Satrapi's Persepolis." ESC 31 (June/Sept. 2005): 223-48.

Learning Activities, Discussion Topics

- Compare reading Persepolis to a passage of a prose memoir.
- Describe how you think a panel of Persepolis would be written without pictures.
- Compare reading the graphic novel to watching the animated movie.
- Retell one chapter from the point of view of another character besides Marji.
- Analyze why Satrapi chose Persepolis, the name of the ancient Persian Empire, when the action of her narrative begins in 1979.
- Use an alternate medium besides writing to tell us about your childhood. Is there a medium that you specialize in, such as music, dance, photography, etc.?
- Have you been personally involved in history? How so? How did a national event affect your daily life?
- Storyboard your own interpretation of a current political event or an event that you remember from childhood.
- How did you perceive politics when you were a child?
- Why are comics sometimes looked down upon in American culture? How do other cultures view this art form? Can you explain this difference? What will it take to make graphic novels seen as legitimate literature in America?
- Role play after creating dialogue from one chapter or scene.
- How do you think Satrapi's own social class and family history affect her telling of the story?
- Why did Satrapi choose black and white? Would this book be different in color?
- How does propaganda create nationalism?
- For each chapter, list political references that you don't understand. And/or teacher assigns one concept per chapter for students to research and explain its relation to the storyline.
- Research the history of U.S.-Iran relations.
- Research current political issues of US-Iran relations.
- Research the history of Iran-Iraq relations, looking before, during, and after, the conflict described in Satrapi's graphic novel.
- How is Persepolis journey, odyssey, coming of age, or rite of passage?
- Examine the portrayal of Iran and the Middle East in the media.
- Attend a service at a mosque or a meeting of a Persian American group or cultural event.

Points to Ponder, by Chapter

The Veil, p. 3	Marji's parents are active protesters. What kind of protests do we see in our country today? How are they effective? Would you or have you ever participated in a protest? Why/why not?
The Bicycle, p. 10	<p>In America, we are taught in school that communism is bad. Why would Marji and her friends idolize people like Trotsky and Castro? What's up with all the Che t-shirts American kids are wearing these days?</p> <p>Marji remembers stories of the great heroes of ancient Iran. What historical figures were mythologized in your childhood? How?</p>
The Water Cell, p. 18	Research the work of Amnesty International. What is being done to help political prisoners today? How can the average person help?
Persepolis, 26	How does Marji's family history influence her? Why is this chapter called Persepolis?
The Letter, 33	Marji worries about social class and its effect on her friend, the maid. How does social class manifest itself in your circle of friends?
The Party, 40	Why are celebrations so important, according to the characters in the book? Did some of the reactions to police arrival surprise you? Why or why not?
The Heroes, 47	How does a culture construct its heroes?
Moscow, 54	Why is Uncle Anoosh's story so important to Marji? How do you think her understanding of it will develop over the years?
The Sheep, 62	<p>Marji and her parents choose to stay in Iran when many friends and family are emigrating. Do you agree with their decision to stay? Under what conditions would you ever consider leaving your country?</p> <p>Why is this chapter called "the sheep"? What comment is Satrapi making about the people she describes in this chapter?</p> <p>Marji starts as a very religious person. How did you view religion as a child? Why do Marji's views change? Has a life event ever caused you a loss of faith? In biographical material of Satrapi, does she ever mention religion?</p>
The Trip, 72	What kinds of "veils" do we wear? How does our clothing restrict or liberate us? What functions do body modifications and body art serve?

The F14s, 80	What does it mean to be patriotic?
The Jewels, 87	Discuss the women's stereotypes of other women, which Marji's mother objects to in the supermarket.
The Key, 94	The poor neighborhoods are targeted for recruitment to fight. Can you think of any version of this in our own country?
The Wine, 103	Discuss the age of the soldiers and their treatment of the Satrapi family members.
The Cigarette, 111	What is a rite of passage or coming of age experience? How does Marji come of age throughout the novel?
The Passport, 118	Research post-traumatic stress disorder or anxiety during war. You might also want to examine Doctors Without Borders or the treatment of war victims in outside countries with more medical facilities.
Kim Wilde, 126	Marji and her compatriots rebel with music. What songs liberated you as an adolescent? Bring them in and share a clip with the class. Explain why the song was important to you.
The Shabbat, 135	Research religious minorities in Iran, such as Jews, Baha'i, and Zoroastrians. Look into the current Iranian president's Holocaust denial that was recently in the news? What about other minorities such as homosexuals or transgendered? (SNL skit issues)
The Dowry, 143	Could Marji have stayed in Iran? How would her life have been different? Take a look ahead at <u>Persepolis 2</u> .

Persepolis: Allusions and Concepts

This list has been developed to give the teacher a heads-up about political, social, and pop culture terms (and the pages on which they first appear) that students might not know. Let students generate the list of terms they need to know, and for active learning, have students research the terms (as opposed to the teacher lecturing about each concept).

Page	Term
3	Islamic Revolution
4	Capitalism, cultural revolution
6	Avant-garde, prophet
7	Zarathustra, Arab Invasion, Norouz
10	Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Leon Trotsky
11	Mongolians, imperialism
12	Palestine, Vietnam, F. Rezai, Dr. Fatemi, H. Ashraf, Marx, Descartes, dialectical materialism
15	BBC, Shah
18	monopoly
19	Shah, putsch, emperor, republic, king
20	Gandhi, Hindu, Ataturk, secular, Western, Bolsheviks, Persia
23	Communist, social class
27	Dynasties, Aryans
28	Cyrus the Great
33	Ali Ashraf Darvishian, Charles Dickens, Kurdish
39	Black Friday, Israeli
40	Massacre, democracy
41	Prime minister, Freemason, effigy
43	Jimmy Carter, exile, Anwar Al-Sadat
47	Siamak Jari, Moshen Shakiba
50	Torture, CIA
51	guerillas
55	Azerbaijan, Fereydoon
56	Alborz Mountains, Astara
57	Exile, U.S.S.R., Aras River
59	Leningrad, Moscow, Russian
62	Leftist, Islamic, nationalism, religious ethic, mosque, proletariat
63	Regime, Bruce Lee
72	Embassy, fundamentalist, hostage, James Bond, visa
73	Decadent, Marie Curie
75	Ideological, progressive, chador
79	Iraqi Shiite, Saddam
80	Tehran
82	Baghdad, coup d'etat
83	Defeatist, patriot
84	Banisadr

88	Jerry cans, Abadan
90	materialistic
91	Star Wars
92	refugees
94	Khorramshahr, martyr, casualty, nuptial
96	Initiation, flagellation
101	carnage
105	Denounce, Guardians of the Revolution
106	Zarb
110	diabetes
112	Rod Stewart
113	dictator
114	reconstruction
115	Karbala, belligerent
117	repressive
120	Red Crescent
123	Counter-revolutionary, political asylum, passport
126	Kim Wilde, Iron Maiden
129	Frankenstein
130	Nike, Michael Jackson
131	Permissive
132	Stevie Wonder, Abba, BeeGees, Yazoo, Julio Iglesias, Pink Floyd, Michael Jackson
133	Punk, Malcolm X
135	Ballistic missiles, shabbat
136	Scuds
137	Fatalism, circumspect
138	Tumans, Tavanir
143	dowry

Related Reading

Of course, check out graphic novel Maus, by Art Spiegelman. Beyond that...

Nonfiction

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafizi.

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America, by Firoozeh Dumas.

Laughing Without an Accent, by Firoozeh Dumas.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time, by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin. (Pakistan and Afghanistan)

Red Azalea, by Anchee Min. (China under Mao/Cultural Revolution/Communism)

First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers, Luong Ung.

Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight, by Alexandra Fuller. (Postcolonial Africa)

Fiction

Kite Runner, by Kahled Hosseini.

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Kahled Hosseini.

House of Sand and Fog, by Andre Dubus.

Septembers of Shiraz, by Dalia Sofer.

Local Iranian-American Authors (for websites, use name + .com)

Persis Karim, ed. Let Me Tell You Where I've Been: New Writing By Women of the Iranian Diaspora. See also Library's circulating book, A World Between.

Gina Nahai. Cry of the Peacock (fiction about Iranian Jews), Caspian Rain, Sunday's Silence.

Sholeh Wolpe. Poetry: Scar Saloon, Rooftops of Tehran, Sin (translation of Forugh Farrokhzad).

Iran's Literary Heritage

Anthology of Islamic Literature. PJ 7694 .E1K7

Arabic and Persian Poems in English. PJ 769 .E3 P6 1970b

Classical Persian Literature. PK 6406 .A7 1957a

Ferdowsi's Epic of Kings. PK 6456.A13 D3813 2006, PK 6456A1L4 1967

The Hafez poems of Gertrude Bell : with the original Persian on the facing page
PK 6465 .Z32 B4 2007

Introduction to Persian Literature. PK 6406 .L38

Literary History of Persia. PK 6097 .B7 1929

A Modern Persian Prose Reader. PK 6237.K3 (In Farsi)

Persian Poems, an anthology of verse translations. PJ 7755 .A664x

Rumi Collection. PK6480 .E5 H45 2005

The Library also carries the Rubaiyyat of Omar Khayaam & Bloom's Modern Critical Interpretation of famous translation.

PS—Look ahead to 2010 Norton Anthology of Modern Literature from the Muslim World.