

*Persepolis* Reading Questions Ch. 13-15

“The Key”

1. What is the primary difference between the Iranian and Iraqi armies?
2. What might be the purpose of publishing Iran’s “martyrs”?
3. Comment on the picture on page 95. In at least two complete sentences.
4. Why is Marji’s generation so rebellious? What does the teacher blame?
5. What injustices do the parents see in the educational system? Which restriction is particularly ironic?
6. Who does the government recruit to serve on the front lines of war? How do they persuade them? Can you think of another time when this practice has been used?

“The Wine”

7. How does the interior of their homes reflect the external changes occurring? What two things did they need to protect themselves against?
8. What forbidden items did the government find at the house of Tinoosh’s dad? What was his punishment? When have you seen this in our country?
9. Why does Marji’s family continue to hold parties despite the dangers?
10. Even though Mrs. Nassrin’s comments on page 106 bring humor, how are her actions also symbolic?
11. Name one violation that Marji’s dad is guilty of at the traffic stop. How does Marji’s mom respond to this situation? What is a condition of their release?
12. What story does Marji’s grandmother use to stall the officers? What is she really planning to do? Ultimately, how do they get rid of the officer?

“The Cigarette”

13. What did the local news report about the war? What does Marji realize about this information?
14. What was Marji’s motive for breaking her parents’ rules?
15. What establishment does Marji visit? What is its reputation? How do you think it was able to survive the regime’s repression?
16. How would you describe the relationship between Marji and her mother?
17. Describe the efforts made toward bringing an end to the war between Iran and Iraq.
18. What was the motivation for launching an attack on Karbala?
19. What does the survival of the regime depend upon? What was the human cost of this survival?
20. How does the regime become more repressive?
21. What is Marji’s symbolic act of rebellion? Describe her interesting response.
22. In what ways has Marji become an adult?

