**NOVEL STUDY UNIT**

You will complete each section of this novel study as assigned in class. Keep up with this packet. You will receive a grade on this once our novel study is completed.

**The entire packet will be collected for a grade on September 30.**

 **By Friday, September 9th, read chapters 1-3**

 **By Tuesday, September 13th, read chapters 4-6**

 **By Friday, September 16th, read chapters 7-9**

 **By Tuesday, September 20th, read chapter10-12**

 **By Friday, September 23rd, read chapters 13-15 & the Author’s Note**

**PRE-READING RESEARCH AND BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE: (Due September 6)**

Use your time wisely to research and answer the following historical questions about the setting/historical aspects of our novel.

**AFGHAN CULTURE**

1. On what continent is Afghanistan located and what countries are its closest neighbors?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the primary languages spoken in Afghanistan?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What types of sports are played in Afghanistan?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is education like for people your age in this part of the world?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Briefly describe the geography of Afghanistan:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT**: Before looking anything up, list everything you know about war in the Middle East and the infringements on human rights in that area of the world.

WHAT I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE TOPIC:

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: DEBORAH ELLIS**

What age was Deborah Ellis when she realized she wanted to be an author? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What high school class did she take in 8th grade because of her skills? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is Deborah Ellis’s day to day job? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What unique experiences inspired her to write The Breadwinner? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**September 7 (in class):**

**NOW (in class) – Research online and find a timeline of key events in Afghan history. Create a timeline with your group. It must 15 events and 15 pictures. Use color and do it neatly.**

**Vocabulary and Chapter Questions: Complete the vocabulary and chapter questions below as you read the novel.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Term****CHAPTERS 1-3** | **Page Number** | **Sentence from the book** | **Definition** |
| **chador** |  |  |  |
| **Taliban** |  |  |  |
| **forbid(ade)** |  |  |  |
| **hawk(ed)** |  |  |  |
| **decree(d)** |  |  |  |
| **burqa**  |  |  |  |
| **toshak** |  |  |  |
| **looter(s)** |  |  |  |
| **shalwar kameez** |  |  |  |
| **land mine** |  |  |  |
| **nan** |  |  |  |
| **hospitable**  |  |  |  |
| **veil** |  |  |  |
| **turban** |  |  |  |
| **illiterate** |  |  |  |

**Chapter 1**

1. Why was Parvana in the marketplace?

2. How had the Taliban changed her life?

3. What had happened to her father’s leg?

4. Why did the people pay her father to read and write letters for them?

5. Why was it that her parents could speak English?

6. What did Parvana miss about school?

7. How had she felt at first when she couldn’t go to school? Why?

8. How had her home life changed?

9. What does the word “Taliban” mean? Why did her father disagree with the meaning?

10. What did Parvana and her father sell at the market?

11. What amazed Parvana about the market?

12. What had happened to her father’s wooden leg?

13. Why was there a lot of false legs for sale now?

**Chapter 2**

1. Why was Parvana the only one who could bring water?

2. What talent did Maryam have?

3. How did her mother and sister spend their days?

4. Why did Parvana hate this?

5. What furniture did they have?

6. Why didn’t she have any friends?

7. What made Parvana angry about what her mother had put out to sell?

8. Who was Hussein? What had happened to him?

9. What was the Afghan style of eating?

10. Why was she amazed at her mother and Noora?

11. Who was Malali? Why do you think Father told this story?

12. What do you think he meant when he said “There are many types of battles”?

13. What happened to disrupt the evening?

14. Why do you think the soldiers arrested Father?

15. How did Parvana save his books?

**Chapter 3**

1. Why did Parvana have a problem getting to sleep?

2. Why were all the windows supposed to be painted black?

3. Why was she afraid to lose track of her mother on the street?

4. What was dangerous about showing a photograph?

5. What happened when they arrived at the prison?

**CHAPTERS 4-6**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **preoccupied** |  |  |  |
| **basin** |  |  |  |
| **sensible**  |  |  |  |
| **pakul** |  |  |  |
| **union** |  |  |  |
| **warily** |  |  |  |
| **sulk**  |  |  |  |
| **brusque(ly)** |  |  |  |
| **gingerly** |  |  |  |

**Chapter 4**

1. How did Parvana and her mother suffer from their trip to the prison?

2. What had her parents argued about?

3. How did Mother behave after they returned home?

4. What did Parvana dream about at night?

5. Why wouldn’t she take out her father’s books?

6. What was wrong with Ali?

7. Why did Parvana say her mother had to get up?

8. Even though Parvana could make Noora miserable, what did she do?

**Chapter 5**

1. What problem did Parvana have when she went to the market?

2. Why didn’t she buy everything she needed?

3. Who did she run into on the street?

4. Why wasn’t she angry that Parvana had been running?

5. What plan do you think they will come up with?

**Chapter 6**

1. What was the plan?

2. Why couldn’t she think of anything to say to Nooria?

3. How would Parvana dress?

4. What was the worst part?

5. How did Parvana feel when she saw he hair in her mother’s hands?

6. How did she feel about herself afterwards?

7. How would her trips to the market be different from now on?

8. Why did Nooria say that Parvana should stay dressed as a boy?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CHAPTERS 7-9** |  |  |  |
| **Pashtu** |  |  |  |
| **embed(ed)** |  |  |  |
| **counter-offer** |  |  |  |
| **vibrant** |  |  |  |
| **labyrinth**  |  |  |  |
| **dawdling** |  |  |  |
| **sympathy** |  |  |  |
| **Karachi** |  |  |  |
| **latrine** |  |  |  |
| **kerosene** |  |  |  |
| **Chapter 7**1. Who was her first customer? What did he ask Parvana to read?2. Why was this surprising for her?3. Why did Parvana feel good about selling the salvar kameez?4. Do you think someone is watching Parvana? Why or why not?**Chapter 8**1. Why didn’t Parvana mind Mrs. Weera moving in?2. How was Mrs. Weera different from other women?3. What was Mrs. Weera’s prized possession?4. How did they get footwear for Maryann? Why?5. Why did the trip for water take so long?6. In addition to making money, how did Parvana’s being dressed as a boy help the other children?7. What did Parvana like about the market?8. Where did the embossed cloth came from? Why do you think this is?9. What surprise did Parvana get when the boy tripped?**Chapter 9**1. Why did Parvana stop staring at Shuazia?2. What did Shauzia give Parvana? What did Parvana do with them? What does this tell you about her?3. Why was Shauzia dressed as a boy and serving tea?4. How did this remind Parvana of the old days?5. What did Shauzia tell them about her family?6. Why wasn’t Shauzia keeping up with her studies?7. What did Parvana say that made everybody laugh?8. What did Mrs. Weera want to do?9. What ideas did Nooria have for the school?10. Why do you think Parvana would not show the handkerchief to Shauzia?11. What do you think Shauzia’s idea for making more money is? |
| **CHAPTERS 10-12** |  |  |  |
| **stench** |  |  |  |
| **stingy** |  |  |  |
| **unearthed** |  |  |  |
|  **mascot** |  |  |  |
| **accommodate** |  |  |  |
| **ancestors**  |  |  |  |
| **relent(ed)** |  |  |  |
| **booty** |  |  |  |
| **nomad(s)**  |  |  |  |
| **snippet(s)** |  |  |  |
| **Chapter 10**1. What was Shauzia’s idea? What do you think of this?2. Who bought the bones? Why do you think people would buy bones?3. What did Parvana worry about as she dug up the bones?4. What was Shauzia’s answer?5. What plan did they come up with for going to the bathroom?6. Why did Parvana pick the third choice as the bathroom?7. Why were the girls afraid to speak when they got the money from the bone broker?8. Why do you think they agreed not to tell their families about what they were doing?**Chapter 11**1. Why do you think Parvana told her mother about what she had been doing?2. What did Mrs. Weera say the bones were used for?3. How did Nooria help Parvana?4. What did Parvana and Shauzia buy with the extra money they had saved?5. How was Nooria changing toward Parvana? Do you think Parvana has changed?6. What was different about the crowd in the stadium?7. What advice did the man give them?**Chapter 12**1. Why do you think Parvana stayed home for a few days?2. Why are Shauzia’s grandparents grumpy?3. What was Shauzia’s secret?4. Why did she choose France?5. What plan did she have to get to France?6. Why did she need to leave soon?7. Why couldn’t Parvana’s mother just leave Afghanistan?8. Why did Parvana wish she was back in school?9. How had the marketplace changed for her?10. What changes did summer bring to Kabul?11. How did Mrs. Weera and Nooria arrange the school so that they wouldn’t get caught?12. What surprise was waiting for her when she got home? |
| **CHAPTERS 13-15** |  |  |  |
| **down(ed)** |  |  |  |
| **heroine** |  |  |  |
| **prod(ding)** |  |  |  |
| **drawn** |  |  |  |
| **cropped** |  |  |  |
| **poultice** |  |  |  |
| **bride-price** |  |  |  |
| **refugee**  |  |  |  |
| **exile** |  |  |  |
| **derision** |  |  |  |

**Chapter 13**

1. Why was Nooria excited about moving away and getting married?

2. What was Mother’s plan?

3. Why didn’t Parvana want to go with them?

4. Why did her mother finally agree to let her stay?

5. How did mother plan to travel to Mazar-el-Sharif?

6. How did Parvana feel about the time after her mother left?

7. Why did she go into a bombed out building? What did she hear?

**Chapter 14**

1. What was Parvana’s plan to bring the woman home to Mrs. Weera?

2. Why do you think the woman would not let her go?

3. What alternate plan did Parvana come up with?

4. Why didn’t it matter if they made noise?

5. What news did Homa give them?

6. How has she escaped?

7. Why did Parvana feel tired?

8. What part of the nightmare was over at the end of the chapter?

**Chapter 15**

1. How had her father changed?

2. How had he managed to get home?

3. What had happened to him in prison?

4. How had Parvana changed in the market?

5. What decision did her father make?

6. Where was Mrs. Weera going? Why?

7. What did Mrs. Weera think of Shauzia’s plan to leave?Why?

8. Why was Parvana so excited when she got another gift from the “Window Woman”?

9. What gift did she plan to leave for the woman?

10. Why did the men and the boys make fun of her?

11. How did the old man help her?

12. How were Parvana and her father planning to travel?

13. What did Mrs. Weera have for them?

14. What was Shauzia’s plan?

15. When did they plan to meet?

16. Do you think they will ever meet again? Why or why not?

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE – EXAMPLES FROM THE TEXT (at least 15-20)**

**Non Fiction Reading Assignment:**

**DUE DATE: Monday, September 19th**

**DIRECTIONS:** First you will find an article from a legitimate news source that relates to our novel in some way.

**After reading your article you will complete the following information, PRINT, and turn it in on the due date listed above!**

1. **MLA Heading – as taught in class.**
2. **Factual Summary: Write a short summary of the piece you read. 5-7 sentences**
3. **Vocab: With which vocabulary words if any did you encounter some difficulty understanding? List word and definition**
4. **Interpretation: What was the main idea of your piece? Why was it newsworthy?**
5. **Criticism: With which points of the piece did you agree or find easy to accept? With which points did you disagree? What is your personal opinion on the topic?**

***The Breadwinner* Project Options**

**Directions:** Select one of the following activities. Be prepared to share your project to the class on 10/3.

1. Skim the novel and make a list of the restrictions the Taliban placed on women. Sometimes, the restriction is obviously stated, as in “The Taliban had ordered all the girls and women in Afghanistan to stay inside their homes” (page 7) and sometimes it can be inferred, as in “Their mother had been kicked out of her job as a writer for a Kabul radio station” (page 7). Include a page number for each restriction.
2. Make a video of a series of interviews with people who have read The Breadwinner. Prepare interview questions that ask about the novel’s themes, the author’s style, thoughts on characters, favorite scenes and so on.
3. There is a lot of symbolism of flowers in the book. Create a piece of artwork (e.g., painting, sculpture, collage, photograph or video) that reflects this symbol and what it represents in *The Breadwinner.*
4. Choose a scene or chapter from the book and think about it from another character’s perspective. Re-write the scene or chapter from another character’s point of view; include the character’s thoughts and feelings.
5. It was very brave of the mother and Mrs. Weera to create a magazine. From page 164 “… copies are being sent out to women all over the world. She has helped to let the world know what is happening in Afghanistan.” Think about what type of stories and information might have been in the first issue of that magazine, and what they would have wanted other women, or the outside world, to know about what was happening. Create a cover and a table of contents that includes a brief description of each article (5–6 articles).
6. Mrs. Weera’s words (page 116): “These are unusual times. They call for ordinary people to do unusual things just to get by.” Draw or paint a scene or image from the novel that you think best illustrates this idea. Include a title for their artwork. Should include color and fill at least an 8.5x11 piece of paper.
7. Imagine you are creating a display of artifacts for a museum in Afghanistan to represent the time *The Breadwinner* describes. Choose 6–10 artifacts and write a brief description of each one and why it was chosen. You could design a web page about the artifacts, or sketch the display as it would look in the museum.
8. Create a “Malali” award to give to Parvana for her courage. The award (e.g., medal, plaque, plate, trophy or statue) should represent the Malali story in some way. Write and present a brief speech describing something Parvana did that you found particularly courageous.

Top of Form





* [**Scholastic Store**](https://store.scholastic.com/scholasticstore)
* 