

## Reader Response Questions – Book Two

### 1 - The Soup

Who makes Marjane feel at home in Austria? How do they do it?

What does a person need to feel at home in a foreign place?

### Tyrol

Why do you think Marjane ends up with her group of "outsider" friends? What are your impressions of them?

Compare and contrast Marjane's friends at school with Lucia and her family in Tyrol. In what ways do they make Marjane feel better about her new life?

### Pasta

What is Anarchism, and why do you think Marjane's friends are so interested in it?

How does Marjane respond to Momo's suggestion that she "cultivate" herself?

Why does Marjane get kicked out of the dormitory? Do you think she was justified in defending her background, or was she just being rude?

### The Pill

Julie introduces Marjane to many new ideas about sex and being a woman in the western world. Which ideas does Marjane accept, and which make her feel uncomfortable?

### The Vegetable

Marjane goes through many physical changes in this chapter—both voluntary and involuntary. How do they think they affect her? How have your physical changes affected you over your lifetime?

Marjane says that her life in Austria felt like "playing a game by somebody else's rules." What does she mean by this? Does she have to play by "somebody else's rules" to survive in her new home, or not?

### The Horse

Marjane's mom lies to her about her missing gold pendant. What do you think really happened to the jewelry?

How do you think Marjane and her mother's relationship have changed since Marjane left Iran? Do you think they are closer or more distant now that they live in different countries?



### **Hide and Seek**

There is an actual hide and seek game in this chapter, but what other meanings might this title have for Marjane? What is she seeking and/or hiding from?

Marjane proclaims Markus “the first great love of [my] life” (65) but their relationship has its own challenges and troubles. Do you think Markus is a good boyfriend to Marjane? What happens in the chapter that supports your opinion?

How do some Austrians make Marjane feel like an outsider? Why do you think they act this way towards her?

### **The Croissant**

Some of Marjane’s friends are very concerned about the new conservative, “Nazi-like” politicians in Austria. Why doesn’t Marjane seem to share their anger?

What are some of the ways Marjane and Markus grow apart during this chapter?

### **The Veil**

Why does Marjane end up on the streets? Do you think it’s a situation she could have avoided?

Why does Marjane request that her parents never ask about the three months she went missing? Do you think this was the right thing to do?

Look at the last frame in the chapter. What do you think Marjane’s attitude is about going back to Iran? Make a prediction about how life will go for her after she returns.

### **The Return**

How have Marjane’s parents changed since she left Iran? What is their attitude towards the Iran-Iraq war, and why?

Marjane’s father complains that the West supplied both sides of the war with weapons and supplies. Why do you think that they did this?

At the end of the chapter, Marjane decides never to tell her parents about her “misadventures” in Europe. Do you think she made the right choice? What about the fact that she eventually wrote this book?



# 2010 **ONE BOOK** **ONE PHILADELPHIA**

## **The Joke**

What do you think of Kia's condition? Does he seem "almost dead" or not?

What is the lesson that Marjane learns from visiting Kia? Do you agree with her analysis of the situation? Can you imagine living like Kia does?

## **Skiing**

What are Marjane's motivations for attempting to commit suicide?

How serious do you think Marjane was about trying to kill herself?

Do you think her attempted suicide was necessary for her to take control of her life, or could she have achieved it another way?

## **The Exam**

Why are Marjane and Reza so interested in each other when they first meet? Do you think these interests will lead to a successful relationship?

What do you think of the "ideological exam" that Marjane has to take? If you were in her place, would you have done the same thing?

## **The Makeup**

What does Marjane do to avoid being picked up by the police? How do Reza and her Grandmother react to this? Why do you think they have opposite reactions?

## **The Convocation**

What are some of the ways Marjane and her female friends show off their individuality, despite their restrictive clothing?

## **The Socks**

In this chapter, Marjane states that "fear has always been the driving force behind all dictators' repression." In what ways are young people in Iran repressed, and how do they rebel against this repression?

## **The Wedding**

At the end of the dinner with Marjane's father, Marjane tells us that she and Reza end up getting divorced. Why do you think she chose to tell us this fact before the wedding even takes place?

Why does the marriage break down as soon as Marjane and Reza move in together?



**free**  
LIBRARY OF  
**great conversations**

# 2010 **ONE BOOK** **ONE PHILADELPHIA**

## **The Satellite**

What are the different ways that Marjane and her family get news and information? What sources do they trust, and what are they critical of?

Why do Marjane and her father fight? What conclusion does Marjane come to afterwards?

## **The End**

How does Marjane's family react to her eventual separation and divorce from Reza? What does this show about their politics and character?

Why does Marjane finally decide to leave Iran? Do you think she will follow her mothers instructions and never return?



**free**  
LIBRARY OF  
**great  
conversations**