

THE BREADWINNER

Some helpful vocabulary:

Chador - a scarf worn around the head of many Afghan women (pg. 7)

Taliban - a fundamentalist group that gained political control of Afghanistan in 1996 (pg. 7)

Peddlers - market vendors who try and sell things (pg. 10)

Relented - to give in (pg. 16)

Burqas - a garment used to cover the bodies of Afghan women (pg. 17)

Chapter 1

- 1) What do you think is meant by the term 'Breadwinner'?
- 2) What is the job of Parvana's father?
- 3) What does Parvana do in the marketplace?
- 4) What is the view of Parvana's father towards education? Why do you think he has these views?
- 5) Why does the author use the metaphor 'labyrinth' to describe the marketplace?
- 6) How does Nooria remember Kabul being before the bombs?
- 7) Why does Parvana's father disagree with the Taliban being called this?
- 8) How did Parvana and her family end up living in the conditions they are living in now?
- 9) How do you think the Taliban make Parvana feel? Use evidence from the text if you can.

Chapter 2

- 1) Can you find out what is meant by a 'toshak'?
- 2) Why is Parvana the one to go and get water for the family?
- 3) Why doesn't the family talk to the neighbours or invite friends over? How does this make Parvana feel?
- 4) Why does the family sell their things? Why would they sell Parvana's good clothing?
- 5) Who was Hossain?
- 6) How has mother changed since she lost her job?
- 7) Describe the relationship between Parvana and her sister Nooria. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- 8) What does 'eating Afghan-style' consist of?
- 9) Why does Nooria cover herself up and curl into a tight ball when the Afghan soldiers burst in?