

Approved for use in English IV

Summary of the Work:

Persepolis is a graphical autobiography of Marjane Satrapi’s childhood in Iran from the late 1960s until the 1980s. Specifically she focuses on the ways her coming of age in Iran differed from others because of external wars and internal cultural/religious wars.

Rationale:

Persepolis is an excellent work that adds to the global perspective that World Literature tries to develop in the students. It is in the form of a graphic novel, a new genre that has gained popularity and esteem. The voice is authentic as Marjane Satrapi is from Iran and offers a native view of the history of oppression and revolution in the modern era. Additionally, it represents a Middle Eastern voice and culture that grows increasingly important in the Global arena with which our students should become familiar

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

See the Titlewave website:
<http://www.titlewave.com>
Login hsdenglish
Password review
Also see Gale Virtual Reference Library: Discovering Collection

- * From School Library Journal
Adult/High School-Marji tells of her life in Iran from the age of 10, when the Islamic revolution of 1979 reintroduced a religious state, through the age of 14 when the Iran-Iraq war forced her parents to send her to Europe for safety. This story, told in graphic format with simple, but expressive, black-and-white illustrations, combines the normal rebelliousness of an intelligent adolescent with the horrors of war and totalitarianism. Marji's parents, especially her freethinking mother, modeled a strong belief in freedom and equality, while her French education gave her a strong faith in God. Her Marxist-inclined family initially favored the overthrow of the Shah, but soon realized that the new regime was more restrictive and unfair than the last. The girl's independence, which made her parents both proud and fearful, caused them to send her to Austria. With bold lines and deceptively uncomplicated scenes, Satrapi conveys her story. From it, teens will learn much of the history of this important area and will identify with young Marji and her friends. This is a graphic novel of immense power and importance for Westerners of all ages. It will speak to the same audience as Art Spiegelman's Maus (Pantheon, 1993).Susan H. Woodcock, Fairfax County Public Library, Chantilly, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.
- * Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.
- * Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- **WINNER 2004** - ALA Alex Award
- **WINNER** - YALSA Best Books for Young Adults
- **WINNER** - Booklist Editor's Choice for Young Adults
- **WINNER** - New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age
- **WINNER** - School Library Journal Adult Books for Young Adults.

Readability

- Lexile Score: 380
- Readability Level: Fog Index: 6.8

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

The content can be disturbing in light of the war and there are some instances of the use of vulgar language.

Connection to the Curriculum:

World literature attempts to cover a variety of countries and presently the selections from the Middle East are few.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)