

Chapter Questions **The Breadwinner**

Chapter Questions

1. What characters do you meet in this chapter? Begin character profiles for each one: write their names or sketch the character and write some notes about what you have learned about each of them.
2. How has life changed for Parvana's family in ten years?
3. Imagine that suddenly you were not allowed to go to school. How would you feel after the first day? After the first month? After a year?
4. How long has it been since the mother and children, except for Parvana, have been outside the house? Imagine you were not allowed to leave your home. How do you think you would cope?
5. What do you learn about the Taliban in this chapter?

Chapter Two

1. What did the soldiers do to the family? Where do you think they have taken the father?
2. Why do you think the books are so important to the family? What do they represent?
3. Draw a sketch of the room where the family lives and its contents.
4. What happened to Hossain, the oldest brother?
5. When you are reading, what techniques do you use to figure out a word you don't know (e.g., read ahead and back to see if it is defined; use the glossary; use context)? How does the author give clues to a word's meaning (e.g., how does "stretched out on a toshak" help a reader understand what a "toshak" is)?

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Chapter Three

1. Why did the Taliban order all windows to be painted over with black paint?
2. What emotions did you feel as you were reading this chapter? What caused them?
3. What character strengths has Parvana shown in the novel so far?

Chapter Four

1. What has happened to the mother?
2. How do Parvana and Nooria differ on how they should handle their mother?
3. “Everybody leans on everybody in this family” (page 18). What does Parvana mean by this? Would you say this is true in your own family? How could you be a better support for family and/or friends?