

The Breadwinner

Lit Link

Grades 4-6

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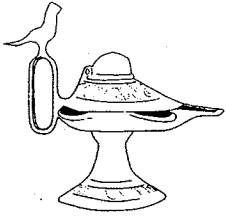
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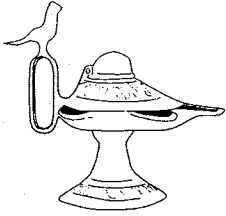
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Name: _____



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Chapter 1

Before you read the chapter:

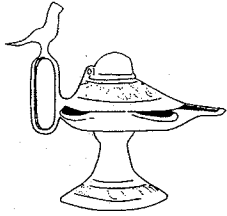
The Breadwinner is set in the country of Afghanistan. Do you know this about Afghanistan? Although its population (30 million) is almost the same as Canada's, Canada is 15 times larger. Most Afghans are Sunni and Shiite Muslim. The average life expectancy of an Afghani is 46 years. Natural gas, dried fruits and nuts, carpets, leather and crafts are the country's main exports. Now do some investigating of your own and come up with at least three additional interesting facts about this country and its people.

What does the term "breadwinner" mean? From the title and the picture on the novel's cover, predict why this might be an appropriate title for this novel.

Vocabulary:

1. Many of the words that you will encounter in this novel are words unfamiliar to most North Americans, but familiar to the people of Afghanistan. Using the Glossary at the back of the novel or other sources, match each word with its meaning.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| a) chador | 1. a long, tent-like garment worn by women |
| b) Taliban | 2. cloth worn by women and girls to cover their hair and shoulders |
| c) dari | 3. the capital city of Afghanistan |
| d) burqa | 4. members of a political party in Afghanistan |
| e) Kabul | 5. one of two main languages spoken in Afghanistan |



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2. Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

collapse	decreed	respected	labyrinth	definite
urn	hawked	peddler	militia	disrupt

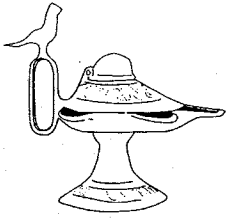
- a) The soldiers decided to _____ the meeting.
- b) During the hard times in our country, my mother _____ her jewelry.
- c) Parvana bought a grapefruit from an old _____ in the marketplace.
- d) The potter made a beautiful _____ which he gave to my sister for a wedding gift.
- e) The streets of Kabul were like a _____ to most newcomers.
- f) The _____ seized control of the country when the king died.
- g) My teacher was very _____ about my answer being wrong.
- h) No one expected the building to _____.
- i) The Taliban _____ that all women and girls must remain indoors at all times.
- j) Parvana's parents were once _____ members of the community.

3. Put the following expressions from this chapter in your own words:

Holding her tongue: _____

Afghans cover the earth like stars cover the sky: _____

The sound of the family's laughter scampered up Mount Parvana: _____



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Questions:

1. Name two of the restrictions that the Taliban had placed upon the girls and women of Afghanistan.

2. How would you describe Parvana? You may consider facts about her appearance or personality.

3. a) How did Parvana's father now earn a living?

- b) How had he once earned his living?

4. The Taliban militia had some very definite ideas about how things should be run in Afghanistan. Identify one of these ideas that you found particularly upsetting.

5. Describe the responsibilities of the "tea boys".

6. Describe why it would be difficult for a family to live in one room together.

7. The author states, "Each time, they moved to a smaller place." Explain why this happened to Parvana's family.
