



## Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders 2021: **due on the first day of school!**

**Objective:** Demonstrate your understanding and analysis of a text by exploring your identity in relation to its main character.

- **Rationale for required reading:** *Persepolis* is a contemporary, thought-provoking, and entertaining memoir that engages with key topics and questions we will be exploring throughout 9<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities. *Persepolis* will be the basis of our first lessons and activities of the school year.
- **About *Persepolis*:** *Persepolis* is an autobiographical graphic novel depicting Marjane Satrapi's childhood in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. The *New York Times* says, "Like Spiegelman's *Maus*, Satrapi's book combines political history and memoir, portraying a country's 20th-century upheavals through the story of one family. Her protagonist is Marji, a tough, sassy little Iranian girl, bent on prying from her evasive elders if not truth, at least a credible explanation of the travails they are living through." Her family is "fashionably radical". Her father is an engineer; her feminist mother marches in demonstrations against the Shah; Marji, an only child, attends a French school. The text reveals Marji's reflections, experiences, and opinions of life in Iran as it becomes more fundamental and rigid.

### Assignment Tasks:

1. Obtain and read a copy of the novel.
  - order online or purchase from a bookstore
  - check out from a library
  - download a PDF
2. Complete an analysis paragraph according to the directions below.
  - DO NOT summarize the text
  - DO NOT evaluate the text

### Analysis Paragraph

**Directions:** Write at least 8-10 sentences to address the prompt below. Be sure to include specific details from the text to justify/support your point of view. **A sufficient response will address ALL questions in the prompt and include evidence from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.**

**Prompt:** In what ways do you build your *identity* as you move through the world, and how does this compare and/or contrast to the ways Marjane builds her identity? (Be specific and explain - I am looking forward to learning about you through this assignment!) You may answer freely, and/or use the following questions to guide your response:

- In what ways do you actively shape your own identity?
- In what ways is your identity shaped by outside forces? (government, religion, family, peers, media, social media, current events, etc.)
- In what ways does Marjane actively shape her own identity?
- What forces shape Marjane's identity?

Please email Mrs. Albarkat with any questions: [colby.albarkat@scienceandtech.org](mailto:colby.albarkat@scienceandtech.org).